DAWLEY

Block 21, Lot 4 De Smet Cemetery

Laura Ingalls Wilder first mentions the Dawley family in her 1931 "The Road Back" diary; Charles Dawley was a friend and homesteading neighbor of Almanzo's who married the De Smet school's first teacher – Florence Garland – a few years he and Laura were married. Miss Garland a was sister of Laura's classmate, Cap Garland, and she was Laura's teacher during *The Long Winter*.

> *Manly and I went to De Smet by ourselves in the afternoon. I went to the courthouse to examine records in Ma's estate. Found all in Carrie's name as we thought it should be. On the way to Green's law office saw Charley Dawley and Manly visiting on the sidewalk in the shade. Dawley seems unchanged. – Laura Ingalls Wilder, diary entry dated June 13, 1931, published in "The Road Back," A Little House Traveler, 2006.*

Charles Dawley was Clerk of Courts in Kingsbury County, and in the land business with partners Alfred Thomas and Alfred Waters (both mentioned in *Pioneer Girl*). The three men were officers of THE DAKOTA LOAN AND INVESTMENT COMPANY, their offices in the brick building that houses Heritage House Bed & Breakfast today, shown at right. One of the children riding a pony in the picture is Charles and Florence's son, Walter.

Waters Land and Loan Co. "Pony Brigade" includes Walter Dawley.

CHARLES LANSING DAWLEY

Block 21, Lot 4 De Smet Cemetery
February 29, 1956 – February 3, 1933; died at age 76

Husband of Florence Adelia (Garland) Dawley (1862-1935); married December 7, 1887.
Brother-in-law of Lovenia (Garland) Cornwell. Brother-in-law of Cap Garland.
Father of L. Edmund Dawley (1893-1912) and Walter L. Dawley (1900-1958).

 © 2015 Nancy Cleaveland / Gina Terrana

Charles Lansing Dawley was born on "Leap Day" 1856, in Plymouth (Sheboygan Co.) Wisconsin, to Richard Lansing Dawley (1826-1888) and Mary Jane (Averill) Dawley (1853-1874). Charles had siblings William Henry (1853-1924), Ida (1858-1902), Emma (1860-1943), Hiram Averill (1865-1942), Richard Starr (1867-1947), and Frank (1878-1918).

Raised in St. Charles, Minnesota, Charles came to Dakota Territory in 1879, and settled near Watertown as agent to Youman Brothers & Hodgins lumber company. By May 1880, he was living in De Smet, selling loads of lumber to the new settlers. He set up an office tent and sold lumber from railroad cars until an office and shed could be built. During the Hard Winter, he boarded with Mrs. Garland, and began courting her daughter Florence. They married on December 7, 1887, and had two sons born and raised in De Smet: Lansing Edmund (born 1893), and Walter Averill (born 1900). Charles Dawley was one of the purchasers of the Garland home in 1888 (when sold by Margaret Garland), and he was one of the owners of the Syndicate Hotel built on the site of the Garland home, incorporating part of the Garland home in its design.

In 1882, he filed on a homestead, the SE 21-111-56, just south of Almanzo Wilder's homestead. Dawley purchased the claim as a preemption the following year.

After twelve years in the lumber business, Dawley was appointed Clerk of Courts and went into the land business with Alfred Waters, a partnership lasting fifteen years, with Dawley remaining associated with the firm for seven years after the partnership was dissolved. His familiarity with the county led him to open a real estate and insurance office, which he continued to run until his later years.

Emma Dawley

Charles Dawley was very involved in fraternal organizations in De Smet. He was a member of Company E., Dakota Guard, and was for many years the guiding force of Harvey Post, G.A.R., being the son of a Civil War veteran; his father, Richard, was with the 2nd Minnesota Battery of Light Artillery. After Charles Dawley's death, however, no early records of Harvey Post were ever found, at least into the 1960s.

Many members of the Dawley family came to the De Smet area in its early years. Richard Dawley, Charles' father, died in De Smet on February 3, 1888; he was buried in Hillside Cemetery, St. Charles (Winona Co.) Minnesota. No obituary was found.

Emma Dawley was one of the early teachers in the De Smet school, hired in May 1883 to teach the summer term. As Carrie and Laura summered on the homestead, they didn't attend this term of school, and never had Miss Dawley as a teacher. In 1887, Emma returned to De Smet as teacher of the grammar department (she taught with Gussie Elgetha Masters and Miriam "Minnie" Barrows).

Pioneer Girl

Ida Dawley married local businessman Veltell "Tel" Jewell, who was in partnership with Delbert Wilmarth. The couple and their three children were living in Watertown in 1902 when Ida was hit in the head by a rock hurled from a place where men were blasting with dynamite, and killed.

Cap Garland (l), Hiram Dawley(r)

Hiram Dawley was a friend of Cap Garland's; they had their picture taken together more than once by H.W. Cooledge in De Smet. In 1887, Hiram moved to Colorado to find relief from asthma. He married Mertie Wilcox the following year; the couple had three sons. He died in Rocky Ford (Otero Co.) Colorado in 1942.

Starr Dawley married Bertha Burdick, daughter of De Smet businessman J.W. Burdick, who ran a general merchandise store. The Starr Dawleys had a claim in western South Dakota, and their children, Vera and Myrtle, lived with their grandparents in De Smet while attending school in 1911. The family moved to California, where Starr died in 1947.

Frank M. Dawley, Charles Dawley's youngest sibling, was born in 1872 and attended school in De Smet; he was in the same class as LITTLE HOUSE character Minnie Johnson, who was several years younger than Laura Ingalls. Frank Dawley and Cap Garland were born Corporals in Company E. in 1889. In 1897, Frank moved to Stewartsville, Minnesota, to work in the lumber yard of the Laird Norton Co. While serving in Hawaii during World War I, Frank suffered a heart attack while on duty, and died July 25, 1918. Buried in San Francisco, Capt. Dawley's body was exhumed several months later and buried beside his parents in Hillside Cemetery, St. Charles, Minnesota.

January 20, 1933. The De Smet NEWS.
C.L. Dawley Low At Huron Hospital

The condition of C.L. Dawley, ill from an infection in the back of his neck, has not improved and he was considered to have very little hopes of recovery Thursday.

Mrs. Dawley, who had gone to be near him at the Huron hospital was taken ill herself Tuesday afternoon and became a patient of the hospital also.

Mr. Dawley's condition brought a call to Mr. and Mrs. Otto Altfillisch at three Thursday morning. They had left the hospital the evening before.

H.H. Plowman, E.F. Green and E.F. Ruskell, visiting the hospital Thursday brought word that afternoon that Dr. Walter A. Dawley arrived at noon from Rapid City to be near his parents. He had made a visit there a few days before but had returned to Rapid City Sunday.

Dawley lot marker, Block 21, Lot 4

 © 2015 Nancy Cleaveland / Gina Terrana

Charles L. / Feb. 29, 1856 / Feb. 4, 1933

February 10, 1933. The De Smet NEWS.

C.L. Dawley, Pioneer of City, Laid to Rest.

Charles L. Dawley died Saturday morning at a Huron hospital where he had been taken four weeks before, suffering from an infection on the back of his neck. His condition was considered serious three weeks ago but he had rallied, giving hope of recovery. Last week he was known to be failing and Mrs. Dawley and other relatives were with him at the end after a night of vigil.

The funeral was held Tuesday afternoon after services at the home, with his pastor, the Rev. W.C. Besselievre of the Congregational church, officiating. Burial was in the local cemetery by the side of his elder son, who died in 1912.

Mr. Dawley's son, Dr. Walter A. Dawley, and wife, came from Rapid City on learning of the death. They had visited his father at the hospital Thursday on their way back home from Rochester.

Funeral rites included those of the Masonic order. J.H. Forsberg of Huron, Grand Senior Warden of South Dakota, acted for the lodge, speaking in the services at the residence and in charge of rites at the grave.

Mr. Dawley was the only pioneer of 1880 remaining in business in De Smet, having been continuously engaged in business here from the spring of that first year of settlement. A number of pioneers of those days remain, but all are retired.

The News turns to its golden anniversary edition for a report of the early years of this pioneer. He came to Dakota Territory in 1879 from St. Charles, Minn., to work in a lumber yard at Goodwin, west of Watertown, and while there he sold lumber to several with whom he was to become well acquainted later.

A transfer from the Goodwin yards of the Youman & Hodgins company to De Smet brought Mr. Dawley to the recently established town on May 20, 1880, to be agent for a lumber yard not yet build. He put up a tent and sold lumber from the car until an office and yard could be erected. His company had chosen a location just north of the railroad tracks on the east side of Calumet Avenue, across the street from the yard Chas. Ely had established a few weeks before. Mr. Dawley's first office is now a part of the Will Pratt house, and his first shed has for years been the north shed of the Robinson lumber yard, now the De Smet Lumber company.

After twelve years Mr. Dawley was appointed clerk of courts and left the lumber business to become a partner of A.N. Waters in real estate. Their office was the small building until a few years ago standing where the Farmers Creamery company building is.

Two years later, in 1888, Waters & Dawley built the present Waters block and moved into it that fall, their partnership continuing for fifteen years and Mr. Dawley remaining associated with Mr. Waters for seven years after that.

His years in the land business made Mr. Dawley familiar with every quarter section in the county, and through his life he could quickly give locations and early history of every farm.

Through those years of real estate agency Mr. Dawley had a large barn on his residence property in town, kept a number of horses as did other agents, and drove much of

the time. He developed a section farm northeast of the city, and in town enlarged his residence to a fine modern home.

For some years Mr. Dawley had been in his own office as a real estate and insurance agent, representing many non-resident land owners, including loan companies.

In his youth a large, well-built man with a sense of humor that led him into many pranks, the years never took away his blunt friendliness and his enjoyment of a joke, left him even more firm in convictions of life.

A son of a veteran and member of the order by that name, Mr. Dawley took an interest in Harvey Post, Grand Army of the Republic, and for many years had acted as commander, surviving the last of the local civil war veterans by just a few months.

During the world war he served on the county draft board. At one time he was a member of the local school board. All his life he was a staunch democrat but never held office but the once.

The Masonic fraternity was dear to the pioneer. He had been made a Mason in Arlington lodge before there as one at De Smet, and just a few months ago was a guest of that lodge at its fiftieth anniversary. He was a charger member of De Smet Lodge No. 55, a charter member of Bethlehem Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, and recently honored by a life membership in that chapter. He belonged to the Chapter at Arlington, the Commandery at Watertown, the Consistory at Aberdeen, being designated a life member of the latter a few years ago. For many years he served as senior deacon of the De Smet lodge and was considered the father of the lodge.

FLORENCE ADELIA (GARLAND) DAWLEY

Block 21, Lot 4
March 14, 1862 – September 15, 1935; died at age 73

Florence Adelia (Garland) Dawley

Daughter of Walter Bell Garland (1832-1874) and Margaret Frances (Pettit) Garland (1837-1913).
Sister of Lovenia (Garland) Cornwell (1856-1942). Sister of Cap Garland (1864-1891).
Wife of Charles Lansing Dawley (1856-1933); married December 7, 1887.
Mother of L. Edmund Dawley (1893-1912) and Walter L. Dawley (1900-1958).

Laura Ingalls Wilder introduced Florence Garland as her teacher in *The Long Winter*. From the *Hard Winter* manuscript:

When Laura told the teacher her name the teacher said, "Oh yes! And I am Florence Garland. We live back of your house on the next street."

Laura had seen the new square house over beyond the stable, but she hadn't known the teacher lived there. Now she remembered seeing the tall fair-haired boy running past going downtown. He seemed to be always laughing. So Cap was teacher's brother!

 © 2015 Nancy Cleaveland / Gina Terrana

When visiting De Smet in 1931, Laura and Almanzo visited both Charley and Florence Garland. Laura seems to have discussed events that would appear in her *Hard Winter* book, as recorded in her diary:

> *Manly and I went to De Smet in the afternoon. Called on Florence Garland Dawley. She is quite feeble, not at all well, and going the next day to Rochester [Minnesota] to Mayo's [clinic] with her son [Walter] who is a doctor. Florence was sweet as could be and we talked of the old days of the hard winter when she taught the school before it was closed for lack of fuel and because it was too dangerous to go to the schoolhouse. – Laura Ingalls Wilder, diary entry dated June 15, 1931, published in "The Road Back," A Little House Traveler, 2006.*

Florence Adelia Garland was born at Avoca (Iowa Co.) Wisconsin, on March 14, 1862, to Walter Bell Garland and Margaret Frances (Pettit) Garland. She had an older sister, Sarah Lovenia, born in 1856. An older brother, Walter, had been born and died in 1855. A sister, Josephine, was born in 1859 and died when Florence was two. Florence's younger brother, Oscar Edmund, called Cap, was born in 1864. Florence's father died September 29, 1874, in Avoca.

Mrs. Garland followed her brother-in-law, John Garland, to Dakota. In 1879, she left Lovenia, Florence, and Cap with friends while she filed on a homestead in Kingsbury County, the NW 1-110-55, land now under water as part of Lake Preston. She converted the homestead to a preemption and paid for the land in 1881.

Florence, her mother, and her siblings settled in De Smet prior to the Hard Winter of 1880-1881, Mrs. Garlend being the third person to arrange with the town lots company to purchase property. On May 27, 1880, Margaret Garland contracted to purchase Block 4, Lot 1 as a residence property. She was persuaded by single men in the area to open a boarding house. Charles Dawley, Florence's future husband, was one of the boarders during the Hard Winter.

October 28, 1880, Florence was one of three who took the teaching exam at the first public examination of teachers in Kingsbury County. She was awarded a first grade certificate good for six months, and was hired to teach District School No. 2, in De Smet (No. 1 was in Nordland).

After the Hard Winter, Florence filed on a claim in Clark County, the SE 3-113- 56, preempting it in 1883. She also taught school in Clark County prior to her marriage in December 1887.

Florence and Charles Dawley moved into a house at 406 Third Street, SW, living there the rest of their lives. Here they raised their two sons, Edmund (who died at age 19) and Walter (a surgeon). Florence was active in the Congregational Church and clubs for many years.

Florence Dawley died September 15, 1935; her funeral was conducted from the home.

> *September 20, 1935. The De Smet NEWS.*
> *Mrs. C.L. Dawley Died Sunday; Was Pioneer Hard Winter.*
>
> *Sinking rapidly last week after several years of declining health, Mrs. Charles L. Dawley died early Sunday afternoon at her home here. She had been a pioneer of 1880, the first public school teacher in De*

Florence A. / Mar. 14, 1862 / Sept. 15, 1935

Smet, and she, like her husband, was laid to rest from the home in which they were married long ago.

Services were held Monday afternoon, the Rev. W.C. Besselievre of Pierre, her pastor until a few weeks ago, officiating. Pallbearers were E.F. Green, Wm. H. Warren, Wm. Robinson, Merle Sasse, O.J. Hill and H.H. Plowman, the same who acted as bearers at her husband's burial a year ago last February. Miss Verna Haufle and Miss Alice Schlender sang two duets. It was a brief service, but filled with tributes to the homemaker and neighbor who had been so truly appreciated in the community so many years. The Eastern Star service was conducted at the grave.

Mrs. Dawley had apparently been in her usual health up to a week before her death. Her sister and husband, Mr. and Mrs. A.H. Cornwell, had come from Watertown to visit her that day. Early in the week, however, she seemed to fail, and slipt away into death Sunday morning. The Cornwells and her niece, Mrs. Otto Altfillisch, and her family were with her. The only son, Dr. W.A. Dawley, and wife arrived later that morning after a night of driving from their home at Rapid City.

Mrs. Dawley had reached the age of 79 years, having been born Feb. 29, 1856 [sic; this is Charles Dawley's birth date], at Avoca, Wis., daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W.B. Garland, named Florence. Her father died when she was a young girl and her mother came west with relatives, taking a claim in Lake Preston vicinity in 1879, but locating in De Smet the spring of 1880 after the winter at Ortonville, Minn. She expected to provide for her family of three children by sewing but found herself boarding a number of young men of the new town in what is now the wooden annex to the Syndicate hotel.

Florence Garland became the first public school teacher, her school a part of the present M.E. Sasse residence, located across the corner from the Congregational church. A few years later she taught in the Bowes district northeast of town.

Another pioneer of the first year of settlement here was Charley L. Dawley, agent for a lumber yard. They became engaged and he built a house in which they were married, December 7, 1887. It remained their home all the years. When he considered moving away for a new one love of trees about it caused him to remodel instead and an enlarged, modern home was the result. Two children were born to them. Lansing Edmund dying in 1912 as a young man, Walter A. becoming a surgeon.

There were two devotions for Mrs. Dawley outside her home and personal friendships, and they were her church and lodge. She was a charter member of the local Order of the Eastern Star chapter and a past matron. Active in church work, she taught a Sunday school class until past 60 years of age.

LANSING EDMUND DAWLEY

Block 21, Lot 4, De Smet Cemetery
March 11, 1893 – December 18, 1912; died at age 19

Son of Florence and Charles Dawley.
Brother of Walter Dawley (1900-1958).
Nephew of Lovenia Cornwell. Nephew of Cap Garland.

Lansing Edmund Dawley was born March 11, 1893, in De Smet, and educated in the De Smet town school. In June 1907, he graduated from the Eighth grade with Laura Perry, Tina Bouchie, and Mabel Hinz. Two years later, Edmund Dawley graduated from High School with Earl Wilmarth, Lois Lattin, Pearl Purintun, Reginald Sherwood, Edna Allen, Mary Kildee, Arey Nims, Laura Perry, Pearl Keating, William Mitchell, Celia Penny, Walter Rolfson, Florence Andrews, Robert Hunt, and Henry Warner. He and Aubrey Sherwood rented a pasture together for the summer, and raised young cows for market. In March 1911, Edmund had a party for his 18th birthday. That September, he entered Redfield College, along with Jack Fuller, son of Carleton Fuller.

A sufferer of Bright's disease (a disorder of the kidneys caused by protein in the urine), Edmund was forced to leave college in the spring of 1912, and he died at home during the holiday season, on December 12, 1912.

December 20, 1912. The De Smet News.
Death of Edmund Dawley.

A grief stricken family is at the Dawley home because of the sudden taking away of the eldest son, Edmund. The young man had not been in good health for a long time due to Bright's disease having fastened itself on him. He was obliged to leave college last spring because of ill health, but was not confined to the house and no immediate trouble was looked for. He took a slight cold a week ago, but was apparently nearly well from that. Tuesday he was downtown with his mother selecting Christmas presents but in the afternoon was taken with a chill and had trouble keeping warm. He ate his supper as usual and again went to the store for packages. During the night he was taken seriously ill and when the doctor arrived he found the young man suffering with a severe attack of la grippe and a very weak heart. All of his efforts were without avail, and after a day of struggle Edmund breathed his last at 9:20 Wednesday evening.

The funeral will be held Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the Congregational church.

L. Edmund / Mar. 11, 1893 / Dec. 18, 1912

WALTER AVERILL DAWLEY

Buried in Mountain View Cemetery, Rapid City, South Dakota.
January 9, 1900 – June 30, 1958

Walter Dawley is mentioned in Laura Ingalls Wilder's 1931 "The Road Back" diary. When Laura visits Florence (Garland) Dawley, Walter's mother, Florence tells Laura she is going to Mayo Clinic with her son the next day. The son is a surgeon.

Walter Dawley born January 9, 1900, in De Smet. As a child, Walter was one of town children who made up the "Pony Brigade," riding their ponies all over town together. Genevieve (Masters) Renwick's daughter, Margaret, was another, her pony a gift from her father. When Walter was nine, his pony, Topsy, slipped as they were rounding the corner onto Calumet, and Walter's leg was broken by the

pony rolling over him. For his 13th birthday, he received an authentic "cowpuncher's" saddle, a gift from his uncle, Albert Cornwell. Soon after, Walter accompanied his parents to Colorado to visit with his Uncle Hiram.

Educated in the De Smet school, Walter graduated 16th in his class of 143 from the Eighth Grade. Margaret Renwick graduated 20th. In 1918, he graduated first in his High School class, with Clifford Hall, Chester Morgan, Gustave Nelson, Charles Paterson, Boyd Robinson, Marion Driver, Esther Mallery, Margaret Renwick, Hazel Purintun, Gertrude Reeves, Lola Root.

Pony Brigade in front of former Ingalls building.

He was graduated from the University of Minnesota and received his medical degree in 1926 from College of Physicians and Surgeons, University of Illinois, interning at a Chicago hospital. He was awarded a fellowship in surgery at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

Walter Dawley practiced medicine in Rapid City, South Dakota, marrying Kathleen Keenan (1903-1982). The couple had four children: Mary Keenan Dawley (she married Wayne Fugate), Charles Lansing Dawley, John Averill Dawley, and Jane Garland Dawley.

The following story appeared in the November 18, 1932, De Smet NEWS:

Former De Smet Boy Provides Story Book Tale of His Pony.

A story that will take many a man back to his boyhood, especially if he lived the small town or country and had a pony, has come to The News this week from a former local boy. It is a true story, dating back to the days when thirty-five or so ponies galloped the streets of De Smet, chums of boys and girls of the town.

Nearly twenty-seven years ago it was that a red-haired boy of five was given a pony, his father adding the animal to a stable of horses maintained for business and pleasure. It was a pretty little pony, a dappled bay mare with a white star in the middle of her forehead, a white mark on her nose and white hind feet. Her tail was long and wavy, and it glistened in the sunshine.

The boy loved his pony as a boy can love a pet companion, and every day, winter and summer, in good weather and bad, they were together. They drove the cows to pasture and back again, they went to the farm, they ran errands and had pleasure rides about the town and over the prairie, as other boys and their ponies or horses did in those days.

The time came when the boy's legs were long enough that he was considered ready for a horse, and his father traded Bonnie to a farmer of the county--Bonnie to make other little children happy, and her place to be taken by a bright bay horse. Later the pony went from this county to the vicinity of the Black Hills, and eventually the boy went to college, where he studied to become a doctor.

Thought he thought the pony had passed out of his life the boy did not forget her, and many a time in the years to come his mind would turn from his studies and his tasks to recall the days back on the prairies of South Dakota, with Bonnie in her stall in the barn--Bonnie with her fast little feet, her sleek hide, and her neighing acknowledgement of her master.

Even in recent years, when he was established as a surgeon, the boy often recalled the little horse, to wonder how many children she had been companion to and how long she had

been permitted to continue her life before going to that reward that must be a pony's when its days here are done.

One day recently a man came to the doctor's office and asked whether he remembered a pony named Bonnie. Assured that he did, the man said: "If you will come with me I'll take you to your old pony; I am the man to whom your father traded her."

They went to the pony, and the doctor's heart was saddened, for Bonnie was thin, her coat rough and shaggy, her mane and tail ragged and without luster, and she was blind in one eye. But as her former owner paused as these evidences of advance age the pony threw up her head, cocked up her ears at an inquiring angle, and with a saucy shake of her head whirled and scampered away, only to circle back again and again. The old fiery spirit was still alive in Bonnie.

And now the little red-haired boy, grown to a man, owns his pony once more, just as in a story-book tale. Bonnie will not know the difference, for she is to be cared for by the man who owned her for so many years, but the boy has a sense of justified satisfaction in providing for her care as long as she lives.

That is the story that came this week to The NEWS from C.L. Dawley, for as many a friend has guessed, it was "Mike" who was the little boy, and it is Dr. Walter A. Dawley of the Midwest Clinic, Rapid City, who is the boy grown up.

Doctor Dawley had urged his parents to visit him and his family this fall, and he had this surprise for them, but on learning that they could not make the trip he wrote them of Bonnie.

On reading this many another man and woman will wish that to them might come the opportunity to buy and pension the pony or horse of their childhood. For the writer and his brothers it was Bill, an Indian pony-bronco cross with mule ears and a clown disposition. For E.P. Wilmarth it was Dan, retired from a cattle ranch with all the tricks of the cow pony. Then there were the ponies of the Hod Perry stable, and the McMartin Shetland and many others.

One other pony of those days remains in the vicinity. She is Goldie, named for her odd color, brought to De Smet to be Margaret Renwick's pet just a few years after Bonnie became Mike's. The neighbor boy and girl rode them side by side.

Goldie still lives, and at nearly thirty years of age rounds up the cows for J.F.B. Masters, uncle of her former owner. Mr. Masters bought her for another niece, Vivian Hallowell, and after being companion to the second girl, Goldie serves as farm pony. With her owner's long legs dangling to the ground, Goldie trots after the cows as she has for so many years.

Dr. Walter Averill Dawley died June 30, 1958, in Rapid City (Pennington County) South Dakota; he is buried in Mountain View Cemetery.

His obituary was not published in The De Smet NEWS.

Walter A. (Dawley) / 1900 - 1958