

OWEN JAMES MARTIN

*George Nolan*

Mr. Martin was born 1866 in Cincinnati, Ohio. The oldest of eight children of Patrick and Elizabeth Martin. His father was in the drug business in Ohio and came to Kansas and homesteaded a farm in 1869.

Owen Martin came to Kansas with his mother, one sister and a brother by railroad to Emporia in 1870. Emporia was as far as the railroad extended into Kansas at that time. The rest of the family followed later and settled on a farm near Wichita.

His father and uncle engaged in the freighting business, hauling supplies of all kinds to the frontier. Later Owen and his brother also took up freighting, securing contracts with the Government to furnish hay to the Cavalry at Fort Supply, then located in Indian Territory, now Oklahoma.

In 1891, he married Sabina E. Nolan, whose family operated a hardware store at Goddard, Kansas. In Wichita, Mr. Martin became associated with Mr. T. J. McDonald in various business ventures.

In 1906, Mr. Martin and his brother-in-law, Mr. Nolan, purchased a hardware store that was established by Carey Lumber Co. in 1889, or at the time Oklahoma was opened for settlement. The store became known as Nolan and Martin Hardware and was operated as a partnership until 1922, when Mr. Nolan died. Mr. Martin then operated it until 1927 when he closed it out and retired.

Mr. Martin died in 1934, survived by Mrs. Martin, one daughter (Carrie), Mrs. Roy Ambrister; two granddaughters, Carene and Sabina Ambrister.

Mrs. Martin died in 1945.