

The story of why Charles L. Clifford was committed to Osawatomie Mental Hospital

Prior to this story Charles Clifford appears to have been a very successful farmer.

—Mr. C. L. Clifford, of Crane Station, came in Wednesday to subscribe for a copy of the paper for his brother, J. B. Clifford, of Longton. Notwithstanding the fine specimens of corn lying on our table, he said he had corn that would excel it. He thinks one field of his will yield from sixty to seventy-five bushels to the acre. Most all of the corn between this city and his home, he says, is in good condition.

The Weekly Star and Kansan - 12 Aug 1887

A Prize Alfalfa Story.
Independence, Aug. 17.—C. L. Clifford, living northwest of Table Mound, this county, has the prize alfalfa story. He has an 18-acre field. The first cutting was twenty tons, which he saved for his own stock. The second cutting is twenty-four tons, which he has baled and is selling at \$12 a ton, or \$288 for the second crop delivered in town. First crop at home worth \$120, second crop worth \$288, or \$408 from eighteen acres of alfalfa and another crop now growing. Seed, an alfalfa meadow, and one for pasture for hogs.

The Chanute Daily Tribune - 17 Aug 1907



Charles and his family: Sons: Guy, Homer & Walter (in high chair); Wife: Jennie; and Daughters, Pearl & Lela. (Son Glen was not born yet.)—ca. 1888

The story of his downfall started out when he made a claim for \$500 against his brother's, Thomas B Clifford's, estate.

ESTATE IS SUED.

Jury Listening to Evidence in a \$500 Claim at Court.

The suit of Charles Clifford against the estate of the late T. B. Clifford, for \$500, is being tried before Judge Flannelly in the district court today, with jury. The plaintiff claims this amount from the estate for work and help to the deceased during his lifetime.

Independence Daily Reporter - 16 Mar 1908

THE COUNTY SEAT NEWS

HAPPENINGS OF THE DAY AT INDEPENDENCE.

Matters at the Court House of General Interest to Taxpayers Over the County.

(Independence Reporter.)

The jury in the case of Charles Clifford against the estate of E. T. Clifford, tried before Judge Flannelly in district court, brought in a verdict last night at 6 o'clock, the amount sued for. The suit was for services rendered the deceased during his lifetime.

Coffeyville Daily Journal - 19 Mar 1908

Lawyers for the estate try to show that the promissory note is a forgery.

SUEING TO RECOVER AMOUNT OF NOTE

The case of C. L. Clifford against the heirs of his brother's estate for the collection of a promissory note for \$500 is on trial before the district court today. Thomas Wagstaff represents the plaintiff and Hon. A. B. Clark the defendants. An attempt is being made to show that the note was a forgery and bankers of the city who knew the deceased Clifford and his hand writing were called as witnesses to prove that the signature was genuine. They testified that in their opinion the signature was that of the dead man. He gave the note to the brother for money he owed.

Independence Daily Reporter - 9 Feb 1909

CLIFFORD VS. CLIFFORD.

Plaintiff Claims Money Due on a Note, Which Defense Says Was Forged.

The grind of district court began again this morning with the case of Clifford vs. Clifford, which is on for its second hearing.

The suit involves an estate, and the plaintiff claims that T. B. Clifford executed a note in favor of his brother Charles. This note, T. B. Clifford insists, is a forgery. Five hundred dollars is the sum for which the note was given.

The Evening Star - 10 Feb 1909

J H. Brewster calls into question Charles Clifford's mental condition. Brewster is the father of John Clifford's wife's sister's husband.

Charles Clifford, of north Sixth street was today placed in jail to await a hearing before the probate judge in regard to his mental condition.

Independence Daily Reporter - 14 Jul 1909

Chas. Clifford, who was yesterday put in jail to await his hearing for insanity was today released by his relatives near LeHunt and he was taken home with them to wait his hearing. This will take place on Monday, July 19.

Independence Daily Reporter - 15 Jul 1909

CHARGED WITH INSANITY.

Charles Clifford, a crippled man who resides on North Sixth, was taken into custody this morning on the charge of insanity, and will be given a hearing at 9 o'clock Monday morning in probate court. J. H. Brewster swore out the complaint.

The Evening Star - 16 Jul 1909

The lunacy hearing of Charles Clifford will be held September 22. Papers were sworn out yesterday. An attempt to prove that Mr. Clifford was sane was made last spring, but for lack of evidence was thrown out of court.

Independence Daily Reporter, 15 Sep 1909

CLIFFORD NOT INSANE.

Charles Clifford of this city who was tried on an insanity charge in probate court was found to be of sound mind, at least there was not a sufficient evidence to prove him otherwise. Many witnesses testified yesterday as to his mental condition but most of them were of the opinion that he was mentally sound.

Independence Daily Reporter - 24 Sep 1909

Independence Daily Reporter - 23 Sep 1909

SAYHE'S INSANE

BREWSTERS BRING ACTION TO
TEST SANITY OF CHARLES
CLIFFORD.

TRIED TODAY

COMPLAINANT IS J. H. BREWSTER
WHO CLAIMS THAT CLIFFORD
IS MENTALLY UNBALANCED—
HAS THREATENED THE LIFE
OF FRANK BREWSTER AND IS
UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT
HE HAS BEEN MISTREATED.

J. H. Brewster today brought action in probate court to test the sanity of Charles Clifford of this city. Sullivan Lomax of Cherryvale, is Mr. Clifford's attorney. Deputy County Attorney Joe Holdren appeared for the state.

The jury was composed of Tom Burke, J. M. Anderson, George Hill and Dr. Wickersham. On being questioned Dr. Wickersham was found to be disqualified as he had formed an opinion as to the mental condition of the defendant, having been called to his house in sickness at different times and having a chance to observe his actions on various occasions. Dr. J. T. Davis was selected instead of Dr. Wickersham and the trial commenced at 9:30 o'clock this morning and lasted all day.

A large number of witnesses were put on the stand most of them being for the defense. Clifford had fourteen while the state had three. At the time of going to press the taking of the testimony was still going on.

Mr. Brewster claims that Clifford has frequently threatened to shoot Frank Brewster at whom he has a grudge. Frank Brewster's wife and Tom Clifford's wife are sisters. Tom Clifford died some time ago and subsequent to his death, his brother, Charles Clifford, the defendant in this case produced a note for \$500, with the signature of Tom Clifford attached. The heirs refused to honor the note, saying it was a forgery.

Charles Clifford then brought suit against the estate and judgment was given in his favor but a new hearing was granted and the verdict reversed. Clifford blames Frank Brewster with being instrumental for his defeat in the courts.

Charles Clifford then sues
J. H. Brewster for \$5000
for damaging his
reputation.

CLIFFORD SUES BREWSTER.

Attorney Sullivan Lomax today filed an action on behalf of Charles L. Clifford in which he sues J. H. Brewster, the well known farmer and contractor, for five thousand dollars for false imprisonment and malicious prosecution. The suit grows out of an action brought some time ago to have Mr. Clifford declared insane and sent to the asylum. The charge of insanity was not sustained, and Clifford declares that the action caused him pain and humiliation and damaged his standing in his community.

The Evening Star - 22 Nov 1909

Wants \$5,000.—Chas. L. Clifford yesterday began suit against J. H. Brewster for malicious prosecution, and asks \$5,000 for the same. The plaintiff alleges that, on August 10, of this year, Mr. Brewster had him arrested on a charge of insanity and that he was confined twenty-four hours to the county jail. He asserts that his trial came up the following day and that no one appeared against him and that he was found not guilty of the charge. Attorney Sullivan Lomax has charge of the case.

Independence Daily Reporter - 23 Nov 1909

The Daily Republican, 22 Nov 1909

The Evening Star - 22 Nov 1909

FALSE IMPRISONMENT

SUIT FOR \$5,000 FILED AGAINST
J. H. BREWSTER.

Chas. L. Clifford Alleges Malicious
and Unlawful Prosecution Led
to His Incarceration in the
County Jail.

By his attorney, Sullivan Lomax, Chas. L. Clifford today filed suit in the district court against J. H. Brewster for \$5,000 damages.

In his petition plaintiff sets out three causes of action. First, that on or about August 10, 1909, defendant did "falsely, maliciously and unlawfully" procure the arrest of said plaintiff and cause him to be cast in the Montgomery county jail, thereby depriving plaintiff of his liberty for about 24 hours "to plaintiff's great mortification, humiliation and disgrace." That about Aug. 1, 1909, defendant appeared before the probate court of this county and swore to a complaint that he was of unsound mind, dangerous and unfit to be at large. That defendant's purpose was to annoy and harass plaintiff.

The second cause of action is malicious prosecution in the manner set forth in the first cause of action.

The third cause of action is also defined in the first. It is, viz. That defendant did "wilfully, unlawfully and without probable cause, but with malice commence and begin a prosecution" falsely charging plaintiff with being a person of unsound mind, dangerous and unfit to be at large; that trial of this case was had and terminated in plaintiff's favor.

By reason of these alleged wrongful acts, plaintiff asks \$18.50 for loss of time, \$60 attorney's fee and expenses and \$5,000 for the annoyance, humiliation and disgrace of his arrest and incarceration on the above charge.

A poverty affidavit is attached to the petition.

MALICIOUS PROSECUTION

IS ALLEGED IN A SUIT FILED TO-
DAY FOR HEAVY DAMAGES.

AGAINST J. H. BREWSTER

Charles L. Clifford Is the Plaintiff and He Thinks His Feelings Were Hurt and His Reputation Damaged Five Thousand Dollars Worth By a Recent Trial For Insanity — Thinks Mr. Brewster the Principal Agent Back of the Action.

Charles L. Clifford of this city has brought suit against J. H. Brewster, charging malicious prosecution. Sullivan Lomax is attorney for the plaintiff.

In his petition, the plaintiff avers that on or about the first of August, 1909, the defendant swore out a complaint charging the plaintiff to be a man of unsound mind. That the plaintiff was arrested and confined in the county jail and that he was brought for trial before the probate court and after a hearing was released.

The plaintiff asks \$5,000 for loss of time from work and for the annoyance and discomfort caused, as well as the disgrace and humiliation.

This suit, as the petition states, is the result of the arrest of Clifford last summer on an insanity charge sworn to by J. H. Brewster. Brewster claimed that Clifford was acting in an insane manner and that by reason of Clifford's freedom Frank Brewster, son of J. H. Brewster, was in danger of bodily harm.

The origin of the trouble dates back quite awhile. Tom Clifford, a brother of Charles Clifford, was a brother-in-law of Frank Brewster, the men having married sisters. Tom Clifford died some years ago and after his death Charles Clifford brought claims against his estate. These claims were disallowed and the theory of J. H. Brewster is that Clifford blames Frank Brewster because they were not paid. It is said by Mr. Brewster that Clifford went to the home of J. H. Brewster and calling his daughter to the door told her that Frank had better see that those claims were allowed. Clifford during their conversation made a covert allusion to the death of a brother of Frank Brewster who was found dead in Chicago under circumstances that led to the belief that he was murdered. This conversation was constructed by the Brewster family to mean that if Frank did not use his influence in Clifford's behalf that he (Frank) might meet the same fate as his brother.

The insanity case was tried before a jury of six men who found the evidence insufficient to prove Clifford crazy.

DISTRICT COURT HAS RESUMED AFTER A FEW DAYS' INTERMISSION—MOTION IN CLIFFORD CASE.

Technically speaking, the March term of the district court began today, but with the exception of the presence of a few attorneys at the court room business was rather dull, the day was spent in arranging the docket, setting the cases for trial, and arguing a few motions. The docket is very light this term and there are few criminal jury cases. The jury will not be called for two weeks and in the meantime the matters of minor importance will be disposed of.

A motion was argued in the Case of Clifford vs. Brewster wherein the defendant's attorneys ask that the petition be made more definite and certain. This is the case in which Chas Clifford sued J. H. Brewster for alleged false imprisonment, Brewster having made complaint that Clifford was insane. Clifford was tried in probate court last August and released. Judge Flannelly took the matter under advisement.

A motion asks that the petition be made more "definite and

The Evening Star - 7 Mar 1910

Charles Clifford continues to try and claim money he believes is owed to him despite setbacks. The suit is dismissed again.

Filed Claim.—C. L. Clifford of Lehunt, who has been employed at the Kansas Portland Cement Co., for the past year, was in the city yesterday on business. He filed a claim against the estate of his brother, T. B. Clifford, for \$500.

Independence Daily Reporter - 17 Sep 1910

CLAIMS WITH PROBATE COURT

C. L. Clifford of LeHunt, yesterday filed with the probate court a claim of \$500 against the estate of his deceased brother, T. B. Clifford. The money is due, he claims, for labor, board, washing, horse feed, etc. The claim was filed with the probate court to save it from being outlawed by the statute of limitations. The matter has been in the courts for several years and has had two or three hearings. Mr. Clifford

now holds a note and judgment for the amount, but has not been able to collect.

The Evening Star - 17 Sep 1910

DISTRICT COURT CASES.

Anna M. Greer vs. Orion A. Lee, dismissed at plaintiff's cost.

C. L. Clifford vs. J. H. Brewster, dismissed.

The Coffeyville Weekly Journal - 6 Jan 1911

Clifford On a New Plan

**DEFEATED ON NOTE PROPOSITION
HE FILES CLAIM FOR \$500 ON
OPEN ACCOUNT.**

Charles Clifford, the old man whose fight for \$500 of his brother's estate is well known in legal circles and who has brooded over his troubles till he has all kinds of mental hallucinations, has filed a claim in probate court for \$500 for services rendered his brother nearly thirty years ago. The hearing came due this afternoon and as he had failed to comply with the order of the court and itemize his account, the action was dismissed.

Argument is of no avail with the old man. Neither is it any use to tell him his claim is outlawed. He harps on the statement that the jury, Judge Flannelly, Probate Judge Osborn and all the attorneys in the county have been bribed and that he can not get a fair hearing. He talks at random of "his sacred honor," his "beloved brother," and other subjects that show his mental condition.

He was tried once for insanity, but was released and continues to make a pitiable though most unreasonable plea.

The Evening Star - 16 Jan 1911

Thinks He Is Persecuted

CHAS. CLIFFORD SEEKS REDRESS FOR INSANITY CHARGES

Files a Suit for \$10,000 Against J. H. Brewster, Complainant in Former Insanity Case—Has Hobby for Actions at Law.

Charles Clifford of this city, who has a predilection for suing or being sued, has broken into the district court again, this time with a suit against J. H. Brewster for ten thousand dollars. Clifford charges Brewster with malicious prosecution, basing his case on the incident of his hearing in the probate court last summer, when Mr. Brewster charged that he was insane. The case was tried at that time before a lunacy commission that declared him of sound mind. Clifford claims he was kept from his work and damaged in the sum of thirteen dollars in this way and the rest of it is for lawyer fees and for mental anguish, caused by being thrown in jail and branded as an insane person.

Mr. Brewster is a prominent farmer, and one of the promoters of the Porter road and president of the Continental Construction company that is building the same. His son, Frank Brewster, is a relative of Clifford by marriage and the elder Brewster alleged that the life of his son was in danger and that Clifford was accusing Frank Brewster of assisting in keeping him from getting some money from the estate of his dead brother, and was threatening him and menacing him.

The trouble of the Cliffords has occupied the attention of the courts of Montgomery for years, not so much on account of the importance of the matters at issue but for the persistence with which Charles Clifford keeps up the fight. He alleges that his brother owed him five hundred dollars and after the death of the brother came forward with a note for that amount. The case was tried two or three times in the district court and the last jury declared the note a forgery. Clifford brooded over the verdict till he is a wreck and he has tried in various ways both in the probate and the district court to get the money from the estate. The members of the Montgomery county bar will have nothing to do with the case further, as they realize the hopelessness of the fight, which makes the old man imagine that they are "bought off" as he expresses it and that the judges before whom the different actions have been brought are "fix-

The courts begin to weary from
Clifford's court cases:

CLIFFORD CASE AGAIN.

Charles Clifford appealed today from the decision of the probate court disallowing him \$500 from the estate of his deceased father. The case was filed with the clerk of the district court, where it has been twice before in different phases. Clifford is fighting a losing game and cannot get an attorney to take his case, so he will act as his own attorney. An alleged note is the basis of the litigation and Clifford has brooded over his troubles till he is a wreck.

The Evening Star - 24 Feb 1911

Took An Appeal.—An appeal was filed in the district court today by Charles L. Clifford from the decision of the probate judge. Clifford brought a claim against the estate of the late T. P. Clifford for labor performed and the probate judge dismissed the case. It was appealed to the district court. This action has been pending somewhere around the court house for two or three years or more.

Independence Daily Reporter - 24 Feb 1911

SUES FOR DAMAGES.

Suit was filed in the district court to-day by Charles L. Clifford against J. H. Brewster for \$10,000 damages. The litigation arises over some estate dispute.

Independence Daily Reporter - 26 May 1911

The Evening Star, 1 Jun 1911

ed."

He is acting as his own attorney in the present matter.

C. L. Clifford vs. J. H. Brewster,
damage; dismissed.

The Daily Republican - 23 Feb 1912

NOTICE.

Independence, Montgomery County, Kansas. Notice is hereby given to the Probate Judge of said county that the estate of T. B. Clifford, deceased, must remain as it is open for the indebtedness against it. I, Charles L. Clifford, have a claim against this estate and this debt must be paid. I also notify the public that the real estate, situated three and one-half miles southeast of Independence, consisting of eighty acres is a good farm. This must not be sold until his debt is paid, so be careful and act accordingly. This debt is due the brother, Charles L. Clifford.

I have been acquainted with Charles Clifford since he was a small boy and know him to be a good citizen. I was his family physician for a number of years and know that Thomas Clifford made his home with Charles for several years, also Thomas Clifford told me after he quit living with Charles that he owed him more than he was able to pay at that time, but that he would leave things in such a shape that Charles would get what was due him when he was dead, if he was not able to pay him sooner.

J. J. CALDWELL, M. D.

5-15-1c

Independence Daily Reporter - 15 May 1912

CLIFFORD ESTATE.

In the matter of the estate of T. B. Clifford, deceased, Mrs. Mary Clifford, administratrix, C. L. Clifford through his attorney has filed suit for settlement in the district court. The case will be tried in the coming May term.

The Evening Star, 19 Apr 1915,

Charles continues to lay claim to his brother's estate.

Family doctor attests to Charles' good citizenship and that his brother, Thomas, told him of his debt to Charles.

CLIFFORD CASE CONTINUED.

The case of Charles Clifford, an action to open up an estate settlement, was called in district court today and continued to next term.

The Evening Star - 2 Jun 1915

Charles Clifford is again charged with insanity.

INSANITY HEARING.
The case of the State vs. Charles Clifford, a hearing to determine the defendant's sanity, was held in the probate court today. Charles Bucher of Coffeyville and Thurman Hill of this city, appeared for Mr. Clifford, but the latter dismissed them and acted as his own attorney.

The Evening Star - 8 Jun 1915

Tried on Insanity Charge.
Independence Reporter: Chas. Clifford, an old and well known citizen of this city, is having a hearing in the probate court this afternoon on the charge of insanity. The hearing is held before Chas. Shukers, acting probate judge. Eighteen witnesses have been called for each side.

The Daily Republican, 9 Jun 1915

INSANITY CHARGE.
Chas. Clifford, an old and well known citizen of this city, is having a hearing in the probate court this afternoon on the charge of insanity. The hearing is held before Chas. Shukers, acting probate judge. Eighteen witnesses have been called for each side and it is probable the hearing will last the entire afternoon if not longer.

Independence Daily Reporter - 8 Jun 1915

The hearing of Chas. Clifford, charged with being of unsound mind, is still in progress before Judge Chas. Shukers, but will probably be concluded this afternoon. It began in the district court room yesterday but had to be removed to the probate court room this morning to give way for a session of the district court.

Independence Daily Reporter - 9 Jun 1915

This time he *is* found insane:

<h2>CHARLES CLIFFORD FOUND INSANE</h2> <hr/> <h3>DECISION OF JURY IN PROBATE COURT.</h3> <hr/> <p>To Be Sent to Osawatomie As Soon as Order for Admission Can Be Secured—Brooding Over Property the Cause.</p> <hr/> <p>Charles B. Clifford, an old and respected resident of this city, was found to be of unsound mind by a jury in the probate court yesterday and it was ordered that he be sent to the asylum for the insane at Osawatomie as soon as an order for his admission can be secured.</p> <p>The hearing lasted the greater part of two days.</p>	<p>Thurman Hill was appointed as attorney for Mr. Clifford by Attorney Shukers, sitting as probate judge, but Mr. Clifford dismissed him and took charge of the case himself. Thurman, however, continued to sit as co-counsel and did what he could to bring out the facts.</p> <p>Mr. Clifford had the sheriff's men on the jump both days. He subpoenaed a large number of people, some of whom have not been residents of this section for years and of course could not be found. Clifford has a wife and several children at home and several children with families of their own.</p> <p>His mental trouble is the outgrowth of a dispute over settlement of an estate. He claims he was not fairly treated in the distribution of property due the heirs. His case has been in court a long time and he has always lost. This embittered him against the courts and lawyers, and as</p>	<p>he brooded over the matter it appears to have occurred to him that the courts were the chief obstacle in the way of redress, so he has made threats directly or indirectly against Judge Flannely, it was brought out in this hearing. On a visit to the city hall he remarked that there might be another Neeley-Truskeett case if he didn't get justice. It was, therefore, deemed best to take proper precautions. The family have the sympathy of the majority who have had anything to do with the matter.</p> <hr/> <p>WANTED—Two or three furnished rooms. Close in. J. W. Gors, Care Bell Telephone. 6-10-3</p> <hr/> <p>FOR SALE—Red and black raspberries at 715 N. 13th, M. V. Strine. 6-10-3t.</p> <hr/> <p>The Star Sets the Pace.</p>
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The Evening Star - 10 Jun 1915

<p>6</p> <hr/> <h3>CHAS. CLIFFORD INSANE</h3> <p>In the probate court yesterday evening Chas. Clifford was found to be insane after a trial lasting nearly two days. It has been evident to Mr. Clifford's friends for sometime that he was mentally unbalanced. Long brooding over pending litigation developed a severe case of monomania. For several weeks he has been making threats against the lives of men who as lawyers or in other capacities were connected with the litigation he was concerned in. When it came to his examination in the probate court he insisted on conducting his own case and furnished sufficient evidence in this way to convince a jury of his unsoundness of mind although a preponderance of evidence was introduced to confirm the charge. He will be taken to the state hospital just as soon as admission can be obtained.</p>

Independence Daily Reporter - 10 Jun 1915

CLIFFORD IS INSANE

Pathetic Case of An Old Man Who
Lost His Mind Through Litigation
Over Brother's Estate.

In the probate court yesterday Charles Clifford, an old man of Independence, was found to be insane after a trial lasting two days. Exceptionally bright on most subjects Clifford was the victim of a belief that he had been defrauded out of some money owing to him from the estate of his deceased brother and he brooded over the subject till he became monomaniac, a misery to himself, a nuisance to those with whom he came in contact and a menace to those he considered had wronged him. In addition to being mentally unbalanced, Clifford was lame in one leg and for the past few years has been a pathetic figure on the streets of Independence. A former effort was made to have him adjudged of unsound mind, about two years ago but he evaded the asylum that time.

Chas. Clifford lived with his brother on a farm near Independence in the early days. He worked on the farm but claims that no stipulated wages were paid him. After his brother's death a few years ago, he laid claim to \$500 of the money from his brother's estate, saying that an agreement to that effect had been made many years before. The heirs resisted payment of the claim and a little later Clifford produced what purported to be a note signed by his dead brother. The matter was taken into court and the heirs fought payment, claiming the note to be a forgery. Clifford was beaten but asked for a new trial and was given it and lost again.

From that time forward his sole

purpose in life was to get that money which he claimed had been wrongfully withheld. He made repeated attempts to get another hearing saying that his honor had been assailed in the claim that he was a forger, and that nothing short of a verdict in his favor by a jury would remove the stain from his reputation. He appealed to every attorney in the county. After examining his claim and the court records, one after another they turned him down. He became possessed of a hallucination that his brother's children had corrupted the probate court and the district court and the entire Montgomery county bar and he would accuse the attorneys and even the judge of being brought with a price. He haunted the corridors and offices of the court house like the veritable ghost that he was, imploring officials to allow him to see copies of real or imaginary records of the trial and was always appealing for another hearing on the ground that he had some newly discovered evidence.

Finally his condition reached the stage where he is alleged to have made threats against those he blamed with his downfall. The hearing with respect to his sanity was held before Attorney Charles Shukers, because Probate Judge Roy Osborn had already formed an opinion and said he could not try the case impartially. Judge Flannelly and other officials as well as several attorneys were witnesses. Clifford refused the services of attorneys who had been appointed to look after his side of the case and acted as his own attorney. He took occasion, it is said to give Judge Flannelly a severe rebuke, saying that unless he could get a fair hearing in the district court on the matter that was uppermost in his mind, the court might have another case similar to that of the Truskett case to deal with. No one who listened to the insanity hearing formed any other opinion but that Clifford was hopelessly insane.

Charles is taken to the Osawatomie State
Mental Hospital

CLIFFORD TO ASYLUM.
Charles B. Clifford who was last
week found to be insane, was taken
to the asylum today by Sheriff Lewis.

The Evening Star, 15 Jun 1915



*Historical Photos from the Miami County
Historical Museum*



**In re appeal of Charles L. Clifford;
dismissed.**

Independence Daily Reporter, 11 Oct 1915

CLIFFORD SEEMED TO ENJOY IT

Sheriff Lewis returned this morning from Osawatomie, where he placed Charles Clifford in the asylum for the insane. Mr. Clifford gave him no trouble and dwelt but little upon the affair that has obsessed him for so long. The trip seemed to take his mind off his tribulations, in fact, and to put him in a more cheerful mood. Perhaps a few months of rest and quiet will bring him back to normal mentally.

Near Osawatomie the Marais des Cygnes was about a half mile wide, and the sheriff and Mr. Clifford had to be transferred in a boat, much of the track being under water. The river has been up about like that since last Saturday and the flood recedes very slowly.

The Evening Star, 16 Jun 1915

The siblings of Thomas Clifford's widow were also not happy with the distribution of her estate after her death.

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THE CLIFFORD ESTATE SUIT

BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF MRS.
MARY CLIFFORD FILE SUIT

Deceased Deeded All Her Property to
One Sister Before Her
Death

A case has been filed in the district court naming W. F. Flack, Gordon Flack, John Flack and Ella Vie-leaux as plaintiffs and Mattie Brewster and F. D. Brewster as defendants. From the petition filed by George Wark, attorney for the plaintiffs, it is learned the action is started by the plaintiffs to protect their presumed interest in the estate of Mrs. Mary Clifford, deceased, the four plaintiffs and Mrs. Mattie Brewster being brothers and sisters of Mrs. Clifford. The petition says that at the time of Mrs. Clifford's death she was the owner of 80 acres of land in section 17-33-16 and residence property in this city which is now renting for \$40 per month. It is asserted that the deceased several days prior to her last illness she told her oldest brother in case of her death she desired her property to be equally divided among her sisters and brothers after her debts were paid.

Ten days before her death she gave a deed to all her property to Mrs. Brewster. The plaintiffs claim that this deed was given without consideration and that she was unduly influenced while in a weakened physical and mental condition. They ask a restraining order to prevent the sale of the property and appointment of a receiver for the same and a partition whereby all the brothers and sisters will receive an equal share.

According to my grandfather, Walter Clifford, his father was not insane and he got his father released to his custody about 1917 on the condition that he would not return to Kansas.

From an interview of Walter Clifford:

Dean Kelley: ...and those were the ones who had your father committed to uh...

Walter Clifford: No, that was my father's brother's wife's folks.

Dean Kelley: What was their name?

Walter Clifford: Well, 'course, his brother's name was Clifford. His wife, she was a Brewster¹. And her father was a lawyer of some kind. But you see it all come about when Uncle Rob² died. He left dad, according to what I was told, and everything, \$500. But, his wife, which was a daughter of the attorney, they refused to pay it. And dad kept fighting with them, you see, back and forth for four or five years.

Dean Kelley: Did your father have an attorney?

Walter Clifford: I suppose he did. I don't know, but anyhow Brewster got tired of it, and took him to court and had him proved insane 'sent him to Osawatomie.

Dean Kelley: "sent him to Osawatomie." How long was he in Osawatomie?

Walter Clifford: He must have been up there 3 or 4 years.

Dean Kelley: What years was he in Osawatomie? Do you remember?

Walter Clifford: I don't know³. I got him out of there in 1917.

Dean Kelley: 1917 you got him out. How did you do that?

Walter Clifford: I was living in Tulsa at the time and I agreed to take him out of the state.

Dean Kelley: Take him out...

Walter Clifford: You see I was married.

Dean Kelley: You agreed to take him out of the state of Kansas.

Walter Clifford: Yeah.

Dean Kelley: So they released him...

Walter Clifford: They released him in my care.

Dean Kelley: In your care.

Walter Clifford: I took him to Tulsie. He wasn't crazy by any stretch of the imagination. So, I don't know whether I done it or whether he done it or what, but anyhow, he finally proved himself that he could go back to Kansas. You know, if he agreed not to cause any trouble or anything like that.

¹ His wife's maiden name was Mary Ellen Flack. Her sister Mattie was married to Frank Brewster. It was Frank's father, James H. Brewster, an influential building contractor that got Charles committed.

² It was actually his uncle Thomas. ³He was admitted 16 Jun 1915, according to the newspaper article.

His wife, Sarah Jane “Jennie” Clifford filed for divorce on the grounds of desertion:

Alleges Desertion and Non-support,
Jennie Clifford, of Independence has filed suit in the district court against C. L. Clifford. The petition alleges that they were married at Independence December 26th, 1887, and there have been six children born to them, five of whom are of age, and the other a minor. It is also alleged that in the early part of 1914 the defendant without cause deserted the plaintiff and has not lived with her since that time. That during his absence he has been guilty of gross neglect, and has failed in every way to support her. She asks for a divorce and the custody of the one minor child and what further relief the court will grant her.

Independence Daily Reporter - 21 Aug 1919

Jennie Clifford was granted a divorce from C. L. Clifford by Judge J. W. Holdren in district court this morning on grounds of non-support. She was granted care and custody of their child.

Independence Daily Reporter - 25 Oct 1919



**Charles L. Clifford
(1861-1931)**

According to the 1920 census, he is again in Kansas in 1920 in Chanute working as a laborer in casting (in a cement factory again?).

In 1930, aged 68, he was living with his daughter Lela Vandresser in Independence, occupation is listed as “none.”

On 18 Apr 1931, he committed suicide by taking strychnine. He had made 3 previous attempts at suicide. His obituary said that he was “despondent over the loss of a hand in accidental shooting” last Christmas time. He had been working as a travelling suit salesman:

**Charles L. Clifford
obituary:**

He died 18 April 1931.

GRIEVING AT LOSS, C. L. CLIFFORD TAKES POISON TO END LIFE

Despondent Over Loss of a Hand in Accidental Shooting

Dr. Aldrich reported this afternoon that it was a plain case of suicide and no inquest would be necessary. He stated that the strychnine had been purchased in Independence yesterday by Mr. Clifford. Two previous attempts at suicide ended in failure due to quick action on the part of the family, according to the coroner. A week ago Mr. Clifford attempted to hang himself in the barn, while six weeks ago he made an attempt at suicide by turning on the gas in his room.

Despondent over the loss of his right hand in an accident last December, C. L. Clifford, 70, took his own life by the poison route at 5:30 this morning, death occurring at the home of his daughter, Mrs. O. P. Vandresser on North Tenth street road. Strychnine was used and the family found a dram bottle of the poison, of which one-third of the contents had been taken, near his body.

Mr. Clifford left a note explaining his action which was dated March 10. He asked his family to give the cause of death as heart trouble, and the death was first reported to newspaper men as due to old age and complications. Mr. Clifford had made three previous attempts to take his own life, according to Mrs. Vandresser, and it is believed that the note was written for the first attempt.

The letter follows in part:

"Dear friends and relatives: In March if my heart should quit beating of course I have lived a good many years. Born in Pennsylvania October 8, 1861. I have enjoyed living a part of the time. Now my feet are giving way. My legs, my back, my arms are all against making a living, it seems.

"Tired, tired, tired of life. Age and disability is the cause. Weep not for me when gone. We all have to spend eternity. We all have to pass on to the great beyond."

—C. L. Clifford.

A foot note follows: Parry— "I sure appreciate your kindness. Say Parry please don't report just what caused death, only old age and nervous break down. Please say nothing to any one. Tell them old age and nervous break down. Parry please tell the cause as heart failure. So please don't tell any one."

Accidentally Shot

The accident in which Mr. Clifford lost his right hand about one and one-half inches above the wrist, occurred at Christmas time.

(Continued on Page 2)

GRIEVING AT LOSS

(Continued on Page 11)

In an accidental shooting near Cushing, Okla. He had been a travelling salesman for a suit concern for the past thirteen years and was at Cushing during the holidays. On February 5 he came to Independence, which he had always considered his home since he had quit farming near Crane station, and made his home with his daughter. He grieved considerably over the loss of his hand and on account of his despondency the family had been watching him closely to prevent a tragedy.

Early today Mrs. Vandresser was awakened by a noise in her father's room and found him unconscious. Dr. F. W. Shelton was hurriedly summoned, but found him dead on his arrival. Dr. W. J. Aldrich, county coroner, was then notified and made an investigation.

Born in Pennsylvania

Mr. Clifford was born in Pennsylvania on October 8, 1861, and came to Montgomery county in 1870 to make his home. Part of the time since then he has been in Oklahoma. He came back to the county on February 5, to make his home with his daughter. Surviving him are one daughter, Mrs. Vandresser, and four sons, Walter Clifford, Alhambra, Calif.; Homer Clifford, Vann, Tex.; Glenn Clifford, Okmulgee, Okla.; and Guy Clifford of Wewoka, Okla.

For years Mr. Clifford attended the Friends church and was a member of the Modern Woodmen of America.

Funeral services will be held Sunday afternoon at the Jackson funeral home with interment in Mount Hope cemetery.

HOLD FUNERAL FOR CLIFFORD SUNDAY

Services Are Conducted By
Dr. E. C. Luck

Funeral services were held Sunday afternoon from the Jackson funeral home for C. L. Clifford, 70, who died at his daughter's home on the North Tenth street road early Saturday morning. Dr. E. C. Luck was in charge of the service. Interment was made in old Mount Hope cemetery.

Mrs. C. O. Shepard sang two selections with Mrs. Claude Miller at the piano.

The pallbearers were Harley Leach, Reverdy Johnson, Sam E. Lister, L. R. Auld, Will Newmaster and D. R. Perkins.