

## **Chilton, William**

Mr. William Chilton was born in 1809 near Low Gap, Tennessee. He came to Kansas in 1844. In 1863 at the age of 54, he served in Company "F," 14th Calvary, U.S. Army. After ordering hedge plants from the east for fencing, the Chiltons planted a long hedge row and at a certain place beside this hedge, they cornered a spot with four hedge trees which they proclaimed to be their final resting place. This year of 1976 finds the hedge row pulled when Miami County Road 223 was built. One hedge tree remains at a corner of this grave site and is believed to be one of the original hedge trees.

Descendants of William Chilton who remained in this area: Elijah and R. Britton Chilton; Violet Whitley, Mary Ellen Collins and Henry; and Britton Lee.

In 1902, R. Britton purchased land 3 1/2 miles south of Wellsville. In the early 1920s, he sowed a field of flax which was an unusual crop for this area. When the field was blue with bloom, many people came to see it. In the next few years others planted flax, but it did not produce well, and very little, if any is raised now in this area. R. Britton also planted buckwheat which he had ground into flour at the Ottawa mill for gifts to relatives, neighbors and friends each Christmas.

Henry, whose professions included farming, welding, and carpentry, was the founder of Chilton Avenue and the Chilton Addition In Wellsville.