

March 20, 1897 Buffalo County Sun

[Weddings usually took place in the courthouse, bride's home, or parsonage]

Wm. Hunter & Nellie Hayes stood up before the footlights at the Opera House and were united in marriage. Judge Hoge officiated. The ceremony took place between the first and second acts of the minstrel show.

Kearney Daily Hub, April 5, 1899

[an ancestor of the Vice President?]

S. C. Cheney and Nina McCartney were married at the home of the bride's parents in Logan Township Tuesday, April 4. Rev. S. J. Medlin of Elmcreek officiating.

Kearney Daily Hub, March 6, 1906

[Think about the bride's outfit at the last wedding you attended. Also keep in mind that the delicate little mini-carnations we see today were developed probably 10 years ago or so] At Sartoria Ethel Fauss married Chester Loy of Mason City. The bride was "becomingly attired in brown silk, trimmed with white, with white carnations in her hair, and carrying a bouquet of the same."

Wedding Traditions

Bridal gown – Only those with money could afford a dress to be worn only once, might be white
Most were new or nicest dress, navy or brown, worn for many years after that
Have a nice brown taffeta wedding dress displayed at the Freighters' Hotel

Time – Many at odd times of morning or evening in Kearney because newly weds left on the train for a honeymoon

Place – Parsonage, bride's home, rarely in church

Neighboring county – Hall or Dawson, get on train and off at next big town.

Smith Center Kansas was a popular place for Kearneyites to go, no 3-day waiting period

Newspaper reports

Periodic lists from courthouse of all licenses issued

Maybe one line announcement in column of local news

Might be separate article complete with guest list, menu of meal served afterward and, of course, a complete list of gifts and givers.

Nov. 21, 1889 – Long article about wedding of John E. Hume and Lena Hale which includes a list of gifts and givers and guests, and descriptions of the clothing worn by bride, groom, and their attendants, and finally a description of the ceremony.