

Bugher, and sisters: Lavina, Sarah, and Polly. His sister Lavina married Gabriel Donmeyer and they lived in Cambria Township, Saline County, Kansas in 1880 census.

Lewis Bugher and his brother Peter Bucher (they used different spelling) went prospecting for silver and gold in Idaho. Just before Christmas 1880, Lewis wrote his wife from Bullion City, Idaho: "I am yet in the land of the living, and am well . . . The mail has been stopped for several weeks on account of deep snow, but I hope we will get it through on snow shoes so we can hear from each other." The snow had been four feet deep but had settled down to three feet.

Lewis was working the "Little Frank" mine. "I called it that when I struck it, but it has to be 'Big Frank' and the best mine on Wood River."

Last summer a mine within a mile of the "Little Frank" sold for five hundred thousand dollars. "I can just bet them that I can take two tons of ore out of the Little Frank to their one with the same force of hands," Lewis wrote.

"Now it is drawing nigh onto Christmas, I hope you will have a good time while I am in these lonely mountains. But I am going to have pay for it in the spring - enough to live on the interest the balance of our days . . . Well must close. God bless you and the children."

In May 1882, from Bellview, Idaho, Lewis Bugher wrote his wife another letter treasured by their daughter, Mrs. Lavina Ward: "Two parties are here to buy me out and I think it will go in a few days . . . A good friend told me to stand firm on my price . . . one hundred and sixty thousand."

Nobody knows what Lewis Bugher got for his mines, but in the Spring of 1884, he was back in Kansas. April 28, 1884, he joined Payne's Oklahoma Colony. His name and certificate number are in David Payne's notebook at the Oklahoma Historical Society. Next to his name are Victor and LeRoy Bucher, sons of Simon Bucher of Lyon County, Kansas. Were Victor and LeRoy Bucher nephews of Lewis Bugher? They must have been close kin since they joined the Payne Colony at the same time. In the 1880 census living with the Simon Bucher family was Simon's mother, Sara Bucher 90 years of age, born in Pennsylvania. She may also be the mother of Lewis Bugher.

That Spring of 1884, prospects of opening the Unassigned lands of Indian Territory looked very good. Lewis Bugher sold his twelve hundred acres of wheat land in Saline County and moved to Douglass, Butler County, Kansas, nearer the land the Boomers proposed to homestead. Gracie Pearl Bugher was born at Douglass, Kansas, November 29, 1884.

When the Spring of 1885 came around Lewis Bugher was still waiting for the Oklahoma land to be open for settlement. On March 21, he was one of 25 men who signed a petition asking President Grover Cleveland to open the Oklahoma land. The petition was published in the Chicago Tribune, and the original hand written petition with the signatures is in the National Archives, Washington, D. C.

BUGHER GENEALOGY

Lewis Bugher was born October 28, 1819, in Ohio, died May 28, 1901, near Noble, Oklahoma Territory. Married March 7, 1871, Tuscarawas County, Ohio, Annie Rinehart, born March 3, 1845 in Ohio, died October 1, 1928, Noble, Oklahoma. Children:

1. Lewis Bartlett Bugher, born January 2, 1872, Kansas, married Abbie Dwiggin who died October 12, 1970.

Children: Dora May Bugher, Theadore Bugher, Delbert Bugher, Jewell Bugher, and Henry James Bugher.

2. Robert Edward Bugher, born October 6, 1872, died December 4, 1884, in a hunting accident near Purcell, Chickasaw Nation.
3. Benjamin Franklin Bugher, born September 29, 1875, Kansas, married Vinita May Lukinbill.

Children: Robert Edward Bugher, Benjamin F. Bugher, Jr. Vinita Blanche Bugher.

4. Eva Mae Bugher, born February 23, 1878, died 1912, no children.
5. Lula Dell Bugher, born November 29, 1880, married Jim Wadkins, died June 10, 1906.
6. Gracie Pearle Bugher, born November 29, 1884, at Douglass, Kansas. Married (1) Oscar Bryant, (2) Ben Boggs, and (3) Hardin.

Children: Ruth Bryant, Lewis Bryant, Emma Bryant, Woodrow Bryant and Tula Boggs.

7. Oklahoma Bugher, born April 10, 1887 on the Santa Fe right-of-way at what is now Oklahoma City. Married Dee Ketner. Oklahoma Ketner now lives in California.

Children: Estle Ketner (son), Charles Ketner, Kenneth Ketner, Loyd Ketner, Byrle Ketner, Gene Ketner, Gerald Ketner, Viola Ketner, Anna Bell Ketner, and Gladys Ketner.

8. Lavina Bugher, born March 23, 1891 near Noble, Oklahoma Territory. Married Ray L. Ward. No children.

Early in 1887, Lewis Bugher loaded his family into covered wagons and set out for the unassigned lands. He was one of many stray Boomers who went into Oklahoma singly, hoping thereby to escape the soldiers and hold down a claim. They were living in a tent on the Santa Fe right-of-way, near Oklahoma Station, when the soldiers from Fort Reno ordered them to leave. The Bugher's expected the birth of a child any day and Lewis asked the military officer to allow them to stay until after the baby was born. There in a tent near the North Canadian River, a blue-eyed daughter was born April 10, 1887. The soldiers said her name should be Oklahoma, so she was named Oklahoma Bugher. (Oklahoma, The Beautiful Land, a book published in Chicago in 1889, tells of her birth and her name.)

True to their promise to the military officer, the family moved into the Chickasaw Nation where they lived two miles north of Purcell for the next two years. While living there the Bugher's second son, Robert Edward Bugher, lost his life in a hunting accident. The tragedy was published in the fourth issue of the Purcell Register, December 10, 1887.

On April 22, 1889, when the shot was fired that opened the Unassigned Lands, Lewis Bugher dashed across the South Canadian River and drove his stake in a quarter section of land five miles north and two miles west of Lexington. The Bugher's first home on the new 160-acre farm was a bark house, in which the youngest child, Lavina Bugher, was born March 23, 1891.

Bugher stripped the bark from oak and walnut trees for his first home. Later, when a sawmill moved into the area, he had the trees sawed into lumber for the big 8-room, two story house. It was torn down only a few years ago.

Once settled in the comfortable home on the Cleveland County farm, Bugher turned the farming over to his sons and told his wife, "I am going to see what I can locate in the way of a gold mine." And so he again went prospecting--to Paoli.

Lewis Bugher died in 1901. His wife, Annie, died in 1928, shortly after she leased the farm for drilling. The Dulaney No. 1, drilled in 1937 on the Bugher property, is said to be the first oil well in Cleveland County.

The Bugher children attended the one-room Canada school, District 49, one mile east and two miles south of Noble. It was built on one-quarter acre of land donated by L. J. Canada. The school year 1896-97, Lula Bugher, Eva Bugher, Gracie Bugher, Okie Bugher, and Vina Bugher were Canada school pupils.

Of Lewis Bugher's large family, two daughters remain: Lavina Bugher Ward, who lives in Norman, and Oklahoma Bugher Ketner, the mother of ten children who resides in California. She has seven sons living, three of whom distinguished themselves in service during World War II, thirty grandchildren and at least twenty-five great grandchildren.

Many descendants of Lewis and Annie Bugher are still residents of Cleveland County and Norman, Oklahoma

LEWIS BUGHER FAMILY

By Lavina Ward and Edna Couch

Lewis Bugher was born in Ohio in 1819. He sometimes spelled his name BUGHER and sometimes BUCHER. His descendants use the BUGHER spelling. His family does not know when the tide of migration swept him westward. According to the 1890 census of Oklahoma Territory, he served in the Colorado Home Guard for three months in 1862.

Before Lewis Bugher went west he visited the Rinehart home. Annie Rinehart was a little girl playing with her doll under an apple tree. Lewis picked her up in his arms.

"I am going away out West, but when I come back, I'm going to have you for my wife," he said.

Annie was too young to know what marriage meant. Lewis Bugher did return and on March 7, 1871, he married Annie Rinehart in Tuscarawas County, Ohio. Lewis took his bride to Kansas where their older children were born. How proud they were of their three sons: Lewis Bartlett, Robert Edward, and Benjamin Franklin Bugher. Then came two daughters: Eva May and Lula Dell.

Lewis Bugher is said to have had a large family of brothers and sisters, among them George Bugher, Silas Bugher, Peter Bucher, Daniel