



Flying Farmers and Ranchers

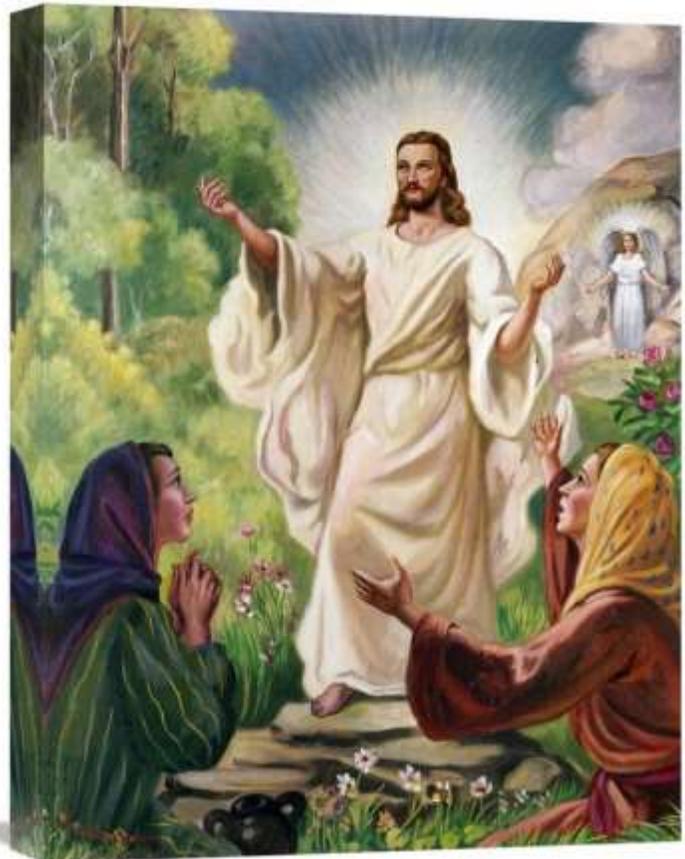
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HAPPY EASTER



By Fleur De Lis Living

2021

July 18–22

IFF Convention Mitchell , SD

CONDOLENCES TO THE HOFFMAN FAMILY

Andrew John Hoffman



Andrew John Hoffman was born to Karen (Rustemeyer) and Gary Hoffman on November 23, 1978 in Lynch, NE. He passed away at age 42 on March 1, 2021 surrounded by his family after a hard-fought battle with Gli-

oblastoma multiforme. He attended school at Spencer, NE and Waco, NE, and because of entrepreneurial parents, his early years were spent learning the value of hard work on the family farm and family businesses.

Andy played football for the Utah State Aggies in Logan, UT before transferring to the University of South Dakota and eventually South Dakota State University, where he earned a degree in Political Science. He then attended the University of South Dakota School of Law and graduated with his Juris Doctor in the top 10% of his law school class.

Andy and Brianna (Stiner) Hoffman were married on August 21, 1999. They lived in Brookings, SD and then Viborg, SD while completing their college degrees. After graduation they moved to Atkinson, NE and Andy began his career as an attorney. He **worked in O'Neill at Strope, Krotter, and Gotschall** as well as Krotter Hoffman, before branching out on his own and starting his solo law practice, Andrew Hoffman Law. **It was Andy's dream to be an entrepreneur like his parents and include his children in the family business.** Andy loved serving his clients and had developed a vast general practice focused on estate and business planning, with offices in **Atkinson, O'Neill, and Central City, NE.**

Andy and Bri were blessed with three children, Jack, Ava, and Reese. They were the light of his life and Andy enjoyed every aspect of being a father. He loved attending their school and sporting events and many weekends were spent at the lake, with family, or attending Cornhusker football games.

After their son Jack was diagnosed with pediatric brain cancer at age 5, Andy and his family established the **"Team Jack Foundation" to raise money and awareness to fight the disease.** **Andy's love and**

passion for helping these kids was unmatched. He traveled the United States spreading the critical message about the need for increased funding for child brain cancer research. From a meeting with President Barack Obama in the White House Oval Office to numerous National media appearances with the likes of Fox News, CNN, ESPN, ABC World News, and Good Morning America, Andy provided leadership in the fight. He has led the Foundation in raising over \$8.4 million to fund research.

Andy was an outdoor enthusiast. He enjoyed wall-eye fishing, hunting, camping, and fixing fence on the family ranch. From the 30 inch walleye in his basement, to his most recent whitetail hunt on his iPhone, Andy loved sharing outdoor photos and stories with family and friends. He was able to go on a bucket-list elk hunt in Chama, New Mexico in October with his family and brothers and was elated to watch both Jack and Ava drop their elk. Andy was also an avid runner. His races included the Boston Marathon (April 2014), the Los Angeles Marathon (March 2015 and March 2020), the Chicago Marathon (October 2015), and the Minneapolis Marathon (2016 and 2017).

Andy was loved by many and his smile and infectious laugh could light up any room. He is survived by his wife Brianna, children Jack, Ava and Reese, parents Gary and Karen Hoffman of Spencer, brothers Tony (Amy) Hoffman of Crofton and Michael (Jacky) Hoffman of Spencer, sister Julia (Chris) Jones of Tellico Plains, TN, parents-in-law Kerry and Bonnie Stiner of Burke, SD, sister-in-law Tiffany (Nate) Miller of Sioux Falls, SD, brother-in-law Kollin (Sarah) Stiner of Lakeville, MN, nephews Nathan Hoffman of Spencer, Hudson and Hayden Hoffman of Spencer, Luke Jones of Cleveland, OH, Matt and Nate Jones of Clarksburg, MD, Noah, Luke and Graham Miller of Sioux Falls, SD, and Karson Stiner of Lakeville, MN, nieces Alison (Justin) Wegenke of Fort Collins, CO, Samantha (Cody) Kahl of Grand Island, NE, Lauryn and Amelia Hoffman of Spencer, and Isabel and Nora Stiner of Lakeville, MN. He was also excited to be a Great Uncle to Will and Wren Wegenke and Alton Kahl.

He was preceded in death by his brother Luke Hoffman.

Lieber Log

Bill Lieber, KFF VP

“Spring is sprung, the grass is riz, I wonder where the birdies is.” A lot of the “birdies is” fussing with each other at their feeders outside our sunroom! It’s fun to watch, but even more interesting are the acrobatic squirrels stealing sunflower seeds, hanging by their hind legs from a metal mesh ball. It’s been a long “stay-at-home” winter! For a while, we couldn’t even attend church - at least the local Methodists have begun to allow in-person worship, so we can be with friends there.



We had a dry fall and I got a lot of fieldwork done, and recently applied anhydrous until the elevator ran out of it, and then it started to rain.

We have really missed the fellowship of Flying Farmers - no picnic, Christmas Party, Sweetheart Luncheon, chapter conventions, or even International! Now that we (and hopefully most of you) have had our shots, it would be fun to have a picnic this summer, but will wait to see if that is planned.

Hope to see you in Mitchell if not before.

Post Marks See page 4

Due to PROGRESS “supposedly”, we no longer find many postmarks on our envelopes/covers. We only get the sprayed on cancellations from either Omaha or North Platte in our state. Mail delivery isn’t what is used to be. Takes several days to get from our place to Omaha and back, when it used to be hand stamped at our local Post office or hand cancelled on the route and delivered the same day to the local people on the mail route.

Some of us are old enough to remember the mail bags at the train depots. They would pick up the bags and the letters were cancelled on the trains. One day delivery out of state.

Did you know there is a post mark museum? The Margie Pfund Memorial Postmark Museum and Research Library (also known as the *National Postmark Museum* or *PMCC Museum*) is located near Bellevue, Ohio in the Historic Lyme Village. <http://www.postmarks.org/museum/>

The Post Mark collectors club was established in 1946 which your editor is a member of. They publish a **very interesting bulletin every month. Just checking prices which I know nothing about, rare PM’s can bring from \$10 to hundreds of \$\$. Closed post offices will bring more than a regular PM. Yes there is a value to those little pieces of paper.**

This is the link to the digitized Flying Farmers video made possible by a grant to OSU from the National Film Preservation Foundation.

<https://library.okstate.edu/search-and-find/collections/digital-collections/flying-farmers-and-home-week-at-oamc>

HOBBIES AND COLLECTIBLES



Do you have an interesting hobby or collection? It would be fun to share what our members interests are.

During the down time recovering from vaccinations, etc. I worked on some of my hobbies. One of my hobbies, antique/vintage picture postcards got very interesting when I bid on a collection online of a family I have known most of my life. That collection included collections of three different families, five shoe boxes full of travel photo cards, albums, etc.

Postcards have stamps and post marks which cover three of my interests in one.

My stamp collection is always ongoing which leads me to my next story.

My dear friend **Gladys Phillips**, a member of our chapter, IFF Woman of the year 1994-95, husband Curtis IFF President 1988-89, always talked about her stamp collection. When she passed away I contacted her son and offered to buy her collection sight unseen. This collection was done years ago with her stamps very neatly organized by denomination in her own hand made album. I do remember her telling me she went around to each post office that was being closed due to the dam, that also forced them out of their dairy farm in KS, and collected their last day of closing post marks. They were included in the collection.

Working with those postmarks just for fun I looked up each town online and found the following information. Since there isn't any chapter or region news I am sharing what I found with you.

Gladys talked often about having to move their dairy farm due to the building of the dam which wasn't a happy topic for her. I understand that is why they came to NE and settled near Beaver Crossing.

TURTLE CREEK DAM "Big Dam Foolishness" (As the locals called it)

Bigelow, KS

Bigelow was a town in [Marshall County, Kansas](#). It was located six and a half miles southwest of [Frankfort](#). It was founded in 1881^[2] and named for [General Alfred Bigelow](#).^[3] It was known for its [limestone](#) quarries and peaked in population in 1910 at 200. The post office closed in 1960 and the town was demolished during the construction of [Tuttle Creek Lake](#). All that remains is a historical marker at the intersection of 17th and Zenith Roads and Antioch Cemetery.



never was incorporated but had over a hundred people for most of its history. The site of the town is now Corps land. It can be reached by taking Swede Creek road east from US 77 about 5 miles to Bellegarde Road, then a mile east to Cleburne Park Road, then about two miles south. The road does degrade a little bit as it branches off from Vilander Road but should be alright if it is not too muddy. The park is still marked by the original Cleburne sign that welcomed passersby of long ago to the town. A partially collapsed picnic shelter, a few other picnic tables, and monkey bars and swings, all of them in very poor condition, comprise the park. Immediately north is what's left of the town: at least a dozen foundations, remnants of a street network, and some pieces of sidewalks, among other things.



Cleburne, KS

Cleburne was founded in 1886 and its post office closed in 1960, shortly before it was bulldozed to create Tuttle Creek Lake. I'm not sure if any of the town has ever been under the lake; surely the north side that is now overgrown by trees hasn't. The town

Garrison, Kansas

Beneath the Surface of Tuttle Creek Reservoir: The Town of Garrison in Pottawatomie County, Kansas, 1880-1959

Description-The town of Garrison in Pottawatomie County, Kansas is one of the most interesting towns of the Blue River Valley, with distinct and determined people. Founded around 1880, Garrison was destroyed in 1959 to create Tuttle Creek Dam and Reservoir. This study uses a plat maps, oral interviews, and historical letters to give some life to a town long gone. Although one study of Garrison exists, most of the people who can remember it are also gone. Yet there is enough information to give a fair description of this river village that was once part of a twelve-town Blue River Valley community .



Irving, Kansas

Irving is a ghost town in [Marshall County, Kansas](#), located six miles southeast of the city of [Blue Rapids](#) along the [Big Blue River](#). Irving was one of the many towns affected by "Big Dam Foolishness" during the construction of [Tuttle Creek Lake](#) about ten miles to the south. Although the lake never reached the town, the federal government forced remaining residents to vacate the town.

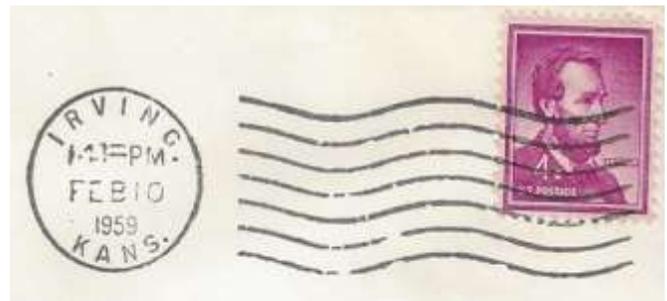
Irving was founded in 1859 by a small group from [Lyons, Iowa](#). They named the town after author [Washington Irving](#). In the spring of 1860, a severe [drought](#) ruined crops and forced some farmers to lose their land. Over the summer the area was wracked with fierce winds and thunderstorms that blew down buildings, took roofs and damaged the saw mill. During the fall, some residents chose to leave and return to Iowa. In 1866, the community was invaded by [grasshoppers](#) that also destroyed crops and damaged trees. The town would have another plague in 1875. Despite these hardships, in 1878, Irving was described as "being located in one of the best settled and best cultivated portions of Marshall County"^[1]

On May 30, 1879, two [tornadoes](#) destroyed most of the

town, leaving 19 dead and many more injured. These tornadoes were extensively studied by the pioneer American [meteorologist John Park Finley](#), and author [L. Frank Baum](#) may have named the main character of his [Wonderful Wizard of Oz](#), [Dorothy Gale](#) after one of the victims.^[2] Some residents left Irving, but the town was rebuilt, and new businesses arrived, allowing Irving to regain its prominence as a local agricultural center.

During the summer of 1903, the Big Blue River flooded and destroyed homes, crops and bridges. The river threatened to do it again in 1908 but the townspeople were prepared and were able to keep the river within its banks. In 1910 the population was estimated at 403 and boasted "good banking facilities, a weekly newspaper, telegraph and express offices, graded schools, public library, churches of all denominations, and three rural routes extend from the Irving post office."

After plans for the construction of the Tuttle Creek Dam were announced, the population declined and many businesses, including the post office, closed. The town-site was abandoned in 1960 after the dam was constructed. Nevertheless, because the lake is miles away, Irving remains accessible and its road network and building foundations visible. A stone marker sits in a makeshift park along with a mailbox and notebook in which visitors can write.



Randolph, Kansas

Randolph was originally called **Waterville**, and under the latter name was laid out in 1856.^[7] It was renamed Randolph in honor Gardner Randolph, a pioneer settler.^{[8][9]}

Randolph was originally located a mile east of its present location. When the [Tuttle Creek](#) reservoir began filling up in 1962, it affected ten towns and entirely submerged four of them (from north to south): [Cleburne](#) at [39°31'49"N 96°38'6"W](#), Randolph, [Garrison Cross](#) and [Stockdale](#). The only town to rebuild elsewhere was Randolph, where the streets are named after the submerged towns.

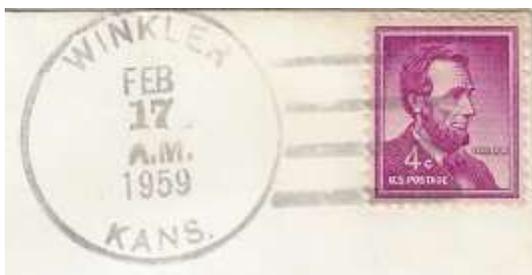
The ruins of the original town are visible on the north side of Kansas Highway 16 as it crosses the lake. The downtown of the original settlement is above the waterline on an island in the marshes at the northern tip of the lake. The island is occasionally accessible by foot when Fancy Creek is low, but the channels of Fancy Creek and the [Big Blue River](#) shift frequently making access to the ruins unpredictable. This is locally known as "Old Randolph."¹



Winkler, KS

Winkler is an [unincorporated community](#) in [Riley County, Kansas, United States](#).

A post office was opened in Winkler in 1874, and remained in operation until it was discontinued in 1960, although at first the post office was called Winkler's Mills.



Under the Lake

(Tuttle Creek Lake, that is)

By Joan Lieber



When my great-grandparents, the Swensons, arrived in this country from Sweden, they settled near what became Cleburne, Kansas. Much later when the "Big Dam Foolishness" (so called by the owners of that rich river bottom land of the proposed Tuttle Creek Reservoir) personnel took over my ancestor's farm, then owned by my uncle, it took less than an hour to raze the old Swenson stone house. (It took about that long for KDOT to destroy our stone home.) Cleburne is now covered with the water of the Tuttle Creek Lake, as are two other towns. They moved and rebuilt Randolph - I read that they named some of its streets after those towns the lake covered.

One Sunday afternoon, many years ago, my cousin June (who had grown up in that old house) and her husband (past KFF members) flew to a family gathering, landing in a pasture across the road from my family home. While there he gave plane rides, and that ride caused Bill to want to learn to fly! Incidentally, that pasture landing area has been fenced off and became the JV Ranch strip shown on old sectionals.

When we bought our first plane, an underpowered Cherokee 160, we learned about Flying Farmers. We joined in 1971, and that December attended the Christmas Party in Hays; the rest is history. How Flying Farmers has enriched our lives, and that plane ride from a Flying Farmer cousin started it all!

ARCHIVES—NEBRASKA COWS TRAVEL IN STYLE

Lincoln to Tehran

Nebraska Cows Travel in Style

Taken from the Omaha World Herald
March 4, 1976

Eighty-five passengers boarded a "stretch" DC8 jet at Lincoln's Municipal Airport bound for Tehran, Iran.

There were no first-class or coach sections, the passengers were Nebraska dairy cows on the 20-hour flight to new surroundings.

The cattle will stop at Bangor, Maine; Gander, Newfoundland, and Frankfurt, West Germany before arriving in Tehran. They are headed for a dairy farming project being started in Iran.

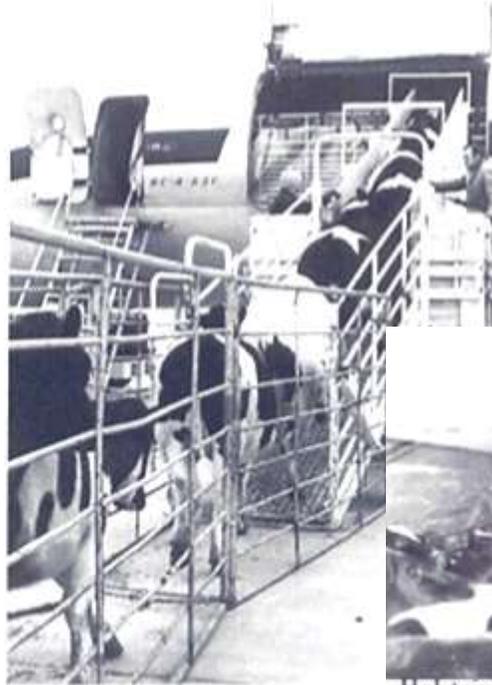
This load of Holstein cattle is just one of many that Paul Rolfsmeier, Seward, NE dairyman and cattle buyer, has arranged on behalf of Iranian investors who are trying to offset a shortage of dairy products in their country. Rolfsmeier has arranged for five plane loads of cattle headed for Iran this year and has been doing it occasionally for the past year.

Charter cost \$81,500

According to Rolfsmeier, the cost of chartering the specially built 190-foot cargo jet is about \$81,500.

The Phillips Dairy, Curtis, Gladys and Earl, sold these cattle. The information was accidentally enclosed with the articles to go to the museum and returned to Curtis.

Paul Luebbe and Curtis Phillips, both of Beaver Crossing, NE, about to take off from Lincoln, NE, for Tehran, Iran, with load of Holstein dairy cattle. Photo by John Agnello of Seward County Independent March 4, 1976



Holsteins headed...into "Stretch" DC8



Holsteins loaded in pens ready for their long trip



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IFF WEBSITE**

<http://www.internationalflyingfarmers.org/>

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