

# Dinsmoor in Context: The Populist Garden

1907

Samuel Perry Dinsmoor's Cabin Home and Garden of Eden, Lucas, Kansas.

1932



S.P. Dinsmoor 1843-1932

While S.P. Dinsmoor's Garden of Eden environment in Lucas, in north central Kansas, is a well-known component of Kansas' story, the examinations most often presented are mere introductions to the site – a biography of the maker, some tantalizing tidbits from his colorful life, and a description of the building materials and methods. But Dinsmoor's work goes deeper than a surface reading, with symbols and iconography culled from the turbulent political atmosphere of Populist Party/Farmers Alliance movements of the early 20th century.

Dinsmoor's sculptural work can be considered political cartoons and political statements, in physical form. Streetside tableaux reference the (then) current political atmosphere, from the feeding of bank trust monopolies and their subsequent control over trade routes, through the illustration of Social Darwinism, a belief that the larger predator has the moral right to consume anything smaller or weaker. While Dinsmoor didn't hold these beliefs, he put these monuments up, in concrete form, as a reminder of how the system works in an effort to spark conversation and incite action.

In the formal yard area, Dinsmoor illustrates how the common man, the Voter, can exercise his rights to aid Lady Liberty in the destruction of the bank trusts through the use of the ballot. Dinsmoor continues his call to action by including disenfranchised peoples (women, minorities, and immigrants), pointing to the Liberty tableau, demanding the right to be heard.

While scholars have delved into this rich narrative and the source material that informed Dinsmoor's sculptures, the outspoken illustration of political movements and call to action in Dinsmoor's environment is only partially accessible to the general public. This Pulitzer Prizes Campfire initiative supplemental tour brochure has been assembled so that visitors and scholars have access to the thoughts, source material, and examinations informing Dinsmoor's deeper conversation.

*-Erika Nelson, Friends of S.P. Dinsmoor's Garden of Eden*

For this publication, Garden of Eden illustrations were produced by Lucas artist Owen Dean Hoopes. They accompany a selection of primary source material from Dinsmoor's early Lucas life, documenting his involvement in political and social movements on the local, state, and national levels. His early Populist Party involvement evolved into sculptural political statements later in life. His sprawling concrete Garden of Eden site is operated today as Dinsmoor intended - an all-encompassing art site, open to visitors, with guided tours that bring guests through a narrative of the culture and climate of this specific place at the turn of the last century.

Cited resources can be found in the newly developed basement Reading Room, in a series of volumes collecting written and visual references influencing Dinsmoor from the late 1800s through his death in 1932. From Thomas Nast's Harper's Weekly illustrations and Watson Heston's illustrations distributed through Freethought publications originating in politically progressive and outspoken Kansas, to editorials penned by Dinsmoor himself, the compiled resources are meant to give Garden of Eden visitors deeper insight into the influences surrounding the creation of the Garden of Eden environment.

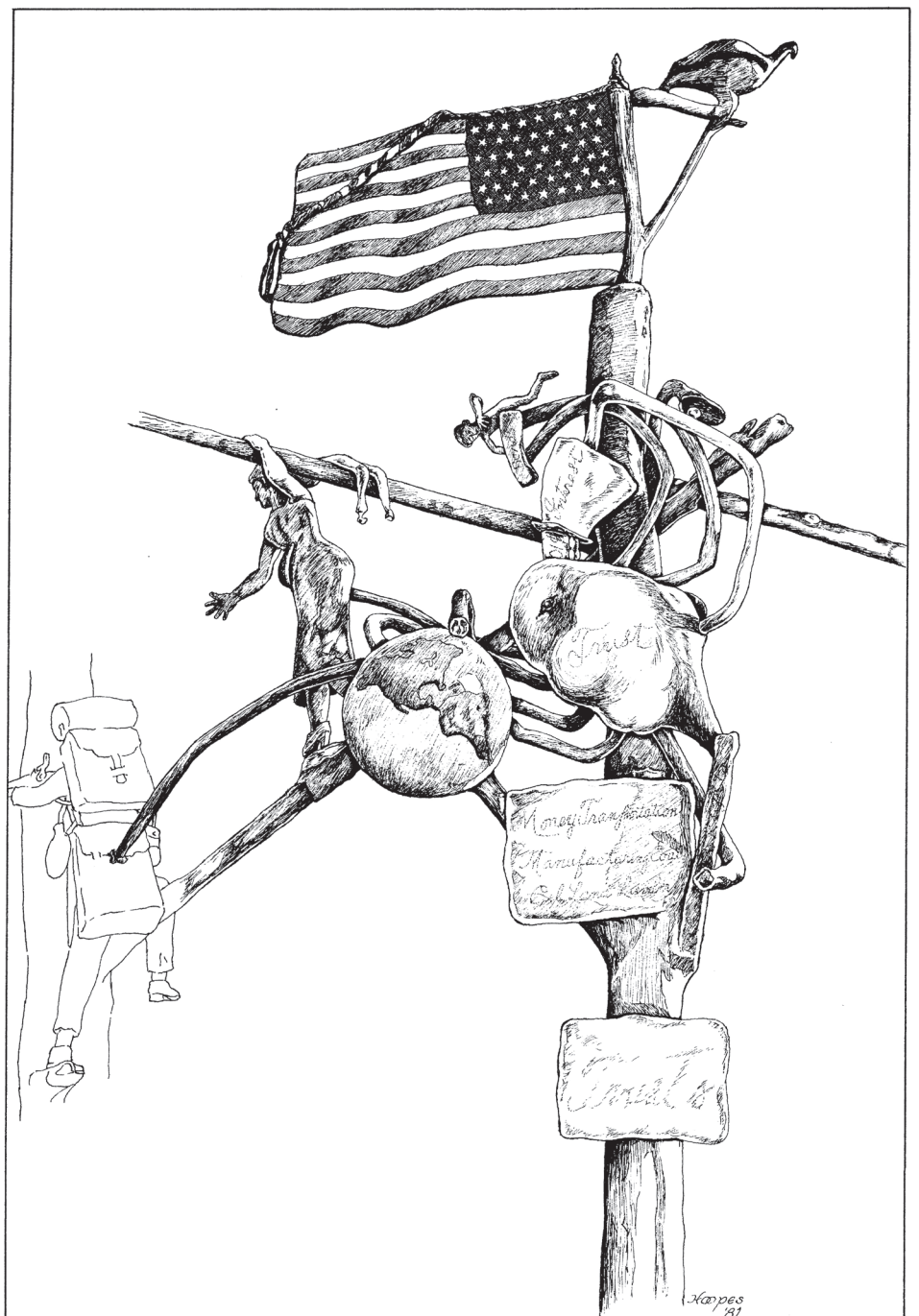
Please, enjoy these resources as a part of your Garden of Eden experience, and thank you for your patronage.



The Pulitzer Prizes



The Pulitzer Project in Kansas: William Allen White and Freedom of Speech is a joint venture of the Kansas Humanities Council, the Pulitzer Prizes Board, and the Federation of State Humanities Councils in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Pulitzer Prizes. Additional funds for the production of this project provided by the Dane G. Hansen Foundation.



Three newspapers operated in Lucas during Dinsmoor's time. Following are excerpts from local news sources, as well as editorials he penned in other publications.

Original spelling and punctuation have been preserved throughout.

# The Lucas Advance.

1888

LUCAS, RUSSELL COUNTY, KANSAS

1897

-Thursday January 10, 1889



The people of Lucas met in the school house last night and organized a Literary Society and Lyceum. W. W. S. Roome was elected president, S. P. Densmore vice president, Miss Lillie Prunty secretary and Miss Hattie Panley treasurer. An admission fee of ten cents will be charged for membership. While the committee was preparing a program for the next meeting, the subject of the annexation of Canada to the United States was ably discussed and decided in the affirmative. The next meeting will be held on next Wednesday evening at 7 o'clock. The subject for debate will be, "Resolved that Railroads and Telegraph Systems should be owned and operated by the Government." A. J. Francis will take the affirmative side of the question and Mr. Densmore the negative. All are cordially invited.

-The Lucas Advance, Nov 22, 1888.

## Lyceum.

The bi-monthly election of officers of the Lucas Literary Society was held last Thursday evening, and the following members were elected;

S. P. Dinsmoor, President,  
Prof. R. E. Shearer, Vice President,  
Miss Emma Morgn, Secretary,  
Miss Hattie Pauley, Treasurer,  
Mr. S. McGee, Fred Naylor and Chas. Dinsmoor, program committee.

The exercises of the evening were of a highly entertaining nature. This association has made rapid advances towards improvement since its organization, the only draw back being the cramped and poorly ventilated quarters they are forced to occupy.

We notice a very pernicious habit that has taken a strong hold upon some of the male attendants at the lyceum, and that is spitting tobacco juice upon the walls and floor. Of all filthy, disgusting habits, this is the worst. If o person wishes to place himself below the level of an average porker by chewing that which a hog will not smell of, let him have respect enough for the ladies present to quit it while in

the house. It certainly is ungentlemanly, to say the least, and is trespassing upon the kindness and generosity of Prof. Shearer.

Question for next Wednesday evening, "Resolved, that marriage is a failure." Affirmative, S. P. Dinsmoor and Samuel McGee; negative, W. W. S. Roome and A. J. Francis.

-The Lucas Advance, Jan. 17, 1889.

The Lyceum last night was attended by a large concourse of people. The program contained several interesting exercises, such as readings, declamations &c. The debate was the last on the list. Subject, "Resolved, That marriage is a failure." Affirmative, S. P. Dinsmore, and Prof. R. E. Shearer; negative, W. W. S. Roome and A. J. Francis. The question was one of great interest and some of the remarks of the debators called forth at times loud bursts of laughter. In the main the question was ably considered and several weighty arguments brought forward. The subject for discussion next Wednesday evening will be, "Resolved, That the President and Vice President of the United States should be elected by direct vote." Affirmative, Prof. R. E. Shearer, W. W. S. Roome and F. W. Barr; Negative, Andrew Jackson Francis, S. P. Dinsmoor and Samuel McGee. A general invitation is extended to all to be present and assist.

-The Lucas Advance, Jan. 24, 1889.

S. P. Dinsmoor materialized in town yesterday, for the first time since his memorable argument in support of 'marriage is a failure.'

- Lucas Adv., March 7, 1889.

## The Farmers Alliance.

The farmers of Russell County are organizing under the constitution of the Kansas Farmers Alliance and Co-operative Union, which is organized under the National Farmers Alliance and Co-operative Union of America. That our farmer readers may understand its objects we publish its declaration of purposes as follows. --

Profoundly impressed that we, the Farmers, Alliance united by the strong and faithful ties of financial and home interests, should set forth our declaration of intentions, we, therefore, RESOLVE --

1st. To labor for the education of the agricultural classes in the science of economical government, in a strictly non-partisan spirit.

2nd. To indorse the motto: "in things essential, unity; in all things, charity.

3d. To develop a better state mentally, morally, socially and financially.

4th. To create a better understanding for sustaining civil officers in maintaining law and order.

5th. To constantly strive to secure harmony and good will among all mankind, and brotherly love among ourselves.

6th. To suppress personal, local, sectional and national prejudices, all unhealthful rivalry and selfish ambition.

7th. The brightest jewels which it garners are: the tears of widows and orphans; and its imperative commands are: to visit the homes where lacerated hearts are bleeding; to assuage the sufferings of a brother or sister; bury the dead; care for the widows and educate the orphans;

to exercise charity towards offenders; to construe words and deeds in their most favorable light, granting honesty of purpose and good intentions to others; and to protect the principles of the Alliance unto death. Its laws are reason and equity; its cardinal doctrines inspire purity of thought and life; its intention is, "Peace on earth, and good will toward man."

Farmers will please read carefully and -- think.

A. WILSON,

Organizing officer for Russell Co.

There can be no doubt now as to the wheat crop. Rye and oats will also yield abundantly, and a drive through Wolf Creek Valley will convince the most skeptical that this is a veritable Garden of Eden. He who owns a farm in this prolific valley is to be congratulated, and he who is less fortunate should lose no time in securing a home here.

-The Lucas Advance, June 6, 1889.

Sam Dinsmoor attended the Peoples' party Barbecue from this place, which was held north of Luray, Tuesday. Sam is a radical and of course came home chuck full -- of "hog" and "beef."

-The Lucas Advance, Sept. 1, 1892.

The People's party has put that little minim, S. P. Dinsmoor, for Township Clerk. Sam we always said you were a Populist for office. Did we not tell the truth? Say, old boy can you stand defeat?

-The Lucas Advance, Oct. 20, 1892.

A lodge of the United Order of Anti-Monopolists has been organized at Lucas. They will vote for principle regardless of party. The fight that has begun between the people and the monopolies must be fought to the finish. The U. O. A. M. will help us to win. No one can be justified in gaining absolute control of any product, and then forcing up its price for his own selfish interests, especially when such an act causes misery and suffering to thousands. Mankind are prone to abuse power. When a complete monopoly of an important article is obtained, the power acquired is enormous. Rarely is it exercised in the interests of humanity. Monopolies will eventually be downed. The U. O. A. M. is a mighty engine to accomplish their overthrow, their final destruction and utter annihilation in our fair land. Foes of monopoly, join it! On to victory!

-The Lucas Advance, Jan. 26, 1893.

The United Order of Anarchist's Meeting was held in the school house, Monday night.

-The Lucas Advance, Feb. 2, 1893.

Owing to our little squib in last week's paper about the Anarchist meeting some of our subscribers feel very much aggrieved and one has stopped his paper. We really don't see that we have any apologies to make or anything to take back; and we will say if the so called Anti Monopoly club is not anarchistic in its tendencies, they had better teach different principles or close the mouths of some of the members of the order. While we are sorry to lose subscribers we are of the opinion, the paper will continue to be published in Lucas, unless perhaps we see where we can better ourselves.

The omission of the letter "A" in our heading this week is the fault of the Kansas Newspaper Union. We hope it will be corrected next week by one better versed in orthography.

S. P. Dinsmoor is no more a subscriber to this paper. He says he will no longer help carry the responsibility for what may be published in these columns. SO SORRY.

-The Lucas Advance, Feb. 9, 1893.

The United Order of Anti-Monopoly recently effected at Luray, the organization of Russell County. The delegates from the Waldo, Luray and Lucas lodges were present in full force. The county officers then elected are: Foreman, J. C. Ruppenthal. jr.; Vice-foreman, J. K. Pangburn of Waldo; Secretary, J. F. Ekey of Lucas; Treasurer, M. E. Gregg of Waldo; Doorkeeper, J. R. Hubbard of Luray. It may well be questioned if anywhere in the nation, there can be found an equal number of men in a county more resolutely opposed to the present economic policy of our government, than are those delegates and other members who assembled at Luray on Feb. 21, to advance the interests of those who work, through political action. For a quarter of a century the influence of the people in determining the governmental policy with regard to the vital questions of Money, Land and Transportation, has been continually on the wane, and the influence of bankers, Shylocks, money-sharks, two-percenters, gold-bugs, land-sharks, monopolists and railroad magnates has increased proportionally. The U. O. A. M. will fight for the righting of existing wrongs. Moreover its weapon shall be the ballot - the only weapon worthy of a freeman. Let the Knights of Reciprocity and kindred Republican organizations arm and drill their members, after the manner of the old Democratic Ku Klux Klan, to support their side, whether right or wrong, by force of arms. Let them collect their dupes to overawe the governor into submitting to the Douglass house, we shall be content to roll up such a majority at the ballot box as shall make futile and ridiculous all such attempt to override the will of the people. Let the toilers rule!

-The Lucas Advance, March 16, 1893.

Some of the Populists in this place do not like this paper because of its politics. We want them to understand that this is a Republican paper and as long as we are in control of it, will be such, and we propose to call things by their right names in politics and if we say Populist or Anarchist we shall mean it; or in other words whenever we see a "head to hit, we shall hit it."

-The Lucas Advance, March 30, 1893.

## STATE NEWS

The center of the United States, excluding Alaska, is in Northern Kansas, in approximate latitude 39 degrees 55 minutes, and approximate longitude 98 50 minutes.

-The Lucas Advance, Aug. 3, 1893.

Mr. S. P. Dinsmoor is having quite a time on his trip back east. He has visited the Columbian Exposition, the Ohio State Fair and expected to take in the National G.A.R. Encampment at Indianapolis.

-The Lucas Advance, Sept. 7, 1893.



## SECRET SOCIETIES March 2, 1893.

### G. A. R.

Lucas Post, No. 162 G. A. R. meets on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month, at 2 o'clock p.m., in their hall in the G. A. R. building. All ex-soldiers and sailors are requested to join with us.  
S.P. DINSMOOR, Commander.  
C. W. DEEBLE, Adjutant.

### S. of V.

Lucas Camp No 148 Sons of Veterans meets in the G. A. R. Hall the second and fourth Wednesday at 7,30 p. m. all Sons of Veterans are cordially invited to join with us.  
Clarence Austen, W. W. Brumfield.  
1st Sergt. Captain.

### WOMENS RELIEF CORPS.

Lucas Corps. No. 185, Womans Relief Corps meets on the first and third Saturday of each month at 2 o'clock p.m in the G. A. R. hall.  
MRS. W. DAY, Pres. MRS. M. BAYNE, Sec'y.

### A. O. U. W.

Meet in G. A. R. Hall Lucas, Kansas, the second and fourth Tuesday in each month. A cordial inviatio is extended to all Workmen.  
D. CARBIENER, M. W. C. W. DEEBLE, Recorder.

### A. F. & A. M.

Blue Hill Lodge No. 198. A. F. and A. M. meets Saturday evenings, on or before the full moon. Visiting bretheren are cordially invited to meet with us.  
R. T. FOWLER W. M.  
S. P. DINSMOOR, Sec'y.

### I. O. O. F.

Lucas Lodge, Mo. 337, I. O. O. F., meets every Thursday evening in the G. A. R. Hall. Visiting brethren cordially invited to attend.  
J. C. Ruppenthal, jr  
John E. Vroman Noble Grand  
Recording Secretary.

### U. O. A. M.

The United Order of Anti Monopoly Lodge No. 3, of Russell Co. meets every Monday evening in the schoolhouse. All visiting members are cordially invited to meet with us.  
S. P. Dinsmoor, Pres. J. O. Putnam, Sec'y.

There were quite a number of ladies and gentlemen expressed themselves as favoring Woman's suffrage, at the meeting, Saturday evening.

The Woman's Suffrage Club will hold their meetings in the school house on alternate Saturday evenings, beginning Saturday evening May 26th.

*-The Lucas Advance, May 24, 1894.*

### A Better System

EDITOR ADVOCATE: "In the council of many there is wisdom," and sometimes confusion.

Our party is composed of those who are united on one issue – equal rights to all. How to best obtain them, seems to be the question each reformer, in his own way, is trying to solve. All agree on the evils that exist and are rightly ready to condemn them. The demo-republicans admit there is something wrong, and are continually asking, "How will you fellows remedy the evils" Each of us has his own peculiar remedy. All agree upon the object to be obtained and the general mode to obtain it, but to the common old party voter who votes for party regardless of principles, and can grasp but one idea at a time, our differing upon which is the greatest evil, and the one we first should correct, - to him we seem divided. We have the land question, the single-tax, money question, railroads and other question. Can we not merge all into one word and cover the entire field with one plank, so that the dissatisfied, unenlightened demo-republicans can grasp our principles and all of our single-plank

party can be satisfied. The course of the nation is monopoly and the plank I would offer is:

Whereas, Monopoly controls every branch of business, either directly or indirectly, of this nation, in favor of the classes and against the masses, and is the natural outgrowth of chartered rights granted to money-getting corporations; therefore, be it Resolved, That the above named chartered rights shall be returned to the people, and hereafter no chartered rights shall ever be granted to any corporation within the United States.

I know many of my Populist brethren at first will say this it too sweeping; that this and this is the corporation that is grinding me, that the other corporation is all right. But hold, my friend, that other corporation is very young or it also has its iron heel on some poor brother, and will soon grow into a monopoly or break and fall, and in the monopoly or fall someone will suffer. Again, someone will say there is this and that enterprise that can only be run by a corporation. Correct; we have school district, town, city, county, state and nation to run such business. Then the question comes, how would you return the chartered rights to the people without confiscating their right. I would meet the corporations on their own ground, as they have met the people and are meeting each other – by competition. The money monopoly I would meet by a system of government bans, one or more in every county in the United States, owned by the nation (the people) and run on the same plan as the corporation banks, except the interest would be the same rate per cent to all alike, no pets – run in the interest of the nation and the individual who did business with the bank. Now the banks are run in the interest of the corporation only and the people pay the interest. I would have the nation make its own money on gold, silver (for the heathen) and paper, all of equal flat value. I would compete with all other banks. Let them run if they could while their charter lived.

"Oh, you would create a monopoly?" Yes, sir; but you would be a stockholder, so would the stockholders of the corporation banks; but the corporations would have no part in my plan of government banking, only to die by their own system – competition. Every child of this nation would be a stockholder in this monopoly; none would be left out to oppose the system. And the great wonder to me is that anyone with a thimbleful of brains who owns no stock in any corporation bank should oppose government banking. Some may ask: How can the government do it? To all who wish to know, I would say write to your congressman or senator at Washington, and ask him to send you "Bill H.R. 7370, to provide for the establishment of a government banking system, by Mr. Baker of Kansas, June 26, 1894" If your congressman or senator is worthy of this position, he will send it. Then read it carefully; if you approve the bill, say so, and say it loud, so the powers that be at Washington can hear you. If you can get up a better bill that favors all alike,

do so. I would gladly welcome a better bill, and I know Mr. Baker will accept the best he can get, for he is a man for all the people – true as steel, good as gold, pure as a true Populist, and firm as a rock. The great political land-slide last fall could not move him from his post at Washington.

Some may think banks are a curse to the people, and want no banks. Here is a mistake. Banks, like railroads, are a necessity; we will not do without them. Many of our party want more money, and some think if more money was issued and put in circulation that would bring confidence. Only of short duration. If the government would issue \$1000 to every man, woman and child and leave the money power in the hands of the banks, as it now is, the money would soon, very soon, drift back into monopoly's hands, and the people be left in want and slavery. The power to expand and contract give the power to extort usuary, and usuary or interest continually drawn to one place with no means of distribution will in time collect all the world's wealth. Interest paid to the government would again return to

the people in payment of expenses.

Government banking is right, it is just. He or she who is the creator of anything is justly entitles to all the profit in it. (If not, who is?) Government creates all money and 'regulates the value thereof,' so the government should have all the profit in issuing its money. Government banking would give the nation the profit on money. Government banking is the only system on earth whereby the masses can be saved from the grasping greed of the classes engaged in banking.

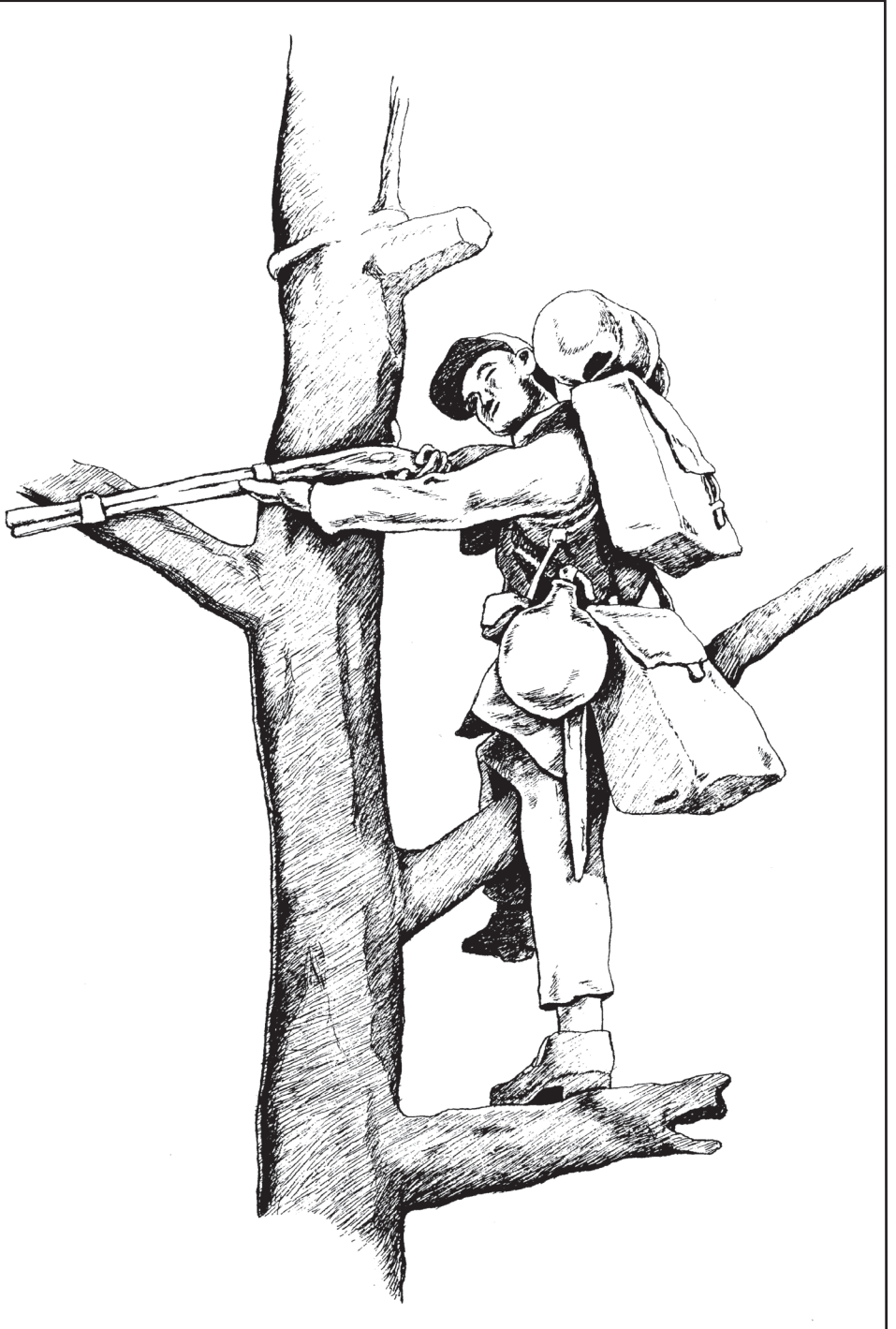
The bank monopoly is the monopoly now in the front. Is it not the duty of all reformers to stand shoulder to shoulder and meet this monster with its "seven heads and ten horns?" And how can we compete with it, except by government banking?

Banking should not be complicated with the post office. The sub-treasury plan is class legislation and of old party origin. Government banking is 'the better system' If not, what is?

Lucas, Kas.

S.P. Dinsmoor.

*- The (Topeka) Advocate, March 6, 1895.*



# Political Cartooning in the Populist Era



## Monopolies.

The use of the Octopus to represent monopolies or other behemoths seeking to control all aspects of a given topic were a visual standard in Dinsmoor's time. G. Frederick Keller's "The Curse of California", appeared in The Wasp on August 19, 1882, depicting the Southern Pacific Railroad monopoly as an octopus.



THEY ARE SWALLOWING EACH OTHER.

rights. She became the first woman to be nominated for president, running on the Equal Rights party ticket at a time when she and other women were not legally allowed to vote.

Dinsmoor's tableau illustrating the need for equal voting rights puts him in the Free-thinkers camp, advocating the continual questioning of societal rules in the quest for knowledge and enlightenment. These were hot topics at the time, as evidenced in a Lucas Advance mention regarding the closing of a Valley Falls Kansas newspaper due to repressive Comstock Laws: "Lucifer, a somewhat notorious paper published at Valley falls, Kas, is a thing of the past. The supreme court has decided that it is not entitled to the use of the mail. Good! Now let the courts extend the precedent so as to include all publications of a like nature and true morality and religion will receive greater respect. Let the good work go on." (June 6, 1889.)

Below, find the work of **Watson Heston**, an illustrator published widely in Freethought and People's Party newspapers. His illustrations for periodicals and large volumes published through Truth Seeker Company paired biblical imagery with Freethought principles, a combination reflected in Dinsmoor's descriptions of his own sculptural work.

## Thomas Nast

Thomas Nast's illustrations define the era of biting political commentary with his work for Harper's Weekly from 1859 to 1860, then again from 1862 to 1886. His work critiquing the Tammany Hall political machine brought teeth to editorials decrying graft and cronyism in politics (see illustration to the right, depicting Horace Greeley as an integral part of the Tammany cycle.) Dinsmoor's street-side tableau references Greeley's Social Darwinism views, an illustration of what troubles plague society at the turn of the last century.

Nast's Harper's Weekly cartoon (right) warns against the allure of the Free Love movement advocated by Victoria Woodhull, a well-known advocate of Free Love and women's



GIVE THEM BEHIND ME, (MRS.) SATAN!—[SEE PAGE 143.] WIFE (with angry looks).—'TO ASKING THEM THE SACRED FAITH OF MARRIAGE WAS FOLLOWED SINCE FOOTSTEP.'



TWO WAYS TO GO.



THE GENII WHO PRESIDE OVER THE ROADS TO KNOWLEDGE.



THE GOD-IN-THE-CONSTITUTION GUERRILLAS.—LIBERTY IN PERIL.



WOMAN'S PATH FROM SERVITUDE TO FREEDOM.

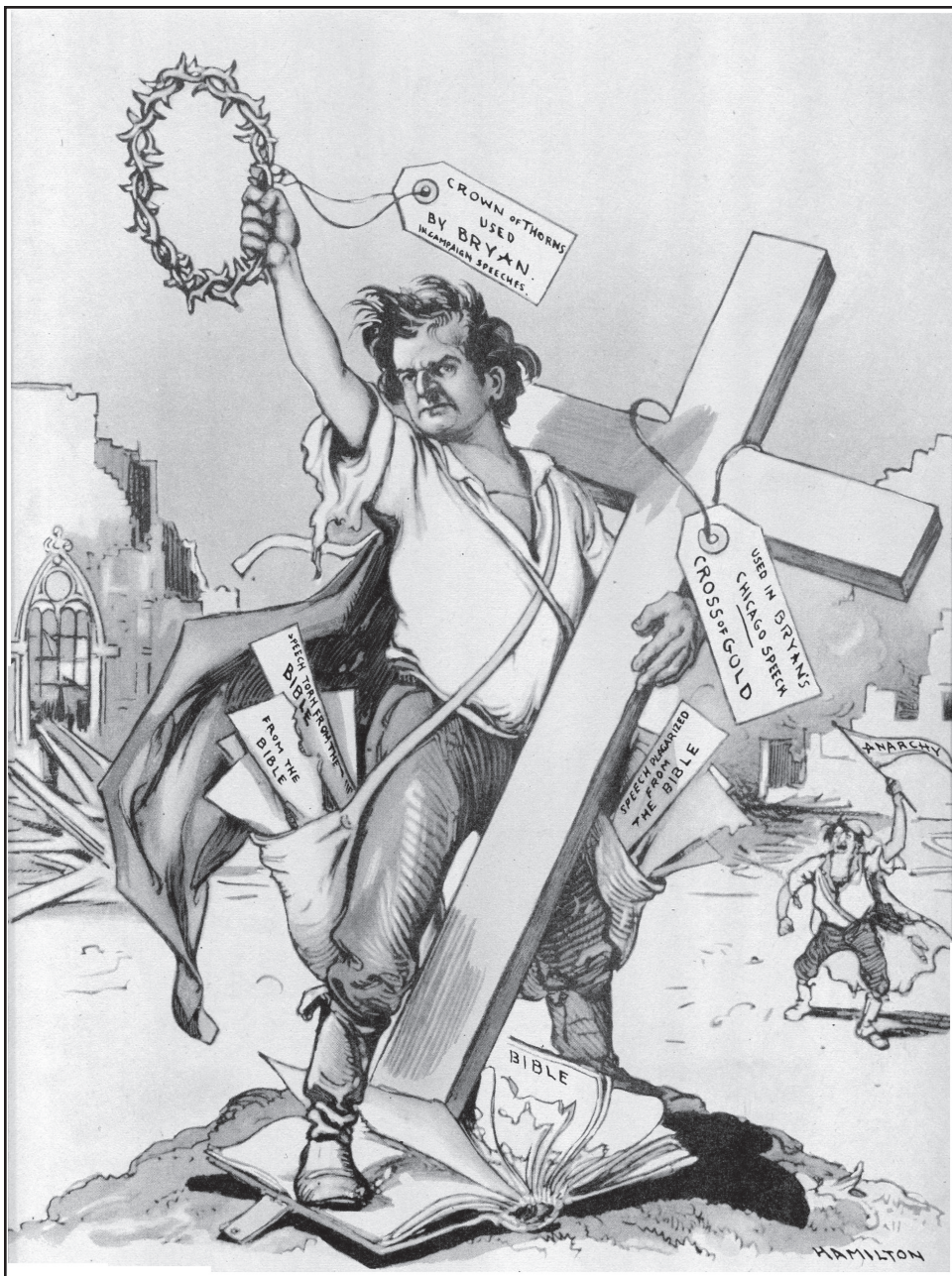
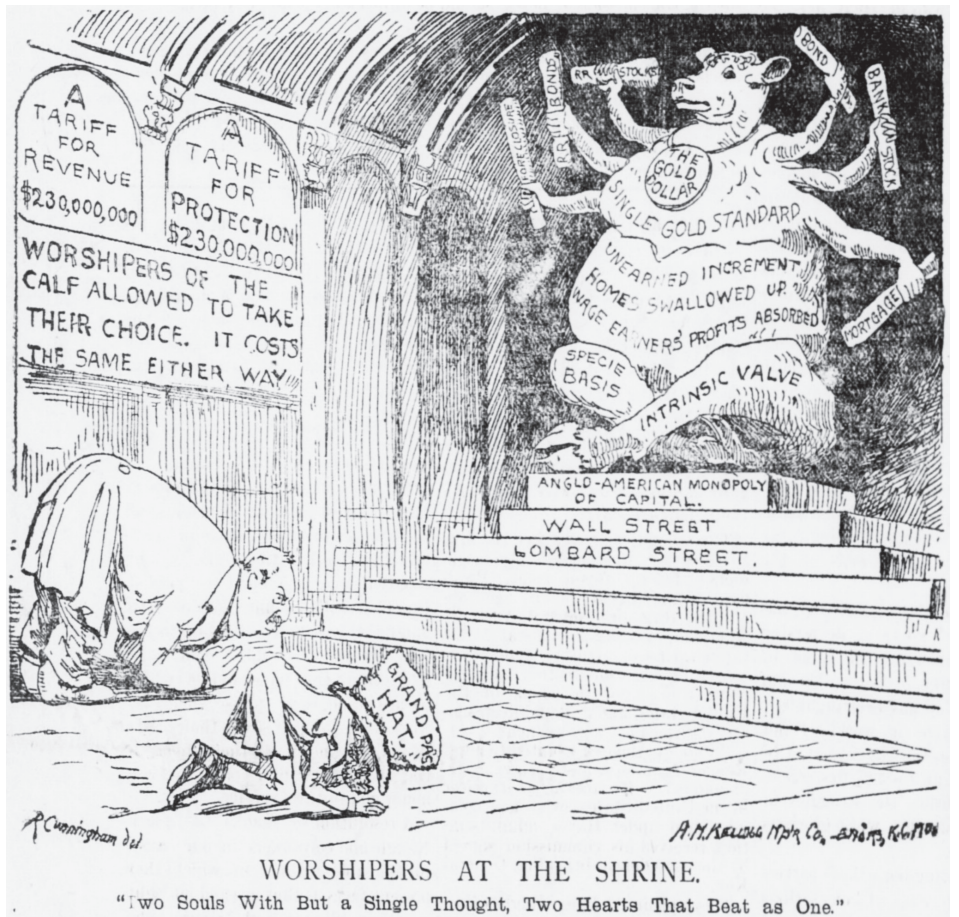


Illustration by Grant Hamilton, 1896, on William Jennings Bryan's 'Cross of Gold' speech at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, which won Bryan the presidential nomination.



## Free Silver

One of the platforms of the Populist Party was the free coinage of silver. William Jennings Bryan's "Cross of Gold" speech at the 1896 Democratic National Convention in Chicago led to his nomination as the Democratic candidate, and unified the Populists and Democrat forces during the next three election cycles. In his speech, he endorsed the free coinage of silver at a ratio of silver to gold of 16 to 1. This highly contested measure would increase the amount of money in circulation and aid cash-poor and debt-burdened farmers.

Although Bryan did not win the White House, the Cross of Gold speech remains one of the of the most powerful and enduring speeches in America's history, well known by all through repeated performances at chautauquas across the country. Dinsmoor's own Crucifixion of Labor utilizes the symbology of the cross paired with the common man, Labor, being set upon by the Grafters of his age.

“You shall not press down upon the brow of labor this crown of thorns, you shall not crucify mankind upon a cross of gold.”  
-William Jennings Bryan, July 9, 1896.

Kansas was a hotbed of Populist and People's Party activity, with hundreds of local newspapers aligning themselves with the plight of the common man. They called for change to the monetary system to make currency more readily available; to create income tax with a sliding scale based on earnings; to put railroads, telegraph, and telephones under government control; to prevent foreign ownership of land; and to overhaul the election process, giving the public more control. Illustrations ran from well-known cartoonists to lesser-known artists, as seen in these illustrations from *The People's Voice*, published in Wellington Kansas. *(Below left, July 29, 1892; below right, Aug. 5, 1892; above July 7, 1892.)*



AN OBJECT LESSON.

"Wealth Belongs to Him Who Creates it. \* \* \* Every Dollar Taken From Industry Without Equivalent is Robbery." Then—What?



THE BALLOT IS MIGHTIER THAN THE BULLET.

# LUCAS INDEPENDENT.

1908

LUCAS. RUSSELL COUNTY. KANSAS

1965

The strange inconsistencies of the American people are beyond comprehension. Now in Massachusetts a majority of 70,000 was given against Equal Suffrage, while at the same time foreigners, that have only been in the country a very few years, and colored men that have only been allowed the right of suffrage a comparatively short time, after generations of slavery and degradation, thousands of both classes unable to either read or write, are given the right to help make laws that the women, many of them, the brightest intellects in the country must obey, without an opportunity to say one word as to whether these laws are right or constitutional, or just. Many of the same women, during the dark hours of the Rebellion gave up their best and dearest friends for the salvation of the country, suffering more anguish of spirit, and hardships because those that they had leaned upon for support and comfort had gone to do valiant battle for the land they loved, and now that such states as Kansas and Massachusetts should give such overwhelming majorities against Equal Rights is something that we don't understand. -*The Lucas Advance*, Nov. 14, 1895.

S. P. Dinsmoor was chosen delegate to the Populist state convention in Wichita. -*The Lucas Advance*, March 19, 1896.

Nikola Tesla, an electrician has by means known to himself, managed to connect two autoharps, separated a distance of four miles, with the electrical currents in the earth, so that the strains of music played on one could be distinctly heard and the tune distinguished at the other. -*The Lucas Advance*, March 19, 1896.

THE ADVANCE is not Populist, but as money is a creature of law and the present volume has been concentrated in the hands of money brokers the ADVANCE cannot do otherwise than hold to the former Republican policy, that silver should also be recognized as a full legal tender for all debts, and that a greater volume is needed. Further, if an orthodox Republican can advocate the populist doctrine of paternalism - the construction, ownership, and operation of the Nicaragua Canal by the government - so can a Republican advocate bimetalism and also be consistent. The gold standard was not inserted in the platform by the consent of McKinley's manager, and is distinctively an eastern principle while Kansas lies west of the Alleghany mountains.

The ADVANCE is neither pop nor "Me too, Pete." -*The Lucas Advance*, July 2, 1896.

A stench like that of a London sewer comes from the decaying wheat in the elevator.

Sonnambulists are requested not to throw water through screen doors or visit chicken coops when on their nocturnal walks. -*The Lucas Advance*, July 23, 1896.

The Lincoln Sentinel says Dinsmoor is itching for the nomination of state senator of the 34th district.

-*The Lucas Advance*, July 30, 1896.

## POPULIST MEETINGS.

Aug. 11 at Lucas to nominate a State senator for 34th district.

THE most conspicuous event of the convention last week was the gigantic fizzle at the close of it.

-*The Lucas Advance*, July 30, 1896.

## Address of Welcome

We print the following from the address of welcome by D. D. Deaver to the Senatorial delegates at their meeting in Lucas.

You will find on investigation that one J. P. is a Bane to evil-doers.

We have a Barr and although he is very properly in the hardware business he is not an iron Barr nor a Barr of steel not even a crow-Barr. Go up and get acquainted with him and you will find that he is not a wooden Barr either.

There is an Eye that looks after our sick and the drug business. It is not one of those Eyes that never sleep - one of those Eyes that hang up in the Masonic lodge and see everything, but he is a very good kind of an Eye for all that, and let me say right here that there is no use for anyone to go behind the prescription case and wink the other Eye, in hopes of getting an Eye opener.

We have a Ho(e) man in the mercantile business and while he has hose and half hose and garden hoes and rubber hose he has also many other things to sell.

Our butcher shop is run by Knight which may account for its being closed so much by day.

One of our wheat Byers is appropriately named while we have some people that are not named so appropriately. We have a Fowler in the cattle business and a Naylor in the printing business.

We have some young ladies named Sower engaged in the dressmaking business, and judging from the looks of the young gentlemen who wait on them they are anything but sour.

We have a noted politician in town, you will be sure to meet him before you leave for he Dins-more per capita and finance into the ears of his hearers than Coin's Financial School.

-*The Lucas Advance*, Aug. 20, 1896.

Dinsmoor was elected Justice of the Peace for this end of the Township.

-*The Lucas Advance*, Nov. 5, 1896.

Saturday evening the citizens of Lucas, old and young to the number of about 100 met in Homans hall to eat apples at the expense of S. P. Dinsmoor, the newly elected J. P. for the east end of Fairview township. It was a jolly crowd made up of Republicans, Populists, and Democrats. Short speeches were made both by defeated as well as successful candidates and each was cheered to the echo. After

the speeches were over four men came in with two large tubs filled with nice apples and all partook of the fruit with many good wishes for the success of the successful candidates.

-*The Lucas Advance*, Nov. 12, 1896.

S. P. Dinsmoor made a good land deal last Friday. He sold his home farm east half N. E. quarter Sec. 34, 1 mile east of Lucas for \$4,000 spot cash. The purchaser was John Vroman. This we understand is the best price that has been paid for farm land in Russell county. It is not the first good land deal that Mr. Dinsmoor has made. Six years ago he sold a tract of new unbroken land for \$15.00 an acre.

-*The Lucas Sentinel*, May 28, 1905.

## That Sidewalk.

Something has been said during the last six months about a side walk at S. P. Dinsmoor's. It was reported at one time that he had ordered a new one from Sears and Roebuck, but there must have been some mistake, as the walk has been laid and there is no imported material in it. It is made of what is known to Masons as the rough ashlar, which grows in abundance in Fairview township. It will not be as slippery and dangerous as dressed stone would be.

Charley Kimbele has the brick on hand and is laying his part of the walk, and as he is mechanic and a man of taste we shall look for a better job of brick laying than some that have been done.

The time has now arrived for putting in that crossing at Dinsmoor's which ought to be done in good shape.

-*The Lucas Sentinel*, May 18, 1906.

S. P. Dinsmoor has built a fancy porch on his residence.

That new crossing at Dinsmoor corner is a better job than his walk.

-*The Lucas Sentinel*, June 1, 1906.

S. P. Dinsmoor is building a cement fence which will be the nobbiest fence in town when it is finished. He is doing the work himself and claims that it will not cost him much as his own time is not worth anything. He is quite a genius, can do anything he tries and make anything he wants. He has made a great improvement at that corner and the job is not near finished. -*The Lucas Sentinel*, July 20, 1906.

S. P. Dinsmoor is going to put up a log cabin of stone. -*The Lucas Sentinel*, July 27, 1906.

The prohibition caucus nominated the following ticket Monday evening:

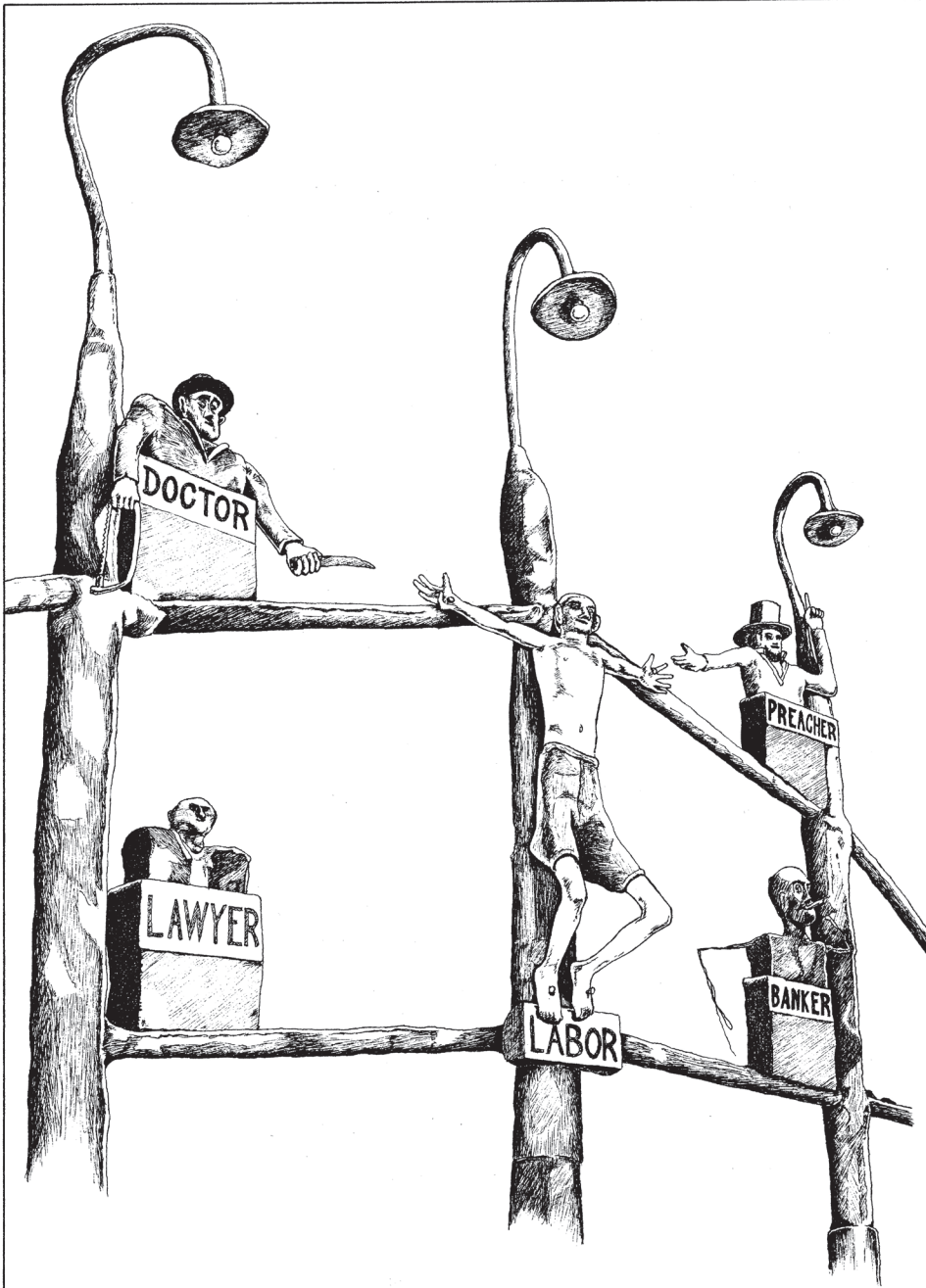
Mayor, S. P. Dinsmoor

Police Judge, No nomination

Councilmen, B. W. Brown, W. A. Keeney, Daniel Bretz, Aaron Smith and H. W. Wilcox. -*The Lucas Sentinel*, March 22, 1907.

Dinsmoor is building a frame house inside of his log cabin. When it is completed he will have the best and most comfortable residence in town. It will be clear of the damp that generally pertains to a stone building and have all the comforts of a frame house. It shows genius and originality in plan and construction and will outlast any building now standing.

-*The Lucas Sentinel*, April 19, 1907.



## A Queer Yard At Lucas, All The Figures Made in Cement

A week ago the Union printed an interesting story of the "Garden of Eden" constructed of cement by S. P. Dinsmoor, an aged real estate dealer of Lucas. The above picture of the place is rather indistinct but will give an idea of the unusual place.

The house is constructed entirely of cement and was the work of Mr. Dinsmoor himself. Notice how it is built to resemble a log cabin.

The big trees shown in the picture are constructed entirely of cement. Mammoth snakes can be seen winding around them. In the mouths of these snakes are electric lights giving a handsome appearance at night.

Look carefully at the tree to the left side of the house and see "The Survival of the Fittest." At the base of the tree will be seen the dog attempting to get up to the fox which is seen on the limb leading to the left. Just in front of this fox but indistinct in the picture is the bird after a worm. Mr. Dinsmoor will complete this scene by placing a cement Indian with bow and arrow trained on the dog a short distance away and still farther away a woodsman with rifle trained on the Indian.

Adam and Eve do not show up in the picture. Notice the small black clump to the right of the house. It is right in this spot that these statues stand.

The fence and all decorations about the place are made of cement. If any Salinaites at any time have business in Lucas, it will pay them to call at the Dinsmoor residence and see these wonders.

*-The Salina Daily Union, May 29, 1912.*

### Wants to Build Park

S. P. Dinsmoor, of the Cabin Home, has made the city officials an offer of \$200 for fifteen feet of the street on the west and north of the Cabin Home, the space to be used for a sidewalk and wall around the grounds. If he is successful in obtaining the ground he will make the Garden of Eden into a park that will be a drawing attraction to a multitude of people.

Mr. Dinsmoor is one of the best advertisers for Lucas that the town possesses and if the proposed improvement is built it will be the best advertising for the town that is boasted of in any town in this country.

*-The Lucas Independent, July 1, 1915.*

### To Whom It May Concern

I think the Garden of Eden and Cabin Home should be in a park. It is now a public place. Thousands come to see it yearly, and visitors are on the increase.

To keep up a show house or park, there must be an income or an endless supply of man or money. I am nearly seventy-three years old – the man cannot last, and the money is not under my control. So if I may look down or up from that place I know not where, I must see that the Garden of Eden is placed in a park enclosed, so that the income will support it.

I would like to build a row of cement trees around this or some other half acre, with a biblical history on the trees from Adam and Eve down to the crucifixion of Christ, then on down to modern civilization, all lighted up with electric lights. Inside of this enclosure, good shade trees and lawn, with a summer house in the center. In the northeast corner I would



## THE ABOVE HOUSE IS FOR SALE

4 rooms 12x15 feet, 4 rooms 12x12 feet, 3 rooms 9x9 feet, bath room 7x12 feet, one hall 8x12 2 halls 6x9 feet, cave under porch 9x9 feet and lighting plant 5x5 feet, too much room for my use. Best built house in the state. The most uique outside and prettiest finished Inside of any dwelling on earth.

Apply at "Cabin Home."

S. P. DINSMOOR.

*-The Lucas Independent, Oct. 14, 1909.*

like to build my monument with native rock, a stone log-house, sixteen feet square, with a vault inside for my cement coffin; a cement tree with flag and light above the monument; also a cement tower, watertank and a platform above, with good, easy, winding stairs, so people could go up forty feet, and look over town; also a cement clabboard roof on the Cabin Home.

If the town would vacate fifteen feet on the west, northwest and north of this half acre, I would build not more than a four foot fence outside the tree line, and next to fence I would make a five-foot walk with entrance on north of Cabin Home, with other improvements. When completed, as now in my imagination, no other park on earth would be like it. No mother would object to her daughter, husband or little child visiting the place at night, as the sixty to one hundred lights on the thirty cement trees would leave no shadow in any nick or corner, where anyone could lose themselves.

It's up to the city of Lucas to keep the Garden of Eden with the above additions or let it go elsewhere. I cannot put in a park with less than fifteen feet of the street. I'll be seventy-three years old in March next. My mind is set on a park. My time is about up – I must get a move on. My best wishes are for Lucas; after that, it is for yours. S.P. Dinsmoor

*-The Lucas Independent, Dec. 16, 1915.*

A petition is being circulated this week asking the city to allow S. P. Dinsmoor's request for fifteen feet of ground on the north and west sides of his "Garden of Eden". The petition has been signed by all residents on streets which would be affected, except one or two. While this request is a little out of the ordinary, it is conceded that the "Garden of Eden" is also a little out of the ordinary, and that it has attractive powers to people living out of Lucas is also conceded by all. If his request is granted, Mr. Dinsmoor plans very extensive improvements which will be started as soon as possible.

*-The Lucas Independent, Dec. 30, 1915.*

### Card of Thanks

S. P. Dinsmoor says that as it is customary when anything near and dear to a person is lost, by death or otherwise,

to publish a card of thanks in the local newspaper thanking the friends for their kindness, he takes this method of thanking his friends for signing his petition for vacating the street about his residence, or rather fifteen feet of it, and which met death at the hands of the city authorities.

*-The Lucas Independent, Jan. 27, 1916.*

S. P. Dinsmoor, owner of the Cabin Home has finally decided to remove all charges for visitors at his place. He says from now on no one will be charged for going thru his house, though the usual explanation will be given all visitors. The cause for this is war tax which a deputy decided that Mr. Dinsmoor must pay for maintaining a show house, but the deputy admitted there was no reason for a license as there was no seating capacity and Mr. Dinsmoor says he is at a loss to know how it can be considered a show house without seating capacity and still collect a tax on admissions. He will, however, continue the sale of post cards.

*-The Lucas Independent, June 6, 1920.*

### Obituary

Samuel Perry Dinsmoor was born near Coolville, Ohio, on Mar. 8, 1843, and died at his home in Lucas, Kansas, on July 21, 1932, aged 89 years, 4 months and 13 days.

When living near Coolville, Ohio, he was engaged in the occupation of farming and grew up to manhood on the farm. While engaged in this occupation the great Civil War broke out and he immediately offered his services to his country and enlisted in Co. B. 116th Ohio Infantry, Aug. 16, 1862 at the age of 19 years, and served until the close of the war. He was engaged in 18 major battles besides many skirmishes and saw the capture of General Lee.

Immediately after he was mustered out of the war he returned to Coolville, Ohio and made application for membership in the Masonic Lodge and was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason in Coolville Lodge 337 on Mar. 27, 1866, probably being the oldest Mason in the State of Kansas at the present time. At present he is a member of the Blue Hill Lodge 198 A. F. & A. M. He was also a charter member of Lucas Chapter No. 188, O. E. S.

In the fall of 1866 he moved to Illinois where he taught school for five terms.

On Aug. 24, 1870, he was united in marriage to Mrs. Frances A. (Barlow) Journey. To this union 5 children were born, viz. Chas A. of Lucas, Kansas, James F. of San Francisco, Calif., Samuel A. of Lawson, Col., Thomas B. of Lucas, Kansas, and Mrs. Elizabeth Mansfield of Lucas, Kansas.

In the fall of 1888 he moved to Lucas, Kansas, two years later he moved to Nebraska. Having lived in Nebraska one year he decided to move back to Lucas, Kansas, where he was to live the remaining years of his life.

In the year 1907 he built his Cabin Home the building of which displayed a genius which was later to develop in the construction of the "Garden of Eden", as he conceived it. This drew the attention of many people and the Cabin Home and Garden of Eden became the Mecca of thousands of tourists and sightseers.

His beloved wife died in the spring of 1917. And the years following he spent in enlarging upon his former plans of the Garden of Eden.

In the spring of 1924 he was united in marriage to Emilie Brozek. To this union two children were born, viz., Emily Jane, 7 years of age and John Willian, 4 years of age.

The deceased came from a remarkable ancestry. He was the 9th generation generation from England, seventh from Scotland, 6th from Ireland and 4th from France. His genealogy on his father's side included the notable names of Robert Burns, the poet and Grover Cleveland past president of the United States, and on his mother's side the name of John Greenleaf Whittier, our beloved American poet.

He was a man known in all parts of the country because of his genius displayed in his work. He leaves to mourn his death, a loving wife and 2 children; also 5 children by a former marriage, besides grandchildren, and great grand children, also one brother, Frank Dinmoor, of Park City, Montana, and one sister Miss Theresa Dinsmoor, of Coolville, Ohio.

Mr. Dinsmoor did not fear death, but looked forward to it as a natural thing and his thoughts can be expressed in the lines of Tennyson:

Sunset and evening star  
And one clear call for me  
And may there be no moaning of the bar  
When I put out to sea.  
Twilight and evening bell,  
And after that the dark!  
And may there be no sadness of farewell,  
When I embark  
For tho from out our bourne of Time and Place  
The flood may bear me far  
I hope to see my Pilot face to face  
When I have crossed the bar.

Funeral services were conducted under the auspices of Lucas Lodge A. F. & A. M., Rev. E. A. Gagle of Wilson, Kansas, acting as worshipful Master. The deceased was interred near his Cabin Home, in a Mausoleum constructed by himself.

*-The Lucas Independent, July 27, 1932.*



MONEY IS CREDIT, such credit as the government chooses to make legal tender in payment of certain debts. The Soldier's credit was stamped on paper and their legal tender quantities – limited – secured by government, and paid to soldiers. The National Bankers' credit (for owning government bonds) is stamped on paper, made legal tender to all National Banks, secured by government, and given to the banker to loan to the good people. The gold miner, or holder of gold, got his credit stamped on his gold. When so stamped it is full legal tender for all debts and given back to the miner, or holder of gold. Strange that we, the man with government of equal (?) rights to all, should favor the few! The government gives chartered rights to a few to run what are unjustly named "National Banks" then give the banks credit with the people, government inspectors report on their solvency, but sometimes they go wrong, the people lose faith in them, followed by what we call a bank panic, or to speak plain, the loss of fool confidence. Strange systems of money we have; a confidence game. If the government would own and run all the banks, loan money as banks now do, pass the profits into the Government treasury, would there ever be a Bank Panic? My friend would it hurt you to pay interest at a low rate to the government, more than to be bled by bankers and sold out in a Bank Panic? If so, don't kick. The place to kick against conditions is in the voting booth; votes for the man who will do what you want done. Never trust another to do what you can do for yourself. Work for the Initiative and Referendum, so you can help make the laws you want. Obey the laws, right or wrong; if wrong correct them by Direct Legislation.

All monopolies of which the people complain, were their foundation in chartered corporations. To prevent monopoly we must stop granting chartered rights to money making industries. When business becomes so large that it cannot be successfully operated by one or a company without chartered rights it is too great to be turned over to corporate greed. All such industries should be condemned by the town, county, city, state or nation. What is a nation, state, city, county or town for, but to do that which the individual cannot do that should be done.

**...S. P. Dinsmoor...**  
LAND, LOAN & INSURANCE AGENT  
PHONE 32  
CABIN HOME

THE GREATEST OBJECT OF LIFE IS TO LIVE, THE DUTY OF MAN IS TO DO  
ALL THE GOOD HE CAN WITH THE LEAST HARM POSSIBLE. MORE HE  
CANNOT DO, LESS, HE FAILS.

Debts ought not to be. I try to collect them on fair terms, Illegal interest or any other unjust claim I will not knowingly try to collect on any terms. Have you money to loan on good farms in this part of Kansas, or do you wish to borrow? Do you want to sell your land or secure a good renter; or are you without a home, and wish to buy or rent a farm? I may be able to help you, write or see me. The duty of a man is to do all the good he can with the least harm possible. Are you in trouble? Consultation with me is free; but as I pay for what I receive, I expect pay for what I give.

*Blue Hill Lodge No 198 A. F. & A. M.*  
*Lucas Kansas.*

*Worshipful Master*

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*Guardians and Brethren – The time will come when I can not do for myself what I shall wish done, so with greater respect for this than any other order and believing my request will be granted – I ask that as soon as possible after my death this order take charge of my body and that it is embalmed placed into my cement coffin and properly sealed – That at the funeral my body be not taken to any church nor any funeral sermon or eulogy given by any one except it be by a Brother Mason. Let a white leather apron be tied around the coffin the little lid placed on the foot of coffin and cement jug placed in front at foot in vault, and that a plate glass be put in place and sealed up (with cement) and that the keys to the mausoleum after my body have been placed therein, be turned over to one of my children along with a bill of all expenses, which I think will be paid, In your granting this request, I leave my explicit and last wishes with you promising ever after to keep my mouth shut.*

-S.P. Dinsmoor, handwritten will on printed personal letterhead.

**A Political Philosopher**  
Forty years ago a farmer of Russell county was preaching a political philosophy that found a good many hearers for the times were turbulent politically. He had studied politics as a faithful citizen, as a soldier in the war to maintain the Union of States, and also as a victim of ills such as farmers have borne thru all ages. But times improved, and interest in government declined. Some advances were made, but to quite an extent politics went on as before. The little farmer held his faith unshaken in great principles of world-wide sweep. The mass were content with fly-specking over tweedledee and Tweedledum. The farmer with in advancing years and with weak heart action, could no longer farm vigorously but he did not forget or abandon fundamental principles as he saw them. An idea came somehow into his mind. He revolved it, and it took form in cement. Tho most enduring thing he could find or work with. The idea grew into a strange creation which is known from coast to coast as the Garden of Eden in Lucas. To thousands who have visited the place, there is nothing but a curious aggregation of cement figures, blending old religious or theological conceptions with speculative masonry and civil government. Nearest to his heart was the governmental part, the part that as a soldier under age he had fought for three years in the army of the Potomac. All the rest was really but a vehicle to show up and bring out, and impress the observer with the enduring principles of government of, by and for the people. Back of mast of the cement figures is this political philosophy, a philosophy so set that when his colonel in the army threatened

to buck and gag any soldier who dared vote a certain way, "Little One", as he was nicknamed, opened wide his ballot, and in the face of superior officers and all others voted the forbidden ticket.

-J.C. Ruppenthal, Jr.  
*The Lucas Independent, Aug. 10, 1932.*

**S.P. DINSMOOR DEAD**  
**Was One of the Three Remaining G. A. R. Veterans and Creator of "Garden of Eden"**

S.P. Dinsmoor, aged 89 years, one of the three remaining members of the Grand Army of the republic at Lucas, and creator of the Garden of Eden, died at this

home, "The Cabin Home in the Garden of Eden" at Lucas, Thursday morning, July 21st.  
In 1907 Mr. Dinsmoor began the construction of his present home which later became known from coast to coast. At the beginning of his creation of this fanciful home Mr. Dinsmoor built a Log cabin from native limestone rock, the stone being fashioned to represent logs. Following this came one by one his creation of Biblical characters and other images of cement; massive cement trees, grape arbors, strawberry beds, soldiers, Indians, snakes, bugs, and almost every conceivable animal is represented there in concrete. Mr. Dinsmoor kept continually adding to his place until its fame as a curiosity became known almost nation wide, and it was only about three years ago that he ceased his labor on it, and then only because failing health and eyesight.  
Mr. Dinsmoor, further gained note by his marriage at 81 years of age to Emile Brozek aged 20, who with their two children, Emily Jane and John, survive. In addition four sons and one daughter, by his first marriage also survive.  
Mr. Dinsmoor's eccentricities led him to build a mausoleum in his back yard, where his first wife lies, and where following the funeral services at the cabin home Sunday, July 24th he was laid to rest.  
-The Lucas Independent, July 27, 1932.

**CARD OF THANKS**  
We wish to sincerely express our thanks to our neighbors and friends, for their assistance, and kindness during our recent Bereavement. Also the Masonic Lodge for carrying out the last wishes of Mr. Dinsmoor; also the American Legion and for the floral offerings.  
Mrs. S.P. Dinsmoor and his children.

