



A Kansas Pioneer

Zerelda Weaver (Blasdel) Nevitt, 1845-1932, was a Kansas pioneer woman, born in Dearborn County, Indiana, who moved to Oxford, Kansas, in 1876 after her marriage September 19, 1867 to **Thomas Jefferson Nevitt**, also of Dearborn County, Indiana. They came to Kansas when it was in the making. The nearest railroad was in Wichita, 45 miles northwest, but by 1881 they had one too! "Everybody was trying to make a home, and most of the people who stuck to their farms made good, were living in comfort, if not luxury. There were sad times and glad times. Losses of all kinds. Sometimes too dry, sometimes too wet, but they never thought of giving up." "The older Zerelda got, the more her mind went back to her younger years in Indiana. She'd tell her

children about the Civil War days, about making candles to burn before coal oil came along for oil lamps, about how she used to drop corn from her apron on the hillsides, and her brother, **Huron**, covered it so it would grow.

“They used to cook in the old fireplace and told of how proud she was when her parents bought their first wood stove. In her latter years she had natural gas and electricity, far removed from the fireplace and candle light of long ago.”¹

She and her husband had six children: **Harry B., Flora Belle, Wilbur David, Oak Dale, Catharine May** and **Frank Roy Nevitt**. Her husband died May 13, 1922, Flora Belle June 18, 1924, and Harry B. April 20, 1929. Their seven grandchildren at the time of her death in 1932: **Helen Dale, Wilbur Morrill, Donald Joe, Gayle Nevitt Nordlund, Robert Oak, Neil Dean** and **Katherine Ann Nevitt**. Zerelda was survived by two sisters and two brothers: **Mrs. Bettie Coin, Mrs. Ella J. Boyner, William Blasdel**, and **L. C. Blasdel**. Her brothers **Mayor Blasdel**, died in 1917, **Huron Blasdel** in the Civil War.

Zerelda Weaver (Blasdel) Nevitt *From: Henry Waring Blasdel, Elijah Blasdel — (6.235)*

1. *The Press*, Lawrenceburg, IN, July 14, 1932, p. 1.
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