

GHM-Oral History Project- Interview Answers

Larry Pearce

ID:1/11/2022

DOB: 4/10/1938

Gardner, Kansas

1. Are you a **Gardner native** (born here or in the metro area)? Yes
2. What brought you and/or your family to Gardner?
“My family settled here in 1857. They were farmers.”
3. When did you move here? 1938
4. What was your family’s trade/business? Farming
5. Tell us about this experience...
“I was raised on the Pearce homestead on Waverly Road “now a warehouse,” until 10 years of age & then my parents bought a 80 acre farm on Gardner Road. I still live on the farm with my wife & my daughters also live on the farm in their own houses. My grandchildren were also raised on this farm.”
6. If you are not a native, when did you first move to Gardner? N/A
7. What is your earliest memory of Gardner? N/A
8. What is your favorite memory of Gardner?
“Having close friends for a lifetime. Talking to Walt Sandby the night watchman. Knowing almost everyone in town.”
9. What have you noticed that has changed the most about Gardner during your residency?
Do you perceive this as a good/bad? And why?
“The town’s population has grown so much in the last 10 years. There is so much more traffic & we now have an intermodal I can see from my house. The semi-truck traffic is

terrible. I personally liked the town when it was less populated, and I knew people when I went to the stores.”

10. Anything else you would like to share?

“Larry passed away 1-3-22. He will be buried in Gardner near his parents & ancestors.”

Via Larry and Donna Pearce.