



Honoring Wyoming's 100-year-old farms and ranches

2014 WYOMING CENTENNIAL FARM AND RANCH YEARBOOK



ARTS. PARKS. HISTORY.

Wyoming State Parks & Cultural Resources

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Office of the Governor

Dear Centennial Farm and Ranch Award Recipient,

I congratulate you on being honored this year as a centennial family. With 100 years or more of family ownership and operation, you have earned the distinction. The Wyoming Centennial Farm and Ranch Program records this achievement in a yearbook. Families recognized in 2014 are spotlighted in the pages of the yearbook that follow.

I am pleased to recognize you. As a fourth generation Wyoming rancher myself, I appreciate all that goes into a multi-generation ag operation in our state. It represents hard work over a long period of time and shows a deep commitment to the state, the land, and the agriculture business.

History has been made on Wyoming farms and ranches. We see that history in the photos, the family stories, and the remarkable structures that dot our state's landscape. Your family is part of Wyoming history – past, present and future – and that is significant.

You provide food for our nation and more – open spaces, wildlife habitat, scenic views, for example. You secure our western heritage and preserve the beauty that millions of visitors travel here each year to enjoy. You contribute so much. To paraphrase an old billboard I thought was great, "If you like what you see, thank Wyoming ag."

Thank you for keeping Wyoming agriculture strong. I wish your family the best and another great century!

Sincerely,



Matthew H. Mead
Governor

Evergreen Farms, Inc., 1896

The Wayland & Theron Anderson Family, Laramie County

As told by Wayland Anderson from information from the Lars Anderson family members compiled over the past 100-plus years

Lars Anderson was born in Skara, Sweden on July 7, 1837. On September 26, 1870 he married Kate Nilsson. Kate was born January 21, 1844 in the town of Osentrop, Sweden. Four children were born to Lars and Kate: Nettie, January 20, 1874; John, April 10, 1875; Gust, June 16, 1878, and Charlie, October 9, 1879. All four children were born in Skara, Sweden.

In 1882, Lars and Kate agreed that Lars should visit family relatives who had previously moved from Sweden to Wahoo, Nebraska. Lars arrived on Ellis Island, New York by ship on May 31, 1882. Lars sent for Kate and the four children in 1883 to join him in America. This major move for the family was brought about by at least three factors: (1) Land was very difficult to own in Sweden and in most of Europe due to the feudal system. Most families rented land from the land owners and did not make very much money. The opportunity offered in the United States to acquire land by homesteading was very attractive; (2) Food was in short supply due to the potato famine in Europe; and (3) Climatic conditions in Nebraska were more favorable than in Sweden.

In 1887 the Lars Anderson family left Wahoo, Nebraska and moved to the Wyoming Territory. The trip from Wahoo to Pine Bluffs, Wyoming took five days by train. They arrived on April 28, 1887. Pine Bluffs was also a stopping place for cattle

drives from the state of Texas to bring cattle into the Great Plains area as far north as Montana. Upon arrival of the train in Pine Bluffs, Lars's milk cow was unloaded from the train car to the open range and became inadvertently mixed up with the cattle from the herds brought up on the Texas Trail. Lars Anderson was able to convince the Texas trail boss that the milk cow mixed in with the other cattle was his cow because his cow still had hay from the bed of the train that transported the milk cow to Pine Bluffs.

On May 9, 1887 Lars Anderson filed his homestead claim on 160 acres in the Salem community approximately 45 miles east of Cheyenne. Lars and his family lived in a dugout for a short period of time. He then built a house out of the native sod by plowing the sod and then stacking it one black on top of the other. This manner of construction was used by many of the settlers because the sod was free and it was very durable if it was covered, usually with stucco.

Nettie, John, Gust, and Charlie also homesteaded near their parents. Charlie purchased Nettie's homestead which was later included with several parcels of land purchased by Warren and Artice Anderson. Warren and Artice planted a shelter belt of evergreen trees shortly after they settled in 1944. Later their two sons, Theron and Wayland, planted a shelter belt on Charlie's homestead. These shelter belts have been very useful to help ward off the wind, protect buildings, and provided a good reason for naming the farm "Evergreen Farms" on behalf of Charlie Anderson

The Bettmann Ranch, 1898

The Judy Bettmann Family, Crook County



Bettman Ranch in the early days

As told by Judy Bettman

With trust and respect for the judgment of Uncle Nick Hoffman (from Edwardsville, Illinois), William ventured from the family farm in Illinois to visit Uncle Nick in 1889. Uncle Nick prospered on his homestead at Carlile, raising cattle and horses. William returned to Illinois after a misfortune of breaking his collarbone. In 1891, William married Mary Witt. During the next six years, they had four children, Edna, Willis, Tom, and Anna. The death of two-year old Willis was a terrible loss to both William and Mary. In 1898 the family arrived in Wyoming and assumed ownership of property relinquished by Uncle Nick's neighbor, John Eichoff. In 1910 they were ready to build a new home, a large two-story frame house with a steep four-gabled roof. In 1911 a stage stop came to mind and William started plans for a barn. After sections were laid out, family and neighbors from all around helped and the massive barn was up in one day. It's large enough to hold twenty horses tied in stalls and

fed in mangers. A stage stop began. William and Mary and children served meals to stage crews and travelers for 25 cents each.

In 1901 Mary became postmistress and operated the switchboard while William became a commissioner and helped organize the highway department. Needless to say, the ranch was a busy place for years.

Mary died in 1922 and William kept busy as a county commissioner and working on the ranch. Being a commissioner, William began planning new ideas for a new highway that would pass through the ranch land. In 1923 the building of the road was started and completed between Sundance and the Pine Ridge Church in 1924.

The increase of tourists began and William built a filling station, a set of cabins, a cook house, and a mechanic garage situated north of the highway from the ranch headquarters in 1928.



Bettman Ranch

It was called Carlile Camp.

William lived on his ranch until he died of a short illness in August, 1935 at 69 years old.

After more than a hundred years, the house, larger barn, and stone building still stand today, reminders of all the labor of the pioneering couple. Edna Zimmerschied was born in Edwardsville, Illinois on July 26, 1892 to William and Mary. Edna married Dr. Edward Gaule in 1920. They owned and ran the drugstore in Moorcroft along with Dr. Gaule's medical practice. Dr. and Edna became parents of a daughter, Mary, in 1921. Dr. Gaule passed away in 1930. In 1937 Edna assumed her parent's ranch at Carlile.

In 1935 Edna married James Graves of Miles City, Montana. Mr. Graves passed away suddenly a few months later leaving Edna with the Graves Apartments which she ran during the 1940s and 1950s. She employed others to tend the operations

of the ranch at Carlile.

During 1961, Edna, Mary, and her grandchildren returned to the ranch to make their home. Edna passed away in 1990 at 98 years of age, and Mary passed away in 1995.

The ranch is currently owned and operated by William and Mary's great-granddaughter, Judy Bettman. The ranch has thrived under the stewardship of four generations.



Sen. John Barrasso, Gov. Matthew H. Mead, Rep. Cynthia Lummis, Bettman Family and Sen. Mike Enzi

The Bomhoff Farm, 1914

The Jack, Melody, and Tracy Bomhoff Family, Laramie County



Carpenter homestead: Amy, Tracy, Helen, & Willis Bomhoff, 1910

As told by the Bomhoff family

Tracy Bomhoff came from Tecumseh, Nebraska in an immigrant car to Carpenter, Wyoming and filed on a homestead in 1907. He brought a team of horses, a few cows, some chickens, and some furniture. This homestead was nine miles southeast of Egbert, Wyoming.

When the house was built in 1908, Amy his wife, and children, Helen 5, and Willis 3, came out to Egbert, Wyoming on the train. Tracy met them at the depot which was a red box car. They all went to the homestead in a lumber wagon.

The farming work was hard, and the first year they didn't raise enough for chicken feed. Tracy took the job of running the lumberyard in Egbert and



Egbert Lumber Company, 1910

boarded in Egbert. He would come home to the Carpenter homestead on weekends to visit.

By 1910 Tracy had made enough money and had lived on the Carpenter homestead long enough that he now owned this land. The family now

moved to Egbert where he was still managing the lumber yard.

On March 9, 1914 Tracy bought the farm just north and east of Egbert from Lillie M. Jackson who had homesteaded this farm on April 9, 1892. This farm had a small two-room house and a barn. On January 10, 1916 Dale Bomhoff was born in the house that was on the farm and lived in this house his entire life.

Over the next 100 years, this farm has been used to raise work horses, saddle horses, work mules, milk cows, beef cattle, wheat, oats, barley, alfalfa as well as using the native grass for pasture.

In 1933, Dale and his grandfather, Fred Clineburg, dug the irrigation well by hand. The priority date on this well is 1935. This well has been used to raise alfalfa, certified seed barley, seed oats, and seed wheat. Presently, organic wheat is being raised on the farm.

This farm was passed from Tracy and Amy Bomhoff in 1942 to Dale and Marian Bomhoff. In 1990, it went to Jack and Melody Bomhoff. Someday, it will go to Tracy and Carrie Bomhoff.



Egbert farm, 1914



Egbert farm, 1948



Egbert farm, 1978



Egbert farm, 1992



Branding, 1995



Irrigated organic wheat, 2013



Irrigated summer fallow, 2013



Egbert farm, 2014



Organic wheat harvest, 2013



Sen. John Barrasso, Gov. Matthew H. Mead, Bomhoff Family, Rep. Cynthia Lummis and Sen. Mike Enzi

The Thompson Ranch, 1914

The Max & Dianne Boroff Family, Sublette County

As told by the Boroff Family

Harry Thompson came to Wyoming in 1909 and worked as a cowboy and ranch hand for several ranches in the area. Harry met Laura Richardson while she was working in her mother's store in Daniel. He had gone in to buy a saddle. He not only bought a saddle but met his future bride. They were married in Denver in 1911. They went to work for a large ranch in the San Luis valley of Colorado.

While working in Colorado, their first son was born. After the ranch sold, they moved to a homestead in Sublette County, Wyoming, and took up the homestead in 1914. On May 15, 1914, a second child was born. She was named Laura and was followed by Ole on August 31, 1917. Paul was born January 12, 1920 and Marion, Max "Joe" Boroff mother's, on April 25, 1922. The last two children were Bob, on December 31, 1927, and Sally on October 2, 1931.

Harry worked for the Forest Service and also cutting firewood for sale. This brought some much-needed cash dash during the hard times. He was also a deputy assessor for many years. He would do the work in the winter on skis, staying with ranches along the way.

Harry and Laura also had a small dairy they used for the family and we were able to sell cream at the local store. Laura also had the area post office in her home for many years. During the tie drive days, she cooked for the men as the tie drive passed their home.

In the 1960s, Harry and Laura slowed down from the ranch work and turned it over to their two boys, Harold and Ole. The boys ran the ranch up to 1991 when they sold it to the nephew and his wife, Max "Joe" and Dianne Boroff.

Campbell Cattle Co., 1913

The Campbell Family, Sublette County



The original Campbell homestead cabins & corrals, Bondurant, date unknown

Lorenzo Edgar Campbell, known as Lennie, first rode into the Fall River Basin in 1910 with his brother, Arthur, and brother-in-law Shell Baker. He liked what he saw, but did not stay there. He returned in 1913 with his wife, Luretta, known as Rita, and homesteaded on the then sagebrush and willow flat between Jack Creek and Dell Creek.

That seems late, compared to the rest of Sublette County south of there, and is. That country was settled much earlier in the 1880s or earlier. The settlers started near Big Piney and worked their way north through the Daniel and Pinedale areas.

The Fall River Basin (the name was later changed to the Hoback Basin by the Forest Service) is the northernmost area of the county, and the last to be settled because of the deep snow. The first ones to homestead there did so just before 1900.

Times were very tough for Lennie and Rita on the start, because if you came with nothing, there was

really no source of income from the land until you acquired something such as livestock. That was hard to do if you had nothing, so Lennie worked different jobs. He packed the mail out over the Rim on skis in the winter and hayed for ranches out around Pinedale. Rita would often cook for the hay crew on these ranches.

Lennie helped carve the first road through the Hoback Canyon with a team and fresno. He was paid \$3 a day for himself and his team. That was really good money then. At one time, it looked as if he might not be able to prove up on the homestead. It was in his name only, so Rita was going to divorce him, refile in her name and then remarry him. That's how dedicated they were to that piece of ground.

Together they raised four children, three girls and a boy. They were named Mildred, Rhoda, Walden and Lila, and were born in that order. Their first cows were 10 Holstein milk cows, which they milked and

sold the cream from in five-gallon cream cans.

As times got better, they along with their son Walden began putting together a set of Angus cows. They had some of the first black cattle in Sublette County. At that time and for a long time after, Angus cattle were scorned and hated. Most all cattle were Herefords. Some neighboring ranchers cut one of Lennie's bulls once because he mixed with their cows. It's too bad Lennie and Walden can't see where the Angus breed has progressed to today.

In 1943 or 1944, while Walden was fighting in World War II, Lennie acquired another ranch, known as the Bondurant Place, as it was originally owned by people named Bondurant. Still standing today on that piece of property is a two-story building that was big for its time that housed the first post office and store in the Basin, therefore giving the community its name, "Bondurant."

Somewhere during that time period, probably after Walden returned from the war, a partnership between Lennie and Walden was formed. They called it L.E. Campbell & Son. It remained under that name for many years, even after they were both gone.

In 1952, Walden married Patricia McGinnis, known as Pat, and they acquired another ranch on which they lived. On that ranch they raised four children – Kevin, Katherine, Colleen and Lennie, named after his grandfather. They were born in that order.

The original Lennie died in 1959. Rita died in the mid-1970s. Walden died in 1979, leaving Pat and Kevin to manage the ranch. Kevin was 25 years old; Lennie was 11. They got through the first tough years without Walden and kept the ranch together. Eventually a partnership was formed between Patricia, Kevin, and Lennie, which still exists today. In the late 1980s, the business name was changed from L.E. Campbell & Son to Campbell Cattle Co.

They still have an all-black herd but run some Hereford bulls as well as their Angus bulls so they have some black bally calves. They hold their calves over and sell them as yearlings, and buy

more grass calves to go with them. Most of the cattle summer on the forest except for the spayed heifers, which summer on private pasture west of Daniel on Cottonwood Creek.

The Basin is a huge kind of bowl largely comprised of National Forest with grazing permits on it. It is surrounded by the Gros Ventre and Wyoming mountains to the north and the west, and the Rim to the south and east, with a canyon to the north that the Hoback River flows through as an outlet. It is a tough winter area, with snow that can sometimes cover the fences.

While at one time there were as many as eight herds of mother cows wintered there, today there are only two, Campbell Cattle Co. and another.

Campbell Cattle Co. is still very much a cowboy outfit. They feed with teams and put up mostly loose hay. They have lots and lots of cow work and every bit of it is done ahorseback.

The Werner Land Corporation, 1914

The Waylon & Mandy Carson Family, Campbell County



The Werner homestead, Sadie with Mary, age 2, and George, age 4, 1918

As told by the Werner Family

"In ranching you learn how to do for yourself and endure the hard times. It's a different lifestyle, but it teaches you boundaries. You can be completely wiped out from one big blizzard or one big hail storm, which has happened over the 100 years of the Werner Ranch, but with industriousness and strong-heartedness of pioneer times carried down through the years of my great grandma and great grandpa, this ranch is firmly established in the Werner name and I plan for my children to take it over one day."

-Waylon Carson

The Werner land includes 5000 acres of deeded land and 3000 acres of leased land. The Carson

family puts up 700 tons of hay a year and runs 300 head of Black Angus cattle as well as raises 100 acres of wheat in dryland farming. This year, the ranch turns one hundred, but it's story starts over 130 years ago...

George Werner was born and raised in Bay Ridge, Long Island, New York on March 7th, 1883. He was the son of Rupert and Martha Werner and had four brothers and four sisters. His father worked for the Blue Point Fire Department and also operated a tavern in Brooklyn where in 1893 George met Buffalo Bill. From this contact came his decision to go west. When he reached the age of seventeen he hopped on a freight train and ended up in Texas, where he went to work for the Willis Spear Ranch, who were at that time, in 1902, trailing cattle to



Werner family: Cecilia, Frances, Mary, Geoge, Avis, Rupert, Patricia, Marge, Tom, Sadie, Christina, & George, 1944

their ranch in Granite Springs, Wyoming. He was such a greenhorn the cowboys loved to tease him. They would make him get on the frisky horses every morning, which never failed to buck him off. Another time they gave him some moonshine (“rot-gut whiskey” as George renamed it) and it made him so sick he said that was the last time he ever drank any liquor.

In 1905, George moved to Nebraska where he worked for ten years. It was in Alliance, Nebraska where George fell in love while working as a brakeman for the railroad. Sadie Norbeck had just moved to town from Wood River, Nebraska, to live with her half-sister Elizabeth. Sadie was born April 11th, 1894 in Gothenberg, Nebraska to a poor family of 15 children (eight half-brothers and sisters and six full brothers and sisters). Her parents, John and Albertina Norbeck, could not afford to feed all of their kids so most of the children were farmed out to work for and live with other people at early ages. Sadie was sent



Werner Ranch house before the house & buildings burned down in 1967

to live with Eva Wilson in Wood River at the age of eight and lived with her until she was seventeen. She and George married on June 30th, 1915 in Alliance.

George had a homestead near Bridgeport, Nebraska. However, through his travels he knew he wanted to

own a piece of Wyoming. Beings how George could not be issued a second homestead, Sadie took up a homestead in her name in 1914. When they were married in 1915, George quit his job with the railroad, sold his homestead in Nebraska, and rode the train to Arvada, Wyoming. From there they rode in horse and buggy the twenty-five miles to their homestead. What now totals almost 8,000 acres, started as a half section of land near Spotted Horse, Wyoming. The town was named after a Native American chief who at one time had camped on the ranch. They built a tarpaper shack and proved up on their rights. Sadie always said that by marrying a railroader she thought she would get to travel all over the country, but instead got a one-way ride to Wyoming.

Sadie's sister Elizabeth and her husband got a homestead joining the Werner's, as did George's brother Frank and his sister Martha Werner. It wasn't long before George and Sadie bought their family's homesteads as well as several other adjoining dwellings. They would move the houses off the newly acquired pieces of land and would add them to their house and other buildings on the home place.

Horses, rather than cattle, were the principle stock raised on the ranch at its start. Mr. Werner's brand was "G over W" on the left hip, which was originated in 1904 in Nebraska and was brought to Wyoming by George. This brand is still used today by George and Sadie's granddaughter, Ronna (Werner) Carson.

George and Sadie raised 11 children on their 3500 acre ranch along with 200 head of Hereford cattle and 500 acres of wheat. Most of the children were born on the home place and were delivered by their father and a neighbor woman that would play the part of a midwife. They began their education at home until a schoolhouse was built on the ranch. The teachers always boarded with the Werner's.

Life on the ranch was very different eighty years ago. George and Sadie endured the hard times of drought, hard winters (the winter of 1949 wiped out their whole herd of cattle), grasshoppers and crickets. Sadie said she would have to hurry and



George & Sadie Werner



Waylon Carson and his family live on the site of the original Werner Ranch homestead. The 5,000-acre ranch was founded by George and Sadie Werner in 1914. George Werner had found the location near Spotted Horse while working as a brakeman for the railroad. Sadie Werner filed for the homestead before she married George in 1915, since George already had started a homestead in Alliance, Neb., and wasn't eligible to do so again. Shortly after the two were married, they moved to their homestead in Wyoming, where they raised 11 children.

Waylon Carson ranch house

get the clothes off the clothesline as soon as they dried because the grasshoppers would actually eat holes in the clothes. Sadie raised a big garden to compliment her meals of deer, antelope, and rabbits. She would even hit porcupines over the head with a 2 x 4 and render the lard of them to use in cooking and soap making. Whenever they felt they could afford it, the family would butcher one of their cows or pigs. Of course, there was always a milk cow and chickens on the home place as well. Water was hauled from a well a mile from the house, their bathroom was an outhouse, and the only source of light was kerosene lamps. Sadie made all their clothes and would order their shoes and over boots from the Montgomery Ward catalog, which consisted of one pair each a year for George, Sadie, and all eleven children. The family would keep up with the happenings of the rest of the world with a battery radio.

In 1956, George and Sadie's youngest son, Tom, and his wife, Betty Sams, took over the ranch. George and Sadie lived on the ranch in the main house until their deaths. Sadie passed away February 25th, 1961, and George passed away February 26th, 1966.

In 1967, the main house burned down. It was right after that that Tom sold the ranch to his brother, Rupert, and Rupert's wife, Rosemary Rohan. Rupert owned the Caryl Wilson Ranch, which joined the Werner Ranch. Rupert raised black angus and wheat on both spreads until his death in 2009. Rupert's grandson, Waylon Carson, son of Ronna (Werner) Carson and Orville Carson, took over the ranch when Rupert died. Waylon was at his grandpa's side from the time he was two years old. Waylon loved the ranch life and got his education through ranching with his father Orville and grandpa Rupert; which he called The School of Hard Knocks. After Waylon graduated from high school, he attended Wyoming Technology Center in Laramie as a diesel technician, which he has found to be a great asset on the ranch. Waylon married Amanda Thrush who was also raised on a ranch near Little Powder River. The Carsons have three children, Chelsey, Faith, and Denton. To this day, they continue the family legacy by ranching and farming on the same land George and Sadie made a home one hundred years ago.



Denton Carson, Rupert Werner, Waylon Carson harvesting on Werner Ranch



Waylon, Mandy, Chelsey, Denton, & Faith Carson, owners of Werner Land



Sen. John Barrasso, Gov. Matthew H. Mead, Carson Family, Rep. Cynthia Lummis and Sen. Mike Enzi

The Chambers Ranch, 1914

The Chambers Family, Platte County

As told by Janette Martindale Chambers

Born August 2, 1849, at Tipton, Iowa, George Washington Hiteshew came to Cheyenne, Wyoming Territory, in 1872 from Tennessee, just five years after the Union Pacific Railroad's (UP) arrival and the formation of Cheyenne. He settled at Dead Man's Creek and later moved to Lone Tree, near Cheyenne and close to Buford/Buford Station. In 1869, Buford consisted of a water-house and three buildings. It was a regular sidetrack station for the UP and a storage place for much of the lumber that was taken from the surrounding mountains. Water for the station had to be elevated from springs in a ravine to the south. George lived in the area for nine years owning acreage on a ranch 25 miles west of Cheyenne and two miles south of Buford Station.

In an account written by Mattie (Dayton) Hiteshew in her later years and given to her grandson's wife, Peggy Joss, she said, *"George was thirty-two years of age when he decided to marry."* She related he had no beard and was a strong healthy man with blue eyes and medium dark hair. Mattie stated, *"His (George's) sister (Annie Bristow) lived in Rockwood, Tennessee. He wrote to her and said he decided to get married and gave the description of the girl he wanted. He wanted a girl that was in her teens and said if there was one there that filled the description he would come after her. He was thirty-two years of age."* The sister replied, *"There was one that filled the description exactly, but if he wanted her, he would have to hurry as there were others that was (were) trying to get her."*

George had lived in Tennessee with his parents, Jacob and Catherine Hiteshew, and family before coming to Wyoming. Jacob owned land in Tennessee and was Postmaster from February 13, 1868 until 1874 at Pleasant Hill. So, George was familiar with the area and many of the people.

In Mattie's words, *"He (George) came to spend Christmas, and I lived 20 miles from his*



Mattie Dayton & George Washington Hiteshew, married Jan. 5, 1881

sister's place. She sent for me to come and spend Christmas with her, but I didn't know what she was planning to do. When I got there I wouldn't have anything to do with him (George) as I was to marry a college professor, John Abel."

Mattie Dayton continued, *"We were well acquainted with his sister but of course I had no idea what she wanted with me." Both families were trying to see which could win me over, but his sister told me one morning that I was to be married that evening at four o'clock. I asked her if I could go home to see Mother first and she said 'No, ' but I could after I was married. So, at four o'clock that evening January 5, 1881, the Justice of the Peace came, and she made me marry him."*



George Hiteshew on wagon roundup

Mattie said, *“After we were married, I went home for a few days visit before coming west. We arrived at Buford about four o’clock in the afternoon the latter part of January in 1881. We walked out to his ranch, which was two miles (south). His cabin was only 14x16 feet and he had a couple of bachelors living in it while he was gone and it was certainly a dirty place. He had no furniture and the bedstead was made of rough lumber nailed up. The mattress was a gunnysack filled with hay. He used old-fashioned apple-boxes for seats and the table was made of rough boards.”*

George and Mattie’s first three children were born there. Charles Fielding Hiteshew was born December 13, 1881. Clara was born December 26, 1882, and Retta (my grandmother) was born March 5, 1884. With the help of George’s younger brother Sheridan, “Sherd,” they planted 25 acres of potatoes the spring of 1882. In the fall they were harvested and taken to both Cheyenne and Laramie City to sell, and they cleared over \$1,000. They also took wild meat (deer) to sell, according to “Sherd’s” daughter, Juliana Hiteshew Saul. Juliana also said the Hiteshews bought 500 acres at Lone Tree for \$1.00 an acre, but she couldn’t confirm it. According to Mattie, after she came to Wyoming, they continued to live near Buford on the ranch for six years and had two family neighbors, Haygoods and Robins.

Cheyenne had three early photographers-



Charles, Mattie, Retta, and Clara Hiteshew, ca 1885-1886



Retta Hiteshew

Retta Hiteshew Woody wrote on the back of this picture, "My father built this house in 1888 on his ranch at Lance Creek, Manville, Wyoming. Here is where I spent my childhood days and lived until I went to Laramie to school."

Woody ranch house, built 1888

Charles D. Kirkland, William G. Walker and Joseph E. Stimson. Kirkland was one of the first photographers in Cheyenne. Kirkland photographed Mattie and her three children Charles, Retta, and Clara sometime around 1885/1886.

It was the hot, dry summer of 1886 that George, Mattie, and their three children moved to Keeline, Wyoming, after George had spent fourteen years in the Buford area. They emigrated from Cheyenne by team to Keeline and it took them 14 days. They settled on a ranch August 8, 1886, six miles north of Keeline near the Chalk Buttes. They used the OK brand, and through the ensuing years raised cattle, sheep, horses, and mules. In later years, he also raised hogs. Mattie said, "*When we landed there (Keeline), the country was unsettled and full of Indians.*"

In 1888, George built a new ranch house that is still standing and being used to this day. It was made of rock and cement and has 16 inches-to two-feet thick walls. The house was not built on the spot where they first lived, but was about one mile east from the Chalk Buttes and in a unique position in the low lands along Lance Creek. According to some, the Indians had a burial ground on top of the buttes. Many artifacts were found in that area.

This ranch in 2014 belongs to George and Mattie's great-grandson, Artie Joss, and has been in the family for 128 years.

In the years following their move to Keeline, three more children were born to George and Mattie. They were Minnie Ethel, "Ethel," born September 18, 1889, Oliver born January 18, 1891, and Hazel Malissa born October 4, 1901.

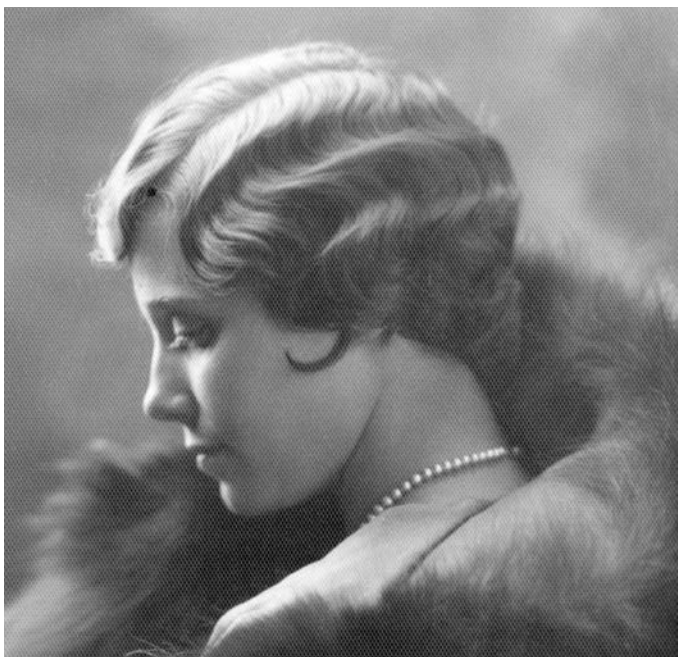
Ethel (Hiteshew) Dern wrote of various incidents, "*The most excitement was when the Indians came through-we were afraid of them-one time mother took us up on the hill east of the house but we got back before they had left-one old buck says, 'Fraid, heap afraid.'*-One time they came, Mother was cooking tomato preserves-those crazy Indians took that pan out by the well-got some spoons and ate them. Another time they got Retta and was (were) carrying her to their camp. Mother's brother Bill (Dayton) was there and he went and got her. I hid behind the dining-room door and was I scared. We had country school out there for awhile, Sothmans and us-the Indians would pass the school house, Bill Sothman went out and talked to them-they had a white woman in one wagon and she was sure crying."



Retta Hiteshew, daughter of George Washington Hiteshew & Mattie (Dayton) Hiteshew



Retta Hiteshew, University of Wyoming graduate, 1905



Retta Hiteshew



Retta at University of Wyoming

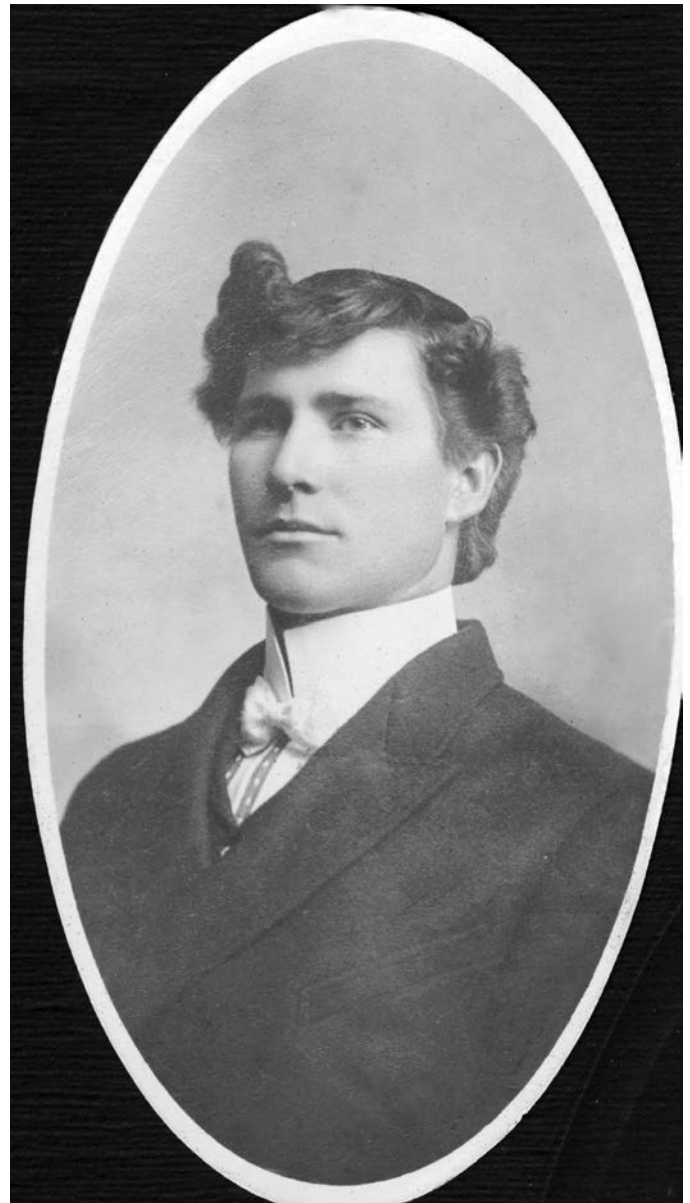
Art Joss, grandson of Mattie and George Hiteshew, and son of Clara, related, *"Twice a year, George would be gone for two weeks at a time (fall and*

winter). He went to Cheyenne for supplies. The Indians were fairly friendly, but about the time he'd get ready to leave, one would see Indians peering over the ridge. It was said, that they would steal anything that wasn't tacked down when the men folks were gone ... " Mattie said, "When the Indians would go through they would stop and ask for milk, they called it 'suk, suk' . "

Mattie Hiteshew became community nurse and midwife to the Sothmans and other neighbors. When called upon, she would grab her five-pound and gallon syrup pails of medicines and be on her way. Mattie also raised a huge garden. Besides the vegetables, she had strawberries, blue plums, apple trees, raspberries, currants, red and yellow plums, and a big pen with dill seed. The girls helped their mother with the garden and canning.

When Retta, my grandmother, was about ten years old, Mattie began moving to Manville for three months during the winter so the children could attend school. This gave them six months schooling with the three they received on the ranch. Retta's formal secondary education was received at the University of Wyoming Prep School from 1899-1902. From 1902-1905, Retta took Normal Training at the University of Wyoming in Laramie. One of her first teaching jobs was at the Gillespie School near Orin, Wyoming. It became one of her most memorable jobs when a bull came to the schoolhouse and some of the students teased him. Consequently, the teacher and students either spent the rest of the day in the outdoor toilet or on top of the schoolhouse while the bull "raised the dickens."

It was during this time that Retta met a man by the name of James Monroe Woody either while in Laramie or possibly when teaching at the Gillespie's. James Woody, also sometimes known by his middle name, Monroe, worked after coming to Wyoming as a fireman, helped put up hay for John McFarlane in the mountains near Owen, and rode for the Toltec Livestock Company that ran cattle, horses and sheep. Working for the Toltec Livestock Company, he traveled a large area. Sometimes James got his mail at Garrett and sometimes at Rock River.



James Monroe Woody, son of Lewis Cass Woody & Martha (Murray) Woody

According to an account written in Vic White's 1933 diary, "*James Monroe Woody, we always called him Monroe. His Mother and my father's mother were sisters. My Father, Julius Franklin White, better known as Sam White, came to Tie Siding in 1874 from Georgia, induced him to come west in about the year of 1903, as I remember. He worked for the Toltec Live Stock Company, and rode with us during the Summer Season looking after the interest of his Company, as they ran many horses on the range at that time. He was a fine clean-cut man who bore the earmark of refinement, so scarce in those days ...*" He came west from the Skeenah Valley in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Georgia.



Retta at her homestead cabin with Donna, daughter Stella, & Bud



Stella Mattie Woody

The valley was very similar to the area of the ranch in the Horseshoe Valley near Glendo that James and Retta Woody later bought in 1914 after their marriage. James was born December 23, 1876, to Lewis Cass Woody and Martha L.(Murray) Woody. He was one of eleven children, and at least three of his brothers (Lee, Robert and Tom) also came west.

In the summer of 1908, James and Retta moved to a ranch owned by Retta's father near Marsland, Nebraska. They had two children, Stella Mattie, born on July 2, 1908 at Marsland and Laura Blanche, born February 11, 1910. Stella's birth was premature, and she was so small Retta put her in a painted yeast box 5½" high and 6¾" x 11¼", that had been lined with cattail fuzz and was kept above an old home range in the warming oven that acted like a modern day incubator. Before Laura's birth, Retta was stricken with what was then referred to as childbirth paralysis and became paralyzed from the waist down. (In later years, it was believed that Retta had contacted infantile paralysis.) She entered Sister's Hospital in Hot Springs, South Dakota. In May, after Laura's birth, she entered St. Joseph's Hospital in Omaha. While there, Laura died in Manville at the home of her grandmother, Mattie, at the age of seven months and seven days. James was on the ranch in Marsland at the time and Retta was unable to leave the hospital in Omaha.

In 1914, the Woodys immigrated to Glendo, Wyoming, where they bought the Pat Hall Ranch, one of the first three ranches settled on Horseshoe Creek, from James and Addie Moran. (P. J. Hall's address had been Bellewood, Laramie County, Territory of Wyoming, and water was appropriated to Pat Hall for the P. J. Hall Ditch #1 on the ranch April 1, 1888.) James and his brother, Lee, with additional help, started work believed to be about the same year, on a new house on the Woody ranch while they lived in what had been Pat Hall's old house on the ranch. (During repairs years later, a board was discovered on the front porch that had the date April 1914 written on the back.) The kitchen cabinets were built approximately 30½" high to accommodate Retta in her wheelchair, and the china cabinet doors in the dining room opened so food could be passed along the kitchen counter



Stella Woody Martindale & Elmer Conlogue on Woody going to school

top through to the dining room. All of the doors in the house were wide.

James “broke” a colt for Stella to ride for her first term at the little log schoolhouse on the Conlogue Ranch east of the Woody Ranch. Stella, despite her mother’s illness, lived a fairly normal life up to the time of her father’s death in 1918. She attended school by riding the colt her father “broke” for her a little over a mile to the log schoolhouse.

On April 5, 1919, a land patent was granted for 142-3/100 acres posthumously to James M. Woody. James Woody had died in the Spanish flu epidemic of 1918. He caught the flu while shipping cattle to Omaha. However, he died at the ranch and was buried beside his baby daughter at the cemetery in Manville. This forced Retta to take over the operation of the ranch, and she continued adding land.

Retta bought the adjoining Todd land at a Sheriff’s Sale. The fact that Retta could purchase land was not evidence of wealth. She had a strong will and a lot of grit, for times were rough and existing records show money was short. She did get advice and was able to borrow money from a good friend and neighbor, Dave Gordon. Retta seldom owned any bulls for her herd until “Doc” Millen moved to the ranch. She wintered Dave Gordon’s bulls for the use of them.

In approximately 1922-23, Retta taught at the

Roediger School east of the Platte River near Glendo. According to the late Edna (Roediger) Langston, Edna, Freda, and Ruth Roediger went to this school that was about a mile away from their house and around the hill in an old bunkhouse. Retta Woody stayed there by herself during the week and cooked and slept in the one-room school. Before the students went home for the night, they would carry in wood and water. Retta did the cleaning of the school.

According to Edna Roediger Langston, in spite of being paralyzed, Retta rode horseback. Edna’s dad would saddle the horse for her. She would pull herself up on the ladder of a thrashing machine on some type of shelf and swing onto the horse, as her arms were very strong. She would tie herself on and ride over to Charles and Florence Wormwood’s ranch across the Platte River for the weekends, which was another mile away or sometimes Charlie would drive her home in his Model A.

When Retta was trying to “prove-up” on her homestead east of Manville near 20 Mile, Stella, in her teens, would harness the horses and help drive the wagon from Glendo to the homestead. During this time, Retta had to request a leave of absence from the homestead for medical treatment in Nevada, Missouri. On March 5, 1923, Retta received a land patent for a homestead.

Until 1933, Retta taught in a number of rural schools in Converse, Niobrara, and Platte Counties and at various times leased the ranch on Horseshoe Creek. Stella was placed in school at Saint Agnes Academy at Alliance, Nebraska, where she graduated from high school on May 29, 1925. (In 1925, Retta received her mail at Flattop, Wyoming.)

In 1926, Retta went for a checkup to the Mayo Hospital in Rochester, Minnesota as she feared she might have cancer, and Stella moved to Laramie to attend the University of Wyoming. Stella roomed at the home of Rena Holliday (Mrs. Lewis) where she earned her board and room. On June 5, 1928, Stella Woody received from UW a diploma, having completed the course of study for elementary teachers in the State Normal School. On June 10, 1930, she received her BA from the UW College



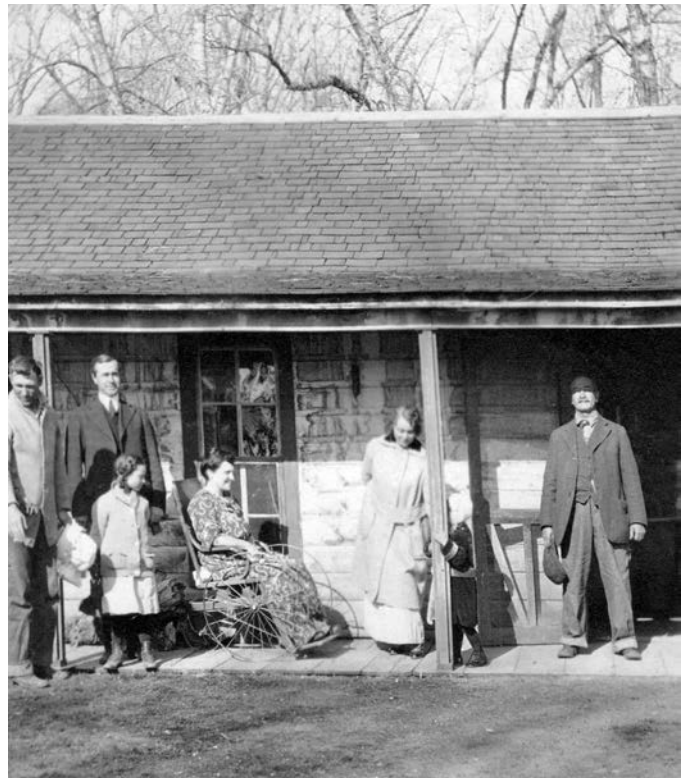
Verne & Stella Martindale



Stella Woody on horse branding on Horseshoe Creek, 1924-25



Verne, Stella, & Janette Martindale on ranch



At Woody Ranch, L-R Mr. Woody, Mr. Champion - Stella's first teacher who Retta boarded, Stella, Retta, Retta's sister Ethel Hiteshaw Dern and daughter Donna, & Mr. Arthur

of Education. Sella started teaching first grade at Encampment, Wyoming, in the fall of 1930. Retta was teaching in Niobrara County at the Chalk Buttes School. A ramp was built for her to get in and out of the schoolhouse.

In 1933, while teaching at Encampment, Stella met Verne Holland Martindale. Verne was born March 16, 1908 at Hawleyville, Iowa to Arthur Martindale and Ina Holland Martindale and was raised near Broadwater, Nebraska. In 1930, he went to Encampment where he batched with his Uncle George and worked for the Hawks-Houston ranch. That fall he started a trap line up the Encampment River, trapping about anything from skunks to beaver.

In 1932, during the Great Depression, Verne went to work for the Saratoga and Encampment Valley Railroad at 39 cents an hour and a railroad car to live in plus coal to burn. He was laid off in the fall and in the summer of 1931, he went back to Nebraska to farm some land with horses. It was a dry year and the corn made 10 bushels an acre.

After he shucked the corn and stacked hay for Charles Munsey for a dollar a sweep a day, (Charles had three sweeps going), shelled the corn and took 19 cents a bushel for it, Verne went back to Wyoming and the trap line and the railroad.

During the holidays of 1933, Stella and Verne went to Hot Springs, South Dakota and were married on December 29, 1933. Verne said, *"We went to South Dakota to be married because they wouldn't put the marriages in the paper if you asked them not to and the school had a policy that no married teacher could hold her job."*

Just four days before Retta died in April 1934, she wrote to Stella. *"They are soon to move me to a private home where I'll get radium treatments. Don't be surprised to hear what to me is 'best' at anytime. I've suffered in the last 24 hours as I thought no human could suffer. The electric light trip down my esophagus and three x-ray pictures reveal a cancer from the lump on my neck clear down my esophagus and down the left of my stomach. The esophagus is almost eaten in two, which will mean all eating will stop."*

"I think you'd better go home as soon as school is out and use your money to pay these doctor bills. It will probably take all the cattle. The ranch will be yours so you 'll have to make a new start. Remember above all to not go in debt. Perhaps it will be best just to put up hay and sell it. You should go and keep house for Millen, and Verne might help...For four hours this morning I laid with a rubber tabs through the nose and down to the stomach with a radium wire inside worth \$10,000..."

"Don't buy a lot of furniture, dishes, etc. until you are sure you are not in debt as it will be mighty darned easy to lose everything. Do as much work as you can without help. Don't be gadding every place in the car as it will break you up ..."

In the spring of 1934, Retta died of cancer in Denver after major hardships in her lifetime and exhibiting incredible fortitude. She had experienced the 1929 stock market crash and some of the "Great Depression" during her half-century of life. Verne said, *"So, we decided to move to the ranch, which*

started our ranching career."

On May 30, 1935, Verne and Stella experienced a terrible flash flood. Water got in the old house and ruined many of the things. After the flood, Verne tore down the south part of the old house. The two remaining rooms were used as a bunk house for single hired men until the early 1950s when Verne built two bedrooms and a bathroom onto the west side of the house and added a fireplace to the living room for married help.

When Janette Laverne Martindale was born on September 22, 1939, at the Wheatland Hospital, Stella refused to bring her home from the hospital until a bathroom and running water were put in the house and Verne complied. Previous to this, Verne had put a cement foundation under the main house. June of 1947 the Rural Electric Association brought electricity to the area. Until then the ranch had a wind charger tower with a battery powered light plant in an outside root cellar that was also used for storing potatoes, vegetables, and home-canned goods that Stella had canned. She had a tremendous garden.

During this same period, Verne was a member of the School Board at Glendo for School District #8 for possibly two terms. He also worked as a Platte County tax assessor. Verne and Stella worked on the ranch side by side during haying season. He also bought a T-D-9 International dozer and scraper. He did work with it on the ranch and "hired-out," leveling land, building dykes, maintaining the pipeline roads, etc. When doing dirt work, Verne found many Indian artifacts and some are on loan at the Glendo Historical Museum.

Verne said, *"In the winter of 1949-50 we had a terrible blizzard which started on New Year's Day and lasted three days. Stella and I loaded the pickup with baled hay. I took the 'Cat' and Stella followed with the pickup. We opened a road to the cattle. It took three days to get them all to the meadow. Some cows froze their ears and part of their tails."* In order for people on Horseshoe to get to town for supplies, a message was put on the telephone party line and Bob Twiford and Verne cleared the road with their

“Cats” and people followed to and from town during the ‘49 blizzard.

Each summer, Stella gardened and helped Verne in the hay field. Her garden was approximately the size of two city lots. When joshed about the size, she would say, “*You have to plant enough corn for the coons, too.*” She also liked to raise flowers, and for many years, she furnished several milk-buckets full of tulips for the Glendo School graduation ceremony. In the hay field, she raked nearly all of the hay on the ranch with a team of horses, from the spring of 1934 until she died in the fall of 1964. Though she had been caught in a rake when the horses ran away with her in the early years of their ranching, she still didn’t appear to be afraid, and she was the last in the Glendo area to consistently work with a team of horses. She also helped in the hay field by driving a tractor-driven sweep. Hay was put up with an overshot stacker. They believed in having a good work ethic, and Janette learned to clean house and cook at an early age while her folks worked in the field.

They always kept some milk cows and sent cream in cream cans on the railroad to places like Swift & Company. Stella churned butter and made cottage cheese for their use and taught Janette how, too. Janette got the milk cows in, often helped with the milking, and she washed the cream separator. Also, they raised chickens and sold 30 dozen eggs a week to the grocery stores or to Bartlett’s hatchery. Janette helped feed and water the chickens, gathered the eggs, washed and packed them for sale, and helped with housework. She was an active 4-H member in the Horseshoe Livestock Club from the age of nine. Piano lessons were started at age ten, and she was also recruited to play the pump organ at church.

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In approximately 1950, Verne plowed up sod west of Glendo, on the Ed Hughes’ place, and on the Oliver Wormwood place with the “Cat.” He planted wheat. He said, “*The year was good and the wheat made good, but the dry years in the early 1950s took all I made; so, I went to work on the Glendo Reservoir/Dam for Lytle and Green and Morse and Knutson at \$2.50 an hour and time-and-a half overtime.*”

In the early 1950s Verne and Stella separated; however, they did not get a divorce for several years. Stella continued to run the ranch with the help of Janette, good neighbors, and various hired men. In 1954, the drought became so severe, Stella shipped the cattle to a place near Bayard, Nebraska for pasture.

On May 29, 1957, Janette graduated from Glendo High School. The following year, she attended Colorado Woman’s College in Denver. On June 29, 1958, she married Earl Patrick Chambers at St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church in Glendo. Earl Patrick Chambers, known as Pat, was born one of eight children in Wyoming, Ohio to Eula Rawlings and William Robert Chambers. Pat had lived at Erlanger, Kentucky until he was 16 and then moved to Cincinnati, Ohio where he graduated from high school. He came to Glendo in December 1954 to work for Lytle and Green on the Glendo Reservoir/Dam after working for Campsey and Lytle on a power line from Butte to Billings, MT, for a short time.

Their first child, Kenneth Holland Chambers, was born at Grand Junction, Colorado, March 25, 1959, when Pat was working for C. F. Lytle building the Vega Dam at Collbran, Colorado. When this job was completed, they moved back to Glendo in November 1960. Their daughter, Barbara Jean Chambers, was born in Douglas on January 1, 1961. Pat continued to work in construction until the fall of 1964 when Janette’s mother, Stella, suddenly died of a heart attack at the age of 56 on October 29, and they moved to the ranch. Mason Alger had worked for Stella and continued to work for them.

In May of 1965, everyone on Horseshoe Creek experienced another terrible flood. It washed out bridges, head gates, fences, etc. and generally caused havoc for everyone. Some even lost cattle. For several weeks, people had to travel extra miles through pastures to get to town. The ranch was fairly free of noxious weeds until after the flood. Pat and Janette made a continuous effort to get rid of them through the following years.

Ranching was a totally new experience for Pat in a state known for its wind, blizzards, and low

temperatures in winter! At the time, the ranch was a Hereford cow-calf operation but later raised cross breeds or Angus. Pat never grew fond of riding horses. Sometimes, he did part time work running heavy equipment in construction along with ranching duties. They both joined Farm Bureau; Pat belonged to the Wyoming and Laramie Peak Stock Growers and was a local three-year director. Janette joined the Laramie Peak Cow Belles/ Laramie Peak Cattle Women where she held various offices through the years including President.

There wasn't a better place than the ranch to raise children! Kenneth and Barbara learned to work and take responsibility. They were in 4-H with various projects, and also had horses and bum lambs. Ken played Little League Baseball. They both took piano lessons. Jobs at different places were gotten and eventually at Glendo State Park as park attendants while in high school.

In 1971, Pat and Janette were divorced. Janette worked as a teacher's aide during the 1971-72 school year at the Glendo School and worked on the ranch. Later, most of the ranch was leased out for five years, but the main house, some land, and a few cattle were kept after selling the main herd. Janette went to school at UW in Laramie the summer of 1971 to get her degree, and Ken and Barbara went to school at the University Prep School where they were active in sports and music. They traveled home to the ranch most weekends. Janette graduated with Honor with a BA in Elementary Education the spring of 1974. She was hired to teach as one of two teachers for grades 4-6 in Huntley, Wyoming in Goshen County, where they rented an apartment on campus and again traveled home to Glendo and the ranch most weekends and summers for three school years, juggling ranch responsibilities, finances, and school work. During that time, Janette had continued to take college courses for Special Education and became certified as an Exceptional Child Generalist. Kenneth graduated from the Huntley High School in 1977. During the 1977-78 school year, Janette was hired to teach 6th grade in Douglas and they were finally able to live at home where Barbara went to Glendo Public School again and graduated in 1979. Ken went to college at Eastern Wyoming College (EWC)



Chambers ranch house & barn, 1934



Janette Martindale Chambers and Earl Patrick Chambers with her parents, Stella and Verne Martindale, June 29, 1958



Janette & Pat Chambers with their children, Kenneth & Barbara

in Torrington and later Barbara also attended EWC. Kenneth graduated from the University of Wyoming in 1981 with a B.S. degree in Range Management.

Pat and Janette got back together around the time Janette was offered and accepted a job teaching grades 3-4 in Glendo in 1978. She continued in that position until about 1987 when she was placed in the K-12 Special Education Department until her retirement in 1998 after 26-1/2 years of teaching. Pat had begun working for Guernsey Stone in 1971 and continued running heavy equipment for twenty-three years until retirement from Guernsey Stone in 1994, and he continued working on the ranch. John and Gene Daly irrigated for them and put up hay on shares. Most of the time, the back pasture was leased out, but they continued to run cattle on the rest of the ranch and do the necessary work to

keep it maintained.

We have been compelled to lead the life that we have led and have been optimistic, incurable “gamblers” that have been blessed through the years to live in God’s country! On this 2014 Centennial year of our ranch, our son Kenneth and his wife Janice live in Sugar Land, Texas with their fifteen-year-old twin daughters, Jessica and Alexandra. Our daughter Barbara lives in Glendo. She had two children, Garrett and Jennifer Wiest. Jennifer and Dusty Sterkel, and son Keagen live in Fort Laramie. However, much to our dismay, we recently lost our grandson, Garrett Wiest, September 24, 2014, at the age of 24. We look forward to the ranch continuing to stay in our family.



Chambers Ranch, 2005



Sen. John Barrasso, Chambers Family, Gov. Matthew H. Mead, Rep. Cynthia Lummis and Sen. Mike Enzi



Chambers Ranch Centennial sign

The Mills Homestead Place, 1910

The Cox Family, Park County

As told by Shirley Williams Cox

This farm was homesteaded by Simeon Elsworth Mills (known as S.E.) in June 1910. Across the road was another homestead which was granted to his son Ralph as partial payment for his services as a Civil Engineer on the Shoshone Reclamation Project. He was a surveyor of canals and ditches. It was Ralph's urging that his parents came to Powell, Wyoming from Allen, Nebraska to homestead. Mrs. Mill's sister and husband came at that time also. The Shoshone Reclamation Project was established by the government for homesteading and the first drawing for homesteads was held in 1908. The land was irrigated by a system of canals, laterals, and ditches from water stores in the Shoshone Reservoir, now called Buffalo Bill Dam and Reservoir, which was built in 1904. This was one of the first reclamation projects in the United States.

Four generations of this family have farmed this acreage: S.E. Mills, his daughter and husband, Mae and Harold Williams, the Williams daughter Shirley and husband Jim Cox, and presently by their son Bill Cox and his partners Perry Fisher and Rich Fisher, known as Cox and Fisher, Inc. Jim Cox and his partner formed a Corporation in 1975 so their sons and future generations could take over farming without difficulty. Cox and Fisher Inc. own the farming operation, the machinery, and cattle but the ownership of land remains with individuals. This was upon the advice of a lawyer and has worked nicely. Cox and Fisher farm many of the early day homesteads in the vicinity of the home place, a total of 2000 acres of irrigated land and 500 acres of pasture and river bottom. The main crops are sugar beets, malting barley, and pinto beans. They also have a cutter bee operation for pollination of alfalfa seed crops, alfalfa for hay, and sunflowers for confectioner's seed. The Cox and Fisher shops and business headquarters are on the Mills homestead place, in addition to hay and equipment storage.

S.E. Mills built a shack that he, his wife Elsie, and



Elsie & S.E. Mills



S.E. Mills homestead shack, daughter Mae & wife Elsie

daughter Mae (mother of Shirley Williams Cox) to live in the first summer while they were clearing their homestead of cactus and sagebrush. He was able to obtain a one-bedroom house to move on to the property before cold weather set in. He



S.E. & Elsie Mills & their children Mae & Ralph, circa 1912

finished building a 2-story, 3 bedroom home in 1914. He was a home builder and a banker by trade in Nebraska. The house was not occupied by Mae after she married Harold Williams, also from a homesteading family in the neighborhood. It was then occupied by Shirley Williams Cox and husband Jim until 1976, and for a short time by their son Bill and wife Noreen. It has been a rental house since then. Shirley Cox is the present owner of the home and the homestead land.



House taken soon after it was built, 1914



Elsie Mills with granddaughter Shirley, 1926



Harold N. Williams, 3rd farmer of S. E. Mills Homestead Place



S.E. Mills shortly before his death, 1948



Shirley Willams, college age 1943-1948, married Jim Cox, 1946



Jim & Shirley Cox, 1999, 3rd farmer on Mills Homestead Place



Bill Cox on left, present farmer on Mills homestead, Shirley Cox, & Norm Cox & son Ethan, 4 generations



Sen. John Barrasso, Gov. Matthew H. Mead, Cox Family, Rep. Cynthia Lummis and Sen. Mike Enzi

The Gaukel Ranch, 1914

The Daniel & Cheryl Gaukel Family, Niobrara County

As told by Dan Gaukel

The Gaukel ranch was established in 1914 when my grandfather, Charles Gaukel, filed for his homestead. We were told he came to Wyoming on the train from Burwell, Nebraska. He filed for the land and went back for his family.

The equipment and other belongings were shipped out on the train to Jireh, Wyoming. The family came with their personal belongings in a covered wagon. My grandparents, Charles and Anna Gaukel came with their four children – my father, Emery, the oldest, was eight years old, Allan, Marie, and baby Ruby. Later Margaret, Clarence, Anna, Dorothy, and Charles H. were born at home on the ranch.

Grandpa Charlie worked with horses and raised cattle, oats, wheat, corn, and potatoes. The potatoes were a major cash crop until the dry 1930s when most of the good top soil blew away. Better farming practices and crop choices eventually replaced the potato business. Grandma Anna always had an enormous garden to feed her family. She also had many beautiful flowers.

My father, Emery, was the only child to remain in the agriculture business and for a time rented part of the place from my grandparents.

My grandfather, Charles, passed away in 1959. My grandmother stayed on the place until 1967 when she moved to Manville, Wyoming. It was at this time that we made the deal to take over the ranch, although I had farmed a portion of the place since 1964.

The ranch was not passed on in the traditional way. We entered into a rent to own agreement with my grandmother. The rate of rent, the purchase price plus interest, was established. We were given four years to rent the place so we could save for the down payment before we had to start buying it.



Charles & Anna Gaukel



Original house later moved

I remember when we made the first payment my dad, the skeptic that he was, just shook his head and said “You’ll never pay for this place.” That was a good incentive for us to succeed. The best opportunity for us then was in farming to help pay for the ranch. We farmed anything and everything we could all over the community.



Moving Gaukel house to road where it became a school house; a wet spring so house sank in the sod and remained till fall when it was pulled with block & tackle, steam engine, 1926



Gaukel Ranch early, 1940s

We moved into the house in October of 1967 that had years earlier been moved from the Jireh townsite in 1926, which by now was in bad repair and falling in the basement. All the other farm buildings were either leaning or completely flat. All of the buildings except the house have been replaced. The house has been remodeled.

It was a major job to rebuild a ranch with limited funds. I started with 12 cows, a car, pickup, and some machinery, a pretty young wife and a baby son. By the time the four years of renting was finished, I had my wife and three sons and a head full of dreams (don't remember how many cows

we had by this time).

We worked for the next seven years doing whatever we could to make our dream come true. Cheryl milked cows, stacked hay bales, held the other end of boards while rebuilding, and many other farm jobs. She cared for the boys and of course cooking the meals and raised a garden. By the end of the seventh year we had the deed in our hot little hands.

By this time my dad's attitude had changed somewhat and he approached me one day and said "Are you ready to buy my place?" We said Yes! Ten years later this too was a reality.



Charles & Anna Gaukel

During this same ten years we had picked up another small place. In 1990 we acquired a small place south of Manville, another in 1996, and the last one in 2013. Our place is three times the size we started with.

Our sons, Pat, Andy, and Dean, all helped on the ranch growing up. One son, Andy, remains in the business. Dean is a carpenter/mechanic. Pat is a mechanical engineer.



Back Row: Andy, Partick, & Dean; Front: Cheryl, Dan, & Pixie



Fannie & Emery Gaukel



Pat, Dean, Andy, Dan, Cheryl Amber (foster daughter)





The Gaukel Ranch Christmas Card



The Gaukel Ranch

We are truly grateful to God for what we have been allowed to accomplish. We take great pride in our ranch. It is not large but it is ours.



Rep. Cynthia Lummis, Sen. John Barrasso, Gaukel Family, Gov. Matthew H. Mead and Sen. Mike Enzi

The Hytrek Farms, 1914

The Robert & Amelia Hytrek Family, Platte County



Wedding picture of Joseph & Gertrude (Schumer) Hytrek

As told by the Hytrek Family

The Hytrek Farms were homesteaded in north central Platte County near Glendo in 1914 by Joseph and Gertrude (Schumer) Hytrek who were originally from Stuart, Nebraska. Joseph and Gertrude had four children, Josephine, Lawrence, Lucille, and Fred (Fritz). In 1944 Lawrence and Alice (Bollin) Hytrek took over farm operations; previously they had lived in Guernsey, Wyoming where Lawrence had been working for the Sunshine Mine.

The Lawrence Hytrek family, the second generation to work on the family farm, included three children, William, Carol, and Robert. In 1974



Lawrence & Alice (Bollin) wedding picture (2nd generation)



The Joseph & Gertrude Hytrek family, L-R, Lawrence, Fred (Fritz), Gertrude (mother), Lucile, & Josephine



Lawrence harvesting winter wheat



An oil painting of the homestead shack painted by Mrs. Lawrence (Alice) Hytrek



The Lawrence & Alice Hytrek family, L-R, William, Lawrence, Alice, Robert, & Carol

Robert returned to the family farm to help his dad Lawrence and took over total operations in 1981 after Lawrence passed away.

Robert and Amelia (Rupp) Hytrek, the third generation to work on the family farm, were married in 1983 and have one daughter, Anna.

Major products of the farm over the years have included wheat, hogs, and cattle. The original homestead house (shack) is now the current home's living and dining room area. An oil painting by



Robert & Amelia (Rupp) Hytrek (3rd generation)

Alice Hytrek illustrates what the homestead house looked like when the family first arrived in Wyoming. Additionally, the Oregon Trail runs through portions of the farm, adding to its historical importance.

On a final note, the life blood of the farm over the last 100 years has been hard work, determination, love of family, and most importantly, strong faith.



Amelia supervising



Robert & daughter Anna



Amelia & daughter Anna



Robert & daughter Anna unloading wheat



Bring in the beef, calving season



Rep. Cynthia Lummis, Sen. John Barrasso, Hytrek Family, Gov. Matthew H. Mead and Sen. Mike Enzi

The Kern Sheep Company, 1914

The Chuck & Marion Kern Family, Converse County



Sen. John Barrasso, Kern Family, Gov. Matthew H. Mead, Rep. Cynthia Lummis and Sen. Mike Enzi

The Sims Twenty Mile Ranch, 1907

The Mae Ann Manning Family, Converse County

As told by the Manning/Sims Family

Albert N. “Bert” Sims was born on April 18th, 1866 in Wyoming, Illinois. In 1884, at the age of 18, Albert came west to South Dakota and then a year later to western Nebraska. In 1891, he spent time in Manville, Wyoming working for his brother, Louis (Lou) Sims, who had a ranch southeast of Manville called the old Woods Ranch. Bert also worked at a ranch at Walker Creek. Millard Filmore (Fil) and Ansel (Bay) Sims were the other two brothers. They owned a livery barn, a small store in Manville, and raised sheep. Bert went back to Wilour, Nebraska and married Della Mae Rodgers on June 15, 1898 where they made their home there for a short time. On October 8, 1901, Cecil, their first child, was born.

Cecil was 4 months old when the Albert Sims family moved to Manville the first of the year in 1902. Albert Sims helped the minister who was known as “Preacher Hughes” build the Methodist Church in Manville. After the church was completed, the Albert Sims family and the Hughes family, with their son Otis, made a trip to California by wagon to where the Della Sims family lived in San Francisco and where they stayed for four years. Cecil could remember being in San Francisco immediately after the big earthquake of 1906 and visiting his mother’s sister and her family who had lost their home in the disaster and were living in a tent. Albert and Cecil joined the work crews and help remove debris and rebuild structures.

While living in Santa Cruz, California, two more children were born to Albert and Della Sims. Edna Elizabeth was born November 5, 1906 and Gladys Mae was born on October 29, 1908.

In about 1909, the Sims moved back to Manville where Lou Sims was in the horse business. Lou Sims and a second cousin, Roy (Peg) Baughn, trailed a rather large bunch of Indian Ponies from the Rosebud Indian Reservation to Lou’s ranch where a lot of them were broke to ride and sold.



Albert and Della Sims, Cecil, Gladys (with glasses) Edna and Delberta

The Sims family also raised their own horses and has some thoroughbred stallions.

In 1909, Albert Sims bought Millard Sims’ and Ansel Sims’ land on Twenty Mile Creek that they had homesteaded in 1907. He made the purchase because of hard winters around Manville and felt it would be a better place for the family to live. However, the first winter was a bad one. Everything snowed under, sagebrush and all. There was no chance of hauling feed from the railroad and the family ran out of some staples and food. Fil Sims made snowshoes and walked five miles down the creek to the nearest ranch, the old Bob Spaugh place. Ray Valentine was living there helping to manage the sheep. Fil and Ray were finally able to get a load of shelled corn back to Albert’s sheep by bobsled but it was too late. They lost about half of their sheep from which they derived 50 cents a pelt that they sold to the government. Harvesting the



Sims History photo July 4th with Vanderwalkers

wool from the dead sheep was a miserable job.

The first living quarters at the Twenty Mile Ranch were a little log cabin, a sheep wagon, and two tents. With Fil's help, Albert Sims built a frame house which still remains a part of the living quarters for the ranch. The Sims Twenty Mile ranch was known as a cowboy haven because no one was ever turned away for a meal or a place to stay the night. Della taught her girls at an early age that if cowboys rode over the hill early or unexpectedly, slice an onion into a cast iron skillet and put it in the oven. The aroma convinced the cowboys that dinner was coming soon, so the men washed up and patiently waited. Bay Sims eventually sold out his interest and went to California. Fil Sims stayed at the ranch for a while and again purchased more sheep. Lou Sims moved his family to Woonsocket, South Dakota where an older brother, John Sims, was located. Albert Sims and his family stayed in Newport, Nebraska for about three years to recover from the 1909 blizzard and financial loss. While there, another daughter, Delberta, was born on

October 24, 1914. They left Newport coming back to Manville where they stayed for a while before going back to the ranch they owned on Twenty Mile. They repaired the old fences and built new ones. Albert bought more land which had to be fenced. More cattle were purchased and later a bunch of sheep was added, which were kept for a number of years. The coyotes eventually got so bad they sold all of the sheep and ran only cattle. In the late 1920s, Edna, Gladys, and Cecil were each able to homestead additional sections of lands to add to the ranch holdings.

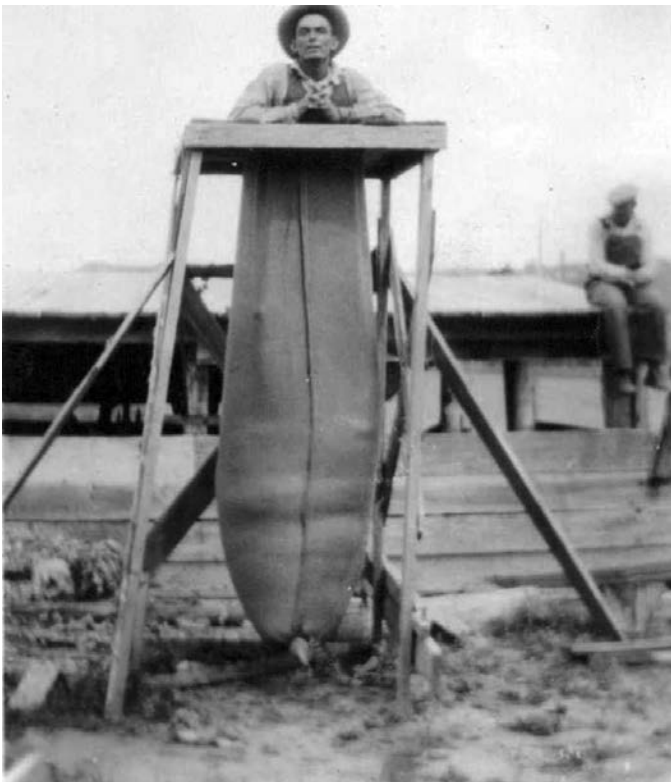
Edna Sims married Beryl Fullerton in 1927 and they continued to live at the Twenty Mile ranch for eight years. They had an interest in the cattle with Albert and Cecil. There was a very dry year in 1934 and what grass grew, the grasshoppers ate. Beryl and Edna took their share of the stock over to the Billy Sherman place near Jireh, Wyoming. There was some hay and green grass around the creek that the grasshoppers hadn't eaten. Cecil and his dad sold most of their cattle to the government for almost



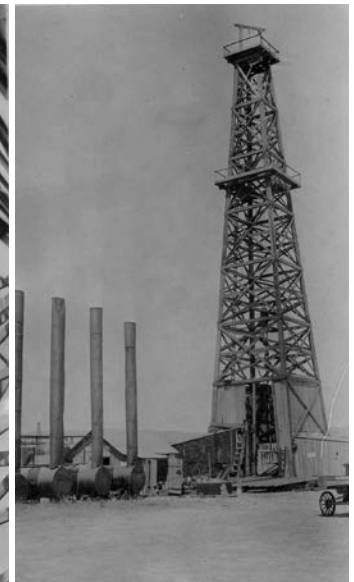
Hank and Gladys and Mae Ann. Small trailer for oil field work in the 1930s.



Flood on Twenty Mile Creek Sims Headquarters, 1930s



Hank Amend in wool sack on Twenty Mile Ranch, 1930s



Wooden rotary oil derricks at Lance Creek, Hank Amend

nothing and the cattle were destroyed. They kept 27 head of dry cows that Cecil was able to winter on sagebrush and soap weed with about five pounds of cotton seed cake per head per day. Most of these cows calved the next spring and more cattle were bought to build up the herd again. At this time, Henry "Hank" Amend married Gladys Sims in 1930. They also bought some cattle which Albert and Cecil ran for them. Hank was working in Lance Creek in the oil fields at the time and worked on some of the first rotary wooden oil derricks. Gladys taught school for a while and then followed Hank after Mae Ann was born in 1932. They lived in a wood sided tent for a while and then got a small mobile trailer that could be pulled from job to job around Wyoming oil fields.

In 1938 Delberta married Roe Simpson. Because



Mae Ann Amend and her dad, Hank Amend

of Roe's asthma, they made their home in Madera, California. Delberta and Roe had two children, Albert and Joan.

Poor health forced Albert into retirement, and in 1938 he and Della bought a house in Lusk where they made their home. Cecil continued to take care of their cattle and Hank's. By this time, Cecil had purchased the old Charlie Sherman place two-and- one- half miles northeast of Manville. He summered on this place and wintered on the Card ranch at Lost Springs which Hank and Gladys had purchased. Albert Sims was able to lease out the Twenty Mile ranch for a very good price.

Cecil married Pauline Whitaker from Flint, Michigan in 1942. They lived on Cecil's own place year around as Hank Amend had quit the oil field work and had moved his family to the Card ranch. Albert Sims passed away in Lusk October 12, 1943. Della stayed in Lusk for a while before renting



Mae Ann Amend at Hank and Gladys Sims Amend's tent home at oil field camp, 1934

out her house and spending the summers at Lost Springs with her daughter Gladys and family, and the winters in Madera, California with her daughter Delberta Simpson and family.

1955, Pauline Sims' parents needed their help because of poor health. Cecil sold the cattle, hay, and some equipment. He leased his place and moved his family to Michigan where he bought and farmed 120 acres. Cecil later sold the Manville place. Cecil and Pauline Sims had three children, Marilyn Jean, Zaidee Ellen, and Arthur Ray

Edna Sims Fullerton and Beryl Fullerton had three children, Dale, Della and Donna.

Hank and Gladys Sims Amend had three children, Mae Ann, Marvin, and Mary. Marvin moved to Fresno, California after high school and worked for Pacific Gas and Electric. Unfortunately, shortly after four years of service in the Army, he



Mae Ann Manning, son, Alvie center, siblings Mary and Marvin



Mae Ann Manning on rock

was killed by drunk driver in 1970 at the age of 28 years, after he and his wife, Patricia, relocated back to California. Mary and her husband Chuck Engebretsen still live on the 2008 Amend Centennial Ranch at Lost Springs where they raised their family.

As a child, Mae Ann Amend had always dreamed of living at the Twenty Mile Ranch and raising horses which became a reality when she and her



Bob and Mae Ann, 1975

husband Bob Manning were able to purchase it from Mae Ann's grandmother, Della Sims, in 1952, a year after they were married. The ranch consisted of approximately 10,000 acres. During their first year of marriage they lived at Bear Creek, 55 miles north of Douglas on Bob's family place and after the Twenty Mile purchase, they trailed the cows from place to place which would take them a week staying in a sheep wagon with the kids. They later purchased the Bear Creek ranch from Bob's family. They were able to expand and purchased Uncle Harry Manning's place 6 miles east on Twenty Mile Creek. Later they added the Johnny Howard Place and the Bob Spaugh ranch. They raise Hereford cattle, sheep, ranch, and rodeo horses. Bob enjoyed team roping. Bob and Mae Ann Manning have two children, Alvin Wayne and Debra Ann.

Alvie and his wife, Billie Ann, live on the Harry Manning ranch where they raise Hereford Cattle and horses. Manning Horses are known nationwide and the business is reminiscent of what first brought



Gov. Matthew H. Mead, Rep. Cynthia Lummis, Sen. John Barrasso, Mae Ann Manning Family, and Sen. Mike Enzi

the Sims brothers to Twenty Mile. Alvie and his Uncle Harry were very close and it means a lot to Alvie to be living there. Alvie, Billie Ann, and family are active in the annual production of the Legend of Rawhide reenacted every summer in Lusk. They always provide several teams of horses for the covered wagons. Alvie's two children are Alvin Wayne "A W" and ManDee Manning Moore.

AW and his wife Rachel and their two children, Tessa and Aubrey, also live on the Harry Manning Ranch in the original ranch home. A W was active in 4 H meat judging going to Nationals. He competed in high school rodeos and rode saddle broncs for several years at both high school and professional level. He currently works as a welder in the energy field and owns his own company, G Spear Welding.

ManDee is married to John Moore and are the parents of PaisLee, and twins, Bella and Annie. They live on the Moore Family ranch north of Douglas. They run commercial cows with a small herd of registered Black Angus cattle. ManDee also runs cattle with her dad and brother. She helps on the Manning ranch whenever needed and she

takes care of the Manning sheep at Bear Creek. She competed in high school rodeos and enjoys cattle sorting, ranch rodeos, and barrel racing today.

Debra Ann "Debbie" is married to Bruce Murray and they live on the Johnny Howard place. They have one daughter Ammie who lives at the Twenty Mile Ranch headquarters and is an equine therapist. She owns "Touched by Ammie" and travels around to mostly rodeos to take care of horses. She competed in high school rodeos and does professional barrel racing today. Debbie has always been involved in rodeo and horses. She is a big part of the annual Twenty Mile Gymkhana sponsored by the Manning family for all the kids in the surrounding community. She and her family are actively engaged in helping her mother, Mae Ann, operate the ranch since Bob's death.

Bob passed away February 12, 2006. Mae Ann continues to ranch on Twenty Mile and Bear Creek with the help of her children and grandchildren. The great-grandchildren are the sixth generation of Sims heritage to live on Twenty Mile.

The Miller-Hewes Ranch, 1880

The Monte & Tanja Miller Family, Crook County



Miller-Hewes herd

As told by Tanja Miller

The Miller-Hewes ranch is located in the northeast corner of our state. Still part of the Wyoming Black Hills, the ranch is situated where Beaver and Benton creeks meet, 10 miles outside of Sundance in Crook County. Started with commercial cattle pairs, and then changed to a purebred Hereford operation, it is now a commercial Black Angus ranch. Monte and Tanja Miller and their children, together with Bob and Corinne Miller, live and work on the ranch that has been in the same family for six generations. The original log cabin first homesteaded in 1890 and is still in use, and so is the original ranch house that has been continuously occupied by the family since it was built out of hand-hewn logs from the surrounding hills in 1882.

Julius Hewes Senior, born June 29, 1821, in Minnesota, and Priscilla N. Hewes, born December 24, 1838, established the Miller-Hewes Ranch 10 miles southwest of Sundance, Wyoming in 1880. They got married August 19, 1855. Leaving Minneapolis in 1875, Julius Senior owned and operated a dry goods store in Center City, South Dakota, during the gold rush of 1870. Julius came to the Sundance area later in search of land to build their ranch on. As soon as he found the right place he sent for Priscilla and the children, and together they homesteaded and improved the land. They had two children, Adrian H. and Mae Hewes Fawkes. Julius passed away November 28, 1896. Priscilla passed away February 7, 1919.

A.H. Hewes was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota on February 11, 1870 to Julius and Priscilla Hewes.



Ranch landscape

He married Marie J. Farries, daughter of John H. and Anna Margaret Farris on December 10, 1908. Mrs. Hewes taught school in Crook County prior to her marriage and in later years was active in Republican political circles, serving as County and State Committeewoman from Crook County for several years. She was also active in county, state, and national Cowbelles, serving in various offices.

Mr. Hewes started a purebred Hereford herd in 1908, the year he married Marie J. Farris, when the open range was no longer unfenced. Cattle brands H Slash (H/) on the left thigh and JUL connected on the left rib of sales. Their Herefords were well known in many states, stock shows, and sales. Adrian and Marie had two children, Julius and Rosalie Hewes Redies, born August 8, 1910.

Julius Hewes was born January 4, 1914 on the Miller-Hewes ranch. He graduated from Sundance



Miller-Hewes Ranch in winter



Ranch house

High School and later attended the University of Wyoming. He devoted his entire career to working on the ranch. He married Verda Smith, born July 14, 1915, on June 28, 1939. Verda Smith Hewes was the daughter of Louis and Dina Smith, ranchers of Crook County, fourteen miles southeast of Sundance. She taught school in Wyoming before marriage and moving to the ranch.

Adrian and Julius Hewes were charter members of the North Eastern Hereford Association. Julius Hewes served as its president for several years, besides acting as president of the State Hereford Association in 1950-51. During that decade he served as Hereford judge in most of the Hereford Association shows and sales in Wyoming, besides some in Montana and South Dakota.

Adrian Hewes passed away in March 18, 1946 and Marie J. in September 9, 1975. In 1970



Sen. John Barrasso, Miller Family, Gov. Matthew H. Mead, Rep. Cynthia Lummis and Sen. Mike Enzi

the purebred herd was sold and since that time commercial cattle have been raised on the Miller-Hewes ranch. Julius passed away on July 3, 1988 at the family ranch, and Verda passed away on November 27, 2004 at the nursing home in Sundance.

Julius and Verda Hewes had two daughter, Corinne Marie born September 24, 1944, and Carolyn Hewes Mavrakis. Corinne married Robert E. Miller of Aladdin, Wyoming after attending college at Spearfish Black Hills State Teachers College. Robert is the son of Ben and Flora Wheeler Miller, and after graduating Sundance High School in 1962 went to college in Sheridan, and then worked for the Forest Service in Sundance. They have two children, Monte Joe born June 21, 1966, and Jodie Marie Miller Mitchell, born November 29, 1969.

After the Robert Miller family lived in Sundance and he worked for the Forest Service for a few years, they moved out to the ranch in 1974.

Monte Joe graduated from Sundance High School in 1984 and has been involved in the ranch operation ever since. He married Tanja M. Birks, daughter of Angelo and Maria Mazzola of Thayngen, Ohio, originally of Switzerland on June 30, 2001. She worked for the Sundance Times as typesetter/designer until she got full-time involved in the ranch operation. Together they have two children, Echo Marie, born July 8, 2003, and Benjamin Julius, born August 16, 2005. Making them the sixth generation involved with the daily operation and living in the original ranch house built of hand-hewn logs in 1882 by Julius Hewes Senior.

The Nearing Ranch, 1914

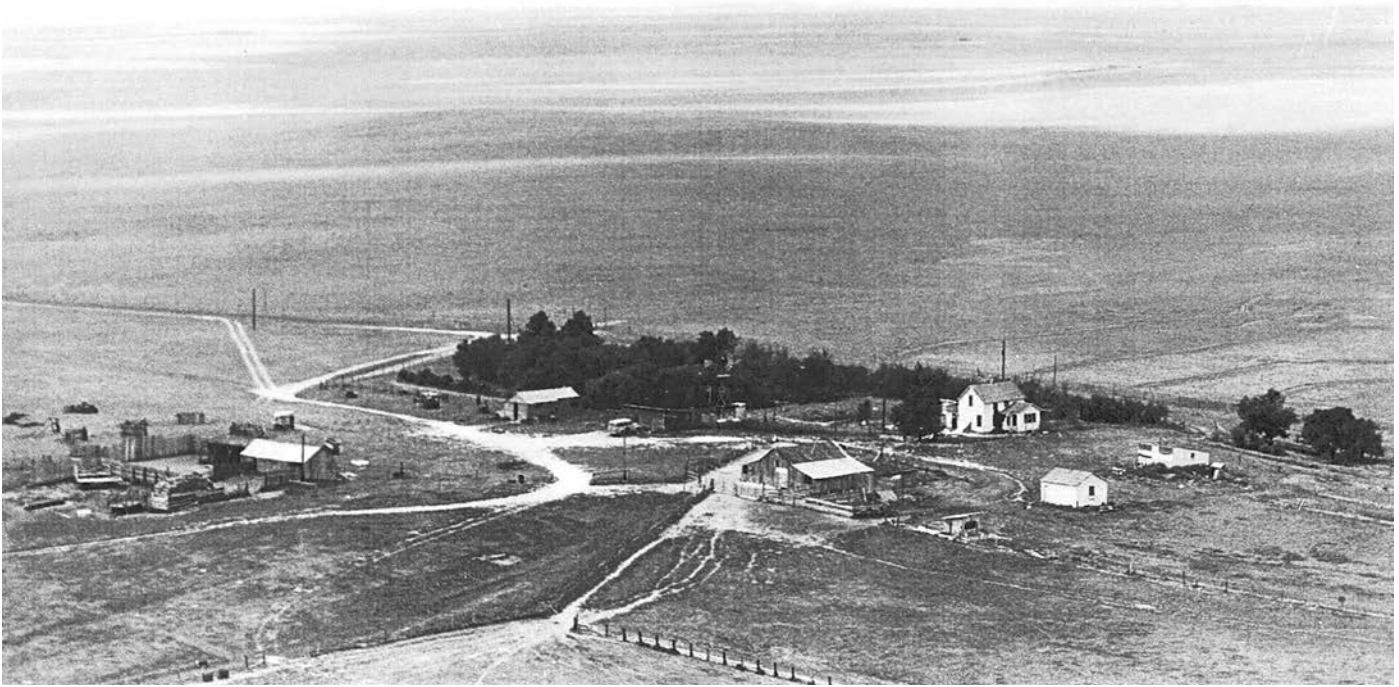
The Charles Nearing Family, Goshen County



Sen. John Barrasso, Nearing Family, Gov. Matthew H. Mead, Rep. Cynthia Lummis and Sen. Mike Enzi

The Newman Ranch, 1912

The Newman Family, Goshen County



Newman Ranch, early 1960s

As told by two generations of the Newman family

It was the last of August in 1912, young Hi Newman and his fiancée, Geertrude Shelbourn, had attended a picnic together. Both were country school teachers when \$50 per month was considered good wages. But there was not much of a future. He had decided that he would need to go to college. He had his bags packed intending to take the midnight train to Wayne, Nebraska that night. Leaving Gertrude at her parents' home, he said, "I'll see you at Christmas." Hi went back to town and stopped into a restaurant where he overheard a number of young men talking about the opportunities of filing on a homestead of 320 acres in Wyoming. They suggested he come along. The trains met at midnight. Instead of taking the eastbound train, Hi went west and landed in Van Tassell, Wyoming.

Sam Gagstetter was the locator and soon most of those young men were eager to file on a piece of land. Some got cold feet and never came back but

for Hi it was a dream comes true. When others left, he stayed and got a job driving for one of the locators. He telegraphed his mother to come at once to Van Tassell, for he wanted her to file on a half section next to his claim. And to Gertrude he wrote, "You always said you'd like to live in the country, and this is it."

In November he rode the train back to Valentine. He already had several head of horses on pasture. He got a wagon, a disc, a plow, a harrow, and the personal things he would need to "batch" in a tiny sheep wagon shack which he had already moved to the homestead. He got acquainted with neighboring homesteaders and several gave him jobs plowing the required acres for homesteading. He also helped drill water wells that winter, earning enough to pay for his own well.

He had to fence the section of land and that took money. He had a house partly built by June when Gertrude came to pass inspection. His mother had invested in a few cows and he was pasturing a small

bunch for others.

Gertrude had previously homesteaded on a Kincaid section, a part of her uncle's ranch in Cherry County. The law at that time stated that two people, each having a homestead, could live the third year on one homestead and get the credit on the other. It took three years of residence to prove up and get the title to a homestead.

So on January 6, 1915, Gertrude and Hiram were married and established a home in Wyoming. Hi had a teaching certificate in Nebraska and was able to teach just over the state line for two years, then one year in Wyoming. It was not a life for weaklings, and by today's standards, it was real poverty. Cow chips were the only fuel and when it rained, it hailed. In spite of it all, there was a fellowship of helping each other that seems to be lacking in today's world.

The older Newman children attended the first years of school in a claim shack.

Later we were able to build the one-room school house. The four younger children got part or all of their schooling in the consolidated school.

The Depression years came when the older children were ready for high school. They were able to work for board and room, or small wages, to help pay their way, and all graduated from high school.

Then came the heartbreak of World War II. The only Newman boy, Keith, left immediately after Pearl Harbor. He was gone for four-and-a-half years and served in the Pacific Theater, returning home a captain.

It seemed best to turn the ranch, now enlarged by several additions, over to him. Hi and I and the three younger girls moved to Cedaredge, Colorado. It proved to be a nice place with wonderful people. The three younger girls married men from that area and they were fine young men!

The following information was later added by Keith Newman

Gertrude (Gertie) Shelbourn was born February 22, 1890. She spent her early childhood on a remote homestead, in a sod house south of Cody, Nebraska along the Snake River. The homestead was so remote that it took a team and wagon four days to make the trip and return from Valentine. There was no school, so Ida Shelbourn taught her children. Gertie had very little formal schooling but after two years of high school, she took the examination for a teacher's certificate. At age 18, Gertie began teaching all 8 grades in a one-room school with 36 pupils.

Later, Gertie taught school in the Sandhills where Kincaid homesteads were available. The Kincaid Act applied only to Nebraska, and allowed a person to acquire 640 acres of sandy, marginal land without the requirement of farming it. Gertie was thus able to teach school and homestead at the same time. There was a provision that allowed homesteaders to marry and fulfill the residency requirement from one domicile. As soon as she got her patent on her land, Gertie sold the land and used the money to buy a few head of livestock for the Wyoming homestead.

Gertrude and Hiram were married in January 1915 and had nine children. The first child died in infancy. The Newman children were Wilma, Keith, Maxine, Idell, Marjorie, Violet, Donna, and Roberta. The Newmans were determined to make it on this arid land. There was no market for grain harvested as there were no elevators within hauling distance for a team of horses. The grain was fed to chickens and hogs. The cream check from the cows milked and the egg check bought most of the necessities that could not be produced. The Newmans had large gardens using the water from two windmills. Hi had several varieties of earlymaturing dry land corn. Corn was planted with a lister and the corn was cultivated often during the summer months. They soaked their wheat and rye in barrels and fed the wet mash to the hogs, supplemented with corn on the cob.

The ranch was handed down to their only son, Keith when he returned from service in World War II. Gertrude and Hi moved to Colorado for a few years but returned to Torrington in 1949. Hi died



Newman family reunion

in 1955 and Gertrude continued to live to the age of 102.

Keith and Marjorie married in 1947. Marjorie was a native of Deaver, Wyoming. The couple was introduced by his sisters who were her classmates at UW. After their marriage they took over the ranch from Hiram and Gertrude. Marjorie endured the infamous 1949 blizzard without Keith as he had been elected to the Wyoming House of Representatives. She had a small child (Jean), but did have assistance from Hi and Keith's cousin Duane Brosius. While on the ranch they had five children, Jean, Neil, Blair, Ross and Alice. The family moved from the original homestead in 1960 to a farm located west of Torrington. The move was prompted by the education of the children as the Prairie Center School went through the 8th grade. A sixth child (Nancy) was born after the move to the farm.

Ross and Blair graduated from UW in 1977. Keith started turning over the ranch in the late 1970s. Ross purchased a portion of the irrigated farm and

Blair took over the balance of the property. Blair ran cattle and sheep for several years. In the mid-1980s, Blair chose to pursue a career in real estate and gave up his ranching interests. Ross was working in banking, then took on the remainder of the ranch.

Ross continued to work in banking until 1998. He served as a Goshen County Commissioner in addition to operating the ranch. Ross married Julia Hageman in 1980. Julia worked in education and is the head of the guidance department at Scottsbluff High School. They have one daughter, Demoní who is a law student at Stanford University. Demoní will be the 4th generation owner of the ranch.



Rep. Cynthia Lummis, Sen. John Barrasso, Newman Family, Gov. Matthew H. Mead and Sen. Mike Enzi

The Rietz Ranch, 1900

The Rietz Family, Platte County



Charles Fredrick Rietz

As told by Clara Rietz Powers

As I watch my grandchildren at play on this place that we all love and call home, I think of the days of long ago when this ranch was first begun. These children comprise the sixth generation to begin their lives on the Rietz ranch. This peaceful place is home to those of us who live here and those of us who return to seek this priceless gift of our ancestors.

Charles F. Rietz came to Wyoming from Wisconsin with his mother, Kate Rietz, and his sister, Louise (Fletcher) Rietz, in 1885. They homesteaded on Cottonwood Creek. Kate Rietz's



Kate Rietz



Joe & Kate Groher

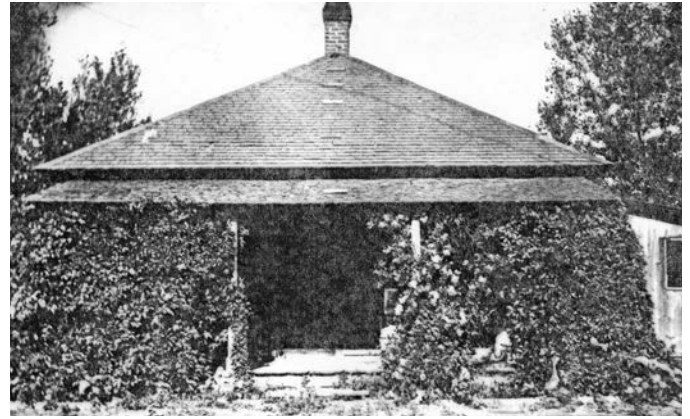
brother, John Groher, ran a road ranch at what is now the Coleman ranch. Colemans bought the relinquishment from him in March of 1889. Charles F. Rietz married Minnie Griffin in 1894



Minnie Adaline Rietz



Minnie Rietz

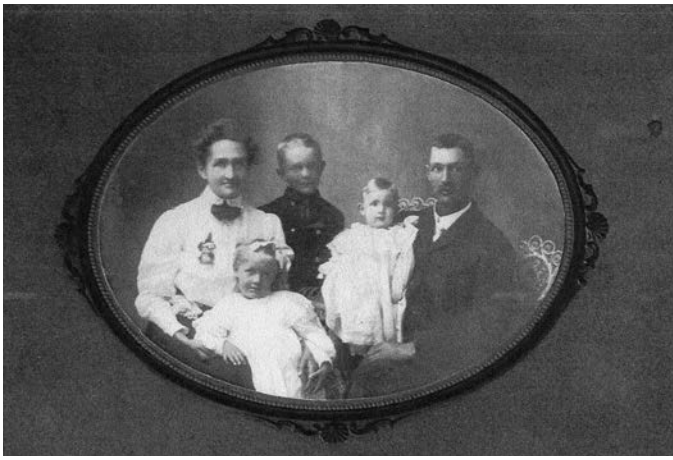


C.F. Rietz house burned on 9-10-1916

and they accepted the relinquishment of Minnie's parents' homestead on the Laramie River which is the present day Rietz ranch. Minnie's family had moved to Wyoming earlier and her father drove the stage from Rock Creek to Deadwood. Her mother ran an eating house in Rock Creek and Tom Horn was a frequent guest. Minnie idolized Tom Horn and never felt he had shot the Nichols boy. She felt he was falsely accused. Minnie had attended the University of Wyoming and was Dr. Grace Hebard's secretary for two years, before teaching at the Cottonwood school where she met Charles.

The couple built a small dugout to begin their married life. Charles went back and forth helping his mother, Kate, leaving Minnie alone in a dugout for weeks at a time. At that time, there were no fences or trees on the river. They built a better home and planted many trees. Others settled west of the homestead and the neighborhood grew. The Mertz family, Northups, Cramers, Hobbs, Doc Morrisons (the Morrisons buried two infants on their place). As time passed, the Rietz family bought the Cramer place from the McGill estate. They had also acquired the Petty, Morrison, Hedrick, and Hightower homesteads. The house that Minnie and Charles built on the river burned in 1916. They had birthed five of their six children in that home which at that time was a part of Laramie County.

The family moved to the Cramer place that they had acquired in 1913. They lived there until 1927 when Charles broke his pelvis in a cave-in in a ditch in Wheatland. The couple moved to Wheatland, leaving their 23-year old son, Philip,



Minnie Rietz (children Arthur, Elon, & Phil) Charles Rietz



Art, Elon, Phil, Peggy, & Andy



Peggy, friend, Arthur, & Phil & apple trees

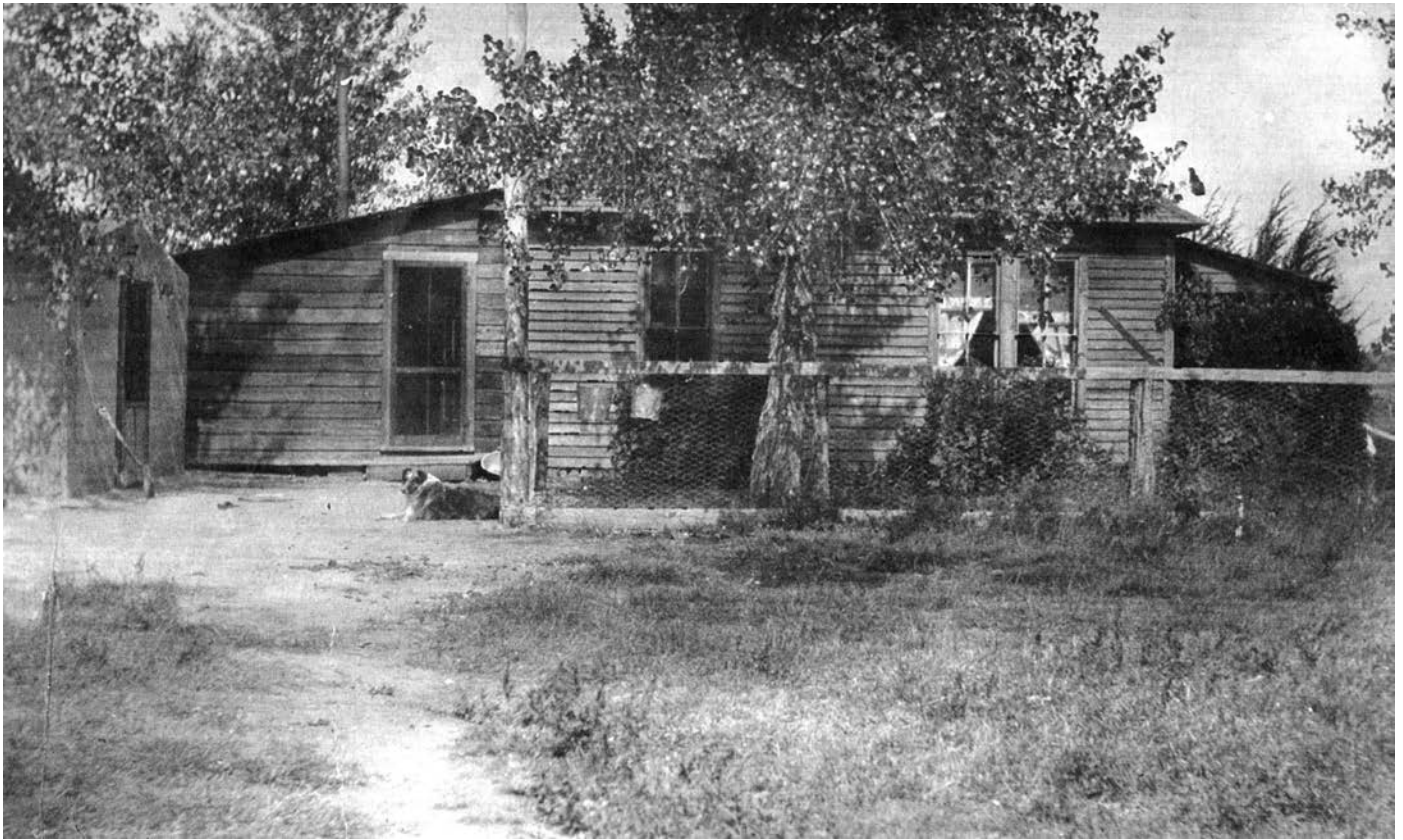


Elon Humbolt, Bob Humbolt, & Deloris Humbolt

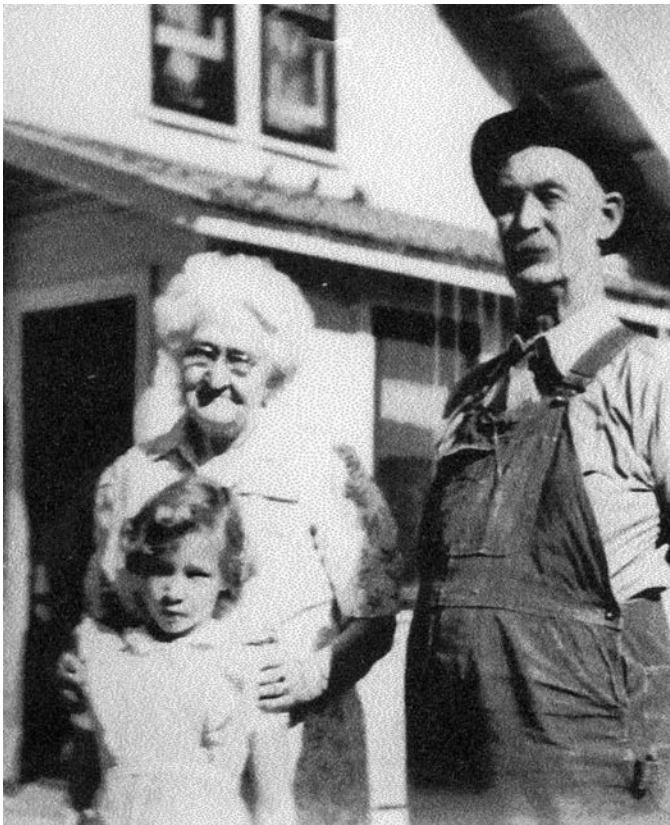


Phil Rietz on Powder Face, Francel Rietz on Lightening, Dave Roberts on Dolly, Jim Irvine, Sr. on Pal, Pete Kitchen on Cotton Eye, Clayton Rietz on Star, barn at Slate Creek

to run their holdings. Phil moved back to the river headquarters, living in an old shack that had been a school house from a small mining community downstream. An old friend tells of visiting Phil on the ranch during those first hard years. He states that when he would ride through, all Phil could offer him was beans to eat. Not only were they poor, but there was little chance to go town, so they made their own entertainment. They had many ranch rodeos in the neighborhood. On Sundays, cowboys



Rietz house burned in 1916, rebuilt in 1939



Minnie Adaline & Charles Rietz



Phil Rietz and Old Tucker

would gather to ride broncs and steers. Phil enjoyed participating in these events.

The original Rietz brand was the 12. Charles gave that to his grandson, Clayton. Phil chose the 23 (2 reversed E) when he took over the ranching operation. He had graduated from high school in 1923. During those years, Phil sheared sheep every spring to support his cattle operation. In 1938, Phil married Francel Irvine, a neighbor's daughter. Francel was only 18 and Phil was 35. She moved to the river holdings and for the first year of their marriage they continued to live in the old shack. They then built a new home on the place where the original ranch had stood. In 1940, the couple lost their first child. Phil was shearing and Francel was alone. The child lived only one day. In 1941, Phil quit following the shearing crews.

Phil was very proud of the beautiful Hereford cattle that he raised. A cattleman at heart, he still loved his horses. He ran a large remuda and used them for harness and riding. Until the mid-1950s, he hayed and fed using teams. He also built meadows using late-1800s water rights to irrigate. Soon the ranch was known not only for his Herefords but the hay produced. Phil summered his cattle on the Laramie Plains or the Diamond Ranch near Chugwater. The three and four day trail drives became annual ranch events.

Phil and Francel raised two children, Clayton and Clara Rietz. Clayton married Linda Howard and had four children: Sarah, Cory, LaRay, and Jamie. Clara married Kerry Powers. The Powers have four children: Sarah, Charlie, Quincy, and Sally Powers Nichols. In 1970, Phil and Francel retired and their children leased the ranch, working together. In the late 1970s, Clara and Kerry left the ranch for a time. Clayton and Linda continued ranching, leaving the homeplace and buying the adjoining Mertz Ranch. Upon Francel's death, Clara and her husband Kerry returned to manage the upper half of the ranch for their children: Charlie, Quincy, Harvey Powers, and Sally Powers Nichols. These siblings formed a corporation (CQSH) so that they could share in the operation of the place. Clayton and Linda's two sons, Jamie and Cory, run the lower half of the ranch. Jamie, his wife Kristi, and daughter



Standing: Kent Phiter Rietz, Andrew Carson Rietz, Philip Eldon Rietz, Charles Arthur Rietz, seated Elon Catherine Rietz, Minnie Adaline Rietz (mother), Mary Illioes (Peggy) Rietz, 1949



Rietz-Powers ranch house



Powers-Rietz Ranch

Brittony manage their part of the ranch and own it in conjunction with Cory, wife Gwendy, and Cory's sons: Jeddric, Dillon, and Dalton. Clayton passed away in 2010. Linda is retired in New Mexico.

The sixth generation includes: Britton Rietz, Kerry and Collin Powers, Lily, Tate, and Griffin Nichols, and Jeddric, Dillon, and Dalton Rietz.

The ranch continues as a working cattle ranch. The family continues to work together to improve Wyoming agriculture. Both the Rietz and Powers family provide ag education to school classes during the year. The ranch has been the site of state Ag in the Classroom training for teachers, ag classes for children, and wildlife education opportunities for local classrooms.



Kerry Powers



Gov. Matthew H. Mead, Rep. Cynthia Lummis, Sen. John Barrasso, Rietz Family and Sen. Mike Enzi

The Simmons Ranch, 1913

The Simmons Family, Goshen County



Robert Lee Simmons, Sr., senior picture, 1908

As told by Leanne Simmons Correll

Robert Lee Simmons Senior (Lee) came to Wyoming by train from Oklahoma with two of his brothers and a friend in the fall of 1913. They arrived at Van Tassell where they hired a man to take them and lumber they purchased to their four parcels of land where they would each build a homestead shack. After building their “houses”, they traveled back to Oklahoma for the winter. In the spring, they again made the journey by train and used their savings to purchase supplies and horses. When Lee arrived where he had built his home, the



Flossie Oberg Simmons, senior picture, 1912

shack had been roped and strewn across the land by the ranch cowboys who had previously considered this unoccupied open range part of their domain. These “sod busters” were not welcomed to the area. As it turned out, it was not all bad because in their haste to get the four shacks constructed the previous fall, Lee’s was mistakenly was built on the wrong side of the property line. Lee then reconstructed his



Lee Simmons homestead, 1919

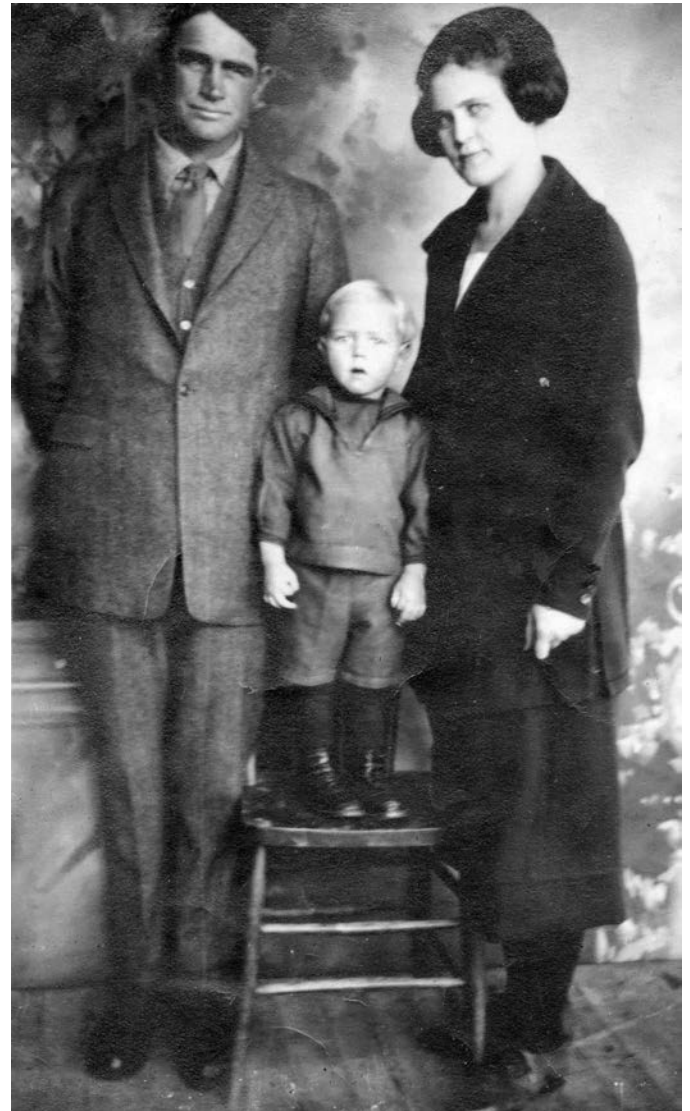


Flossie & Lee at the Simmons homestead, 1919

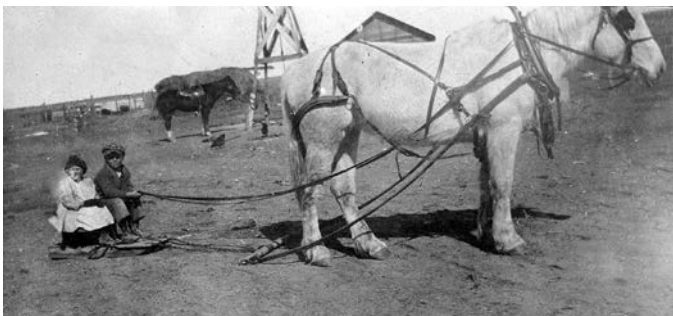
home in the correct location to start his new life in Wyoming on his new homestead per Homestead and Timber Culture Certificate #31559. The certificate was later signed by President Woodrow Wilson on January 24, 1919, when the land was “proved up”.

Lee and Flossie Oberg were married on December 29, 1919, and made their home on the ranch Lee homesteaded. They continued to add property to the ranch by purchasing surrounding properties as other homesteaders left the area. In the early years, they grew potatoes, raised chickens, and turkeys. Later they raised hay, horses, and cattle.

Robert Lee Simmons Junior (Bob) was born on September 23, 1921 at the ranch. He lived his life



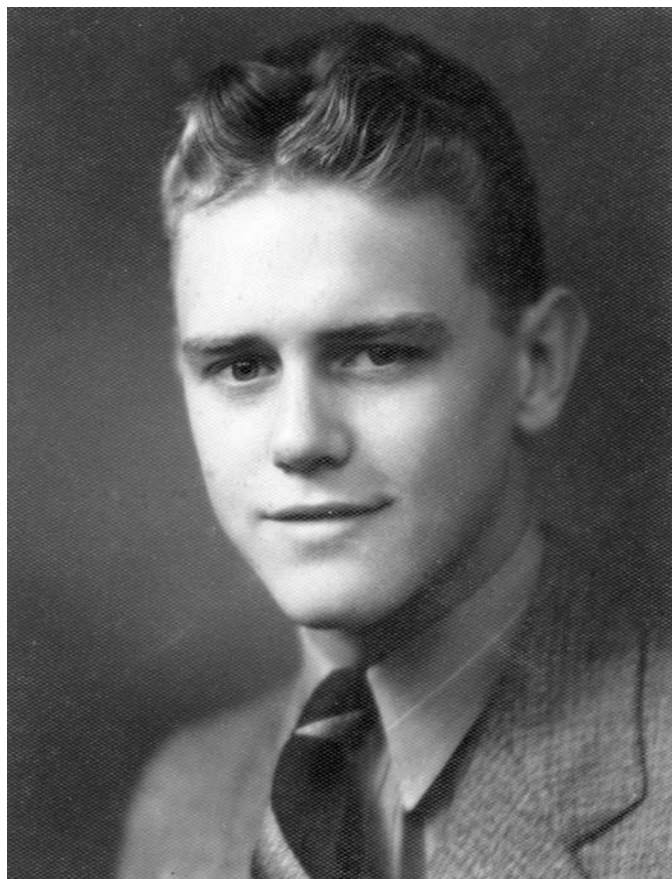
Lee, Bob, Flossie Simmons, 1924



Bob & Pauline Simmons (cousin) at Simmons homestead, 1928



Lee & Louella Simmons, 1929



Robert Lee Simmons, Jr. , senior picture, 1937



Bob, Flossie, Lee, & Louella Simmons, 1935



Marilyn Owens Simmons senior picture, 1942



Bob Simmons with one of the quarter horses he raised on the ranch, 1940s



Bob, Marilyn, & Bruce Simmons, 1961



Lee Simmons at the ranch, 1961

on the family ranch aside from his five years of employment in a government shipyard in Seattle. Bob had one sister, Louella Mae Simmons, born August 11, 1927. She died July 12, 1945, as a result of heart failure as a result of side effects from having rubella as a child.

Bob was married to school teacher Marilyn Owens on June 25, 1950. They continued running the ranch operation. Lee and Flossie retired and moved to Torrington although they continued to provide



Bruce, Bob, & Leanne Simmons riding at the ranch, 1968

assistance during the labor intense times of the year on the ranch. Bob and Marilyn raised and registered Hereford cattle. They leased additional ranches to allow for expansion of their cattle herd and ran yearlings during the summer. Bob and Marilyn adopted Bruce in 1958 and Leanne in 1962. The ranch-raised horses were used extensively as 4-H projects. The kids also showed registered Herefords and market steers raised on the ranch for 4-H/FFA projects.

After the kids were grown, the cow/calf operation was converted to strictly a yearling operation. After Bob died in 1990, Marilyn moved to Torrington,



Leanne & Bruce Simmons, 1965



Bob Simmons & the turkeys



Bob & Leanne Simmons



Leanne & Bruce Simmons at the ranch, 1965



Bruce, Bob, & Leanne Simmons headed to the hayfield, 1969



Simmons Ranch



Bob & Marilyn Simmons, 1987

and Bruce, wife Beth, and his family moved to the ranch. The ranch lands are currently leased to neighbors Chuck and Kayle Berry where cattle still continue as an important part of the landscape. The master bedroom in the house is the original homestead shack as the house has expanded and grown through the years.

One hundred years later, the Simmons ranch continues to exist as a working ranch in the Burge community. It has provided a home to four generations of Simmons's and is a very important part of the history of those who have called it home.



Sen. John Barrasso, Simmons Family, Gov. Matthew H. Mead, Rep. Cynthia Lummis and Sen. Mike Enzi

The Sunshine Valley Ranch, 1898

The Stephenson Family, Campbell County



Sen. John Barrasso, Stephenson Family, Gov. Matthew H. Mead, Rep. Cynthia Lummis and Sen. Mike Enzi

The Tollman Ranch, 1910

The Tollman Family, Niobrara County



Rep. Cynthia Lummis, Sen. John Barrasso, Tollman Family, Gov. Matthew H. Mead and Sen. Mike Enzi

The Manville Ranch, Inc., 1880

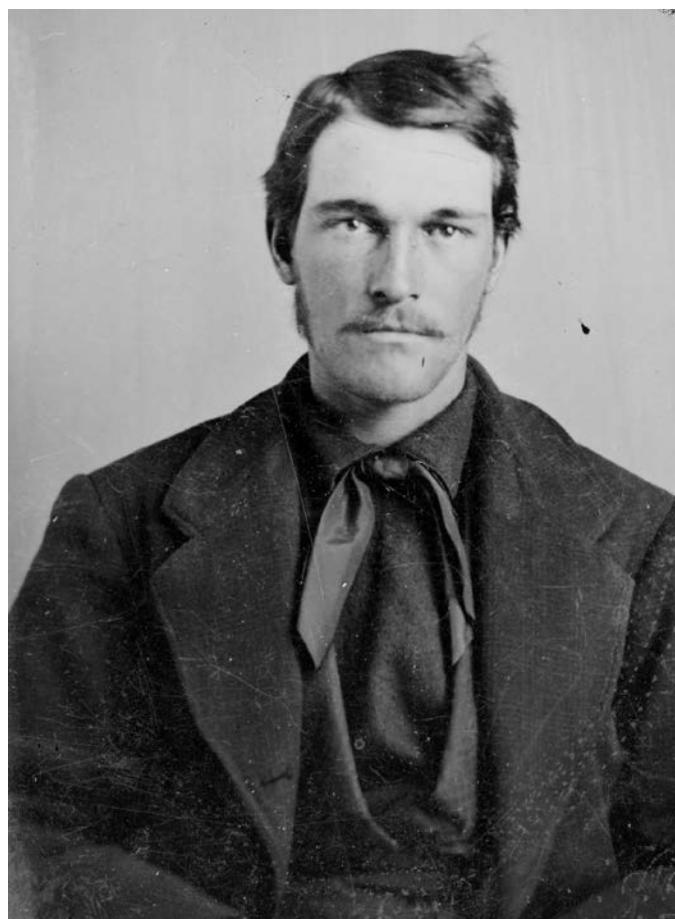
The Willson/Whitehead Family, Niobrara County



George Luther Willson, 1848-1931

John Willson, a great-great grandfather of Eugene Bigelow Willson and George Luther Willson, came with his wife, Jane, from Ireland to Massachusetts in 1729. A fourth generation later, Eugene's and George's father and mother made a westward move from Massachusetts in 1837 with a colony group settling at Como, Illinois, then the nation's western frontier. Here they lived their married life and, with the exception of Juliana, their children, William Parkhurst, Juliana, Helen, George Luther, Eugene Bigelow and Edmund Brooks, grew to adulthood.

The brothers George Luther Willson and Eugene Bigelow Willson and, later, Edmund Brooks Willson, continued the westward trek of Willsons. Eugene left a promising job with the McCormick Harvester Company in Davenport, Iowa and headed



Eugene Bigelow Willson, 1852-1935

for California, but his money ran out at Cheyenne, Wyoming Territory, where he arrived by train September 8, 1870. Three years before, the Union Pacific railroad tracks were laid through Cheyenne, which prospered after the railroad builders moved on and for several years was a roaring, booming town with a well-deserved Wild West reputation.

Gene still aimed for California but saw opportunity in Cheyenne for jobs and getting ahead. Within a few months George joined him, and they worked at a variety of jobs ranging from "biscuit shooting," also known as "mutton lugging" (which was waiting tables at the Hotel Simmons), coal hauling, and shoveling snow to clear railroad tracks, to sheep herding. Eventually, their mainstay occupation was surveying on crews with government contracts to map the southeast corner of the Territory.

Thoughts of California faded; their goal now to establish a place of their own or, as George put it, "Get on their own dung hill." In summer 1879, Gene and George with Thor Rasmussen, a friend from sheepherding days at the Valley Ranch south of Cheyenne joining them as partner in the enterprise, made an exploratory horseback journey through eastern Wyoming Territory to find a good ranch site. North from Cheyenne, beyond Fort Laramie, they arrived at Silver Cliff, near present day Lusk, where they stopped a few days to explore prospects along the Running Water (Niobrara) Valley. Their first-choice place there was already occupied as a squatter's claim by Mr. Wulfjen, a miner working in the Rawhide Buttes to the south.

Continuing their search, they went on to Deadwood in Dakotah Territory where Edmund Willson, their younger brother who had come from Illinois, was working. From Deadwood they rode west and north as far as Lake DeSmet, near present-day Buffalo. There they turned south following the Bozeman Trail road into Fort Laramie, then onward to Cheyenne. After their long excursion the Niobrara Valley was the place they remembered.

That winter a windfall job came their way when Heck Reel, one of their first employers when they came to Wyoming Territory and later mayor of Cheyenne, contracted with George and Gene to haul 2,000 logs from Laramie Peak to his new ranch north of Wheatland near the base of the Peak. Wages from this job added to their savings, faithfully deposited for ten years in a Cheyenne bank, were at last enough to launch their dream.

Early in spring 1880, the partners departed Cheyenne for the Niobrara Valley intending to claim the best available ranch location they could find there. A pleasant surprise was waiting for them. Mr. Wulfjen wanted to move on and agreed to surrender his land claim to the Willson brothers and Thor Rasmussen. The place they wanted from first sight was now theirs.

Running Water Ranch, named for its beautiful valley location, was established in 1880 by Eugene and George Willson and Thor Rasmussen with an initial flock of 1,500 ewes and 10 rams. This



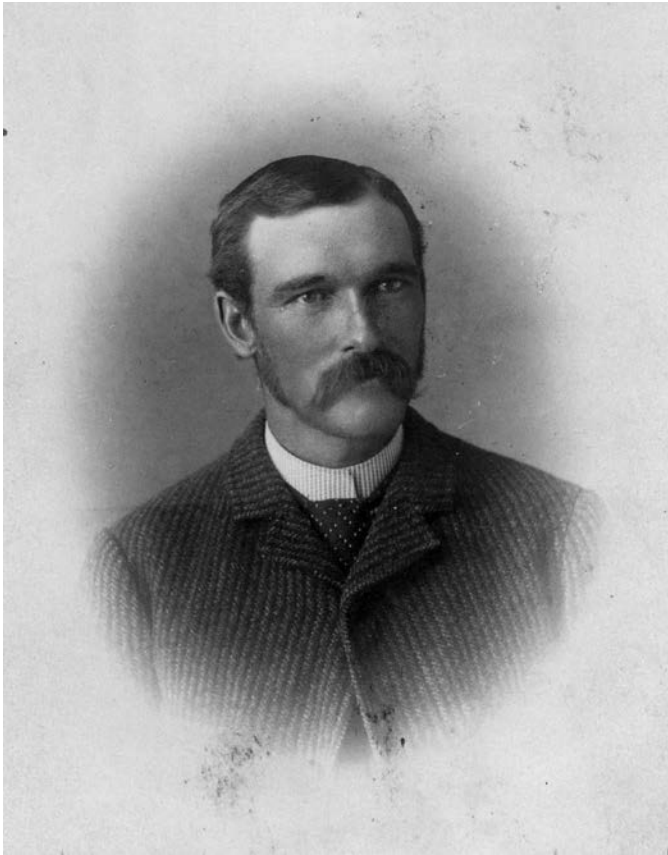
Eugene Willson is 2nd from left, Thor Rasmussen is on the far left



Sheepwagon used for camping excursion, George Willson stands beside wagon. Two visitors from Illinois in doorway.



Camping in Wyoming in the 1880s, mountain wagon at left, note gun propped on box



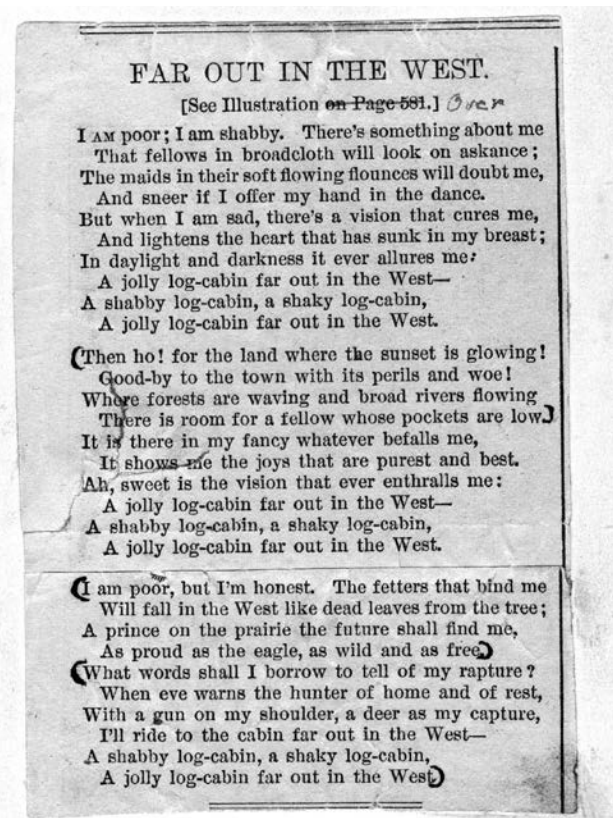
Eugene Bigelow Willson at the time of his marriage



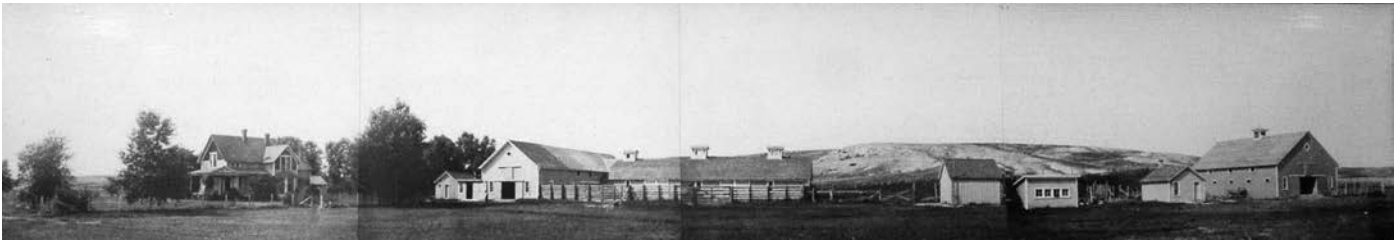
The photograph Isabel Mack sent to Eugene Willson before their marriage



Eugene and Isabel Willson in doorway of their honeymoon cabin just before they moved to their new ranch house



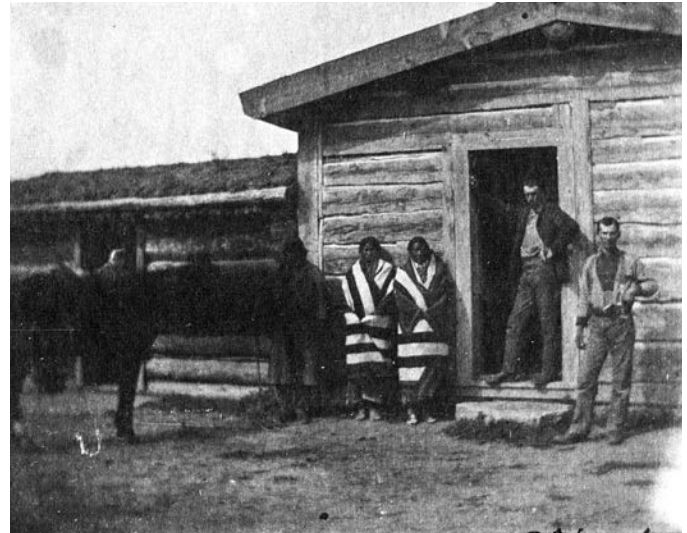
Eugene Willson photographed this poem, May 16, 1886



Running Water Ranch built by Eugene Willson when he and Isabel Mack were married



Willson homestead cabin in background, bridge with covered platform spans Niobrara Creek, waterwheel underneath platform



Native-American visitors at the cabin



Running Water Ranch house when the trees and children were growing up



George Willson's stone house at the Manville Ranch at the time Eugene and Isabel and their children lived there

flock would eventually increase to many bands and 20,000 head at times. Thor left the partnership in 1889 to live in Chicago near his two sisters. Willson Brothers began building up a registered Hereford herd before 1900 and in 1916 sold all their sheep and remained in the cattle business exclusively from that time.

The nucleus of Willson Brothers Running Water Ranch enterprise, now known as Manville Ranch, Inc., continues in operation (2014) by Anne Willson Whitehead, Eugene Bigelow Willson's granddaughter, whose home on the ranch was built in 1890 by George Luther Willson, her great-uncle. Manville Ranch, Inc. was first honored in



Gov. Matthew H. Mead, Sen. John Barrasso, Willson-Whitehead Family, Rep. Cynthia Lummis and Sen. Mike Enzi



Willson ranch house at Manville, 2014

1990 by the State of Wyoming in its Centennial Year and the Wyoming Stock Growers Association as a Centennial Ranch having been in continuous operation by the same family for one hundred or more years. Manville Ranch, Inc., now celebrating one hundred thirty-four years of operation, was honored once again in August 2014 at Douglas, Wyoming as a Centennial Ranch.

The Wintermote Ranch, 1914

The Wintermote Family, Converse County



Sen. John Barrasso, Gov. Matthew H. Mead, Wintermote Family, Rep. Cynthia Lummis and Sen. Mike Enzi

Other 2014 Centennial Ranch Families

The Ellen Richie & Sons Ranch, 1913

Jeptha, Norman, Carole, Eb Richie & Lynne Richie
Latham, Sublette County

Wyoming State Parks & Cultural Resources
Historic Preservation Office

Barrett Building, 3rd Floor

2301 Central Avenue

Cheyenne, WY 82002

Phone: (307) 777-7697

Fax: (307) 777-6421



Front Cover Photo: The Miller-Hewes Ranch Herd, Crook County
Back Cover Photo: The Chambers Ranch wagon roundup, Platte County