Mr. Merriam came to Kansas from the oilfields of Pennsylvania in 1902. He headed Merriam and Addison Drilling Company during the development of the El Dorado Field. In the early 1920s, Mr. Merriam was a partner in the Merriam and Findeiss Company. The company played a leading role in developing the Florence pool. In 1931, Mr. Merriam transferred his activities to Western Kansas and operated out of Lyons.