



*Illustration 1: Intersection of Halstead Road and Northwest 12th Street. Looking south toward the City of Halstead.*

## Lilac Bushes Re-unite Family

Spotted from the road, lilac bushes caught the eye of Jim Locklear, a botanist who was living in Harvey County in the 1990s. Wanting a closer look at the lilacs, Jim got out of his car at Halstead Road and Northwest 12<sup>th</sup> Street (CR-568) during his 1994 country drive. He realized the large, over-grown lilacs were in a cemetery which was almost hidden by trees. Having time, Jim explored the cemetery and discovered the 1876 graves of three young children from the same family.

Close examination of the headstones showed the three siblings had died within three weeks of each other during October of 1876.<sup>1</sup> Carrie died on the 1<sup>st</sup>, Judda on the 7<sup>th</sup> and Firman on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. The stones recorded their parents as J.W. and M.E. Showalter. Further exploration of the cemetery did not reveal any graves for either J.W. or M.E.

Tucking away his notes of pertinent facts for future reference, Jim had his written material to remind him of his findings. And they kept alive the questions which had swirled through his mind.

What kind of illness brought a tragic end to the lives of these three young children?

Who were J.W. and M.E. Showalter? What happened to J.W. and M.E.?

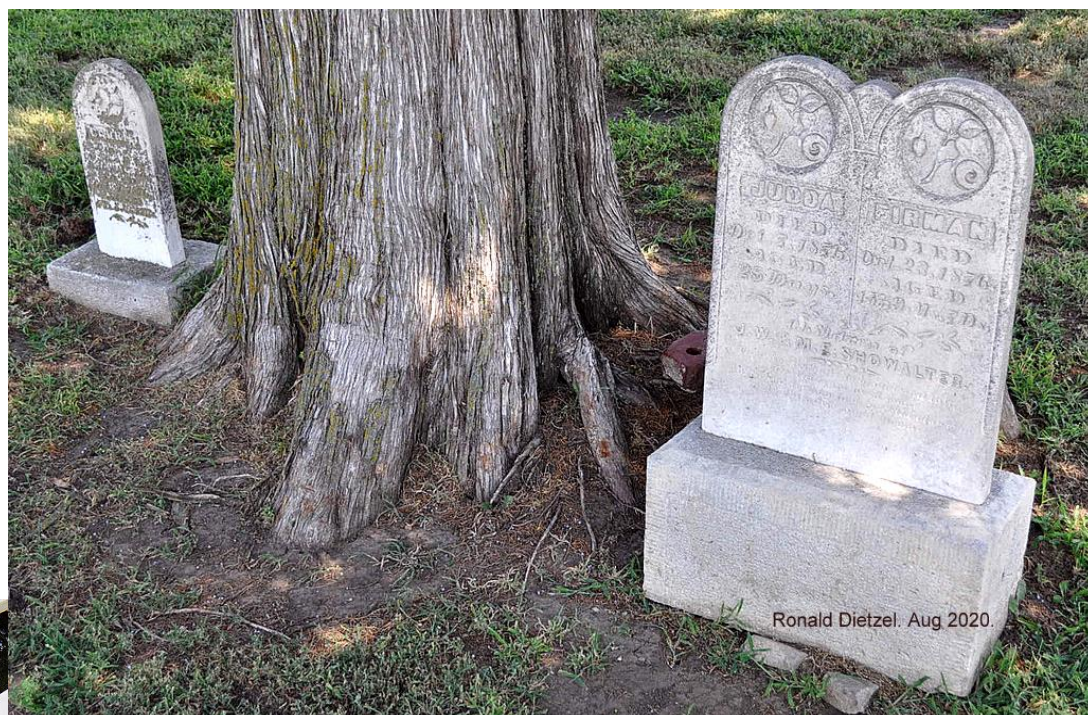
Why was this cemetery isolated in the middle of farm ground and some four miles north of Halstead, the nearest town?

Twenty-six years after Jim's 1994 country roads drive (and after moving away from Kansas), he continued to be intrigued by the questions which were generated by his brief visit to the Harvey County cemetery. As a result, Jim turned to the Harvey County Historical Museum for assistance. The balance of this narrative is a compilation of the research which was made by an Archival volunteer in the Museum. Because of curiosity about lilacs, a quest was instigated for trying to reunite a family.

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<sup>1</sup> Carrie's age was 4 years, 6 months, 12 days; Firman's age was 1 year, 9 months, 7 days; and, Judda's age was 25 days.





*Illustration 3: Headstones of the Showalter children.*



*Illustration 2: Entrance to Fairview Cemetery.*







Ronald Dietzel. Aug 2020.

Illustration 5: Headstone for Carrie - Left (north) of tree.



Ronald Dietzel. Aug 2020.

Illustration 4: Joint headstone for Judda and Firman - Right (south) of tree.





Illustration 6: Fairview Cemetery – Est. 1873 - Halstead Township

Within the approximately seventeen vanished communities or towns of Harvey County, KS, there are several cases where a cemetery and small amounts of documentation are the remaining evidences that the community existed.

The community of Fairview is one such site.

To be able to find the small bits and pieces from the past, it is often relevant to search an area somewhat wider than the specific topic of research; and to learn about the various people in that area. In this case, the wider area is Halstead Township within Harvey County; and the specific topic is the Fairview Cemetery within said Township.

As far as the township in question, *"What is now Halstead township was, in 1869, part of Sand Creek township in Sedgwick county. In the summer of 1872 it was organized as Black Kettle township, and embraced all of the present township, twelve sections from Lakin, three from Sedgwick and one-half of Macon township, being nine miles square."*<sup>2</sup>

A later realignment of Harvey County reduced the size of Halstead Township to its present configuration of six square miles.

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<sup>2</sup> Fri, June 4, 1886. *Halstead Independent* (Halstead, Kansas). Internet access in August, 2020.



*Illustration 7: Fairview Cemetery in Halstead Township of Harvey County. View is to the north. The Friends Meeting House was located about in line with the telephone pole and on the north side of NW 12th Street.*

A quick review of Harvey County cemeteries revealed the identity of the cemetery with the graves of the three young children. It was Fairview Quaker Cemetery in Halstead Township – a burial ground located at Halstead Road and Northwest 12<sup>th</sup> Street. The site provides physical evidence of the long vanished Fairview community.

Even though it's scattered and took some digging to find, written material such as newspaper articles revealed the existence of the Fairview community. An 1882 atlas of Halstead Township showed School #13 just to the west of the cemetery and the “Friends Church” to the north of the cemetery.<sup>3</sup>

An Orthodox group<sup>4</sup> of the Society of Friends (Quakers) migrated from the eastern United States to Harvey County.<sup>5</sup> This resulted in the Fairview community being developed in Halstead Township at about the time of Harvey County's creation in 1872. Initially, the Quakers held worship services in homes. As the group grew, the Fairview Meeting House was built and a cemetery laid out.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>3</sup> *Historical Atlas of Harvey County, Kansas*. John P. Edwards. 1882. Page 39.

<sup>4</sup> The North American branch of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) was torn apart by the Great Separation, which split the Society into the Orthodox Quakers and Hicksite Quakers. The split began after a wave of Protestant evangelism swept the United States during the early nineteenth century. Some Quakers wanted to mix the new ideas they'd encountered – such as the importance of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ – with existing Quaker beliefs and practices. These proponents of change became known as Orthodox Quakers. The Quakers who objected to the changes were called Hicksites after Elias Hicks, one of the most vocal critics of the changes. [source: <https://classroom.synonym.com/hicksite-quaker-beliefs-12085452.html> and <https://yardleyfriendsmeeting.org/about-us-2/quakers/scism-and-reform-1800-1900/>. Internet. 12 August 2020.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.hcgsk.org/collections/hcgs-cemetery-records/>. Internet. 12 August 2020.

<sup>6</sup> The Meeting House (Friends Church) was located on the north side of NW 12<sup>th</sup> and the cemetery on the south side.



The first burial occurred on July 2, 1872.

Non-members could be buried in the cemetery, as long as they agreed to follow the Quaker burial customs and place only a simple headstone, or none at all. The Fairview Quaker school was established across the road to the west. The Hillside Farm Post office was located 1/2 mile west on NW 12<sup>th</sup> Street. Eventually, the membership dwindled and the Meeting was “Laid Down” (voluntarily unorganized) and the membership transferred to the oversight of the Sterling, Kansas Monthly Meeting. The cemetery property was transferred to Halstead Township.<sup>7</sup>

The Fairview School House, officially named District 13, was one of the oldest in the county having been erected in the fall of 1872. The original building was replaced by a new one in 1915 at a cost of \$3,500. It was touted as *“probably the best country school house in Harvey or adjoining counties. ...and it is well worth the price.”*

In August of 1915, the old school house was sold at public auction to Harry Akins for forty-five dollars plus the cost of moving the building. The old seats were also sold. The first one was purchased by David Smith for forty-five cents. The other seats were purchased for thirty-five cents each. Many of the buyers were adults who'd occupied them as children when they attended the school.<sup>8 9</sup>

As was the case for many schools and it held true for Fairview School House, the building served as a community center which included religious services. A news item stated, *“At Fairview school house, three miles north of town, Rev. G.W. Branine...baptised fourteen persons and took eight into the M.E. Church.”*<sup>10</sup> Note: The town being referenced is Halstead.

Since structures were often re-purposed, this proved to be the fate of the Fairview Friends Meeting House when the Meeting was “Laid Down”. In an October, 1920 article, a journalist reported, *“A.C. Van Vleet and his employees in the house moving business...will now engage in moving another church building known as the Fairview church, a distance of 14½ miles to a place near Whitewater where it will be used by the Claypool Grange.”*<sup>11 12</sup>



*Illustration 8: Site of District 13 Fairview School building is in the corn field west of the Fairview Cemetery. In the foreground and on either side of the large tree are the headstones of the Showalter children – Firman and Judda have a joint stone to the left (south side); Carrie's is to the right (north).*

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.hcgsk.org/collections/hcgs-cemetery-records/>. Internet access on 12 August 2020.

<sup>8</sup> Thu, Aug. 26, 1915. *Halstead Independent* (Halstead, Kansas). Internet access in August 2020.

<sup>9</sup> \$3,500 equals \$89,700 in 2020 dollars. \$45 equals \$1,154 in 2020 dollars. 45 cents equals \$11.54 in 2020 dollars. And finally, 35 cents equals \$8.98 in 2020 dollars.

<sup>10</sup> Thu, Jul 27, 1876. *Newton Kansan*. (Newton, Kansas). Internet access on Aug 13, 2020.

<sup>11</sup> Fri, Oct 1, 1920. *The Evening Kansan Republican*. (Newton, Kansas). Internet access in August 2020.

<sup>12</sup> The Grange was a national organization founded for educating and connecting farmers as well as providing social

The specifics for the cemetery, the names of the three young children and a clue about their parentage gave an excellent starting point for research into the Showalter family. Using the known information, a database for cemeteries was consulted. Lo and behold, a listing of burials in Fairview Cemetery contained the three children. The names and dates were a match. Best of all, the database had entries for their parents! Shown as Joseph W. Showalter and Mary E. Showalter, it appeared to be a match since the headstones were inscribed with J.W. and M.E. Showalter as the parents.

This looked like it would be an easy project.

That proved to be a faulty assessment.

A close examination of the details revealed some glaring issues. In 1870, Joseph was living in Illinois and was single.<sup>13</sup> The U.S. Census of 1880 showed Joseph as a single male living in the city of Anthony, Harper County, Kansas.<sup>14</sup> In 1880, Mary E. Bartlett was a single 17 year old living in Sumner County, Kansas.<sup>15</sup> Records indicated Joseph and Mary were married in 1882 in Sumner County, lived in that county and then were buried in a Wellington cemetery (also in Sumner County) in Kansas. The couple had six children. None of them were named Carrie, Firman or Judda.

By using the framework given above, an attempt was made to fit together the various known pieces about the adults and the children – but the following elements (A thru D) did not mesh. There were disconnects regarding Joseph and Mary as being the parents of Carrie, Firman and Judda.

A – With Carrie being born in 1872, Firman in 1875 and Judda in 1876 combined with all three dying in 1876, the three children lived and died in Harvey County. During this time, both Joseph and Mary were single and living with members of their respective families in Sumner County.

B – Since Joseph and Mary were married in 1882, that would mean Carrie's birth happened ten years prior to the marriage. And yes, it is not unusual for a couple to be committed to each other and have a child (or several children) before they take the step of being formally married...

But there's more.

C – With Mary being born in 1861, she'd have been eleven years old when Carrie was born. It seems highly unlikely Mary would have begun motherhood at the young and tender age of eleven.

D – If Disconnect A would be ignored and we'd pretend Disconnect B had actually happened, how does one explain a scenario where Joseph and Mary were living in Sumner County but buried three children in Harvey County? Even if Joseph and Mary had connections in Harvey County (and it appears they did not), why would they select a cemetery some 70 miles from home? Such a distance in the mid 1870s was a very major trek. In that era, transportation was via horse and buggy or wagon. At a speed of about three miles per hour, a 70 mile trip in a buggy would have taken a number of days. Then, there would be the return trip from Harvey County back to Sumner County.

With the strength of the evidence gathered from the research process, it was overwhelmingly obvious that Joseph Wade and Mary Elizabeth (Bartlett) Showalter were not the parents of Carrie,

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events. <https://www.kshs.org/kansapedia/grange/15618> . Internet access on August 22, 2020.

13 Joseph W. Showalter (1847-1908) was living with his mother Elizabeth, step father Abraham, full brother John T., half brother Cassius and half sister Helena. *United States Census 1870*. Internet access on 14 August 2020.

14 Joseph was living with his step father Abraham G. and half sister Helena. *United States Census 1880*.

15 Mary Elizabeth Bartlett (1861-1943) was living with her parents, a brother, three sisters and a half brother. *United States Census 1880*.



Firman and Judda.

Back to square one. Who were J.W. and M.E. Showalter?

Hoping journalists of the era would give clues, a search was made of area newspapers.

Expectations were high when an article came to light which recorded the death of Carrie. But then the high hopes were dashed due to a lack of details. The article said, *"Deaths.--Oct. the 4<sup>th</sup>, Carrie, daughter of J.W. and M.C. Showalter, aged 4 years, 6 mos. and 17 days. Funeral services on the 5<sup>th</sup>, conducted by G.W. Branine."*<sup>16</sup> This did not help in identifying "J.W."; and the mother's initials of "M.C." did not agree with what was on the headstones. However, the death date and the daughter's name matched so maybe the "M.C." was a typesetting error by the newspaper printer.

A second article created a renewal of hope. It stated *"Mr and Mrs John Schowalter have again sustained a grievous loss. For the third time within three weeks they have lost a child. This time a little boy, Firman J., born March the 16<sup>th</sup>, 1874. They have now but one child left, and even that has been affected by the disease which has carried off the others--inflammation [sic] of the mucous membrane."*<sup>17</sup>

Further searching of the newspapers did not uncover a death notice for Judda.

While partially revealing the parents' names by identifying the father as "John," there now was a new question.

Who was the fourth child and what happened to this sibling of Carrie, Firman and Judda?

At this point, all thoughts of a quick and easy project were thrown out of the window. It was obvious the search would be tedious as materials would need to be checked and cross-checked in order to determine the family to which the three young Showalter children belonged. In doing this, a number of challenges would be encountered in going through the documentation.

One – There have been a number of Showalter (and Schowalter) families in this general area. Due to the spelling variation, journalists and census takers did not always know which spelling was correct for a specific family. Case in point – The death notice for Carrie used the "Sho..." spelling whereas the notice for Firman used the "Scho..." spelling. As a result, both spellings needed to be researched.

Two – The father's name of "John" was (and continues to be) a very common name; plus errors were made in recording the middle initial. Between the variations of the given name, the middle initial and the surname, lots and lots of records needed to be examined in trying to find the correct family.

Three – With the deaths of the three children occurring in 1876, data needed to be uncovered from a time period when Euro-Americans were new to the region.<sup>18</sup> Also, consider the 144 year gap between the occurrence of the event and the tackling of the research in year 2020. The consequence was that documentation could have been minimal to begin with and/or was lost over time.

Four – Added challenges occurred through "human error." It might have been caused when data was keyed by transcriptionists who were trying to decipher people's handwriting; or when researchers built an incorrect or incomplete database; or census takers did not verify the spellings of names or authors of documents did not pay enough attention to get the details correct.

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16 Thu, Oct. 12, 1876 article in the *Harvey County News* (Newton, Kansas). Internet access on 13 August 2020.

17 Thu, Nov. 2, 1876 article in the *Newton Kansan* (Newton, Kansas). Internet access on 02 June 2020.

18 Newton was founded in 1871. Harvey County was created in 1872. Moundridge was founded in 1876. Halstead was incorporated in 1877. <http://hchm.org/exhibits/short-stories-of-harvey-county-kansas-a-series-of-pictorial-histories-5-8/>

Five – Genealogy research takes lots of time when done properly since multiple resources should be consulted in order to verify and confirm the accuracy of the facts. If multiple sources agree, the researcher is on the right track. If the material does not agree, a new direction might be needed.

By utilizing a genealogy database, records were found for a John W. and Mary Elizabeth (Schoonover) Showalter.<sup>19</sup> Early indications were that John and Mary had links to Harvey County and McPherson County.<sup>20</sup> This placed them within relatively close proximity to Fairview Cemetery. In a quick look at whether or not they had any children, note was taken of a daughter Anna (or Annie) who was born in Illinois in 1869 and another daughter Virgie who was born in 1882 in Moundridge.

At the time of the tragedy, Anna would have been about age seven. In the 1876 newspaper article saying, *“They have now but one child left, and even that has been affected by the disease....”*, might Anna have been the fourth sibling?

A few pieces of the puzzle were beginning to fit. Maybe the parents had been found. But then, the realization hit that a large puzzle piece was missing.

Carrie, Firman and Judda were absent from the genealogy database listing of children who were born to John W. and Mary E. (Schoonover) Showalter.

Even though the absence of the children was a major issue, the meager evidence found in the preliminary search pointed toward the couple being the parents. The available information seemed compelling enough to make it worthwhile to pursue further investigation – especially when a large gap of thirteen years was noticed between the birth of Anna and the birth of Virgie.

With a renewed sense of determination, the digging resumed. It uncovered a record which was quite conclusive.

- ➔ 1875 – Census of Halstead Township in Harvey County. Household of John (25 yrs), Mary (27 yrs), Annie (6 yrs), Carrie (3 yrs), F.J. (0 yrs; i.e. infant under 1 yr) and Sarah Schonover [sic] (63 yrs).<sup>21 22</sup> Also shown in the household was a male by the name of C. Hinton (27 yrs).<sup>23</sup>

The parents and existing sibling of Carrie, Firman (F.J.) and Judda were found!!!

Having placed parents and children together, it became intriguing to find out about the Showalter's and their family. As a result, the research continued.

- 1860 – Ruth Schoonover married George L. Cooper in Illinois.<sup>24 25</sup>
- 1868 – Mary Elizabeth Schoonover married John W. Showalter in Illinois.

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19 Born in Illinois, John W. (1849-1902) was the son of Abraham Jr. and Sarah (Baker) Showalter. John was the seventh child in a total of eleven. Born in New York, Mary Elizabeth (1847-1913) was the daughter of Jonathan and Sarah (Swartwood) Schoonover. Mary was the youngest of seven children. Internet access on 17 August 2020.

20 Clues included: places of residence (Halstead Township in Harvey County plus the cities of Moundridge and McPherson in McPherson County); the 1882 birth of daughter Virgie at Moundridge; the death of John in McPherson County; the death of Mary in Moundridge.

21 *Kansas State Census, 1875*. Internet access on 8 August 2020.

22 Sarah (Swartwood) Schoonover was the mother of Mary Elizabeth (Schoonover) Showalter.

23 Is Hinton the same person as the C. Hinkson who's shown in the 1882 plat map of Harvey County as having farm ground in the southwest quarter of Section 29 of Halstead Twp?

24 Fri, Aug 23, 1901 article in *The Burrton Graphic* (Burrton, Kansas). Internet access on 19 August 2020.

25 Ruth, Nicholas Jay and Mary Elizabeth were the last three of seven siblings. They were the children of Jonathan and Sarah (Swartwood) Schoonover.



- 1869 – Nicholas Jay Schoonover married Louesa Caroline Miller in Illinois.
- 1870 – George and Ruth (Schoonover) Cooper moved to Kansas and located on a claim three miles northwest of Halstead.<sup>26</sup>
- 1871 – Death in Illinois of Jonathan Schoonover, the husband of Sarah (Swartwood) and father of Mary Elizabeth (Schoonover) Showalter, Ruth (Schoonover) Cooper and N. Jay Schoonover.
- 1871 (approx.) – After the death of Jonathan, Sarah (Swartwood) Schoonover, N. Jay and wife Louesa (Miller) Schoonover plus Mary Elizabeth (Schoonover) and husband John W. Showalter moved to Halstead Township in Harvey County, Kansas.<sup>27</sup>

Why was all this information given about individuals from the Schoonover family? For a couple of reasons. First – For Anna, Carrie, Firman, Judda and Virgie, these are their grandparents, uncles and aunts on their maternal side. Two – There are stories to be told about the Schoonover relations.

But, the Schoonover family narrative will be addressed later.

In the mean time, this narrative continues with the Showalter side of the family.

- 1880 – Census of Mound Township in McPherson County. Household of John N. [sic] (32 yrs), Elizabeth (34 yrs), Annie (11 yrs), Sarah Schoonover (69 yrs).<sup>28</sup>
- 1882 – Daughter Virgie Lee was born to John W. and Mary E. (Schoonover) Showalter.
- 1892 – John W. married Emma Irene “Rena” (Denny) Carter.<sup>29</sup> She had a daughter Millie Carter from a previous marriage.<sup>30</sup> Born in 1869, Rena was the second of seven children. Her parents were George W. and Millie Jane (Nickum) Denney.
- 1893 – Daughter Maude was born to John and Rena in Indiana.<sup>31</sup>
- 1895 – Daughter Gladys was born to John and Rena in Kansas.<sup>32</sup>
- 1895 – Sarah (Swartwood) Schoonover died at age 84 in the home of her daughter Mrs. Ruth Cooper in Lake Township, Harvey County, Kansas. Her body was laid to rest in the cemetery southwest of Patterson (Star Cemetery), also in Lake Township.<sup>33</sup>
- 1896 – *Mary E. Showalter, of Moundridge has...filed a petition asking for a divorce from her husband, John Showalter...*<sup>34 35</sup>

If the reported information in the above sequence is correct, a story can be uncovered. Think about this – 43 year old John “married” 23 year old Rena; and then about four years later, Mary filed

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<sup>26</sup> Fri, Aug 23, 1901 article in *The Burrton Graphic* (Burrton, Kansas). Internet access on 19 August 2020.

<sup>27</sup> *Kansas State Census, 1875*. Internet access on 8 August 2020.

<sup>28</sup> *United States Census. 1880*. Internet access on 8 August 2020.

<sup>29</sup> Documentation is needed for the marriage of John and Rena; i.e. where and exactly when? How would John have married Rena while still married to Mary?

<sup>30</sup> Rena's first husband was William M. Carter. They married in January of 1886 in Harvey County, Kansas. *Bride Marriage Index*. <http://hchm.org/research-library/>. Internet access on 8 August 2020.

<sup>31</sup> *United States Census. 1900*. Internet access on 3 August 2020.

<sup>32</sup> *United States Census. 1900*. Internet access on 3 August 2020.

<sup>33</sup> Fri, Oct 25, 1895 article in *The Burrton Graphic* (Burrton, Kansas). Internet access on 20 August 2020.

<sup>34</sup> Tue, Feb 11, 1896 article in *The McPherson Daily Republican* (McPherson, Kansas). Internet access on 3 August 2020.

<sup>35</sup> Why did Mary wait until 1896 (four years) to petition for a divorce?

for divorce. During this interval, John and Rena had two children, moved from Kansas to Indiana and then back to Kansas. Did these activities contribute to the petition for divorce citing abandonment as the reason for the filing?

- 1900 – Census of Mound Township, Mound Ridge city [sic], McPherson, Kansas. Household of John W. Showallis [sic] (51 yrs) born in Virginia. Other occupants: Rena Showallis [sic] (33 yrs) born in Indiana, number of living children: 3. Mother of how many children: 4. Years married: 8. Marriage year: 1892. Daughter Mellie Carter [sic] (11 yrs) born in Kansas. Daughter Maud Showallis [sic] (7 yrs) born in Indiana. Daughter Gladys Showallis (5 yrs) born in Kansas.<sup>36</sup>
- 1900 – Census of Mound Township, Mound Ridge city [sic], McPherson, Kansas. Household of Mrs. Mary Showalter (53 yrs). Marital Status: Divorced. Number of living children: 2. Mother of how many children: 5. Other occupants: daughter Anna (31 yrs); daughter Virgie (18 yrs).<sup>37</sup>
- 1902 (or possibly 1900) – Death of John W. Showalter in McPherson County, Kansas.
- 1905 – Virgie L. Showalter, aged 23 years, married 24 year old John J. Ruth in McPherson Co, Kansas. Parents of bride: John and Mary Showalter. Residence of bride: Moundridge, Kansas. Parents of groom: Daniel and Anna Ruth. Residence of groom: Moundridge, Kansas.<sup>38</sup>
- 1908 – Rena (Denny) Showalter, aged 39 years, married 27 year old Oscar Altmann in Indiana.
- 1913 – Death of Mary Elizabeth (Schoonover) Showalter. Burial was in Mound Township Cemetery, Moundridge, McPherson County, Kansas.<sup>39</sup>
- 1940 – Census of Canton, Canton Township, McPherson County, Kansas. Household of Oscar Altman [sic] (60 yrs). Marital status: Married. Other occupant: wife Irne Altman [sic] (72 yrs).<sup>40</sup>
- 1940 – Census of Bell, San Antonio Township, Los Angeles County, California. Household of Anna Showalter (71 yrs). Marital status: Single. Other occupant: sister Virgie Ruth (58 yrs). Marital status: Divorced.<sup>41</sup>
- 1942 – Death of Rena (Denny) Carter Showalter Altmann in McPherson County, Kansas.<sup>42</sup>
- 1945 – Death of Anna Showalter in California.
- 1968 – Death of Virgie L. (Showalter) Ruth in California.

At some point over the past twenty-six years, the Fairview Cemetery grounds have gone through a transformation. The large lilac bushes have disappeared. Either they were cut down or they died out. What was once an over-grown, un-kept site is now well maintained. The trees are pruned. The grass is neatly clipped. Vegetation around the bases of the headstones and trees is well trimmed. A smart looking white fence encloses the west side and the north side of the cemetery – the two sides of the cemetery which parallel the roads. The current condition of the cemetery site gives honor and respect to both those who are buried there as well as the families to whom they belonged.

What started as an inquisitive pause to examine some lilac bushes blossomed into something

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<sup>36</sup> *United States Census. 1900.* Internet access on 3 August 2020.

<sup>37</sup> *United States Census. 1900.* Internet access on 10 August 2020.

<sup>38</sup> *Kansas County Marriages, 1855-1911.* McPherson Marriage records 1901-1909. Internet access on 10 August 2020.

<sup>39</sup> *Cemetery Directory, Mound Township Cemetery.* Internet access on 9 July 2020.

<sup>40</sup> *United States Census. 1940.* Internet access on 18 August 2020.

<sup>41</sup> *United States Census. 1940.* Internet access on 20 August 2020.

<sup>42</sup> Documentation is needed for the date of death.



much larger. Three young children – Carrie, Firman and Judda Showalter – were reunited with their family. The linking was not a physical one since the realities of life caused a geographic scattering of all the many and various family members.

However, evidence exists of Carrie, Firman and Judda in Fairview Cemetery in Harvey County; of sister Anna in Inglewood, California; of sister Virgie who also died in California; of mother Mary Elizabeth in Mound Township Cemetery in McPherson County, Kansas; of father John W. who died in McPherson County, Kansas; of half sister Maude in Denver, Colorado; of half sister Gladys in York, PA; step mother Emma (nicknamed “Rena”) in McPherson County, Kansas; and, of grandmother Sarah (Swartwood) Schoonover at Star Cemetery in Harvey County. This list should go on by adding the relatives on the Schoonover side of the family.

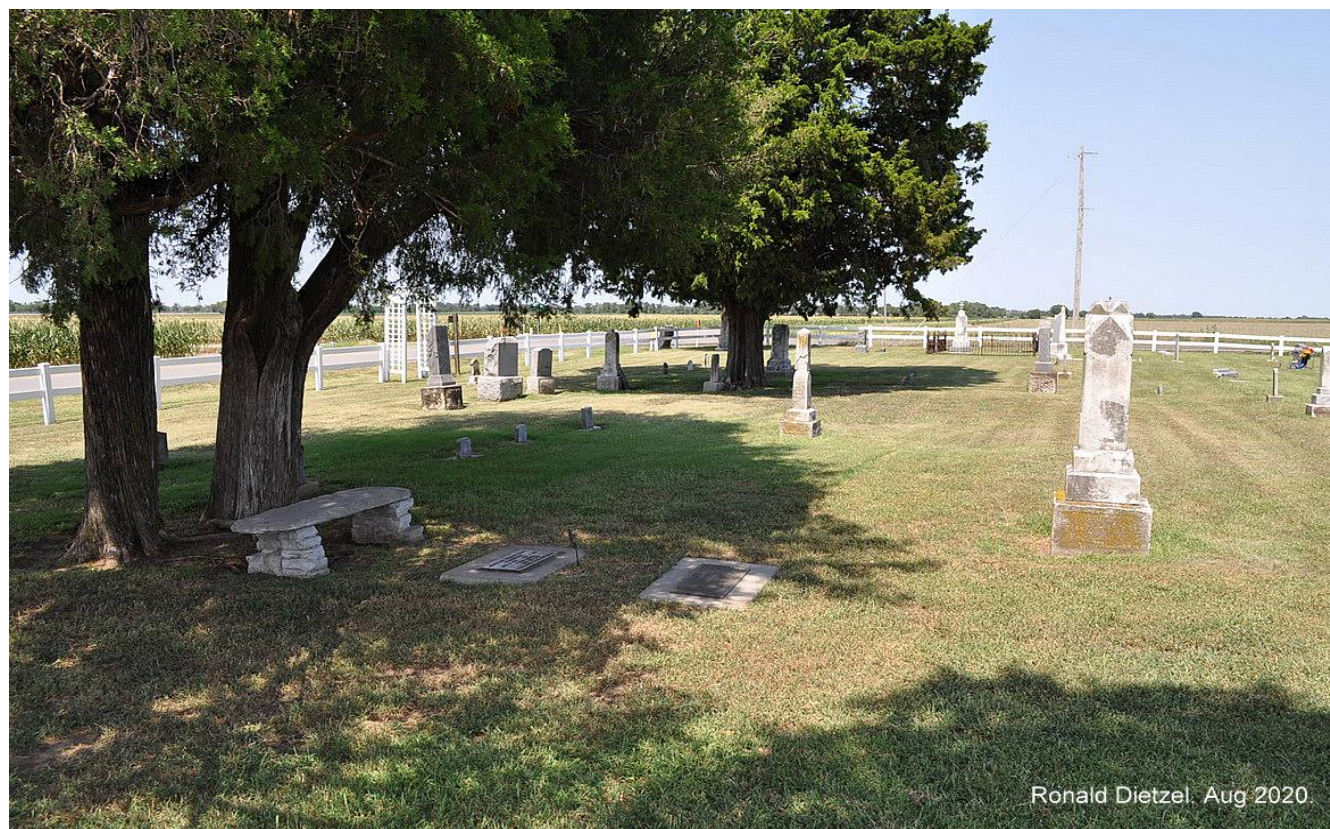
But, the anecdotes about the Schoonovers are for another day.

Oh, by the way. Efforts are underway to get corrections made to the nationally used database for cemeteries. As far as the nationally accessed genealogy database, the Showalter children Carrie, Firman and Judda have successfully been recorded to their correct family!

What's important is that the three young children are once again linked to and united with their family and relatives.

Every person deserves to be remembered.

And it happened for the Showalter family – all because of a chance sighting of a profusion of lilac bushes!!!



*Illustration 9: Fairview Cemetery, Halstead Township, Harvey County, Kansas.*