

LAMB/MILLS FAMILY CEMETERY, LINN COUNTY, KANSAS

By Susan Elaine Lindsey

The Lamb/Mills Family Cemetery, southeast of Pleasanton, Kansas, was started in 1857 by Josiah and Reuben Lamb. It contains about 43 graves of the Lamb and Mills families, and people with other surnames. The earliest grave is for Susannah (Mills) Fisher; she died 14 Nov 1857.

This document was compiled by Susan Elaine Lindsey in 2009 and 2010, using a range of sources, photos and grave rubbings from a personal visit to the cemetery. (Susan is the great-great-granddaughter of Sarah S. (Deardorff) Lindsey, who is buried in the cemetery.) Graves are listed alphabetically by last name. The inscriptions appear in regular text. Further information about each person, based on other research, appears in italicized text.

DIRECTIONS: The cemetery is on Vernon Road in Linn County, Kansas. From Hwy. 69 south of Pleasanton, take the exit for Hwy. 52 and go east. At the railroad crossing, go straight across to Underhill and turn left. Follow Underhill to East 900 Road and turn right. Follow E. 900 Road to Vernon Road and turn right on Vernon. The cemetery is on the right at the top of a small hill and is surrounded by oak trees. The cemetery sign was made by Jesse Earnest, husband of Ola Mae Earnest, president and curator of the Linn County Historical Society Library & Museum. Ola Mae, Jesse and others have helped maintain this and other historical family cemeteries in Linn County.

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Arnold, John B.

JOHN B. ARNOLD DIED JULY 9, 1890. AGED 13 YR, 8 MO, 23 D. Gone home.

The author has no additional information.



Bailey, Nancy (Mills)

NANCY, DEC. 2, 1848, NOV. 12, 1912

This stone was next to a large stone that said only "Bailey." Nancy (Mills) Bailey was the daughter of Abijah and Sarah (Moon) Mills. She married R.W. Bailey in September 1869.



Baker, Augustus F.

FAREWELL. IN MEMORY OF AUGUSTUS F. BAKER, DIED AUG. 11, 1885. AGED 33 YRS. 7 MOS. 22 DAYS. Farewell dear husband, but not forever. Farewell till we meet again, in that land beyond the river, where there is no death or pain.

Augustus Baker was married to Neoma (or Neona) Mills, daughter of Abijah and Sarah (Moon) Mills. He was a postmaster at Miami.



Collins, Enos H. & Miles F.

ENOS H. COLLINS, BORN NOV. 20, 1889, DIED AUG. 6, 1901
MILES F. COLLINS, BORN MAR. 20, 1885, DIED SEP. 26, 1888

These boys were the sons of John T. and Susannah (Lamb) Collins. Susannah was the daughter of Josiah and Ruth Lamb. John Collins was her first husband. She later married a man named Swann, and her third husband was Charles M. Darrin.



Collins, John T.

JOHN T. COLLINS, CO.B. 70 IND. INF.

John T. Collins was the first husband of Susannah Lamb, daughter of Josiah and Ruth Lamb. John and Susannah were married in 1871. Her second and third husbands were named Swann and Charles M. Darrin.



Dungan, A.L.

A.L., SON OF B.J. AND C. DUNGAN. 2-1869, 9-1869

This gravestone is lying flat on the ground and the inscription is crudely done. The author has no additional information about A.L. or his parents.



Fisher, Susannah (Mills)

SUSANAH, WIFE OF S.M. FISHER, BORN MAR. 4, 1828, DIED NOV. 14, 1857, AGED 29 YRS. 8 MOS. 10 DAYS

Susannah (Mills) Fisher was the daughter of Abijah and Sarah (Moon) Mills. She was married to Sanford M. Fisher. Susannah was previously married to Andrew Proctor. This is the earliest grave in the cemetery.



Fultz, Nellie

Nellie Fultz, 1917-1917

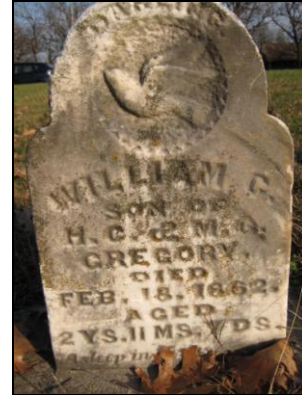
According to information from Glen Lamb, citing Ola Mae Earnest, Nellie was a triplet and the daughter of W.H. and Irene Bliss Fultz. The author does not know the relationship between the Fultz and Lamb or Mills families.



Gregory, William C.

DARLING. WILLIAM C., SON OF H.C. AND M.C. GREGORY, DIED FEB. 18, 1862, AGED 2 YS. 11 MS. 7 DS. ASLEEP IN JESUS.

Information from Irma Ward indicates that this little boy's mother was Mary (Keenan) Gregory. The author has no additional information.



Gregory, Willie

WILLIE GREGORY, BORN DEC. 12 & DIED DEC. 13, 1884.

The author has no additional information.



Hedrick, William A.

WM. A. HEDRICK, 1814-1890

There are two stones for Wm. A. Hedrick – this small flat one is at the base of a larger tall stone. The tall stone reads: "Wm. A. HEDRICK. DIED DEC. 2, 1890. AGED 75 Y. 11 M. 20 D." The author does not know who William Hedrick was in relation to the Lambs or Mills.



Holmes, Edward (Eddie)

EDDIE, SON OF B.A. & L. HOLMS, DIED OCT. 5, 1867, AGED 3 DAYS. He's gone but not forgotten.

This baby boy was the son of Bolivar Adam and Louisa (Lamb) Holmes, and the grandson of Reuben and Catherine (Hodges) Lamb. His last name is misspelled on the stone.



Lamb, Benjamin Franklin

B.F. LAMB, BORN NOV. 24, 1849, DIED AUG. 30, 1862, AGED 12 YRS., 8 MO.

Benjamin Franklin Lamb was the son of Josiah and Ruth Lamb. This obelisk stone is shared by him, his mother, father and sister, with inscriptions on four sides.



Lamb, Ester

ESTER, DAU. OF J. & R. LAMB. BORN OCT. 4, 1861, DIED FEB 5, 1862. AGED 4 MOS. 1 DAY.

Ester (or Esther?) Lamb was the last of Josiah and Ruth Lamb's 11 children. She lived only a few months. She was the first of five members of the immediate family to die in 1862: Ester in February, then Mary Jane in March, Benjamin and Josiah in August, and finally Ruth in September. The causes of their deaths are unknown.



Lamb, Josiah (new marker)

JOSIAH LAMB, MEMBER OF WYANDOTTE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION ALSO OF LEGISLATURE 1860-61.

Josiah was a Justice of the Peace for Potosi Township, and a member of the Wyandotte Constitutional Convention and the first Kansas State Legislature. His signature appears on the Kansas State Constitution at the Kansas State Historical Archives in Topeka. This smaller, newer stone near the original honors his service to the state.



Lamb, Josiah (original stone)

JOSIAH LAMB, BORN MAR 31, 1817, DIED AUG. 11, 1862.

This obelisk has four inscriptions, one on each side, for Josiah, Mary J., B.F., and Ruth Lamb. Josiah married Ruth Lamb, his first cousin, on 12 Oct 1836. The couple had 11 children. Josiah died only six weeks before his wife. Between their deaths, their son Benjamin Franklin Lamb also died. The very bottom of the inscription is now illegible.



Lamb, Lydia Ann

LYDA A. LAMB, DIED JULY 15, 1862, AGED 18 YS, 10 MS, 4 DS.
She's gone though many fondly would fain prolong her stay, but
(illegible) deged it other, (illegible) the loved one passed away.

Lydia was the daughter of Reuben and Catherine (Hodges) Lamb, born 11 Sep 1843. The broken stone has been repaired with metal bars secured to each side of it. (Note: this is not the Lydia Lamb who married David Lindsey. See information on her below.)



Lamb, Mary

MARY, WIFE OF JOSIAH LAMB, BORN JULY 20, 1820, DIED APRIL 3, 1859

Mary's maiden name was VanWinkle. According to Lamb family researcher Joy Roos, she was married to Josiah G. Lamb, Jr. (1817-1899). Josiah was the youngest child of Josiah and Naomi (Underhill) Lamb. He was born about the same time as his uncle Josiah Lamb, son of Josiah G. Lamb's oldest brother, John. Josiah and Mary were married 17 Aug 1837.



Lamb, Mary Jane

MARY J. LAMB, BORN 30 MAY 1851, DIED MAR 19, 1862. AGED 10 YRS, 9 MO, 20 DS.

Mary Jane was the child of Josiah and Ruth Lamb. She died in March of 1862, her father died 11 Aug of the same year, followed 19 days later by her brother Benjamin Franklin Lamb's death, and finally, on 16 Sep 1862, her mother's death. There were other deaths in 1862 in the extended family, as well. (See further information on page 14.)



Lamb, Reuben

REUBEN LAMB, DIED SEPT. 20, 1862, AGED 50 YRS. 4 MO. 16 DAYS.
A faithful friend and husband dear,
A tender parent lieth here,
Great is the loss we here sustain,
But hope in heaven to meet again.

Reuben was the husband of Catherine E. (Hodges) Lamb. Reuben was the son of Josiah Lamb (b. 1771) and Naomi (Underhill) Lamb.



Lamb, Ruth (Lamb)

RUTH, WIFE OF JOSIAH LAMB, BORN AUG. 13, 1821, DIED SEPT. 16, 1862, AGED 41 Y'S. 4 MOS.

This obelisk stone has four names, one on each side: Josiah, Mary J., B.F., and Ruth Lamb. Ruth (Lamb) Lamb married Josiah Lamb, her first cousin, on 12 Oct 1836. The couple had 11 children. Ruth died only six weeks after her husband. Between their deaths, one of their sons, Benjamin Franklin Lamb, also died.



Lindsey, Lydia (Lamb)

LYDIA, WIFE OF D. LINDSEY, DIED JUNE 24, 1864. AGED 18 YS, 3 MS, 13 DS.

Alas she hath left us,
And we mourn our loss.

Lydia (Lamb) Lindsey, b. 11 Mar 1846, was the daughter of Josiah and Ruth Lindsey. She was the first wife of David Lindsey; they were married 24 Aug 1863. Lydia has sometimes been misidentified as David Lindsey's daughter, perhaps because of the difference in their ages. She was 17 and he was 40 when they married.



Lindsey, Sarah Sophia (Deardorff)

SARAH S. LINDSY. BORN May 3, 1843, DIED Aug. 16, 1872. Remember friends as you pass by, as you are now, so once was I. As I am now so you must be, to leave this earth and follow me.

Sarah's parents were Dicy (Swarens) and Simon S. Deardorff of Deer Creek, Illinois. She was David Lindsey's second wife (her last name is spelled incorrectly on the stone); they were married 15 Aug 1869. Both Sarah and David's first wife Lydia died in childbirth. Their graves feature weeping willows – a symbol of sorrow, but Sarah's grave also has a lamb, symbolizing her baby boy, who was buried with her.



Mills, Agustus F.

AGUSTUS F. SON OF E. & A. MILLS, BORN MAY 22, 1855, DIED OCT. 22, 1859. AGED 3 YRS. 5 MOS.

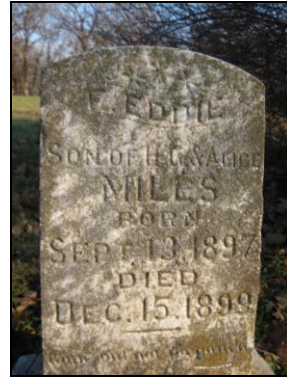
This was the son of Enos and Ann (Lamb) Mills. The author's records indicate they were married in July or August 1855, making a May 1855 baby unlikely. It's possible that either the marriage date or the baby's birth date on the gravestone is incorrect; or perhaps the baby arrived before the wedding took place.



Mills, E. Eddie

E. EDDIE, SON OF H.G. & ALICE MILLS, BORN SEPT. 13, 1897, DIED DEC. 15, 1899. Gone but not forgotten.

E. or F. Eddie Mills was the son of Horace G. Mills and Alice Mills. He was the grandson of Enos and Ann (Lamb) Mills.



Mills, Elkana J.R.

ELKANA J.R. MILLS, BORN JULY 27, 1857, DIED NOV. 2, 1859, AGED 2 YRS., 6 DAS.

The top of the stone is broken and damaged, making it impossible to read the name. The author concluded that this is the stone for Elkana (or Elkanah) J.R. Mills based on birth and death dates in cemetery records. His parents were Enos and Ann (Lamb) Mills.



Mills, Emanuel

EMANUEL MILLS, BORN DEC. 3, 1839, DIED SEPT. 27, 1862. AGED 22 YRS. 9 MOS. 22 DAYS

Emanuel Mills was the son of Abijah and Sarah (Moon) Mills.



Mills, Enoch

IN MEMORY OF ENOCH MILLS, BORN MAY 12, 1837, DIED JULY 2, 1883. AGED 46 YRS. 1 MO. 20 DS. Boast not thyself of tomorrow, for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth, for death is everywhere.

Enoch Mills' parents were Abijah and Sarah (Moon) Mills. His first wife was Mary Lamb, daughter of Reuben and Catherine Lamb; Enoch and Mary married 20 Feb 1859. His second wife was Evarilla Hobson. Enoch died of consumption.



Mills, Enoch Manford

Enoch Manford, son of D. & L. Mills. Apr. 17, 1854, Dec. 30, 1857.

This little boy was the son of Dayton Mills and the grandson of Abijah and Sarah (Moon) Mills. His unusual gravestone has his name on the curved top and the dates on the front.

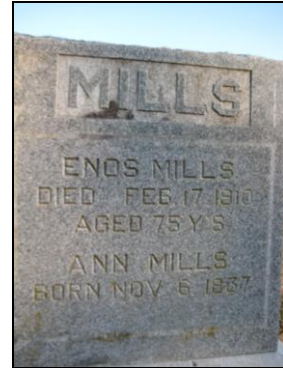


Mills, Enos & Ann (Lamb)

MILLS

ENOS MILLS, DIED FEB. 17, 1910, AGED 75 YS. ANN MILLS, BORN NOV. 6, 1837.

Enos Mills was the son of Abijah and Sarah (Moon) Mills. Ann was the daughter of Josiah and Ruth Lamb. Enos was b. 26 Dec 1834. The couple married 28 Jul or 28 Aug 1855. Ann died 4 Mar 1923 of the flu. They had 11 children; four died as infants or toddlers, three within four months.



Mills, Everilla B. (Hobson)

EVERILLA B., WIFE OF E. MILLS, DIED FEB. 27, 1881. AGED 44 YRS, 2 WKS.

Everilla B. (Hobson) Mills was the second wife of Enoch Mills. Enoch was the son of Abijah and Sarah (Moon) Mills. The bottom of her stone is nearly illegible. Age information is from cemetery records.



Mills, Mary E.

MARY E., WIFE OF E. MILLS, DIED OCT. 1859, AGED 21 YEARS. She's gone to God, angels greet her. Gone to join the seraph band, who are springing now to greet her, in the glorious spirit land.

Mary E. (Lamb) Mills was the daughter of Reuben and Catherine E. (Hodges) Mills. She was the first wife of Enoch Mills, son of Abijah and Sarah (Moon) Mills. They married 20 Feb 1859 and she died eight months later. (Do not confuse this Mary E. Mills with the infant Mary E. Mills below.)



Mills, Mary E.

DIED FEB. 16, 1860, AGED 1 YR. 1 MO. 25 DAYS

The top of this gravestone is broken off, leaving no name. The author concluded that this is the stone for Mary E. Mills based on birth and death dates in cemetery records. Another stone, marked only "M.E.M." was found next to this one. Mary was the daughter of Enos and Ann (Lamb) Mills. She was born 22 Dec 1858.



Mills, Ruth

RUTH, DAU. OF E. & A. MILLS, BORN MAR 2, 1862, DIED MAR 2, 1862

This baby girl was the daughter of Enos and Ann (Lamb) Mills, and granddaughter of Josiah and Ruth Lamb. She died the day she was born.



Mills, Sarah (Moon)

SARAH, WIFE OF ABIJAH MILLS, BORN JAN. 8, 1805, DIED APRIL 18, 1862. AGED 57 YRS, 3 MOS, 10 DAYS.

Sarah (Moon) Mills was the daughter of Malachi and Mary Moon, and the wife of Abijah Mills, the son of James and Lydia (Jay) Mills.



Spence, Jane M.

SPENCE (across top of double stone). MOTHER, JANE M. 1833-1896.

The initial M is for "Moore."



Spence, John D.

SPENCE (across top of double stone). FATHER, JOHN D. 1830-1897.

The author has no additional information.



Spence, Lucretia

Daughter, Lucretia P. Spence, 1871-1892.

The author has no additional information.



Spence, Ray

Son, Ray E. Spence, 1880-1904

The author has no additional information..



Wood, J. A.

J. A. WOOD, CO. A, 85TH ILL. INF.

The author has no additional information.



Unknown or Broken Gravestones

There were several broken gravestones and stone fragments.

E.L. stone: *Using special paper, a gravestone rubbing revealed two letters on this stone – E L – but nothing else was legible.*



Other stone fragments

The remaining fragments and gravestones shown here had no discernible inscriptions. While some are clearly gravestones, others may just be rocks. Others may be a single stone broken into two or more fragments.





MISSING STONES

According to cemetery records, these people are also buried in the Lamb/Mills Cemetery. However, gravestones could not be located for them in late 2009. Perhaps some of the illegible gravestones are for these people.

- **Susannah (Lamb) Collins Swann Darrin**, daughter of Josiah and Ruth Lamb, born Oct. 3, 1852, died July 13, 1924. She was married three times: to John T. Collins in 1871, to [unknown] Swann, and to Charles M. Darrin. She died in a train wreck, along with her third husband.
- **Catharine (Hodges) Lamb**, died Dec. 10, 1889, 76 years, 9 months, 33 days.
- **Ida May Lamb**, daughter of Miles and Nancy Ann Lamb, born Aug. 8, 1864, died Oct. 15 1865 or 1868.

THE MYSTERY OF 1862

What happened in 1862 to cause so many deaths in the Lamb and Mills families? The author has identified at least 11 members of this extended family who died in Linn Co, Kansas in 1862:

- 5 Feb – Ester Lamb
- 18 Feb – William C. Gregory
- 2 Mar – Ruth Mills (infant)
- 19 Mar – Mary Jane Lamb
- 18 Apr – Sarah (Moon) Mills
- 15 Jul – Lydia Ann Lamb
- 11 Aug – Josiah Lamb
- 30 Aug – Benjamin F. Lamb
- 16 Sep – Ruth Lamb
- 20 Sep – Reuben Lamb
- 27 Sept – Emanuel Mills

There are about 43 graves in the cemetery, with death dates that extend across more than 60 years, from 1857 to 1924. Of the people buried here, more of them died in 1862 than in any other year. The 1862 deaths represent about 25 percent of the total number of graves in the cemetery.

The author has found no documentation regarding the causes of deaths for any of these people. However, there was a severe drought in Kansas from 1859 to late 1860, resulting in widespread famine.

Thaddeus Hyatt, head of the National Kansas Committee, issued an appeal for help for starving Kansans in early February 1860. He said of the famine, "Hour by hour it enlarges. With each recurring day the calamity spreads wider. They who had food yesterday, have none today. They who have food today, have none for tomorrow. Desolation covers the land, and sorrow fills the hearts of the people."

The famine dragged on through 1861. It's possible that Lamb and Mills family members were severely malnourished and therefore more susceptible to infectious diseases. They may have even died of starvation.

Unless more specific information is discovered, we will never know definitively why and how they died. But we can certainly imagine – with dismay – what it would have been like to lose so many loved ones in such a short time.

SOURCES

Curran, Joan F., compiler. *The Ancestry of Ethel Allene (Ragan) Bruening*, obtained from Linn County Historical Society, Pleasanton, KS.

Earnest, Ola Mae. Family group sheets, newspaper clippings, and other materials provided to Susan Elaine Lindsey by Ola Mae Earnest, president and curator of the Linn County Historical Society, Pleasanton, Kansas.

Lamb, Glen. Online posting at archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com, downloaded by Susan Elaine Lindsey on 2 Jun 2008. Lamb cites Ola Mae Earnest of the Linn County Historical Society as his source.

Lindsey, Timothy Dan. Information on the Lamb family; origins unknown.

Lindsey, Susan Elaine. Photos and gravestone rubbings taken at the Lamb / Mills Cemetery by Susan Elaine Lindsey in November 2009.

Roos, Joy. Email to Susan Elaine Lindsey, 25 March 2010.

Ward, Irma. Information on the Lamb and Holmes families from Irma Ward sent by email to Susan Elaine Lindsey, 16 Sep, 2009. Ward cites Linn County cemetery records and *Linn County, Kansas: a History*, by William Ansel Mitchell.