

## **Bio: Alwyn Ellicot Burr**

Pamela Hutchison Garrett, 2019

Alwyn Burr was born on the 25th of November 1859 in Cass county Indiana. He was in the middle of the five surviving children of Joseph Allen Burr and Wilhelmina "Louisa" Gilmore. As a boy Alwyn moved with his family from Indiana to Montgomery county Iowa, living in or near the town of Coburg.

Alwyn Burr is often shown in records as Alvin. On several occasions his name is spelled as Alwin. But, his tombstone gives the spelling "Alwyn". His middle name, Ellicot, seems to be a family name though the origin his not been pinpointed.

In 1885, when Alwyn was age twenty-five, he married Hilda Ekdahl in Fillmore county Nebraska. A few years later his younger brother, Albert Burr, married Hilda's sister, Helga Ekdahl. The brother - sister couples may have resided near each other for a time, but by the 1900 census the Alwyn Burr's were settled in Franklin county Nebraska, and the Albert Burr's in Iowa.

Alwyn Burr and Hilda Ekdahl were the parents of eight surviving children - Ida Araminta Burr, Mary Louise Burr, Edward Ekdahl Burr, Ora Mae Burr, Andrew Albert Burr, Emma Alexina Burr, Bessie Charlotte Wilamina Burr, and Myrtle Otelia Burr. The two brothers, Edward E Burr and Andrew A Burr migrated to Campbell county Wyoming, near the community of Rozet about 1920.

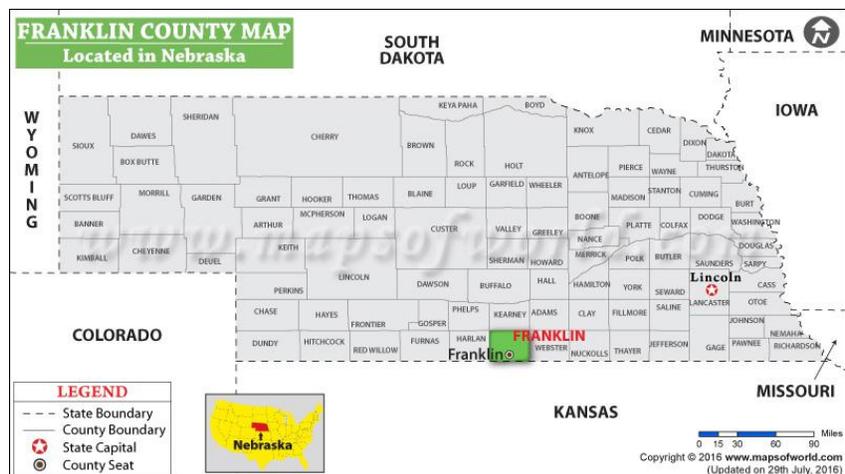
In 1920 Alwyn made a visit to his sons' new Wyoming home. A blurb in the Gillette News for 17 September 1920 reports:

*Edward and Andrew Burr are entertaining their father from Upland Nebraska. This is Mr Burr's first visit to Wyoming and he is very much impressed with the country.*

In the recent decade (2010-2019) The Gillette News Record (Gillette Wyoming) has published a series of articles on Campbell County Historic Ranches. An interesting account of the Burr Ranch (link below) gives some insight into the Burr family in Nebraska.

*Edward Ekdahl Burr came to Wyoming in 1917, like many of those who had fled from Nebraska, to find a better way of life. "He told me he wasn't going to stay in that Nebraska starving to death," recalls his son, Les Burr of Gillette, now 87. "I think he went broke," said Les, one of seven children raised on Edward's ranch near Rozet, which he bought in 1917. It was a hard scrabble life on that 320 acres of land Edward settled on near Rozet. But it was better than what they left behind. E.E., as he was called, and his wife Marguerite, had been married in 1915 in Edgar, Neb. They had farmed near a small town called Ong, just a short distance from Davenport, Neb., where he was born in 1890. "I know he started out with nothing," Les recalled. "Nebraska at that time was real hard up and cheap. It seemed like everybody went broke and they all headed up here, however they could get here."*

The senior Burrs - Alwyn and Hilda - remained in Franklin county Nebraska throughout their lives, residing near the community of Upland. Hilda Ekdahl Burr died there in 1930, and Alwyn Burr in 1932. They are buried in the Upland Cemetery.



Do you want to know more?

[Link to Alwyn Ellicot Burr in the database](#)

[Campbell County Historic Ranches - The Burr Ranch](#); by Kathy Brown, Senior Reporter Feb 6, 2012; published in the Gillette News Record of Gillette Wyoming.

**The Bio of Alwyn Ellicot Burr compiled by Pamela Hutchison Garrett for the Family Stories website; 2019.**