



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

2007 WYOMING CENTENNIAL FARM AND RANCH HONOREES



ARTS. PARKS. HISTORY.

Wyoming State Parks & Cultural Resources

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DAVE FREUDENTHAL
GOVERNOR



STATE CAPITOL
CHEYENNE, WY 82002

Office of the Governor

Dear Centennial Ranch Award recipient,

Congratulations on the recognition of a century-long commitment to the State of Wyoming and our western way of life. In a world where change is often considered progress, your family's long-term dedication to the state's historic agricultural industry is a remarkable distinction.

There are very few of us in this great state who do not feel a special and significant attachment to the land where we live. Your family has been fortunate to remain so connected to the land and can appreciate more than any of us the significance of our ranching heritage. Operating a farm or ranch in Wyoming is not an easy lifestyle, and you have endured harsh conditions including droughts, manmade and natural disasters and the growing pressure to sell your land for development.

Wyoming's ranch and farm lands are critically important elements to our landscape. They preserve open space and provide habitat for wildlife and livestock, while contributing to the state's economy.

We appreciate that your family continues to find value in maintaining your historic property – it is an admirable achievement to have been able to operate your ranch through the generations.

Again, congratulations on a deserved honor, and thank you for your long and historic commitment to Wyoming.

Best regards,


Dave Freudenthal
Governor

DF:jlm

The Kip and Bonnie Alexander Ranch

Sublette County

As told by William Alexander

Eugene Alexander, born in 1844, and his brother, Albert Alexander, born in 1845, left New York together and went west to South Dakota. Eugene married Nancy Butler June 6, 1867 in Yankton, South Dakota. They had five children, Charlotte, Esley Eugene, Frank, Charles Curtis, and William John, who was born December 12, 1880 in Yankton.

The wonders of the Oregon Territory 1889 were told in letters coming back to Nebraska to Eugene and Nancy, who became fired with yearning to see this far off land. So, in the year 1887, the Alexanders started to Oregon to join Eugene's sister in the Hood River area. It was late to be starting, and in November 1887, the Alexander family arrived in Montpelier, Idaho. The railroad had reached Montpelier, and there was work so the family settled there for the winter. They remained in Montpelier until the spring of 1889 when they took the trail to Oregon.

Not far along the trail at Soda Springs, Idaho, they met up with a trapper who had just returned from the Green River country. The trapper told of the plentiful grass, the abundant game and fish, and the free land which stretched away in every direction. So, the Alexanders turned their two yokes of oxen and their buckskin team up the Snake River at Idaho Falls, which was then known as Eagle Rock, and headed south toward the Green River country.

Coming over through Star Valley, Mr. Alexander turned his wagons over the Wyoming Range and dropped down into the Snider Basin and on to the Big Piney country. Proceeding to the Green River and up to the mouth of Cottonwood Creek, the Alexander family camped at the trading post operated by the Cleofus family. The winter of 1888 had been a mild one, and all the streams were easily forded. So, they crossed the Green River and came up toward the present site of Pinedale. There were

no settlers in the vicinity. They made a camp at a place on the west side of Pine Creek. After looking over the land along Pine Creek for several days, Mr. Alexander moved his family up to a place along the New Fork River, near the site of the present day George Jorgenson ranch. From there, Mr. Alexander and his oldest son rode out on saddle horses to look for a permanent ranch location. Mrs. Alexander and the younger boys stayed at camp watching over the half dozen horses and the 15 or 16 cattle the family had herded along the trail with them.

After scouting the countryside and looking at many possible home sites, Mr. Alexander decided on a spot on the east side of the New Fork River, several miles up the river. This is near the place now owned by Rob Lozier and above the Bar Cross Ranch. He chose this particular spot because the valley floor was covered with an abundant growth of native hay and it was close to timber with which to build buildings.

On June 18, 1889, the Alexanders moved onto their chosen ranch site. The rest of the summer was one of continuing hurry. There was a house to put up, and hay to cut and stack for the winter. William Alexander, Sr., who was nine years old that summer, recalls that his father worked at putting up the house first and when the one-room cabin was covered, he immediately started with the job of making hay. All the hay was cut with a hand scythe. All the low places were covered with thick growths of wild hay and Mr. Alexander worked from daybreak until dark each day cutting hay. He fashioned a wide, wooden-toothed hand rake and with this crude tool, the boys raked the hay into piles and put it into their wagon to haul up near the cabin. Every wisp was carefully stacked for the winter, which they had been warned would be one with lots of snow.

In the meantime, the cattle and horses grazed and became fat and sleek on knee high grass. Game was every place, especially antelope, and with the

coming of fall, the deer and elk came down out of the hills. Fish were abundant in every stream and catching enough for a meal took but a few minutes.

The buffalo had gone by this time and Mr. Alexander recalls, "We never saw any buffalo after coming, but we heard that a half-breed had killed one that fell down at the forks at the New Fork and the Green Rivers. That is the last buffalo anyone heard of in this country. That was the fall of 1889."

Early in the fall, Mr. Alexander and his oldest son, Essey, went back to Montpelier to get some possessions which they had left stored there with an older daughter, Charlotte, who had married during the stay in Montpelier. While there, they secured supplies for the winter. Mrs. Alexander and the younger boys kept the ranch during the month long trip.

In August of 1889, the Alexanders were joined in the Cora Valley by Bill and Jimmie Westphals. They built three cabins, two on land now owned by William Alexander, Sr and a third cabin immediately north of the Alexander Ranch now owned by Carroll Noble. So the first winter, the Alexander's had neighbors down the valley. The Westphals left the following spring.

The first winter was a long and hard one, but the Alexander family had planned and prepared well so that they and their livestock came through the winter without any of the extreme hardships experienced by many others in the Wyoming territory. With flour, sugar, salt, bacon, and molasses brought from Montpelier, the family lived as other pioneer families, with wild meat and fish as the mainstay of their diets.

The Budds had a post office at Big Piney, and during the first year, infrequent trips were made down to Big Piney to get mail and make some necessary purchases at the Budd Store. After the

Westphals came, the two families took turns making such trips. In that summer of 1889, two families moved onto sites west of Pine Creek near present day Pinedale. Their names were McDowell and Helm. Neither of those families stayed, moving out in the fall with evidence of the hard winter to come.

"We never went to formal school after coming to Wyoming," tells Mr. Alexander. "But we were more fortunate than most children of those days because our mother was an educated woman. She could teach us." Mrs. Alexander who had come to the Dakota Territory as a tutor and governess to the family of Governor General Faulk, gave her family an education during the long winter days in the one-room cabin.

During the first rugged winter, Mr. Alexander recalls that three people spent the winter near the town site of Pinedale. They put up a crude cabin near the crossing on Pine Creek. The men, Al Sanford and Jack Haley, spent the winter trapping and a widow named Puckett kept house for them. With the coming of spring, the trio moved out. Both Sanford and Haley later settled in the Hoback Basin, then known as the Fall Creek Basin.

Mr. Alexander reminisced that over in the Boulder area, several families had moved in. The Steeles had settled at the hot springs in 1888. The Lovatts and the Boulters each had a little bunch of cattle and had established homes. Vible and Broderson came about that time and established a store on the East Fork, and later a post office. The Faler family came and settled on New Fork between Pole Creek and Boulder Creek but moved on into the Fall River Basin country. But the New Fork valley was a lonely place that first winter.

When asked about Indians, Mr. Alexander said they saw Indians once in awhile throughout the first summer when they came to the Alexander cabin

to beg, the family watched their stock closely and forestalled any attempts at the Indians stealing.

Once in awhile that first winter, the Alexanders had company from three trappers who put up a cabin near Jermone Spring along the present road to the Willow Creek ranger station and the Z-U Ranch.

The following year, a nephew of the Westphals, who had moved, came in and took up a residence on the place now owned by Mr. Alexander. This Jim Westphals started a store and traded with the Indians. His wife, whose name was Minerva J., started the first post office at Cora. The name Cora was decided upon by the Westphal children who named it for an aunt, who is now Mrs. Cora Auer.

Mr. Alexander does not remember that his family was ever unhappy or lonely. They planned well for those first years, and the fact that they did plan for the hard, rugged winters made their lots easier. Of the four family boys, William and Charles stayed in Sublette County and raised their families. Frank went to Canada in 1912, and Essey went over the mountains to Burris, where he ran the store and post office for many years.

William Alexander, who is the one survivor of the family when this was written, lived on his homestead near Cora, with his son, W.D. (Bud) Alexander operating the ranch.

The Dan H. Budd & Sons Ranch

Sublette County



Sen. John Barrasso, Budd Family, and Sen. Mike Enzi

The Budd Ranch was originally owned by Charlie Griggs who was an outlaw. Around 1897, Griggs sold it to Daniel B. Budd. More land was added from land acquired through the Homestead Act, desert claims, and private purchase. In the early days, the ranch was called Stanley and consisted of a post office, grocery, and a dry goods store in a small log cabin. Daniel's son, Charles P. Budd, eventually acquired the ranch, and a new house that was a wedding gift from his father-in-law in 1904. The doors and windows were purchased

at Fort Bridger when the bachelor officers' quarters were demolished. They were auctioned off and freighted to Big Piney by team and wagon. The house is still the home of Dan and Barbara Budd.

The ranch includes the old barn and many outbuildings. Cattle and hay have been the main source of income for over 110 years. Dan H. Budd and his sons, Dan S. and David S. Budd, run the ranch today.

The Budd Ranches

Sublette County



Painting of Ranch Headquarters by Kathy Wipfler

By Nancy Budd Espenscheid

The first Budd to come to the Piney country was Daniel B. Budd in 1879. His arrival here was one of those ‘accidents’ that now seems providential. He had been living in Kansas, and had been employed as a warden in a prison. His brother, Phillip, had been living in Nevada, near Carson City; Phillip died there and left an estate which included a herd of cattle. The short version of a long and arduous journey is that Daniel B. left for Nevada to settle the estate on February 19, 1879 with \$383 in his pocket, and arrived in the Green River Valley near Ham’s Fork in November of 1879, with a herd of tired, hungry cattle. Desperate for a place to winter, they made their way up the river and finally found adequate feed along the Piney Creeks. They turned the cattle loose, made a winter camp and that was the beginning of the Budd family’s presence in Wyoming.

Daniel and his wife, Josephine, settled permanently where the town of Big Piney is now. They had 6 children, one of whom was my Grandfather, John Coburn, the founder of what is now known as Budd Ranches, Inc. The headquarters of the ranch are at the site of John’s original homestead, filed in 1898, on Meadow Canyon Creek; it is approximately nine miles northwest of Big Piney.

John married Lula McGinnis in 1905. John spent two years prior to their marriage building a house (a two story log house which was moved to town 45 years later and is still occupied by a descendant of John’s), and a barn—a huge, classic horse barn which has served every generation well and still does. He also built some corrals and a few outbuildings. The logs had to be cut with hand saws and hauled down from the forest with a team and wagon, so this process required a tremendous commitment of time and hard work. John chose the site because of a good spring which would supply the house and corrals with fresh, flowing water year round, and for the protection from the wind afforded by a long, low hill nearby.

After they were married, Lula filed a homestead on adjacent land for their first expansion, and then an uncle (Dan Budd) and an aunt (Jenny Boyer) filed on more adjacent land and John and Lula purchased that land from them. This was a common practice by early settlers, to have family members file with the understanding that their homestead would be purchased as soon as possible.

Meadow Canyon is not a major drainage so irrigation water had to be brought to the homesteaded land from North Piney Creek. The point of diversion was approximately seven miles

away from the land to be irrigated, so the next major project was to build the North Piney Canal. Of course, in those days the equipment consisted of plows and scrapers pulled and powered by horses. Picks and shovels and dynamite were used to cut through some of the sandstone bluffs. Most of the land to be irrigated was covered with sage brush. The brush was cleared by hand with a grubbing hoe, raked into piles, and burned. Next the land was plowed with a single bottomed plow pulled by 2 or 3 horses, harrowed and then leveled with a wooden drag. The ground was planted to oats for a couple of years and finally planted to meadow grasses. The seeding was done on foot with a hand broadcaster.

John and Lula had two children, Helen Delores (born in 1909) and Joseph Lincoln (born in 1911). Helen married Francis Tanner and moved to town. Joe married Ruth Peterson in 1937 and remained on the ranch.

Joe went to three years of college and then returned to the ranch in 1933. His return was necessitated by the worst drought in history, compounded by the fact of the country being in the middle of the Great Depression. During Joe's first few years back on the ranch the cattle weren't worth enough to pay their freight to Omaha. Many ranchers went broke. It was a time of hard work and frugal living. Joe filed a claim on a failed homestead near the headquarters, a place called the Bergerman Place.

When cattle prices improved a little in the late 1930s, John and Joe were able to borrow money to buy some of the land which was available due to other peoples' misfortunes. They bought the Barlow Place first, then some grazing land from the Walker family on Middle Piney Creek. Joe and Ruth built a small cabin on the Middle Piney land during the summer of 1938. The Moffat Place on the upper end of Meadow Canyon and the Wilson Place on the lower end were the next purchases. In 1942 they purchased the Mills place on Middle Piney Creek and moved the cabin from the Walker place down to the Mills Place. Then in 1948 they were able to purchase the Noble place from Charlie Noble, right on North Piney Creek.

In 1949, Joe bought MHR Majestic the third, a high quality Hereford bull and a few registered Hereford heifers. This was the beginning of Budd Herefords, which continued as a large part of the operation until 1986. During that time, Joe and Ruth started having an annual Bull Sale at the ranch which became a fun and important event for the whole community for 25 years.

Joe and Ruth had three daughters, Betty, Mary and Nancy. Betty and Mary married ranchers and moved away from the ranch. In 1963 John and Joe incorporated the ranch and distributed shares to other family members, namely Helen Budd Tanner, and Betty, Mary and Nancy Budd. Lula died in 1966 and John died in 1967. In 1969 Nancy and her husband, Gary Espenscheid, returned to the family ranch after completing college and fulfilling military obligations. They worked with Joe and Ruth and continued the operation of Commercial and Registered Herefords and also ran yearlings on the Budd Ranch land and in other parts of the country. Nancy and Gary bought out the other owners of shares in Budd Ranches, Inc. in 1979. Gary and Nancy had two children, Brian Joseph and Chad Eric.

In 1986, because of drought, low cattle prices and high interest rates, Gary and Nancy and Joe and Ruth had to make the hard decision of either selling land or cattle; they decided to sell all of the cattle and change the operation into a yearling operation. This was a traumatic time for everyone, as there were many ranches in the Green River Valley that were being forced into foreclosure or bankruptcy.

Joe died in 1987 and Ruth died in 1994. Gary and Nancy and their sons continued to operate the ranch as a stocker operation. Brian and Chad both returned to the ranch after college and some time competing in the Professional Rodeo Circuit. Chad married Gudrid Thayer of LaBarge, Wyoming in 1996 and Brian married Annie Hittle of Pinedale in 1998. Chad and Gudrid have three sons, Arye, Jade and Cael. Brian and Annie have a daughter and a son, Cassidy and Hays. The management of



Daniel and Josephine Budd family circa 1883



John and Lula Budd family circa 1950
Meadow Canyon Ranch, near Big Piney, Wyoming

the ranch was completely turned over to Brian and Chad in 2001 and the ownership transfer to them is in process.

This is a concise summary of the history of Budd Ranches, Inc. from 1898 through 2008; 110 years since the homestead on Meadow Canyon, and 129 years since Daniel B. came to the Piney country in 1879. Brian and Chad are the fourth generation to own and operate the ranch and Arye, Jade, Cael, Cassidy and Hays are the fifth generation to live in the shadow of the big red barn and drink the water from the spring waters of Meadow Canyon.

The Conwell-Gildea Ranch

Sublette County

Excerpted from Daniel, Wyoming: The First Hundred Years, 1900-2000

Patrick Conwell was born November 16, 1878 in Iowa to parents who had immigrated to America from Ireland in the 1860s. He married Martha Edwards who was born on January 19, 1891, near Grand River, Iowa. Leaving Martha and two children behind in Iowa, Patrick came to the upper Green River region in 1901. He worked for ranches in the Big Piney and Daniel areas and bought the Oscar Reddick homestead on the upper Horse Creek in 1902. Patrick filed a homestead entry in 1902 and a desert entry in 1904. His wife, Martha, and two children joined him in 1904.

By 1907, Patrick had improved the ranch with fencing, a well, added a cellar and kitchen to the house, and put up hay. In 1913, the Merna post office was moved to the Conwell ranch and Martha became postmistress until 1917. She was a good cook and many patrons would pick up their mail at a time to coincide with a meal.

In 1916, the Conwell's bought a second ranch near Daniel. Education was very important to them and they moved to Daniel in the winter so the children

could attend school. Martha served on the school board in the early 1920s. The Conwell family eventually moved to Laramie so their children could attend the local schools as well as the University of Wyoming but they continued to run both ranches.

The oldest of Patrick and Martha's seven children, Ralph, graduated from the University of Wyoming in 1924 and from the UW Law School in 1928 although he never practiced law. He acquired the two family ranches in 1925 and married Margaret O'Neil of Big Piney in 1926. Ralph sold the Daniel ranch in 1947 but kept the Merna ranch which he passed on to his and Margaret's only child, Barbara, and her husband, Vernon Gildea.

Barbara and Vernon are now deceased. Their two children, Mary Gildea Estes and Jon Gildea, continue to enjoy the ranch. Trevor, Hailey, and Ryan Estes are the grandchildren of Vernon and Barbara.

The Duncan-Finley Ranch

Fremont County

As told by John Finley

William L. "Bill" Duncan and his brother, Thomas S. "Tom" Duncan, left their family's sheep and potato operation on Scotland's Ayrshire coast to come to Wyoming. William arrived in 1891 and Thomas in 1893. They went their separate ways until the end of the decade, Tom learning the sheep business, Bill learning the cattle, horse and sheep business, from the Red Desert to the Wind River Mountains and the Platte River, in western and central Wyoming. During this time they also looked for a place they could settle.

At the turn of the century they put their funds together and purchased their own band of sheep near Soda Springs, Idaho. Bill and a herder trailed them to Wyoming as directly as possible, ferrying them across the Green River and then proceeding on the Lander Trail past the Big Sandy Openings. Tom was herding sheep in the Big Sandy Openings that summer of 1900 with him. Bill arrived just in time to have a visit before their father was scheduled to return to Knowside, Maybole, Scotland. They crossed the Continental Divide and then followed the Sweetwater around the end of the Wind River Mountains. From there they made their way into the Wind River country and spent the winter near Crowheart Butte.

About this time Tom returned to Scotland and married Katherine McKissock. They returned to Wyoming in time to help herd the sheep to East Fork Basin where they spent the summer of 1901. They homesteaded along the East Fork down stream from their summer camp. Bill felt herding sheep was too mundane and soon changed to cattle ranching. There were also political and economic pressures at that time which facilitated a change to a cattle operation. They did run sheep again on a 27,000 acre lease on the Wind River Indian Reservation which lasted into the 1950s.

Eventually the brothers' partnership dissolved and diversified into the Open A Cross and Quarter Circle X Ranches that produced cattle, sheep and hay.



John McKissock on land level. Circa 1906



Doctoring cows in Lake Draw. Circa 1910



Margaret McKissock (Mrs Wm. Duncan (Peggy) Circa 1910



William L. Duncan, Note ring stirrups, gauntlet gloves, necktie.
Circa 1910



Ranch Barns, car and 3 wagons and corral full of horses.
Circa 1920



Marion Duncan (Finley) with pack string headed up TePee Creek to sheep camp. Circa 1930

The Duncan brothers were instrumental in bringing irrigated farming to the East Fork Valley. They built an inverted siphon which carried water from the south side of the East Floor across the canyon to the north side in order to irrigate the bench. Although no longer in use it can still be seen. They also introduced Scottish grass hay, "Meadow Foxtail"; also called "Scotch Foxtail" or "Garrison". It grows very well in moist areas.

The United States Post Office of Duncan was established in 1939. It operated out of the ranch house until 1958. The mail was sorted on the kitchen floor and then put into mail cubicles in a small room on the outside of the house to be picked up by settlers in the area.

Bill and Tom were joined by brothers Jim and Gavin in proving-up homesteads in the East Fork area which became as "Little Scotland". Their sister, Nancy Littlejohn, moved to the Grass Creek area between Cody and Thermopolis and Jim later moved on to Canada. Gavin and Nancy eventually returned to Scotland.

Tom married Kathrine "Kate" McKissock from Maybole, Ayrshire, Scotland. Their children were Robert "Bob", Kathrine, James "Jim", William "Bill", John Charles "Charlie", Gavin, David and Margaret "Peggy". Kate's sisters, Minnie



Oat thrashing on Finley Ranch 1939



Thomas Duncan & Katharine McKissock wedding picture, 1901



Gavin Duncan & Jeanie Muir wedding photo 1905

and Sophia, spent many years on the family ranch helping raise the family before returning to Scotland. John McKissock, their brother, spent nearly 40 years at the East Fork operation before returning to his native Scotland. Robert "Bob" and his wife, Betty, and Charlie and his wife, Jessie Duncan, carried on that side of the family ranching operations until they sold to the Double Diamond Ranch and retired to live in Dubois.

Bill married Peggy McKissock, Kate's sister, on February 14, 1912. Their daughter, Marion Duncan, was born December 9, 1912 in Lander and was raised on her father's ranch on East Fork. Peggy died when Marion was only about 2 years old. Marion went through grade school at the Duncan School on the ranch (one of the first schools in the upper Wind River country), and graduated from high school in Lander in 1931 and from the Scottsbluff Nursing School in Scottsbluff, Nebraska in 1936.

Marion married O. Fred Finley who joined his father-in-law's cattle operation. Their children, Orion "Bucky", born March 20, 1939, Margaret, born March 21, 1941; Fred, born December 14, 1944 (deceased), John born September 11, 1948, and Mary, born May 12, 1952, were raised on the family ranch on East Fork. The older children all completed grade school in a one room schoolhouse on the ranch. That school was closed after John completed the second grade. All children along the East Fork were then bussed into Dubois for both grade school and high school.

Although the Duncan branch of the family has scattered, many still live in western Wyoming. The family maintains ties with their Scottish relatives, traveling to Ayrshire and hosting them here.

O. Fred Finley was born July 2, 1913 in Scottsbluff, Nebraska and he was raised on his aunt and uncle's cattle ranch near Hyannis, Nebraska. He went through school in Scottsbluff, graduating from high school in 1932 and from the University of Nebraska in 1936.

Fred was working as a civil engineer in Scottsbluff in 1936 when he was hospitalized in the Methodist Hospital of Scottsbluff with a ruptured appendix.

Marion was a nurse in training working as the scrub nurse in the operating room when Fred was operated on, although they did not formally meet until after he was dismissed from the hospital.

In the spring of 1937, Fred was doing engineering work for the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation at Eden Valley, Wyoming when he and Marion were engaged to marry. On August 28, 1937 they were married in Lander.

After Fred and Marion were married they spent the winters on her father's ranch at Duncan, helping Mr. Duncan with the ranch. In the summer of 1942, they moved on to the ranch permanently and proceeded to borrow enough money from a Lander bank and Fred's father and elsewhere to purchase the entire holdings of Marion's father and they became of the sole owners of the Open A Cross Ranch, even expanding it in later years.

John Finley and his wife, Monie, continue the family operation on the original East Fork homestead, although much of it has been sold. John has built a wide reputation as an artist. Bucky and his wife Mary Lou live in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Margaret owns and operates the Western Bouquet flower shop and greenhouse in Dubois. Fred was killed in a timber accident in 1984, and Mary lives in Manilla, Utah.

A couple of stories that may be of interest:

One of the first years the Duncan's were in the East Fork, my grandfather and his brother, Jim, had bedded down for the night and had retired to the sheep wagon, when there was a disturbance among the sheep. They fired a shot from a rifle and that seemed to quiet things down.

The next morning while grandpa was fixing breakfast, Great-Uncle Jim went to check on the sheep. When he didn't return shortly, grandpa went looking for him and found him with a wolf on top of him with its jaws clamped on his arm. Grandpa killed the wolf and they took Jim to the doctor at Fort Washakie (about 60 miles one way). His arm was saved by the fact that he was wearing leather cuffs and the wolf had a hold of his arm where the cuff was.



James Duncan & Jessie Hamilton wedding photo 1905



William Logan Duncan and Margaret Tennant McKissock after marriage 2-14-1912



O. Fred Finley and Marion T. Duncan wedding photo Aug, 1937

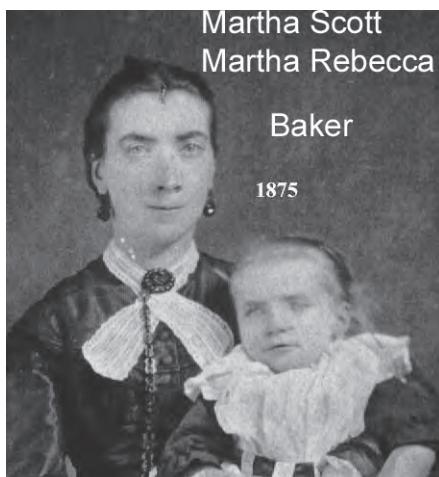


Sen. John Barrasso, John and Ramona Finley, and Sen. Mike Enzi

Another story that relates the hardship for the first women of these early settlers is that my great-aunt Kate was on the ranch for a period of three years before she saw another woman. Her first child, Bob, was born in Lander and all their other children were born on the ranch. One child, Katherine, was born premature and all the men took turns holding the wee child in front of the wood-burning stove with the oven door open to keep her warm.

The Gilligan Ranch/Smyth L.L.C.

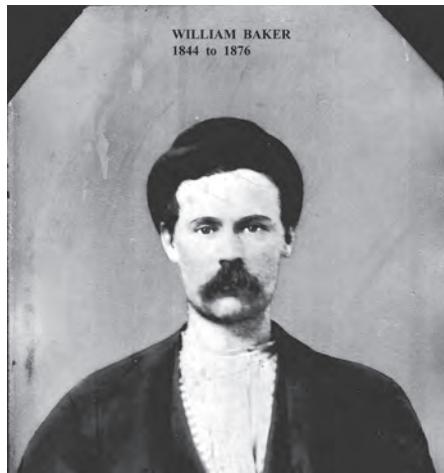
Sublette County



Martha Scott
Martha Rebecca

Baker

1875



WILLIAM BAKER
1844 to 1876



Dr. John H. Gilligan
1856-1949
circa 1886

As told by Daniel P. Smyth and Kathleen Smyth Lampe

Our first pioneer was a fine young man, William H. Baker. He came to Bryan, Carter Post Office, Uinta County, Wyoming Territory, in 1869. The Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) hired him as a locomotive fireman in Essex, England. Will was born in 1844 and was 25 years old. He was engaged to Martha Scott of London, England. Martha waited behind for word Will had enough money and job security for her to join him.

Martha Scott was born in December 1, 1846 in London. She was 23 years old when she came to marry Will in 1870. They met and married in Omaha, Nebraska. Her sister, Mary, and her paternal aunt, Janet Gordon, accompanied her on the voyage. Will and Martha married on September 6, 1870 with Mary as a witness. The young couple returned to Bryan in Wyoming Territory where the Union Pacific division point of the western division was located. The Baker's first home was a railroad car because of the housing shortage in Bryan.

Will and Martha had two infant sons in Bryan, one infant daughter, and a son when they moved to Green River City. The infants born in Bryan died. Their infant daughter survived and named Martha Rebecca Baker. She was our family's first native Wyomingite, born on October 13, 1873. Fortunately, Will took his five month

old daughter, Martha, to visit her grandparents in England in 1874. His infant son who was born in Green River City died.

By the time of their move to Green River City in 1872, Will was a switch engine engineer. His daughter would write several histories in her lifetime. In her biography, "Being the Oldest Native-born Woman in Green River", Martha Baker Gilligan wrote about her father, "my father was the day engineer on the switch engine (the pusher as it was called as it helped take the trains up Piedmont Hill before the tunnels were built"). The scarcity of water in Bryan had brought about the change.

Martha Baker, or Nan, continues the story of her family, "On July 9, 1875, he (her father) was drowned while on a fishing trip by their boat capsizing. The body was never recovered."

"Thirteen months after his death, Mother married Dr. Gravelle, who only lived less than two years, leaving an infant son (George Gideon or Gid Gavelle)." Nan continues, "After several years she again married Henry Hudson Campbell, from that union there were three daughters. One passed away soon after birth, one became Mrs. William Hutton, the other Mrs. Bernard Kincaid... My brother died in the big flu epidemic of 1918..."

Her mother, who died March 11, 1910 left a legacy of business prowess, dignity and her family and community. Her involvement extended to the

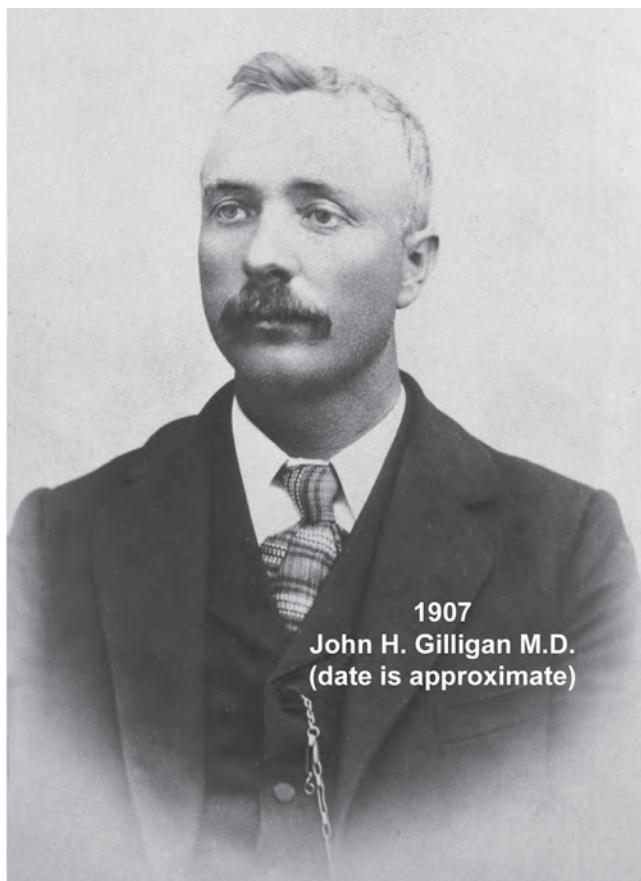
funding of the Episcopal Church of Green River City. Martha Scott Baker Gravelle Campbell had endured the unimaginable and showed us 64 years of fortitude. Nan closed her history with, "My mother passed away... So ended one of the pioneer families of western Wyoming, myself being the only one of the original family left.

Nan wrote about her family, "I married Dr. Gilligan November 23, 1891, he died June, 1949. We had four sons, William (1893-1916), George (Feb 21, 1897-December 26, 1963, John (1905-1913), and Joseph (1909-1910). Of the four I have one remaining, George. He and his wife, Ada (Kronner, February 14, 1897-May 23, 1991), have one daughter and six grandchildren." (written and signed by Mrs. Martha Baker Gilligan in 1956 or 1957).

The two stories, of mother and daughter, are very sad yet they continued. They were both survivors and Nan, as Martha Baker Gilligan would be called, had a good sense of humor.

On January 1, 1885 , John H. Gilligan, M.D., arrived in Green River City with the assignment as the physician for the UPRR. He was born in County Mayo, Ireland, September 13, 1856. He was a doctor when he arrived in New York in the spring of 1878. Before arriving in Green River City, he spent seven years moving from schooling to business: Bellevue Hospital, New York, the American Medical College, St. Louis, MO, mining and medicine in Kokomo, Colorado, medicine in Wood River, NE, and finally the Wyoming Territory.

His future mother-in-law, Martha Campbell, had a daughter, Martha Baker. Gilligan waited until November 23, 1891 when she returned from St. Mary's Academy in Salt Lake City, and the missionary, Priest John Delahunty, married them. John was about 5'9" and a willowy build. He wore custom-made swallowtail suits and was a gentleman of the old school. Martha's petite stature belied her leading ambitious trips, driving a team to Yellowstone Park, and to the ranch. Both of them loved to play cards, Euchre, Whist, Solo, Pinochle, and Martha's involvement in tree planting with Esther Hobart Morris' sons



1907
John H. Gilligan M.D.
(date is approximate)

Robert and Ed. She recalled Green River City as having one tree and one wild rosebush and Martha and friends went about changing that. Along with writing "On Being the Oldest Native-born Woman in Green River", she also wrote "Myself and Others" and "The Town of Green River as I First Remember It".

During their long marriage, John was the railroad physician until the strike of 1894, the Mayor of Green River in 1901, on the School Board, the State Board of Health, Sweetwater County physician, and his private medical practice. Various business concerns: the Opera House, Star Saloon, the Malonek House, the Redman Home, the Maxam House, the Gilligan-Franklin Sheep Co., and a family ranch he and Martha created in Boulder, Fremont County in 1897. The Three Ball Brand came in 1911. John would walk to the perimeter of his ranch on each visit. Marthie rode and walked.

Outlaws also used his services. They lived a dangerous life and needed a doctor, too. Years



after, Martha, now called Nan, recalled how she felt when a knock at the surgery came late at night, seeing Doc blindfolded and led away. Her answer was a stoic, "they always brought him back".

Their only surviving child, George Eugene Gilligan, was a diminutive man with a feisty personality; he never met a stranger. He was a student at Utah Agriculture College, Logan, Utah, their football coach, boxing coach, and the lightweight boxing champion of Utah in 1916 and 1917. He was dating Ada Kronner, born February 14, 1897 in Salt Lake City. She was a gifted pianist and organist. Ada was a freshman at the University of Utah when they married on February 11, 1918 at St. Joseph's Church in Ogden, Utah. George joined the Army in 1918 as World War I was encroaching. George trained in Berkeley, California with the 64th Aerial Squadron. Ada was with him. Then he joined the Third Wyoming Infantry serving at Camp Polk, North Carolina. It was the only Sherman Tank Training Corps in World War I. The Spanish Influenza caused many fatalities there. Later, he would be a charter member of the American Legion in Pinedale.

On December 1, 1918, Catherine Patricia "Patsy" was born in Salt Lake City. She was the only child born to the young couple and in a letter to George, his mother wished him "better luck with time. Unfortunately, Ada fell ill with the influenza and was near death for about a month. Mary and Will Kronner cared for their granddaughter and then their

daughter. In 1919, the war over and George was a veteran. He and his family spent their first time managing the ranch in Boulder. He also worked in the Circulation Department of the *Salt Lake Tribune* for a short time.

The ranch had produced Hereford cattle and Columbia-Rambouillet sheep until 1925. After that, George did not raise cattle. The early years were hard and dry; loan rates were in double digits, and the livestock were a long way from rail yards. Ada would drive the Dodge Commercial truck across the desert following George and the sheep to Rock Springs. Very often, they would not see each other for a day or two. The sheep wagon stayed with the flock. Part of the summer included packing the horses and going to different ranches they had to hay. The terrain and living conditions were harsh and Patsy still remembers them. John and Marthie, as John called his wife, turned the ranch over to George and Ada in 1936 when John was 80 years old. He had retired from the practice of medicine that same year.

Pat always spent summers on the ranch and her parents would come down to see her and her grandmother, Mary Kronner, in Salt Lake City. During the winter, George, like his parents, loved to play cards. George and his father were both members of the Elks Club. Ada and George liked these conventions as well as Knights of Columbus. He was a member of the Wool Growers Association. Being in Salt Lake City helped keep these social contacts possible.



Ada Kronner George Gilligan



John Gilligan M.D.

Mrs. Wallace

George Madsen

they managed the ranch from 1911-1918

With numerous stories to draw from, there are some stories that continue to capture the imagination of listeners. Many ranchers got their first job at the Gilligan Ranch and yet, two hired men and a badger are exceptional

Felix Bridger came to the ranch riding a horse in the late 1920s. He brought a string of five horses with him. Felix's claim that he was the son of the mountain man, Jim Bridger, and an Indian mother was a constant story he told. Bridger had named his second child Felix and that child was born in 1841. If our Felix was Jim Bridger's son, he was remarkable working in 1941. Felix was a pathological liar who gathered his family from the pages of the National Geographic Magazine. As hard as the senior Gilligan's tried to trip him up with their questions. Felix always had the right answer. He had a totally fabricated story published in a state newspaper. Later, after further investigation by that reporter, a retraction appeared. Whatever his failings, he excelled when it came to horses. He stayed on the ranch for around 17 years. He died in the Wyoming State Hospital in Evanston around 1954.

Emanuel Iodeschi, Felix Bridger's counterpart, was a Tyrolean. Emanuel spun no tales and barely conversed. Yet this man could fix anything and work rocks into pure art and wire into cages, fencing and anything wanted or needed. Much of his work or artistry is still around the ranch. He stayed on the ranch from the 1920s or early 1930s

to the early 1940s. He did not like haying but he did the work. He died in Rock Springs.

Billy the Badger was an orphan badger. Pat's father, George, found him and brought him home in 1938. Pat trained the young badger and it was the novelty of the county for a couple of years. He traveled in the car and both amazed and frightened people. He went about on a chain like a dog. He walked with Patsy, George, or Ada. Pat could pick him up when he was a yearling. Billy had a beautiful coat and when he was about two years old, he reverted to being a badger. It was necessary to put an end to Billy's aggressive behavior and eating the chickens. Jonas Brothers Taxidermy in Denver received Bill Badger's carcass and now Billy just lies around the ranch house.

Ultimately, leasing the land was George's way of staying in ranching. After three surgeries, two heart attacks, and no son, George could see it was his best alternative to stay in ranching. George made hay with a team and wagon. He never owned a tractor, and walked his irrigation ditches with his shovel over his shoulder. He used the car to drag the front meadow until Ada saw him and "applied the brakes". His old Ford pick-up would bounce him across the fields with George, barely able to see over the steering wheel.

The existing strengths to the ranch and innovations used are:



Martha Gilligan 1907

(the approximate date)

A 22-horse log barn has been on the ranch since 1904. Bill Hutton, Frank Cousine, and by some histories, Peter Iven, cut logs and floated them down the Muddy. As years went by and the hayloft floor smoothed, dances with George Madsen playing the fiddle, were very popular according to Bill Hutton, Ada, and Patsy Gilligan. One stall stored harnesses, saddles, bridles, pack pouches; the second stored grains and had special uses; and a third stall for Delco batteries came later. The barn is a great asset.

A new cellar at the house made it possible to move the batteries and eliminate the wire which carried the electrical current from the batteries in the barn into the house. Granddaughter Sheila Smyth was sitting on a metal stool when a bolt of lighting struck the batteries in the cellar below her. Luckily, she landed on the floor but alive.

Delco batteries would first provide electricity on the ranch and the Gilligan's had the first in the area in 1933. An Army friend of George's, named George Schmid, convinced George

**Ada Kronner (Gilligan)
Ready to ride at the ranch
1917, probably.**

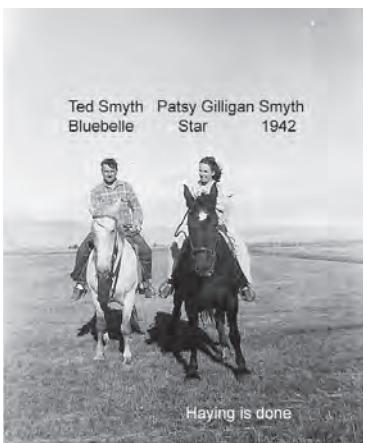


it was the coming thing to have. George Schmid was right.

Several miles of the East Fork River, of the New Fork River, of the Green River, are on the ranch and provide a constant source of water for ranching and recreation. Indoor plumbing, including a bathroom, came in 1933 to the main house. Nevertheless, the old outhouse stayed and no one removed the kerosene lamps.

George Gilligan hayed with a team and wagon. He never owned a tractor. His favorite workhorses were Shamrock, Icky, and Big Jim. Shamrock had a very white hide and they had it mounted on felt backing when Shamrock died. Blue Belle was his last riding horse who died shortly after he did. If she had not died of natural causes, the Smyth "savages", as George referred to his grandchildren, were going to finish her off as they fell from her rotund back after chasing her for a ride. Blue Belle was 19 years when she died in the spring of 1965.

George going to Irish Canyon 1920s



Everyone, including hired men and guests, ate their meals in the dining room with the family. Ada was a great cook and was part of the local “grub line”. Working at the Gilligan ranch guaranteed a man would get three square meals a day.

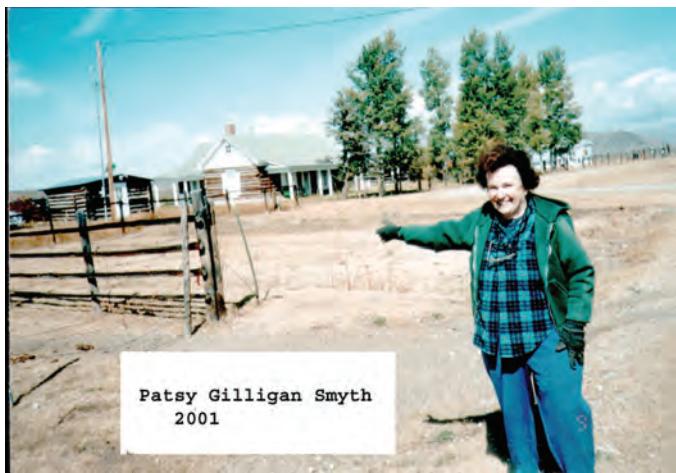
The Gilligan ranch is unique for having eight log buildings that are over or close to 100 years old and in good condition. Some are dovetail and some are split log buildings. They are: the barn, blacksmith shop, two sleeping cabins, the coalhouse, the main house, the old icehouse remodeled into a sleeping cabin, the garage, and the bunkhouse.

On September 9, 1941, Pat married Edward T. “Ted” Smyth in Salt Lake City. Ted was born April 21, 1917 in Ogden and moved with his mother and brother to Salt Lake City where he grew up and attended East High School. He graduated from St. Mary’s College of California, returned to Salt Lake City, and was the personal secretary to the Commissioner of Parks, Pat Goggan. However, Pat and Ted both planned on living in California where Patsy had also attended college. Ted’s father, Walter Smyth, was born in Laramie.

Ted and Pat moved to San Francisco and he had several jobs: a civilian attached to the Marine Corp during World War II; head of recruitment at St. Mary’s College; at the State of California Department of Industrial Relations; and then a career as a sales representative to the brewing and soft drink industries, later the wineries. They have seven children: Sheila, Kathleen, Collette, and Daniel were born in San Francisco while Maureen, Thomas, and Joseph were born in Palo Alto, CA. Patsy took her family to the ranch every June and Ted would join them in August. They would all stay for a few weeks and then drive home to California. Pat said her parents cried when their daughter left with the grandchildren no matter what the kids had done.

John and Martha, also called Nan, continued to visit the ranch and when Nan stopped driving, her sister’s grandsons, Ron and Richard Waggener, were their chauffeurs. “Nan’s cabin” is where they stayed. Next to her cabin is “Patsy’s cabin”.





After George died at age 67 on December 26, 1963, Ada, Pat and Ted Smyth continued managing the ranch. Ted was still in other businesses and Dan and Anne Smyth left California to manage the ranch for two years. Dan handled the ranching business and Anne took an office job at Pinedale High School. Joe came to the ranch for a time. Ted retired into farming, and he, Pat, and Ada spent April to October at the ranch. Many improvements at the ranch in both irrigation and housing accommodated their ranch and growing family. Tom and the sons-in-law helped and the women cooked, cleaned, and helped outside, too. Ted had taken up the irrigation shovel on his shoulder.

Travel to and from the ranch became the norm, but the years were taking a toll and Ada needed more care from Pat and Ted. Eventually, as Ada got closer to 90 years old, she needed more professional care. She entered the retirement home and remained in the Sublette Retirement Center in Pinedale until she died May 23, 1991. Ada was 94 years old.

Throughout the 1980s, Ted stayed healthy but gradually his health faltered and he could not stay at the ranch as long in his waning years. The 7,000 foot altitude was hard on his heart. Children and grandchildren stepped in to help but he died at his home in Atherton, California on May 15, 2003. He was 86 years old. After Ted died, Pat implemented their plans for the future of the ranch and their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, by finishing the work in creating Smyth L.L.C.

From 1869 to the present our family has been involved in Wyoming ranching, politics, and business. To summarize the family: John and Martha created the ranch; George and Ada built and saved it; and Pat and Ted improved it and provided the future. The fact the first three generations had one child was good and bad.

William and Martha Scott Baker were the daughter and son-in law of our pioneers, but not ranchers. -"Martha "Marthie" Baker and John H. Gilligan were the first ranchers.

George Eugene and Ada Kronner Gilligan were the first grandson and his wife of our pioneers.

Catherine Patricia Gilligan and Edward "Ted" Smyth is/was our pioneer's great-granddaughter and her husband

Sheila, Kathleen, Collette, Dan, Maureen, Tom, and Joe Smyth are our pioneers' great-great-grandchildren

Bridget, Matt, Paul, Mike, Courtney, Neil, Sean, Martin, Charlie, Kathleen, Patrick, Teddy, Mimi, Brian, and Brendan are our pioneer's great-great-great-grandchildren

Griffin, Bella, Collette, William Katie, Thomas, Catherine are our pioneers great-great-great grandchildren

Acknowledgements:

Ada Gilligan saved every scrap of paper about the ranch and the Gilligan family. Our half-cousin, John R. Waggener: He has added to the research at the American Heritage Center, University of Wyoming and helped gather information on our family. John is a great-great-grandchild of Henry C. Campbell and Martha Scott.

Our half-cousin Eunice Hutton: *Green River Star*, articles about John Gilligan and his family. Her letters to Ada Gilligan with ranch and Hutton history were informative. Her parents were Bill and Hattie Campbell Hutton. Eunice was a Sweetwater County librarian. Her grandparents were Martha Scott and Henry Campbell.

Our half-cousin Harline Hutton Waggener: Family history, letters sent to Patsy Gilligan Smyth. Harline (Mrs. Fleetwood Waggener) was Eunice Hutton's sister, and John Waggener's grandmother.

State of Wyoming Archives: The fine work performed by Carl Hallberg and Holly Geist.

http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mtygf/~county/bridger_summary.htm



Sen. John Barrasso, Smyth Family and Sen. Mike Enzi

The Goodrich Farm

Platte County



Ward Goodrich with feeder lambs in the 1920s

As told by Susan Goodrich Sylte

Gustavus Goodrich and his wife, Rose, came to Wheatland from Colorado at the turn of the century. Built in 1895, their cement barn with its horse stalls intact still stands on the 160 acre farm they purchased. Also still on site is a bunkhouse used in the 1920s and 1930s. It once housed a still under the floorboards which was discovered and destroyed when a pen full of drunken pigs gave the hired men away. Gus and Rose had five children: twin girls Rosalie and Pearl; Gustavus "Ward", born in 1891; Dorothy; and Lucille who died as an infant. Rosalie married Charles Robinson and they moved to California where her descendants now live. Gustavus, Rose and Ward all lived on the farm

their entire lives. The farm is now a partnership belonging to Ward's grandchildren who have all lived on the farm at one time or another.

As popular as the name Gustavus seems to have been, it never stuck. Gustavus Thompson Goodrich (the first Gustavus and a veteran of the Civil War) chose to be called G.T. His son, Gustavus, went by simply Gus, and the last Gustavus was referred to as Ward or G.W.

After receiving a B.A. from the University of Wyoming, a Masters Degree in Agriculture the University of Iowa, and serving in World War I, Ward returned to the farm to become one of the early farmers who planted and harvested sugar

beets. He also bought lambs and fed them out in the feedlot for many years. His wife, Lillie, whom he married in 1917, was one of four daughters of William and Christina Ayers. She arrived in a covered wagon with her twin sister, Ella, from Nebraska where the babies had been born in a sod house. Prior to their marriage, Ward built the house on the farm in which members of the Goodrich family still live, with significant additions and remodels, of course. Lillie taught school in her late teens and early twenties in a one room schoolhouse to which she rode on horseback. Often the students were older and mostly they were larger than she. Always an avid and accomplished horsewoman, Lillie continued to ride daily, weather permitting, until she was 85.

Ownership of the farm helped the Goodrich family survive the Depression as they could grow much of their own food. They had 3,000 laying hens, milked cows, and could supply chicks all over the United States from their 5,000 egg incubators. Throughout his life, Ward took special pride in being part of “firsts” such as owning the first tractor and many innovative electric appliances. The latter was inspired by Ward’s role as manager of the Rural Electric Association beginning in 1935. He served for the first 13 years without pay. Ward and Lillie were active in Eastern Star and he served on the Wheatland Irrigation District Board, the Wheatland School Board and in the Wyoming State Legislature.

While still maintaining the farm, Ward continued as REA manager and was instrumental for getting electrical service to outlying area. He retired in 1966 for health reasons. When not helping Ward with the REA surveys or traveling to related meetings, Lillie kept busy caring for her extensive and beautiful rose gardens, taking movies of just about everything (especially the grandchildren), tending the ever-present flock of chickens, and managing the properties left by her father. Following Ward’s death in 1968, Lillie still continued her activities in various women’s club



1923 Beet Harvest



Goodrich Farm - beet field 1930's



April 17, 1916: The day World War I was declared



After the 1942 Tornado



Gustavus Goodrich (1860-1912)



Lillie, Ward, Gus, Dorothy, Rosalie, Little Irma, Rose and Grandma Ward



Baby Ward Goodrich



Rose Goodrich married Gustavus Goodrich in 1888



Rosalie, Ward and Lillie relax on the running board of a new car - 1918



Ward and Lillie - World War I Madison, Wisconsin - November 1918



Lillie and Ward worked together as a team



Bill and Philo always had a couple of pets - 1922



Lillie and Ella try to keep warm - 1932



Rosalie joins Ward and Lillie on the sunporch, always a favorite place for lunch - 1945



Marjorie, Charles Ward, Philo and Bill on Mollie - Winter 1928



Lillie and Ward had their portraits taken at one of the REA conventions they attended all over the United States



The twins Rosalie and Pearl with brother Gustavus Ward

and church. She lived on the farm until 1989 and passed away in 1992 at the age of 99.

Although many members of the Goodrich extended family lived at the farm from time to time, the major tenants were Ward and Lillie Goodrich and their two sons, William, born in 1920, and Philo in 1922. William and Philo both joined the armed forces during World War II. Always interested in aviation and a small plane pilot, Philo served in the Air Force and perished in a plane that crashed on a flight over the hump in India. While cruising timber in Alaska during the bombing of Dutch Harbor, William (Bill) enlisted in the Navy and completed officer's training as a Seabee at Cornell University. As an Ensign, he ran supply ships based in Hawaii. While at Cornell, he met Eleanor Hutcheson who was attending Kueka College. They were married in 1946 and returned to Laramie, Wyoming where Bill completed his degree in engineering.

Bill worked with the Bureau of Reclamation on numerous dam projects in Wyoming including Seminoe, Kortez, Pathfinder, and Whalen. In 1951, he and Eleanor bought Rainbow's End, a ranch in the mountains west of Wheatland. They had three children, Nancy (1947), Susan (1950) and Ralph (1955). They lived on the ranch until 1957 when Eleanor died from injuries received in a car accident. Bill and the children dealt as best they could with this tragedy through the support of family and friends.

They began a new phase of their lives when Bill married Viola Skurdell in 1958 who joined him and the extended family in the task of raising the children. They sold the old ranch and bought another near Garrett, Wyoming in 1959. That same year, James joined the family as the second son. The children received their schooling on the ranches until 1963 when Vi and the children moved to Wheatland during the weekdays. All four children graduated from Wheatland High School. Nancy, Susan, and James graduated from the University of Wyoming. Ralph received certification as a diesel mechanic from Wyoming Technical Institute in Laramie. By this time, Lillie and Ward had converted the farm to a partnership to include all members of the Goodrich family.



Easter 1987. Bill Goodrich family and his mother. Bill passed away September 4, 1989, and Lillie Ayers Goodrich died April 24, 1994.



Nancy, Bill, Vi, Susan, James & Ralph 1964



4 Generations - Bill, Erin, Heather, Susan, Lillie, James, John, Nancy



Ralph W. Goorich in 7th Grade in Union soldier's uniform



Bill, Vi, and James - 1967



The 5th Generation - Tim, Erin
Amber, Kelly, Heather



James and Vi
Goodrich - 2007



Bill and Vi Goodrich

In addition to ranching and managing the family farm, Bill continued his engineering trade including projects such as the Toltec Dam and various community surveying jobs. He was also a director on his local and state school board making the long commute to and from the ranch on a regular basis for more than 20 years. After Bill's death from pancreatic cancer in 1989, James and Viola continued to operate the ranch in the summer and trailed the cattle down to the Wheatland flats and the Goodrich farm for the winter. Viola now travels back and forth to the ranch in the summer as well as part of fall and spring but lives at the farm during winter. She continued a Goodrich tradition by being on the REA board of directors for 15 years.

Nancy married John Robinson from Douglas in 1968. They lived in Arizona for 12 years where John applied his law degree and Nancy worked as a teacher for children with special needs. They returned to the Douglas/Wheatland area in 1982. They now live on a small acreage near Wheatland and John continues his law career as a prosecuting attorney while Nancy plies her skills in sociology and education most recently as part of the tobacco prevention program.

Nancy and John have three daughters: Heather, Erin, and Amber. Heather received her nursing degree from the University of Wyoming in 1998 and is currently employed at the Wheatland Hospital. She and her husband, Doug Wiggins, who is on the Wheatland Police Force, have a daughter, Haiden, and son, Caleb. Interestingly enough, they now live at the intersections of Goodrich and Ayers roads. Erin graduated from the University of Wyoming

in Animal Science and received her Doctorate from Washington State University in Pullman in 2006. She is currently a practicing veterinarian in Tucson, Arizona. Amber graduated in 2005 with a bachelor's degree in Hotel/Resort Management from Johnson and Wales University in Denver. She then enjoyed a three month internship in Edinburgh, Scotland and now manages a Marriott Hotel in Tucson.

Susan moved to the Pacific Northwest, continued her education in a number of Washington colleges and universities, and was awarded a Master's Degree in Secondary Education with a theatre emphasis from the University of Idaho in 1988. Sue taught in Spokane, Washington from 1972 until her retirement in 2002 as an English, theatre, and creative writing instructor. Her activities included participation in the People to People Student Ambassador program which involved tours of Europe with high school students as well as twice participating in the National Faculty program at Evergreen College in Olympia, Washington. She married Gordon Sylte in 1992 and currently lives on a small ranch in Rathdrum, Idaho where they raise purebred Limousins. Always interested in theatre, she now also works as a costumer and runs a theatre summer camp.

After working for several years in the Wyoming oil fields as a drilling rig mechanic, Ralph returned to Wyo Tech as an instructor. With his wife, Lorrie Foote, and their children, Kelly and Tim, he stayed in Laramie until 1988 when the family moved to Spokane, Washington and later Worley,



Cattle feedlot - 1995



Cement Barn

Idaho. Ralph was service manager for Williams Equipment/Kenworth from 1988 until 2008 when he retired and became a Deputy Fire Chief for the Worley Fire District adjoining Lake Coeur d'Alene. Lorrie received a B.A. degree from Whitworth University and is currently an administrative assistant for Garco Construction in Spokane. Kelly graduated with a teaching degree from Eastern Washington University and is now a loan officer for American General Finance. She married Ward Mcaliffe in 2003 and they now live in Spokane where Ward is an attorney for the Washington State Attorney General. Tim completed his training as a Toyota Certified Mechanic and is currently at Parker Toyota in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

Following his graduation from UW, James received a Master's degree in Animal Science from Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, OK. In



New irrigation system - 2006



Sen. John Barrasso, Goodrich Family and Sen. Mike Enzi

1984, he began his career with the National Western Stock Show in the yards, eventually working his way up to Livestock Manager, a position he held from 1991 until 2006. After Bill's death in 1989, James juggled duties as manager for both the farm and the ranch at Garrett, an act he still maintains. In 2006, James left the National Western and became the director of the Wyoming State Fair in Douglas where he resides when not at the farm or ranch.

The Alsade Limited Pioneer Ranch

Sublette County

As told by Susan Guio

The Alsade Limited Ranch is located in Sublette County, Wyoming. The early history of the ranch began when Daniel Budd and Hugh McKay's cattle herd arrived at the Big Piney area in November 1879. Their winter arrival in a place later known as "The Ice Box of the Nation" resulted in a favorable series of events for Daniel's only daughter, Sadie. Sadie Budd Osterhout and Al Osterhout homesteaded the Double F Ranch in 1894. The Double F Ranch became incorporated in 1974, and the name was changed to Alsade Limited in honor of Al and Sadie.

Budd History

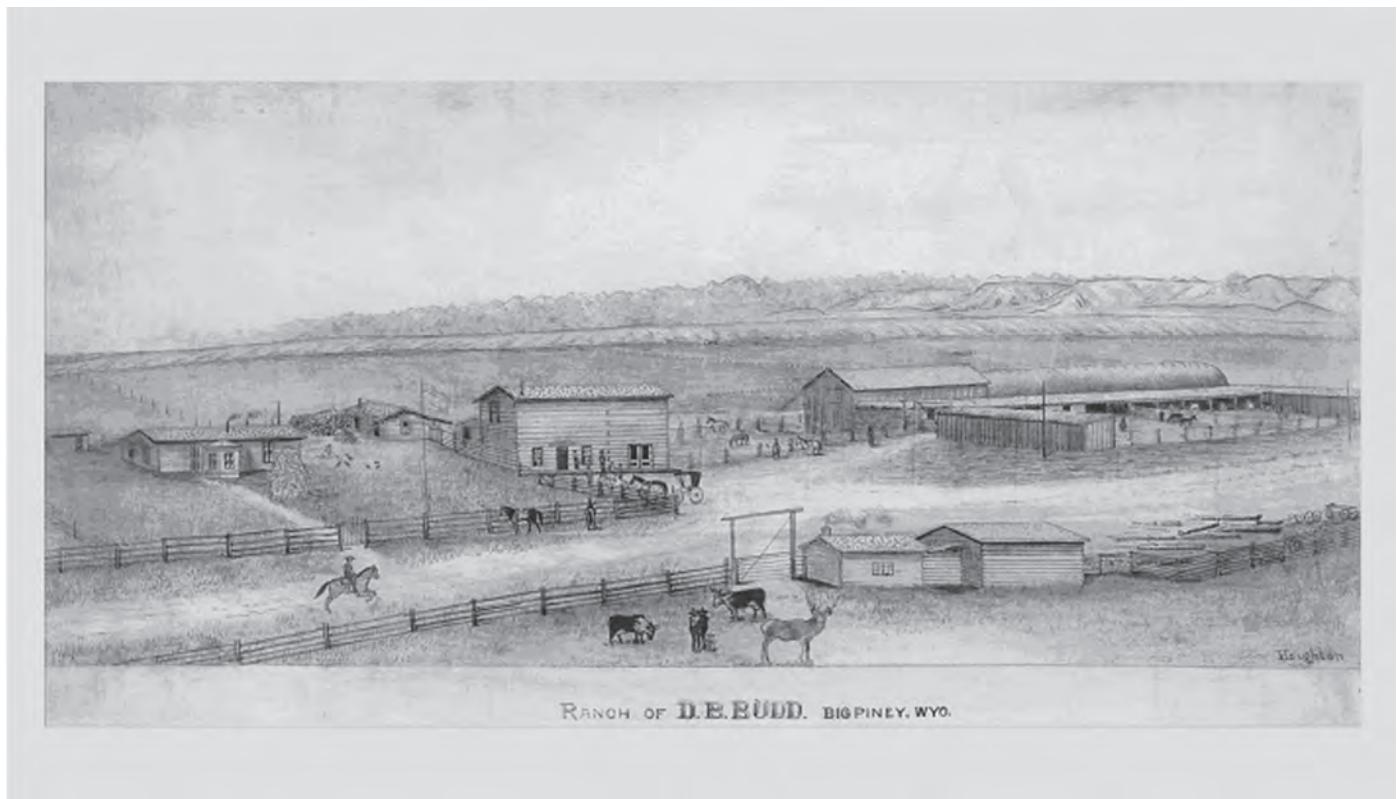
The Budd family historian, Pearl Budd Spencer, tells the story of Daniel and Josephine Budd through their diaries and research. Daniel and Josephine Boyer Budd were married in Kansas in 1871. The couple had six children, Sara (Sadie), Charles, Jesse, John, Henry, and Daniel, Jr.

In 1879, Daniel received word that his older brother, Phillip, owner of the Empire Ranch in Nevada Territory, had been murdered. Pearl Budd Spencer stated that the family did not like to talk about the murder of Phillip who was found shot in an alley with money still in his pockets. In response to the news, Daniel took the train to Nevada to settle his bachelor brother's estate. Upon arrival, Daniel discovered Phillip's holdings included a large herd of cattle and numerous horses. Daniel took a partner, Hugh McKay, and they spent the next six months rounding up and branding the cattle. The partners decided to drive the cattle 1,500 miles to market in Omaha, Nebraska rather than use the costly railroad. Daniel wrote in his diary on Sunday, August 10, 1879, "Started for Omaha with 777 head of cattle". The cattle carried Daniel Budd's "67" brand.

Daniel and Hugh intended to trail the cattle 650 miles to Fort Bridger, Wyoming to winter the herd and then start for Omaha in the spring. In October, the herd reached Fort Bridger where the Mormon settlers refused to let the large herd graze on the winter range needed for their own stock. The settlers suggested "going up the Green (river)" to find winter range at a drainage called LaBarge Creek. The cattle trailed 100 miles up the Green before reaching LaBarge Creek. There, Daniel and Hugh encountered seven families of "squaw men" who also refused winter pasture for the herd. They told Daniel and Hugh, "to keep going up the Green".

Twenty more miles up the Green River, the cattle arrived at 6,780 feet elevation on North Piney Creek. The only settlers in the area were the newly arrived Otto Leifer and Ed Swan. Daniel and Hugh divided the cattle among South, Middle and North Piney Creek drainages. They feared that they would not see a cow alive in the spring due to the cold and snow. A cabin was built on North Piney Creek at the base of a sand bluff. Hugh and a hired hand stayed behind while Daniel and the rest of the cowhands drove the horses 250 miles back to Salt Lake City, Utah. Daniel took the train from Salt Lake back to Kansas. The next spring Daniel returned to North Piney Creek and found the cattle had survived the winter. Daniel and Hugh decided to homestead in the area rather than continue on to Omaha. A year later, Daniel brought his family to live at the 67 Ranch, near the sand bluff.

In 1885 Daniel sold the 67 Ranch to Hugh McKay, and homesteaded further down on North Piney Creek. This homestead became the site of Big Piney with a post office, store and boarding house.



The picture is a copy of an original Merritt Houghton pen and ink sketch of the Budd homestead and the town of Big Piney.

First Generation

Sarah (Sadie) Isabel Budd Osterhout

1871-1965

Sadie Budd arrived in the Green River Valley in 1880 at nine years of age. Her status as the only young woman in the valley resulted in her being known simply as "the girl". In 1894 Sadie married Al Osterhout, a cowboy with whom she would build a ranch legacy. As an adult, Sadie stepped into traditionally male roles simply because it "needed doing". She became a successful rancher, businesswoman, and community leader. Her cattle carried her own brand, the Quarter Circle S, and her family and community came to rely on her business sense. Sadie was a founding stockholder in the State Bank of Big Piney, which served the community through the depression and decades later. Sadie was strong-willed when it came to business and saving. Despite protests from neighbors, family, and ranch hands, she kept a herd of 100 sheep since a butchered sheep could be eaten in a week before it spoils in the summer. Sadie's ability to save and make wise investments allowed the ranch to purchase neighboring lands when they became available.





Luke Algeroy (Al) Osterhout

1866-1941

Al Osterhout left his home in Wanship, Utah at the age of seventeen. His father had died when Al was seven, and his relationship with his stepfather was strained. Al hired on with Ed Swan to trail cattle from Utah to the Green River Valley. He later worked for Hugh McKay and Daniel Budd. Al rode the toughest broncs and grew a reputation of "having a way with people and animals". For many years he served as foreman for the Big Piney Roundup Association. Al's jovial character endeared him to many, hence the nickname "Daddy".

Al loved to travel, and he became an early passenger on the first commercial flights. In 1931 Al flew from Salt Lake City, Utah to Alhambra, California to visit his daughter. As the Ford Tri-Motor airplane approached the dirt runway it caught fire. Al survived by jumping from the burning plane. At the age of 74, he died of complications from a heart ailment in the Kemmerer, Wyoming hospital. Al is buried in the family plot at Mount Olivet cemetery in Salt Lake City, Utah.



Sadie and Roxy, 1948

The Double F (Alsade) in the First Generation

Al Osterhout's original Double F brand is the oldest Green River Valley brand since it has never been sold or traded outside of the family. Al's ability as a stockman made the Double F cowherd prosperous. During his time, market cattle consisted of 3 to 4 year old steers that brought 2 or 3 cents a pound. Late in the fall the steers were driven 70 miles to the railhead in Opal, Wyoming. The cattle were then shipped by rail to Omaha, Nebraska where they were consigned and sold at auction. The long journey to market stressed the cattle. They shrank in weight trailing to the railhead and during the three days on the train. Expenses for marketing cattle in Omaha were high. These expenses included feed for the cattle, railway fees, yard fees, consignment fees, auction fees and travel costs for those accompanying the cattle.



Al, 1939



Al and Kenneth, 1934

Land

The Double F Ranch land originally consisted of 480 acres obtained from Homestead Acts. Al Osterhout “proved up” on 160 acres using the Homestead Act of 1862. Sadie Osterhout acquired 320 acres of land through the Desert Land Act of 1877 for the price of \$1.25 per acre. Land Acts required improvements on lands filed upon. Al and Sadie built a cabin, barn, corrals, and fenced the property. They grubbed sagebrush by hand and dug irrigation ditches to create meadowlands.

Between 1930 and 1950, the Double F Ranch land increased to over 14,000 deeded acres. After the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934, the ranch acquired grazing leases on 38,000 acres of public land.

Labor: Al and Sadie hired three families and two single men to work on the ranch. The wives cooked for hired hands, which included the 35 men hired as hay hands in the summer.

After Al Osterhout passed away in 1941, Sadie hired Ivan Samuel “Pete” Hoagland as the ranch foreman, a position Pete held until he passed away at the age of 85. Pete married Edna Pope who became a ranch icon with her cooking. Pete and Edna passed away three weeks apart in March of 1996.

Ben and Lorinda “Dot” Whitman came to the ranch in 1945. The Double F was their home until Dot passed away in March of 2006. After Dot’s death, Ben moved to the Sublette County retirement center at the age of 90.

For five generations Pete, Edna, Ben, and Dot worked with family members on the Double F Ranch. The Guio family feels loving gratitude for their contributions to the ranch’s legacy.

Second Generation

Chester Osterhout

1895-1903

Chester was the first child of Al and Sadie Osterhout. At the age of six, Chester received a head injury when he was bucked off his horse while riding with his father. The injury caused him to become more and more frail, and despite medical care in Kansas, Chester died at eight years of age.



Wilhelmina Josephine (Jodie) Osterhout

1900-1965

Sadie and Al's second child, Josephine Osterhout, was born on the Double F Ranch. Mrs. Julia Nichols, a neighbor and midwife, attended the birth. Josephine loved to horseback ride, camp, hike and mountain climb. In 1919 she enrolled at the University of Michigan. In 1921, she met Harrison Guio and later transferred to the University of Southern California. In 1922 she and Harrison married. Josephine went on to graduate from the University of Southern California in 1923. The couple made their home in California where their son, Kenneth, was born in 1925.

Kenneth Guio describes his mother as having "a quick and curious mind". Josephine was an artist and traveled to remote corners of the world, including Africa and China. She loved to grow flowers and was a long-standing member of the Pasadena, California Garden Club. While on safari in India, Josephine contracted a rare neurological disease. On July 4, 1965 Josephine passed away on the Double F Ranch, the site of her birth.



Harrison Guio

1890-1972

Harrison was born to Peter and Violet Guio in Milford, Utah. He was the fifth child in a family of eight. When Harrison was six years old, Violet moved her family to Salt Lake City, Utah so that her children could attend better schools. Harrison went on to graduate from the University of Utah with a civil engineering degree. He worked for Kennecott Copper for two years before returning to the University of Utah to earn a degree in law. After law school, Harrison worked for Tidewater Associated Oil Company in San Francisco. During World War I Harrison served as a lieutenant in the army. After the war Harrison returned to work for Tidewater Oil, becoming the head of the legal department.

In 1921 Tidewater sent Harrison to Big Piney to acquire oil leases. It was during negotiations for leases with the Osterhouts that Harrison met Josephine. A year later they were married.



Ken, Jodie, Harrison, 1948



Jodie & Harrison, 1923



Jodie, 29 Palms, CA, 1942



Third Generation

Kenneth Guio, 2006

Kenneth Guio was born in 1925 in Los Angeles, California, the only child of Josephine and Harrison Guio. Starting at age six Kenneth spent every summer at the ranch. The day after school ended, Josephine put Kenneth on the train in East Los Angeles bound for Evanston, Wyoming. His grandmother, Sadie, would be waiting at the Evanston station to drive him the 120 miles to the ranch. Kenneth eagerly made this trip each summer. He thrilled in fishing and hunting sage chicken with his grandmother and delighted in listening to stories told by the cowhands in the bunkhouse.



Kenneth at Big Bear, CA, 1956

At the age of seventeen Kenneth rode his 1940 Harley Davidson from California to the Double F Ranch. The following year he bought a smaller Harley for the purpose of moving cows and checking fence. The use of a motorcycle on the ranch created a roar of heresy. In 1955 he began riding cross-county motorcycle races. During his 30-year racing career Ken became an admired rider in California, Nevada, Utah, Idaho, and Baja, Mexico.

In 1943 Kenneth took flying lessons while in the Merchant Marines. After the war he bought a 65-horse powered Piper Cub airplane, which he used to check irrigation ditches, fence lines, and cattle on the ranch.

Kenneth married his childhood sweetheart Mary Elms in 1943. They divorced after a year and a half. In 1947 Kenneth married Frances Margaret (Marj) Subic. He and Marj made their home with Sadie and her beloved dachshunds. After Kenneth's marriage to Marj, Sadie turned the management of the ranch over to him. Kenneth and Marj have four children, Cotton, Susan, Candon and Tagg. Kenneth and Marj were married for 53 years. Kenneth married Marlene Olsen, and they make their retirement home in Pacific Grove, California.



Kenneth and Marlene Guio, 2002



Kenneth and stud Cotton's Leo, 1960
Cotton's Leo sired by the famous Quarter Horse "Leo"



Frances Margaret Subic Guio, 1999

Margaret Subic was born in Big Piney in 1925. Her parents, Anton and Theresa Subic, owned the first blacksmith shop in Big Piney. In 1943 Marj received her pilot's license in Big Piney. She thrilled in flying and learned how to fly snow planes. After Marj and Kenneth were married, Marj joined Kenneth in riding motorcycles. She and Kenneth spent summers at the ranch mountain cabin and rode with their children on motorcycles.

Marj provided loving care of Sadie, and she tenderly fed children, animals and hands on the ranch. Marj is an enthusiastic supporter of her community and is a founding member of the Green River Valley Museum and the local thrift store. The walking/bike path between the towns of Big Piney and Marbleton is a result of her efforts.



Marj, Cotton and Susan on Red Fox, 1953



Tagg, Candon, Cotton, and Susan, 1958

Land, Labor and Cattle in the Third Generation

Cattle

A significant change in how cattle were sold occurred in the late 1950's due to the installation of the ranch's weigh scale. Market cattle could now be weighed and sold at the ranch with the sale price being contracted in advance. Cattle buyers took ownership of the cattle after they were weighed. The price offered for cattle sold at the ranch averaged around 5 cents less per pound, but the savings on transportation costs, weight shrinkage, and market fluctuations more than made up for the price difference.

During the late fifties consumers desired more tender cuts of beef, thus younger market animals came into demand. Steers and heifers were sold as yearlings and even calves started to be marketed. Hereford cattle were still the dominant breed. Yearling sale steers averaged around 675 pounds in the fall and sale calves averaged around 350-375 pounds.

Land

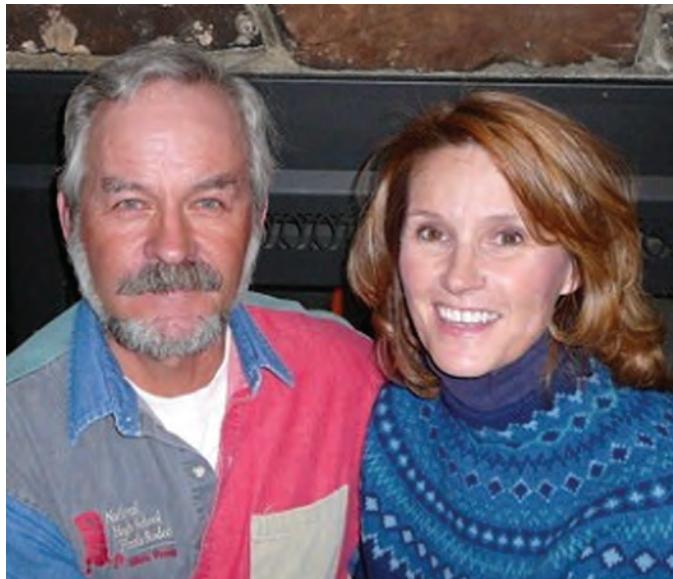
Eight hundred and fifty acres were bought in the third generation. Alsade's deeded land holdings grew to 15,060 acres.

Labor

Three families were still employed, along with one or two hired hands. Hay crew numbers were reduced to around 12 people.

Fourth Generation

Cotton and Cynde Jamieson Guio, Susan Guio, Candon Guio, and Tagg and Nancy Braswell Guio carry on the ranch heritage.



Cotton and Cynde Guio, 2006



Nancy and Tagg Guio, 2006

Alsade Limited in the Fourth Generation

Cattle

The Alsade cattle breed changed to the Black Baldie, a cross between Hereford and Angus. Market cattle weights increased an average of 125-150 pounds on calves and over 125 pounds on yearlings. These weight gains are the result of improved genetics, feed, and management programs.

Land

Alsade Limited develops land adjacent to the towns of Big Piney and Marbleton. These developments include commercial and residential subdivisions, and building and managing rental properties.

Labor

Two full-time hired hands work with the Guio family. The summer hay crew consists of 8 people who harvest up to 3,000 tons of quality native hay in 30 days.



Candon Guio with Jenny and Rasha, 2007



Susan Guio, 2008

Fifth and Sixth Generations

Fifth Generation

- Tayton Guio and Landa Guio are the daughters of Cotton and Cynde Guio.
- Ali Guio and Matt Guio are the daughter and son of Tagg and Nancy Guio.

Sixth Generation

- Bailey Lyon is the son of Tayton Guio and Brent Lyon.



Landa and Tayton Guio 2008



Bailey Lyon, age 11, 2008



Matt and Ali Guio, 2006



Gathering for Alsade Limited Branding, 2005

Pioneer Spirit

Al and Sadie's pioneer spirit has been fundamental to Alsade's success. Ranch history includes these forerunning practices:

- Since 1943, Alsade Limited has used an airplane and motorcycles to reduce the amount of labor and time needed to manage 53,000 acres of land and up to 1,500 head of cattle.
 - In 1945 the ranch purchased two International Tractors. Mechanical skills needed to maintain and repair equipment was limited and expensive. Kenneth Guio used his basic knowledge of motorcycle engines to become a proficient mechanic and welder. He learned to weld from Anton and Tony Subic, Jr.
 - Alsade Limited became the first ranch in the valley to go to all mechanized equipment for haying in the late 1950's.
 - Alsade Limited was a leader in exploring alternative methods of feeding hay. Kenneth Guio first experimented with small round
- bales left on the ground for cattle to eat. This lead to the efficient method of baling 1,400 pound bales and using an automatic feeder pulled by a heated cab tractor. Prior to the changes, hay was stacked loose in multi-ton stacks. Loose-stacked hay was pitch-forked twice, one ton at a time - once to load the hay on the hay wagon and then off the wagon to feed. Kenneth remembers starting a fire on bitter cold mornings to draw out the frost in the pitchfork so the handle or metal forks would not snap in the cold.
- Alsade had the first motorcycle shop, which sold and repaired motorcycles in Sublette County.
 - Alsade Limited was first in the area to have a fully equipped machine shop to handle total repairs on ranch machinery. Today, Guio Repair offers commercial welding, small engine repair, and retail sales of Husqvarna chainsaws, lawn and garden equipment.



Alsade Limited Home Ranch, 1992

Reflection

By Susan Guio

My earliest lesson on ranch management began with hearing my father, Kenneth Guio, lecturing my brothers and me “that we would be successful if we stayed together, and broke if we split the ranch up”. The fourth and fifth generations of Alsade Limited face a challenge familiar to many Centennial Ranches. This challenge is providing

opportunities for family members to embrace new ideas and challenges while balancing the need to work together.

As it has for the last 114 years, Alsade Limited will continue to change in land and cattle management practices. The part of Al and Sadie’s legacy that will remain unchanged is the ability for anyone to become a pioneer in his or her lifetime.

The McIlquham Ranch

Laramie County



Sen. John Barrasso, David and Kiroko Hansen, and Sen. Mike Enzi

The 91 Ranch

Park County



Louis Graham Phelps

As told by Helen Hassan

As the name suggests, the 91 Ranch was founded in 1891 on Rawhide Creek in what is now Park County, Wyoming. The ranch came into our family when it was acquired by Louis Graham (L.G.) Phelps in 1903.

L.G. Phelps was born in Red Wing, Minnesota in 1859, the son of an attorney. He married Annice Williston Chapman and headed west to make his mark. L.G. worked in banks in Washington and Montana, eventually founding the first bank of Great Falls, Montana. There, L.G. became a key figure in developing the city, pursuing a variety of business interests throughout the state, and developing a circle of friends that included Charles Russell. Having made his mark, L.G. left for Chicago to start a new company – the Continental Casualty Company, which grew to become one of the largest insurance companies in the United States.

The lure of the West proved too strong, however, and L.G. left Chicago to seek land in the Rocky Mountain area of northwest Wyoming. In 1901 he purchased the Z-T Ranch from the estate of Richard Ashworth and purchased the Pitchfork Ranch (from the estate of Otto Franc) in 1903. The entire entity, which grew to encompass 250,000 acres, was named the Pitchfork Ranch. L.G. had many outside interests that included banking, the Meeteetse Mercantile store, and the Meeteetse Hotel, called the Overland Hotel at the time. L.G. died suddenly in Cody in 1922.

L.G. and Annice Phelps had two children, a son, Eugene, born in 1884, and a daughter, Frances, born in 1889.

Eugene Phelps was educated first at Shattuck Military Academy and then received a degree in engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He brought back to Wyoming skills that he would employ to the benefit of the ranch and the community. The bridge he built spanning the Greybull River at the Z-T has withstood the test of time and flooding and provides access to this day. Eugene was also an early pioneer of electric lighting. He built a generating plant to supply the ranch and, in conjunction with Bill Barling, another one for the town of Meeteetse. Eugene also brought back to Wyoming a friend, Charles Belden, who would later marry his sister Frances and go on and establish himself as one of the premier photographers of the West. Eugene had a lifelong love of automobiles. He was the first to drive a car over the Cody-Meeteetse road in 1907, and he and Charles Belden toured Russia in a Packard in about 1909, another first. Eugene was constantly pushing the envelope as far as the automobile was concerned.

Eugene met a Boston socialite while traveling in Alaska. Helen Goldthwaite Davis came from an old New England family that traces its ancestry to the Mayflower in 1620. One of the “embattled farmers” who fired the “shot heard around the world”,



Helen Davis Phelps 1917



Eugene Phelps



Elizabeth (Betty) Phelps Mid Teens

Helen's ancestor, Isaac Davis, was the first casualty in the Battle of Lexington-Concord (the opening battle of the American Revolutionary War) in 1775. His sacrifice is honored by a plaque at the site of the famous Minuteman statue. Helen's family later made its money in the clipper ship trade to the Orient. Eugene and Helen were married in 1912 and had four children: Margaret who died shortly after birth; Davis who drowned tragically at the age of two; and two surviving daughters, Elizabeth (Betty), born in 1921, and Frances, born in 1924.

Despite her urban New England background, Helen Davis Phelps adjusted well to life on a Wyoming ranch. She had a great interest in the outdoors and also in the arts. She encouraged these interests in her children. Their childhood was filled with horseback trips and nature studies as well as art lessons. Helen kept a link with her own heritage alive by seeking membership in the Colonial Dames. Her daughter, Betty, and granddaughter, Helen, have followed in her footsteps by joining the Colonial Dames as well.

Encouraged by her mother, Betty Phelps studied at the Art Students League in New York City and at the Chicago Art Institute, coming back to the ranch

to work during World War II. (She remembers being so tired that she would fall asleep standing against the wall in the lambing sheds and wake up as she started to fall). Betty attended the Chicago Art Institute with Harry Jackson who remains a friend to this day. Betty's daughter, Helen Hassan, is an advisor to the Harry Jackson Museum, continuing a family tradition of relationship with great western artists.

After the untimely death of L.G. in 1922, the management of the ranch fell to his widow Annice, his son Eugene, and his son-in-law Charles. Relationships during the ensuing years were strained by a combination of financial constraints (inheritance taxes which necessitated liquidation of most outside interests; the Depression) and management disagreements. Tragedy struck again in 1944, a year in which Annice died and Eugene was killed in a car crash. Subsequently a decision was made to divide the ranch.

The Pitchfork Ranch was divided into two ranches: the Pitchfork, which remained in the Belden family, and the Phelps Ranch, which went to the heirs of Eugene Phelps. That entity was divided once more in 1955 with the 91 Ranch going to

Eugene's daughter Betty to be managed by herself and her husband.

Betty Phelps married Lowell Thomas in 1945. Together they had three children: Myra Jean, Helen Joy, and Martin Lowell. After the division of the ranches, the 91 Ranch was managed under the name "Thomas Ranch" until 1979, at which time it reverted to its original name. Betty later married Russell Mills, who died in 1985. She is now known as Betty Mills and makes her home in Cody.

Betty and Lowell worked hard to create a stand-alone operation from what had been for so long a part of a much larger whole. The cattle had to be trained to accept their new boundaries, a difficult task at first. The Thomas reservoir was built at the base of Carter Mountain, providing a water source, which has proved invaluable, especially in periods of drought. The cattle herd has waxed and waned from a peak of 1500 in the early 1980s, when the ranch also owned a farm in Montana, to a low of under 300 in 2005.

Currently, the ranch is re-building under the management of Betty's daughter, Helen Hassan. In doing so, it faces the traditional challenges of fluctuating cattle prices, weather, and economic and credit conditions. There are, however, new obstacles never imagined by its founders: predators protected by well-meaning but impractical folk; fierce competition from foreign sources; and ever-expanding government control. Nevertheless, the 91 Ranch continues to uphold the Wyoming ranching tradition, providing food to the nation while remaining a good steward of the land.



Betty Standing & Sister Francis



Sen. John Barrasso, Thomas-Hassan Family, and Sen. Mike Enzi

The Broken Box Ranch (Johnson Ranch)

Goshen County



Sen. John Barrasso, Johnson Family, and Sen. Mike Enzi

As told by Ernest Johnson in 1986

The Broken Box Ranch is owned by Frank and Ernest Johnson. They are the sons of Jelmer and Janet Johnson who had three older children: Margie, who married Earl Marsh and lives on a ranch near Chugwater; Ed, who owns the SS Ranch at LaGrange; and Archie, who passed away when a young man.

The ranch where Ernest lives was established on June 24, 1884 by Charles Perry. It was called a war deed. Another part of the ranch was established by John Schrader on August 6, 1884. These and other small pieces of land were purchased by Edward David between 1885 and 1890. David never lived on the ranch; he had other families work for him. Edward David transferred it to his son Barnard in early 1890 but the son did not live on the ranch either.

In 1907, our folks, Jelmer and Janet Johnson, bought this ranch. Between 1907 and 1930 they bought several homesteads to add to the ranch.

In 1940 Frank and Ernest Johnson bought the Bill Smithburg place which consisted of several homesteads including the place where Frank lives today.

Jelmer Johnson passed away in 1947 and in 1949 Frank and Ernest bought the ranch; since then we have added considerable land to the original Johnson ranch.

In 1980 we incorporated and the ranch became the Broken Box Ranch as that is the registered brand.

Until 1980 Frank and Ernest probably had one of the oldest undivided partnerships with no signed agreement of any kind.

After the blizzard of 1949, we put in two sprinkler systems which produce plenty of alfalfa hay for our Hereford and Angus cattle. Another improvement made on the ranch are two modern homes located on both places, replacing the old log buildings which had been built from logs cut in the hills south of Ernest's place. Several barns and sheds have also been built.

In 1940, Frank married Elizabeth Riley of Stockville, Nebraska. They had two children: Archie, who is married to Kathy Applegate of Torrington, and they have three sons. He and his family live on the ranch. Nancy Jo, their daughter, married Rick Lusk of Holland, Ohio and they have 3 daughters and live in Alliance, Nebraska.

In 1949, Ernest married Bernice Lown of Spearfish, South Dakota and they have one daughter, Virginia, who lives in Torrington and teaches school at Southeast Schools in Yoder, Wyoming.

Our mother, Janet Johnson, built a home in LaGrange in 1951 and lived there until she passed away in 1973.

The ranch lies on the Laramie and Goshen County line, about equal acres in each county. About three miles of Horse Creek runs through the ranch where Ernest lives. There are also several springs on this ranch.

This has always been a cowboy ranch. Although we have modern hay equipment, we still work and handle our cattle with horses.

The first man to win the bronc riding at Cheyenne Frontier Days was Bill Jones. He was employed by the first owner of the ranch at that time. Frank Carter, another winner of the bronc riding, was employed by Jelmer Johnson. Between 1939 and 1940, the Johnson's furnished all the stock for the 4th of July rodeos at LaGrange. There wasn't any plowed arena then, the cars were parked in a circle and one end was left vacant. The catch pens were the SS Ranch horse pasture. Archie Johnson has continued this interest in rodeo by picking up

bucking horses at Cheyenne Frontier Days and other rodeos for the last 10 to 12 years.

An interesting story about the ranch dates back to a family who worked for the original owner of the ranch. A young boy, about four or five years of age nailed a toy wagon wheel on the door casing in the original log houses. A few days later he was snake bit and died. The wheel was never taken off. When the new house was built at Ernest's place, the carpenters took a piece of the door casing and the wheel out of the old house and set it in the casing of the new kitchen where it remains today.

Frank Johnson is serving his third term as County Commissioner, being elected to that office in 1974. Ernest spent two years during World War II with the 89th Reconnaissance of the 9th Armored Division. He was in the Battle of the Bulge and was also part of one of the outfits to cross the Rhine River.

Bill Yetter had been part of this ranch since before he graduated from high school. He came from Lincoln, Nebraska. He and his family still live on Ernest's place.

The ranch has been a Johnson Family operation for 79 years and will hopefully remain one for years to come.

Broken Box Ranch and Johnson Family History

As told by Kathy Johnson, October 2006

In 2007, the Broken Box Ranch will be celebrating 100 years owned by the Johnson family. This is an update on the history of the Broken Box Ranch written in 1986.

To this day, we still work and handle our cattle with horses. We raise three cuttings of hay under a sprinkler for our cattle. In the past few years we have bought hay due to the drought conditions and water shortages.

In 1994, Frank died in June and Ernest in September. Their partnership continues as they are buried side by side in the LaGrange Cemetery. Their wives are also buried aside their mates. Bernice, Ernest's wife, died in 1996, and Frank's wife, Elizabeth, died in 1999.

Archie and two of his sons continue to operate the Broken Box Ranch. Matt and his wife, Lisa, live where Uncle Ernest and Bernice lived. Pat and his wife, Marisa, live where Frank and Elizabeth lived. Scott Yetter and his wife, Dana, live in the house Scott's parents, Bill and June, lived in at Uncle Ernest's place. Archie and Kathy live in the house they built in 1970 across from Pat and Marisa.

In 2004, Eastern Wyoming College published a book, Barn Again, which featured one of the barns on the Johnson ranch. The barn is over at Matt's place. It was built in 1937 by Doug Bennett, a friend who worked for the family and Earl Riley, Elizabeth's father.

The ranch has several brands registered to it. The first brand used by Archie's grandfather, Jelmer, is the 4 X Bar (4X). It can be used in Laramie and Goshen counties for cattle and horses. Jelmer renewed the brand of January 12, 1915, on December 10, 1935, and again on March 28, 1946. On April 28, 1948, the 4 X Bar was transferred to Janet B. Johnson, Jelmer's wife. In 1965, Archie's grandmother gave the brand to Archie.

The Broken Box brand was registered to C. B. Irwin and A. R. Rich in Cheyenne, Laramie County, on January 6, 1915. In May of 1924 it was registered to the Irwin Show Company and then in November 1925 to Irwin Livestock and Show Company. On April 16, 1936, Pauline gave the Broken Box brand, which was registered in both Laramie and Goshen counties, to Frank and Ernest as payment for Frank riding racehorses for C. B. The brothers used the Broken Bow brand for horses and cattle; it is the brand we still use today.

In the 1936 State of Wyoming Brand Book, the J-H-D brand (J-D) was also registered to Frank and Ernest. It was also a C. B. Irwin brand. Information on how the Johnson brothers obtained this brand has not been found.

In 1990, John Scoon sold the C Lazy S T brand to Frank. Grandpa gave this brand to Matt, and Pat got the J-H-D brand.

The year before Archie's dad and uncle died, Archie quit picking up at rodeos which he had done during the summer for sixteen years. Matt has followed in his Dad's footsteps picking up at rodeos. Cheyenne Frontier Days is the largest rodeo he works, which runs a full nine days in July. Pat helps at Frontier Days also. He helps sort and load the stock for the rodeo performances. He rides colts and trains horses for people in his spare time.

In the last few years we have seen a lot of changes around the LaGrange community. Ranches that have been in families for years are being sold. We are the third and fourth generation running the Broken Box Ranch. It has been a rare and satisfying privilege to be part of the ranch operations for more than 38 years. It takes hard, honest work to keep and manage an operation the size of the Broken Box. Archie, Matt, and Pat have worked to keep what Jelmer started, and his sons, Frank and Ernest, built.

As Ernest concluded his history report with 79 years, we can now say the Johnson family has been in operation for 100 years, and we're hopeful that it will remain a family operation for years to come.

The McGraugh/Johnson Ranch

Natrona County

As told by Jean McGraugh Johnson

The first member of the McGraugh family to reside in Wyoming was E. L. McGraugh, Sr. He and his wife, Margaret (Crowley), were descendants from Ireland. They came to Wyoming from Virginia Dale, Colorado where they had settled first after coming from Pennsylvania. They lost all of their belongings in a flood that came over the historic Lover's Leap above Fish Creek at Virginia Dale.

My grandmother, Margaret, and their daughters, Netta (McGraugh) Freudenthal, Margaret (McGraugh) Price, and Katherine (McGraugh) Boyd stayed with friends and neighbors for months while my grandfather, E. L., Senior, came on in to Wyoming with two other gentlemen, Dan Clark, and a man we called grampa Boyd. My grandfather settled on this ranch where six generations have been. The three men brought with them 25 head of cattle and some horses. My father told us that his father told him there were elk, deer, buffalo, bear, mountain lion, sage chicken, grouse, partridge aplenty and the grass was as high as a horse's belly. My grandfather knew farming and ranching knowledge and with the amount of available resources I am sure that making a living was not hard and my grandfather always had chickens and he always had a big garden. E. L., Sr. became the first Natrona County Assessor.

E. L. McGraugh and his wife had five children; the oldest baby was born in Pennsylvania before my grandmother came west to meet her husband. This baby boy became ill with pneumonia on the train and died at Virginia Dale where he is buried. Their three daughters, Netta, Margaret, and Katie, were born at Virginia Dale. My father wasn't born until seven years later. He was born on this ranch and he lived his entire life on this ranch. I, Irma Jean McGraugh Johnson, am the granddaughter of E. L. McGraugh, Sr. and the daughter of E. L. McGraugh, Jr.



Original Home



Edward L. & Maggie McGraugh, Senior, 1st generation



E.L. & Mary McGraugh, Junior, 2nd generation

My husband and I bought the ranch from my father after my mother passed away in 1957. My husband and I have two children, Jamis E. Johnson and Janna Lea Holman Johnson. Jamis has been on the ranch nearly all of his life as I lived on the ranch with him while Jack was gone in World War II. I taught school at the little Red Creek School that sits on our ranch.

Jamis married Judy Bennet and they have two sons who grew up on the ranch and went to school at Red Creek. After college graduation, Justin married Jodene Brehm from Longmont, Colorado and Jhett married Jenny Carroll from Rapid City, South Dakota. Both Justin and Jhett and their wives and sons live on the ranch. Justin and Jodene's boys, Jayden T. and Jerren C., and Jhett and Jenny's boys, Kellan J. and Carson J., are sixth generation on the ranch.

Jack and I sold the ranch to Jamis, Justin, and Jhett in 2002 and it is called the "Three J" now. They have continued to run cattle and they are all three horse trainers. They have had a large training barn built on the lower ranch where they train roping and cutting horses and give schools.

Jhett and Justin are both professional team ropers. Jhett has qualified for the NFR for the last three years ending up as fourth in the nation in 2006 as a heeler and winning second in the average two years. In 2007, he also won the George Strait Classic.

The girls, Judy, Jodene, Jenny and I all work and commute to Casper. Judy works for the school district; Jodene works in the agriculture branch of the government; Jenny is a third grade teacher at Crest Hill, and I work at Paradise Valley Elementary School in the Resource room.

The old, original two-story log home that my grandfather built when they came here was not completely finished until 1900 and is the oldest two-story log home in Wyoming still in livable condition we have been told. The logs were hauled by team and wagon and hewn with an axe. The home is still in its original picturesque state. Jamis and Judy live there. One of the cottonwood trees that my grandfather planted in their yard is listed as the tenth largest in the state of Wyoming.



Jamie & Judy Johnson 4th generation



Left, Justin & Jodene Johnson, Right, Jhett & Jenny Johnson



L to R Jhett & Justin Johnson 5th generation

Chief Washakie and his tribe would come every fall to get their winter's meat. They camped across Red Creek from grandfather and grandmother's little log home. My grandfather and the Chief became dear friends but my grandmother was afraid of the Indians. Tom Horn, who was a bounty hunter hired by the Cattlemen's Association to catch and kill rustlers, became friends of my grandparents and stayed at their home many times when he was in the country. My father E. L. McGraugh, Jr. was nine years old and would take care of Tom Horn's horses when he stayed at their home. My father said his first schoolteacher was a young lady engaged to marry Tom Horn.

The land for the community cemetery that sits between our upper and lower ranches was donated by my grandfather. Governor Dave Freudenthal's grandmother, my father's sister, was raised on the ranch along with her two sisters and my father, E. L. McGraugh, Jr.

The generations are relationships are as follows:

1. E. L. McGraugh, Sr.
1st member on the ranch
Margaret (Crowley) McGraugh
wife to E.L., Sr.
2. E. L. McGraugh, Jr.
son of E.L., Sr. and Margaret
3. Irma Jean (McGraugh) Johnson
daughter of E.L. Jr. and Mary
(Falkenburg) McGraugh
4. Jamis Edward Johnson
son of Irma Jean and Jack Johnson
5. Justin Rue Johnson
son of Jamis and Judy Johnson
5. Jhett Erin Johnson
son of Jamis and Judy Johnson
6. Jayden Tyler Johnson
son of Jamis and Judy Johnson
6. Jerren Clay Johnson
son of Justin and Jodene Johnson
6. Kellan James Johnson
son of Jhett and Jenny Johnson
6. Carson Jae Johnson
son of Jhett and Jenny Johnson
6. Kress Justin Johnson
son of Jhett and Jenny Johnson



L to R Carson, Jerren, Kellan & Jayden Johnson



Kress Justin Johnson, Jhett & Jenny's little guy



Sen. John Barrasso, Johnson Family, and Sen. Mike Enzi

What a wonderful life we have had on this wonderful old ranch!!! Our prayers are that it will remain in the family for many more years to come.

The Kuhbacher Ranch

Crook County

As told by the Kuhbacher Family

Caspar Kuhbacher was born in Birk, Germany on March 3, 1829. He married Anna Marie Elizabeth who was born in 1823 in Germany. To this union were born six children. Anna was 39 years old when the first child was born and 51 years old when the sixth child was born.

Caspar could see that his beloved Germany was not the country it used to be. He envisioned wars and conflicts in the future which would cause the economy, the people of Germany, and most especially his own family to suffer greatly. The governmental policies were not to his liking. Caspar knew that if he stayed in Germany his

four sons would be fighting in wars for a cause in which he did not believe. Caspar yearned for a new beginning, a place where he and his family would have freedom and a hope and a future. A place where only his own abilities and God would dictate his destiny. Only one place on earth matched that description...the United States of America.

In 1883, the Caspar Kuhbacher family set out on their journey to America. Caspar's son Julius said one of the prettiest sites he had ever seen was the full moon shining on the ocean. When the ship arrived at Ellis Island, the Statue of Liberty beckoned to the immigrants...the symbol of a new beginning in America.

The Kuhbacher's settled in Illinois in March 1883. They lived there a year, then moved to Orchard in Antelope County, Nebraska. On January 26, 1898, Julius (1872-1949), also known as Jule, married Olive Closson at the home of her parents in Orchard. It was a double wedding ceremony in which Olive's sister Amy married L. B. Bailey. In 1907, Jule and Olive homesteaded at Rockypoint.

Jule and Olive were known for their hospitality. People loved to come visit and play cards. During a pitch game, if no one else claimed low, Jule always did. Herb Reynolds tells of how Jule gave him a friendly piece of advice. Herb was just starting a new job. Jule told him, "If your boss tells you to dig a hole one day, you do it. If he tells you to fill it up the next day, you do it with a smile because he's the one that signs the piece of paper at the end of the month."

November 16, 1909, John Casper was born in Orchard, Nebraska. Since John was an only child he spent as much time as he could get away with at George and Hattie Butler's place, playing with his cousins. Hattie was Olive's sister. John shared many meals with the family, many of them included fried chicken. Eating the gizzard turned out to be somewhat of a challenge. As soon as one person



John on his horse, Silver



Jule, Olive, John



stabbed for the gizzard, the free-for-all began. Pandemonium reigned as forks stabbed and people wrestled on the floor to see who would emerge victorious...with the gizzard somewhat intact.

When John was in first grade, he took his can of "chew" to school with him. During recess, he gave the other first graders a bit of the tobacco, and soon had them all sick as could be in the corner of the schoolyard. The teacher never did find out what had happened to them. John attended the Rockypoint High School for two years, then went on to graduate from the Campbell County High School in Gillette in 1928. He was the salutatorian of his class. He was offered several football scholarships but chose to stay on the home place.

Like many farmers in those days, John and his dad worked very hard. They would get up at three a.m. and wrangle the horses, feed the pigs, and milk the cows in order to be in the field by six a.m. John

used one team in the morning and the other in the afternoon. After supper, the evening chores had to be done, then to bed and up again at three a.m.

To wrangle the horses, John rode a spirited white horse named Silver. In his right hand he carried a lever action twelve-gauge shotgun. Many times, Charlie Jones would exclaim, "I heard you wrangling again this morning". Of course, John didn't shoot at close range but was close enough to get the horse's attention. He would often shout the horse's name before he fired the gun. John's shout was nearly as loud as the shotgun blast, and most often the horse would streak for the corral as soon as he called. In fact, John and Clark Butler used to carry on conversations with each other from their homes, over one-quarter mile apart. They were quite put out with Jule at one time for putting up a haystack which obstructed their view of their "line of communication".

John loved to play cards, especially poker. One time he went to George King's and won ten dollars in a poker game. He used the money to buy an engagement ring for Melpha Switzer. They were married on June 30, 1942 in Newcastle. To this union were born five children: Jerry – May 5, 1944; Rita – June 1, 1945; Tom- December 8, 1946; Jack- October 26, 1949; and Linda – May 16, 1958.

As with most families in those days, John and Melpha were very self-sufficient. They had eleven cows, some pigs and chickens, and, of course, the horses. Selling cream provided a steady income. They raised hay, wheat, corn, oats, and spelts. Over the years, they acquired more land, including the Leonard, Banat, Bill Clossen, part of the Rawson, and the Clarence and Edgar Switzer places. There had been over twenty homesteads on those places at one time.

In January 1948, Mr. and Mrs. Julius Kuhbacher of Rockypoint and Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Bailey of Custer, South Dakota celebrated their golden wedding anniversaries. It was held at the Rockypoint Hall with the Happy Hour Club of that community making the arrangements. The Happy Hour Club is still in existence today.

The winter of 1948-1949 was one of the longest and hardest on record. John had a full day's work just getting cows fed. He fed with a team and bobsled. The haystacks were on the estate, which is on the Clossen place, north and east of where Ray Craft lived. The snow was very deep so he tried to go on the same track each day. The horses made a trail, hard as ice. They had a hard time staying on the trail it was so slippery. They would fall down a lot so their knees got very sore. The horses would have to lunge forward to try to pull the bobsled through the deep snow. They were a fairly small team but John said they were one of the best teams he ever had. They would get so tired that they would lay down on their sides and pant like a dog until they got their wind, then would get up and pull again.

It was difficult getting to the haystack, then John had to shovel snow off the top of the stack, pitch the hay on to the snow, then pitch it again onto the bobsled. On the way home it would sometimes



Christmas 1969 - (back row) Darel and Rita Graves; Tom, Melpha, and John; (kneeling) Jack, Linda, Jerry

spill once or twice when the bobsled tipped over. The cows wintered in a little area north of the house where the fuel tanks are now. They had a little circle tromped out with deep snow all around them. John pitched hay down to them to eat and they licked snow for water. When the snow finally melted, the cows were very happy to move around and get some exercise. The snow was piled up so deep that John could walk off the very peak of his barn onto a snow bank. The peak of that barn is about 28 feet high. To get out of the house, John made stair steps in the snow. The steps led from the door up to the top of the snow.

Julius Kuhbacher died in the spring of 1949 and Olive passed away in February 1957.

John and Melpha's children attended the Rockypoint School and the Nebraska School. In the early years, they rode horseback to school. Jerry

and Rita rode June, and Tom and Jack rode Scout. They carried their lunches in a flour sack. It wasn't at all unusual for the kids to get into a horse race on the way to school and over-and-under the horse with a lunch sack. Since the kids carried milk to school in a quart jar, they sometimes had very soggy sandwiches.

Horseback riding was the Kuhbacher children's main form of entertainment. And also pulled pranks on each other like pulling each other's bridle off. Or having races to see who would get home first, turning the corners so close and fast that the horse rubbed the gatepost. Some of the Kuhbacher's fondest memories are of their closest neighbors, Ernest and May Lau. They lived on the George Butler place. Ernest and Mrs. Lau, as the Kuhbacher kids called the, were like grandparents to Jerry, Rita, Tom, Jack, and Linda. They were older and never had children, so they kind of "took them in". Whenever the Lau's went to town, they would bring home a sack of candy for the kids. John and Ernest traded help during haying, combining, etc. They owned some machinery in partnership.

Kuhbacher's got electricity in 1957. The family got its first television set in 1958. Before that they would go to Davidson's & Craft's on Sunday night to watch Ed Sullivan at six p.m., General Electric Theater at seven p.m., and Maverick at eight p.m. Charlie Starr was responsible for getting television reception in the area. He installed a booster on a high hill on his place. He also sold and serviced television sets. Another big change was in 1961 when Mountain Bell began providing modern telephone service for the area. All the neighbors helped build the telephone line as it was a very dry year and there was no hay to put up.

In 1958 John purchased half the Rockypoint dance hall to be used in the building of their new house with modern facilities. Millard Garst purchased the other half of the dance hall. Jerry, Rita, and Tom graduated from Moorcroft High School. They then went on to college in Billings. Jack attended Moorcroft High School during his freshman year, then moved to Billings and graduated from Central High School.



(back row) Renee, Gayle, Justin, Steven; (front) Kevin, Jerry, Michael

When John started farming he had a few cows, a hog operation, and raised corn and other grains. As the ranch increased in size they quit the hog operation and included more cows. There was more hay to put up and they began planting winter wheat in 1963. Also in the fall of 1963, Jerry went into partnership with his folks on the ranch. John bought him 400 head of sheep to get started. Herbert Reynolds taught Jerry a lot about the sheep business. Jerry and his dad continued to plow up more sod to winter wheat and improved pasture. Starting with John's cows, the ranch continued to improve the herd until 1986, when they sold all the cows. That was the first time the ranch had ever been without cattle. A short time later the ranch continued with cows but this time on a short term basis.

In April 1969, Jack and Jerry were in Billings when back at the ranch it started to rain. The rain turned to snow and the snow became a blizzard. It snowed for three days. After the storm broke, Jack and Jerry drove to Gillette. Gillette had a lot of snow and people were saying how bad the storm had been. Jim Fulkerson, the manager at the airport, directed Jack and Jerry to a pilot who was available to fly them to the ranch. The plane was old, rickety, and sounded like an old washing machine, but Jim assured them that the pilot had never left anyone up there yet! Since the plane was only a two-seater, Jack told Jerry to go first and if he made it okay, Jack would try it. The both made it in fine shape.



Jerry and Gayle's family at the centennial party at the ranch, August 2008.

There was at least twice as much snow at Rockypoint as at Gillette. Most of the fence posts were completely covered and the snow was rock hard. The cows had all drifted south into the Kenneth Riesland place. Meredith Shannon and Leland Brimmer, who was working for Meredith, helped the guys gather the cows. Jerry lost about half his sheep. They were at the Davidson place and the ones that died were trampled in the barn because there wasn't enough room for all of them. They dragged about three feet worth of dead sheep out of that barn. It was one of the most sickening jobs they'd ever done. The good side of that storm was that there was a lot of moisture in it. Every animal that lived through the storm went into the fall fat and all other crops were good. A barley field, which had just been planted on the Bill Clossen place, yielded seventy-two bushels per acre.

Rita married Darel Graves May 17, 1969 in Billings. They have two children, John and Julie. Jerry married Gayle Hunter in Billings October 18, 1969. They have five children: Justin, Steven, Renee, Kevin, and Michael. Tom married Linda Jimmerson in Hilger, Montana August 22, 1970. They have four girls, Annette, Lori, Trina, and Keela. Jack married Diane Jimmerson in Hilger, Montana August 21, 1971. They have six boys, Jason, Mark, Matt, Isaiah, Damon, and Tyson. Linda married Jess Brost in Gillette December 10, 1987. They have four children, Kaleb, Jessica, Eli, and Judd.

With the purchase of the Scott, Kraft-Davidson, Reynolds, Kenneth Riesland, and Jay Matthew places, the size of the ranch increased from 2,300 acres to 11,000 acres. After John's passing in June 1971, Melpha and Jerry incorporated the ranch. Also at this time Melpha and Linda moved to Billings where Rita, Tom and Jack's families lived.

Linda finished her education in Billings. In 1975 Jack and his family moved back to Rockypoint and joined Jerry in the ranching operation until 1995 when they moved to Gillette. Jerry and Jack's children went to the Nebraska School, then went on to high school in Gillette and graduated from Campbell County High School. After graduation, Jerry's sons Justin and Michael joined the ranch operation. Melpha passed away August 21, 1987 in Billings.

The family's haying operation has changed a lot over the years. They started with horses stacking the hay up in loose stacks from 1907 to 1950. Then started with the Case wire-tie square baler till about 1962. They continued with the little square twine tie baler and then changed to the round baler from about 1969 to 1984. In 1985 we changed again and began using the big square baler.

In 1981 Jerry and Jack received an award for outstanding accomplishments in resource management from the Devils Tower District. Since then the ranch has increased the hay production to 6,000 acres. We have also installed 25 miles of water line to stock tanks in different pastures. We quit raising winter wheat in the early '90s. Due to the dry weather, wheat production went from 60 bushel to the acre in the '60s to 40 bushel to the acre in the '80s.

The morning of April 25, 1984 it started to snow. By nightfall it was a full-fledged blizzard. The first two days the guys spent moving cows and calves into protection and feeding them hay. A lot of the time was spent trying to get unstuck and the visibility was zero. The winds were blowing 80 miles an hour. Tri-County Electric called the morning of the third day to say they had two crews stranded in the storm. It was determined that one crew was on Bowman Hill about 10 miles south of the Kuhbacher ranch. The guys spent part of the day putting the duals on the 4-wheel drive tractor. Visibility was still zero and the snowdrifts were huge. It took five hours to get to the county road, a quarter mile away. One drove the 4-wheel drive tractor and the other drove the tractor with a loader. The storm began to break the middle of

the afternoon about the time they got to the county road. The winds diminished so they could see the road. They reached the pickup at Bowman Hill before dark and they found the second pickup at the Switzer Place with only the top of the cab visible in the snow. They had been stranded for two days and nights. The crews spent the night at Jerry and Jack's. The next day Jerry dozed snow so the crews could fix the broken power lines. The storm of '84 took a devastating toll on the livestock at Rockypoint and the surrounding area.

There have been a lot of changes over the years. Since the ranch was homesteaded it's gone from 1,000 acres and eleven head of cows to 11,000 acres, 500 hundred head of cows, 2000 head of sheep, and putting up 6,000 ton of hay. We also have taken in cattle to feed the last few winters. We hope that in the future the fifth generation coming up will be able to continue to run the ranch.

The Lozier Ranch

Sublette County

As told by Irv Lozier

I believe the first member of my family to reside in Wyoming was my great-grandfather, Levi Lozier, between 1855 and 1860. Letter evidence indicates he left his family in Ohio at age 18 to join the “provisionaires” in helping provide wild meat to the Oregon Trail travelers. He returned in 1861 as an Ohio volunteer to the Union Army. As a settler in Ogallala, Nebraska in 1872, he returned regularly to the Lander/South Pass area between 1868 and 1895 when his sons began settling in the Pinedale and Jackson areas.

My grandfather, Irvin Maynard Lozier, was born in Ogallala in 1872 and came to Wyoming first as a kid to the Lander/South Pass area in 1890. He returned to be a hunting guide for Ira Dodge near what is now Cora in 1895. In 1898, Dodge was mauled by a large grizzly sow and subsequently Irvin and artist Carl Rungius bought out Dodge's hunting concession.

On June 12, 1900, Irvin returned with my grandmother, Elizabeth (Lizzie) Burch Lozier, and their eldest son, Roy Ward, age 5 months. Lizzie was born in Berthoud, Colorado on December 9, 1882. Irvin had filed on a homestead near Pole Creek in 1896, but relinquished it in 1898 to re-file on Willow Creek where I now live. This part of Sublette County was all part of Fremont County at that time, separated by the Green River from Lincoln County to the west.

Irvin died here at the ranch on January 14, 1942, and Lizzie here on Christmas Eve, 1962. Irvin and Lizzie had four sons, Roy Ward, born in 1900;

Robert George, 1902; Earl Hezikiah, 1908; and Walter Woodrow, my father, in 1914. All four sons ranched and raised families in the Cora, Daniel, Pinedale, and Boulder areas through World War II. My father stayed on the home place on Willow Creek and cared for my grandparents until their death. He also ranched and continued the guest ranch/hunting/fishing/site seeing operation.

In 1902, Carl Rungius and Ira Dodge stole a stoic Shoshone Indian chief from a nearby burial ground and Rungius took him to the New York Historical Museum in New York City. This caused a real scourge with the Indians who still regularly utilized this area in summer. They felt my grandfather had information they needed and rode him to five distant locations (total of 165 miles), with his hands tied behind his back and a thong around his neck, tied to the saddle horn for interrogation, before releasing him three days later. They raided my grandmother's home for all sorts of goods to be used traveling. To quote, they were “just pointing and grunting at each other a lot, then shooting one of our dogs that was upset and barking, they finally tore off in a big cloud of dust, yipping and yelling a lot”.

My grandmother's favorite remark about this ranch was “It is amazing the sacrifices you may have to go through just to live in the most beautiful valley/place on earth.

Although we had a devastating fire in 1989 that destroyed the ranch house, I do have a few old pictures of the homestead, early hunts, cattle drives, family and the ranch. The original homestead cabin serves as a blacksmith shop.

The Luman Ranch

Sublette County



Abner Luman 1885

As told by Roberta Bacheller

The First Generation

Abner Luman 1849-1931

Abner Luman was born in West Virginia in 1849. His family later moved west to Lawrence, Kansas where his father owned a farm. Abner's father, James, was born in Maryland in 1809, and passed away in Kansas in 1865 when Abner was only 15.

As a youngster, Abner's legs were seriously burned when a kettle of hot grease fell on him, crippling his right leg. As a result, he was trained to be a tailor so he could sit with legs crossed beneath him as was the custom of the time. When Abner was 13, while playing and wrestling with other children, his leg was accidentally straightened, leaving him with slightly deformed feet but no longer crippled!

By age 14, Abner was anxious to join his brothers in fighting in the Civil War but his parents were very

opposed. Abner's older brother, John, went west in 1859 and worked as a hunter for the Overland Stage Company. He later worked as a freighter, hauling logs to build Fort Fetterman. Abner was so influenced by his older brother, John, to "Go West" that his parents gave him permission to join a neighbor on a trip from Fort Leavenworth to Fort Union, New Mexico, bull whacking along the old Santa Fe Trail. It took the entire summer to complete the round trip.

1864-1885

From 1864 to 1877, Abner worked as a bull whacker and a freighter, going into Idaho, Utah, Wyoming, and Montana.

In 1879, he bought 1300 head of Shorthorn yearlings in Salt Lake City. He trailed the cattle to the Green River Valley in the spring of 1880. This was the beginning of his career as a cattleman. He always bought Utah cattle and by 1885 had amassed around 20,000 head of cattle and 45,000 to 50,000 sheep. As a point of interest, Abner went broke in 1883, 1889, and the early 1890s and again in 1908 because of devastating winters. It was the winter of 1883 that persuaded him to acquire ranch lands for winter feed.

1885-1903

By 1885, Abner had prospered and was settled on Sandy below Farson. While on a trip to Salt Lake City he met Jeannette Snedden. It was love at first sight on his part. After a brief courtship of less than a year, they were married in October, 1885.

They had a home in Rock Springs next to the Quealy's who were also newlyweds. They were fast friends for the rest of their lives.

1903-1908

In 1903, Abner bought the Hill Ranch, located on the Green River north of Cottonwood Creek. He sold his holdings on Sandy and also sold all his sheep, devoting himself solely to the cattle.

In 1905, Abner and Jeannette also purchased a home in Salt Lake City. By that time they had three daughters and six sons, two of whom died in childhood. Their youngest son, Robert, who would

later become the owner and operator of the Hill Ranch (now known as the Luman Ranch), was born in 1905 in Salt Lake City.

1908-1920

In 1913, Abner was struck by lightning while haying on the Green River Ranch. In 1914, Abner and Jeannette traveled to Cuba so Abner could further recuperate. They left the ranch in the care of their son, Kenneth, who had just graduated from Phillips Exeter. When they returned from Cuba, Kay (as Kenneth was known), became the Cashier of the Bank of Marbleton. Abner was instrumental in founding seven or eight banks in western Wyoming.

In 1916, Kay was hired to run the Green River ranches and Abner and Jeannette moved to their ranch near Cora, north of Pinedale. In the fall of 1918, Abner switched from Shorthorns to Black Angus exclusively. His sons, Dick and Kay, helped run the ranches.

By 1928, Abner had again purchased a band of sheep and still ran his cattle. At the age of 82, death came to the pioneer patriarch of the Luman family.

The Second Generation

Robert, the youngest son of Abner and Jeannette, grew up in Salt Lake City. He attended military school in California as an elementary student, and also attended Phillips Exeter where he was a track star, setting several records that stood for decades before they were broken. He had planned to attend Yale as his brothers before him but his father said "no". His reasoning was that he didn't think the college educations had helped Robert's older siblings in their ranching careers.

This was a huge disappointment and Robert left home and went to work in the Pacific Northwest for Morrison Knudsen. He neglected to tell anyone he was leaving and by the time he did notify his family, they had come to believe that a hired man had caused his death! He did return to take over his ranch, the Hill Ranch on the Green River, in the mid-twenties.



Jeannetta Snedden Luman 1885



Doris & Bob Luman 1940's



Doris Holding Bud Bacheller III on Vic, Harold Bacheller jr. & Bob Luman



Roberta Bacheller with Buddy Bacheller, Robert (Bob) Luman & Doris on Vic 1961



Roberta L Bacheller, Abner Luman & Kathryn L Mudro 2002

In 1928, at the age of 23, Robert met Doris Bailey of Green River. They were married in December of that year. Robert (Bob) had rented a ranch close to Pinedale as Doris did not want to live so far from town! He had a band of sheep and, until 1935, he would travel 20 miles back and forth every day to feed and tend the Green River Ranch and the sheep.

In 1937, Doris and Bob built the ranch house on the Green River Ranch. They ran sheep, along with a small herd of cattle. In 1956, Bob sold his sheep outfit and devoted his efforts to raising Shorthorn cattle as had his father so many years before.

Bob and Doris worked side by side their entire married life together. They raised three children: Kathryn, Abner, and Roberta. In 1978, Bob passed away unexpectedly and Doris ran the ranch by herself for four years.

The Third Generation

In 1982, Abner Luman II sold his ranch in Saratoga and came back to the Green River Ranch to help his mother. Doris ran the ranch until 2000, when ill health forced her into a retirement home in Pinedale.

The Fourth Generation, 1999-Present

Doris's son, Abner Luman II, had retired in 1999, and Doris and Bob Luman's grandson, Charles (Chuck) Bacheller, came to the ranch to help. Chuck and his brother, Harold III (Bud), both spent summers at the ranch from the time they were old enough to help and on through their teenage years. They both loved the ranch and worked and learned from their grandfather until his death, and from then on with their grandmother, Doris.

Chuck chose to leave his occupation as a high school teacher in Denver to follow his love of ranching. He worked with his grandmother, Doris, and, for a time, his Uncle Abner.

In 2002, Doris passed away. Chuck, Abner's great-great grandson, is now the manager, and his Aunt Kathryn L. Madro of Lincolnshire, Illinois, and his mother, Doris Roberta Bacheller of Fort Collins, Colorado, are now the owners of the Luman Ranch.



Luman Ranch



Luman Ranch in winter



Doris Luman 1987



Chuck Bacheller 2005

Sources:
Tales of the Seeds-Ke-Dee and Helen Sargent
and memories of friends and family

The Mercer Ranch

Crook County



Sen. John Barrasso, Eaton Family, and Sen. Mike Enzi

As told by Joyce Eaton

Shortly before 1890, Levi Mercer left Nodaway County, Missouri and came to northeast Wyoming, Crook County to be exact. He worked on various ranches until he was old enough to homestead, which he did ten miles southeast of Hulett. Before 1900, the original brand (quarter circle diamond) was registered by Levi. A few years later, his brother, Andy, followed. Soon after that, his sisters, Katie and Cindy, came. Andy homesteaded north of Levi for a few years before moving to the Yellowstone River valley near Sidney, Montana. Cindy had a homestead next to

Levi, but after a short time she married Thomas Alexander and remained in the Belle Fourche, South Dakota area. Katie moved to Montana where she lived the rest of her life.

On January 7, 1906, Levi married Phoebe Ethel Parkins, whose family had homesteaded near Alva, Wyoming. To start they lived in a small rough lumber cabin but as time went by they purchased more land and in 1908 and 1909 built a new house about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile east of where their original homestead cabin was. This is the ranch house still in use today.

Homer Martin Mercer was born to Levi and Ethel on May 5, 1907 at the Parkins home near Alva. Another son, Albert, was stillborn in 1921. Homer attended six years at the Cotton School on Blacktail Creek about two miles from the houses. He rode horseback to school. As Ethel was from a large family, Homer had many cousins that he spent time with as he grew up.

In 1926 Homer went to Maryville, Missouri to visit his grandparents on his father's side. There he met Elsie Mae Wright, daughter of George and Pearl Wright of rural Maryville. They were married January 1, 1927 in the Christian Church in Maryville, Missouri. They stayed in Missouri until spring. Homer worked for George Wright until they had \$200. They purchased a Model T Ford car and headed out on the dirt roads for Wyoming. Homer always said that so many of the hills were so steep they could not go up forward and instead had to back up them in reverse gear.

The Mercer family continued ranching – raising cattle, sheep, hogs, and growing hay and small grain crops. They farmed with horses, purchasing their first tractor in the later 1930s. Times were tough in the 1930s but they always seemed to get by. Homer worked on the WPA projects and Elsie cooked at various farms and ranches. Elsie got a small band of sheep and spent many days herding them.

Levi became ill and died in January 1940. Ethel continued to live on the ranch with Homer and Elsie and their two children. She passed away in June of 1968.

Donald Ray Homer was born on February 26, 1940 at the home ranch. Joyce Marie followed November 7, 1943 in Spearfish, South Dakota. They attended the same rural school as Homer,

the Cotton School, on Blacktail Creek. They rode horseback most of the time. When it came time for high school, Donald spent some time staying in Hulett, but after Blacktail Road was graveled, he and Joyce stayed at home and rode a school bus.

As the years passed several other small farms were added to the home place. As with most ranches there were times when Homer and Donald worked off the ranch, cutting timber, custom haying shearing sheep, custom combining, etc. The hunting seasons in the fall kept them busy guiding and Elsie cooking many meals for hunters.

Homer lived at the ranch until shortly before his death in January 1993. At this time (2008), Elsie is 99 years old and living in Pioneer Manor in Gillette.

Joyce married Leonard E. Eaton on July 28, 1962 in Belle Fourche. They spent most of the next 30 years in the Casper area. Leonard passed away October 25, 1998 in Gillette. They had three children:

- Suzanne, married to Brent Wharton, has two daughters, Kylie and Brynn.
- Steven Lee married Michelle Sorensen and has four children: Haylee, Lee Michael, Brayden, and Maya
- Starla married Steve Paulsen and has one daughter, Sydney.

The ranch is still running cattle, raising hay and small grains. Donald Mercer is the ranch manager.

The Miller Land and Livestock

Sublette County

As told by Tara Miller

The first known white man to winter in Sublette County did so in 1893 with a large herd of cattle on what was to become known as Miller Land and Livestock. These two cowboys had been stranded there with a cattle drive and returned the next year to homestead since they had discovered such good cow country. The following winters were not as kind and in 1895 they sold their homestead to James Mickelson, a Dane who had come to Wyoming in 1882 without a nickel in his pocket, went to cowboyng, and became foreman of Spur Cattle Company, the largest cattle company in Wyoming.

James increased his holdings and married Mildred Avery. They had two children, James and Mildred. James left a small portion of his holdings to his daughter, Mildred, who married Bob Miller, a cowboy on the drift, and together they built Miller Land and Livestock into a very large outfit. Mildred and Bob had two children, Bobby and Jim. The outfit has been split apart a couple times and now the grandson, Mike Miller (son of Bobby), and his family own the home place, the '67' brand, and Miller Land and Livestock. Mike had previously purchased a neighboring ranch that fit right in with the home place. Mike married Tara and they have two children, Will and Wes.

The "Circle", which is headquarters of Miller Land and Livestock, still has the original homestead cabin on it and a succession of homes. The Miller boys are the fifth generation on the ranch. Throughout the years, Miller Land and Livestock has been host to cowboys, cattle, and cow horses. It presently runs 1500 mother cows and 1400 yearlings. There are about 100 head of horses on the ranch at all times – 35 are broodmares, and three stallions. On a good year, the ranch puts up 4500 tons of wild hay. There are 14,000 acres of deeded land and a couple permits.

The old time feeling and integrity of the ranch has tried to be preserved. There is also quite a bit of wildlife on Miller Land and Livestock which is greatly appreciated and always considered and looked out for.

Miller cattle are summered in the Wyoming Range Mountains where the grass has a lot of stamina, then driven back to the home place to winter where the hay is grown. The yearlings are driven to the hardy desert in the spring and then hauled to summer pasture from where they are shipped in the fall. The ranch started out with range cattle, then gradually changed to an English Hereford herd for many years. Over the last 15 years, the Miller's have increased the Black Angus bulls and the herd is now Black Ballies.

The cows and horses have built the ranch and paid for it along the way for 120 years. Everything the ranch has it owes to the land, livestock, and hard labor of its ancestors and hired men. It is all about cattle, horses, and cowboys!

The Murdock Land and Livestock

Sublette County



Sen. John Barrasso, Murdock Family, and Sen. Mike Enzi

The Richard Noble Ranch

Sublette County



Sen. John Barrasso, Noble Family, and Sen. Mike Enzi

As told by Richard Noble

The Noble ranch land was acquired in 1896 through the Homestead Act. Additional acreage was added to the ranch as time progressed. James M. and Pauline Rahm Noble began this land acquisition process after they were married and settled upon the land in 1896. They raised four children on the ranch, and also cattle, sheep, horses, and hay. James and his neighbor, Abner Luman, brought the first Black Angus bulls from Illinois to Sublette County, then part of Fremont and Uinta counties.

During the early days, the ranch was situated along the migration route of the Shoshone Indians. Nipwater (Chief Washakie's grandson) often stopped with his tribe near the Noble's homestead to rest, and to water and feed his horses and families. The James Noble family and Nipwater became friends and always greeted each other with respect and glad tidings.

Original old buildings still on the ranch include a barn built by James M. Noble; a horse barn; a bunkhouse (built by tie hacks); a harness/tack room; and a blacksmith shop (part of the old town of Cora). The Noble ranch is home to the historic remnants of the old town of Cora, established in part by James P. Noble. Old Cora town included a supply store, saloon, school, blacksmith shop (still standing), and printing press (used for The Cora Sentinel newspaper). Nearby, in a present-day hay meadow, the Noble's grew an enormous garden, which supplied the tie hacks with their vegetable needs.

The original homestead barn still stands on the banks of the New Fork River and continues to shelter many newborn animals. And on each holy eve of December 24th for the past 17 years, another newborn – “The Baby Jesus” – also has blessed the barn manger during the Noble family’s reenactment of the first Christmas, known locally as The Cowboy Nativity.

Yes, the treasures of family and friends working together and dwelling upon this “Noble” land continue to be passed from one generation to the next. And with each new passage, all who know and love this old ranch hope to inherit and carry forward the values of the past in the good name of the future...

The MC Lerche Ranch

Weston County



Back row (left to right): Anna McLaughlin Freel, Elizabeth McLaughlin Thompson, John McLaughlin, Agnes McLaughlin Rosean, Front row (left to right): Michael Leo, Sarah Crowley McLaughlin, Michael Leo McLaughlin, Margaret Bertha McLaughlin

As told by Fern Porter, niece of Mary McLaughlin Lerche

John B. L. Soule's quote "Go west, young man, and grow up with the country" was a challenge to Sarah Crowley and Michael McLaughlin's six daughters. They were all born in Ogden, Iowa. Girls at that time had two choices: become a schoolteacher or get married and have a family.

The oldest McLaughlin son, John, came to South Dakota and settled around Gregory and stayed there. Mary Alice came to South Dakota and stayed with friends, taught school, and in the summer helped take care of the children and cooked for thrashers. Her sister, Elizabeth, joined her and they

came to Pringle and Custer and taught school. Mary was allergic to pine trees so they hired a man with a team and wagon to bring them, their trunks, and organ to Newcastle. I never figured out about the organ because neither one of them played or sang but it was a piece of furniture in the house for years to come.

They borrowed a sunbonnet and apron pattern and started a business. Then Mary began making ladies' hats, a business she pursued for thirty years.

Christian Lerche worked in the roundhouse in Newcastle and he and Mary were married. Daniel Thompson was a trainman on the



Mary Alice McLaughlin Lerche

trains hauling coal from Cambria and he and Elizabeth married.

Mary and Chris Lerche, along with Elizabeth, went ten miles south of Newcastle on Beaver Creek, close to the railroad station Owens, and took adjoining homesteads. Now Salt Creek ran into Beaver Creek, so it was good stock water but no use for human consumption. One advantage of this area was you could get on the train in Newcastle and have it stop at Owens; and when you wanted to come back to town, the section foreman at Owens would go out and wave his lantern and the train would stop to let you get on to ride back to town.

Chris Lerche was on a roundup and his foot became caught in the stirrup and he was drug to death. Daniel Thompson was killed on a train coming from Cambria so Elizabeth and their four children moved to Billings, bought a big house, took in boarders, and she became a mail carrier. She raised horses on her homestead and her brand was a ship wheel. Elizabeth sold her horses in the mid-1920s in Newcastle. Her homestead had creek bottoms that produced wild hay that was cut. Elizabeth's sister, Mary, ran the hayrack and stood beside the men and pitched it on to the wagons and into the barn and out to the cows in the wintertime.

Sarah McLaughlin, one of the six sisters, came west from Iowa, taught school, and took a homestead adjoining Mary. She also married a railroad man. They lived in Nebraska and moved to Billings. She had five children and after the death of her husband she returned to Mary Lerche's homestead for a few years.

Anna McLaughlin came west and took her homestead, studied and became a lawyer and worked in the land office in Newcastle. If she heard of someone with land adjoining hers who was giving up on homesteading, she and sister Mary would buy it. Anna also went to Cheyenne and worked in the State Land Office but would come back on her vacation in the summer and help with the ranch.

Sarah McLaughlin, mother of the six girls, passed away and Agnes stayed with the family in Iowa and took care of her younger sister, Margaret, and brother, Michael. When they were through high school, Mary Lerche paid for their college tuition at Ames, Iowa. Then Agnes came to South Dakota where her brother, John, was living.

When a part of South Dakota opened up for homesteading, people all lined up with teams, wagons, and buggies on horseback and afoot. When the starting gun went off, they took off at breakneck speed and picked a spot, drove four stakes, and this was their homestead. Agnes was 12 miles south of Parker, South Dakota. She stayed five years, had a milk cow, and taught school. One of the schools was held in a sod schoolhouse. Then she came to Newcastle, took up a homestead, taught school there, and also in Montana. In 1918 she married Philip Rosean in Billings and they came to her homestead. Siblings Margaret and Michael McLaughlin also came to the area, taught school, and took up homesteads. Michael taught at Osage, Wyoming.

Mary raised cows and calves. One year she and James Freel tried their hand with long horn Texas steers but that did not prove to be a good venture. Freel also took up a homestead adjacent to Mary's sister, Margaret, and years later he married Anna McLaughlin.

Mary's claim shack was a schoolhouse moved in and had a porch on it. A cistern was dug, a pump installed, and water in the kitchen came from the rain that ran down the drainpipes from the roof and into the cistern. Mary was also handy with a hammer and saw; she built a kitchen, bathroom, complete with tub, and a bedroom. Of course, there was a big, three-part barn, granary, icehouse, another shed and the outhouse. Pigpens and chicken coops were added. Mary put on a pair of breeches, got astride her horse and rode after her cows. While all these things were going on, Mary was keeping the ladies in Weston County decked out with the latest hat styles.

Elizabeth's claim shack was built; I don't know who built it. Chris's was a dugout in the side of a hill.

Mary, Margaret, Anna, Jim, and Agnes all had cattle and all run together, so branding day was like alphabet soup. Mary's brand was MC on one side, Margaret's was MC on the other side, Anna's was AG on one shoulder, Jim's JF on the other side, Agnes was AMC on the hip. Now if after branding a calf was following a cow with another brand, not to worry. It all came out right after shipping in the fall.

Now I must mention the horses because they were what made the wheels go round on the MC Ranch. Niger was a big black, Hague was an iron Gray, but they pulled together and were Phil's team. Abraham was black with blazed white face, Fouche was an iron gray, and this was Mary's team. Then there was Noodles, he was black and white blazed face and white feet and not

exactly flighty, but he didn't have the down to earth qualities of a work house. Abraham was also broke to ride. Tommy, a little bay, was Mary's riding horse. Sand was Phil's horse, bay blazed face and white feet. He had trained as a roping horse and when you were driving cows, you sat in the saddle and rode along. He went back and forth nudging the cows along. When your weight hit the stirrup he was gone, but if you dropped the rein or fell off he would stop and wait for you to pick yourself up.

Phil, Agnes's husband, and Mary plowed up the flat places and planted corn, wheat, oats, and barley. A few potatoes were planted among the corn stocks. They also planted vegetable gardens but it all depended on the rain. Phil and Agnes milked cows, had chickens, even some pigs and turkeys. They churned butter and sold eggs. Phil and Agnes's daughter, Fern, was born in 1920 and grew up on the farm. We had to haul drinking water from town and would take the cream to town in the cream cans and bring water home in them.

In 1936 we had rain in the spring but then it turned dry and the grasshoppers came. They were so thick sometimes it sounded like hail hitting the house. They chewed the fence posts and the shingles on the roof. There was a story about a farmer who left his team in the field and went to the house for a drink. When he came back the hoppers had eaten his team and were pitching horseshoes to see who would eat the harness.

Fern married Daniel Porter in 1941 while they lived in town but helped with branding in spring and roundup and shipping in the fall. Their sons, Daniel, Edward, and Michael were all active in 4-H beef projects and some years went to State Fair. Their girls, Mary Kathleen and Ruth, were also given calves so in the fall they had some spending money from calf sales.

Sisters Mary Anna and Margaret deeded the land to Agnes. In 1972, Dan and Fern came to the ranch to live and took over the cattle business. Agnes passed away in 1982 and Fern became the owner of the MC Ranch.

Daniel and Fern's daughter, Kathleen, and her husband, Gene Morgan, bought cows and had them on the ranch, another ME brand. In 1985, drought and grasshoppers forced the sale of the cattle. Now it is the retirement home of Dan and Fern Porter and the pasture is rented out.

That's not quite the end. Remember the challenge. A grandson, Larry Liggett, has moved a trailer up across the county road and is building a house and his three oldest children are in 4-H swine projects. To the north, son Edward and his wife, Cindy, are fencing a plot to set a modular and three-car garage. To the south, daughter Sandra and her husband, Jerry Clouse, are moving building material in for a dwelling with solar energy. Sandra has horses so we are moving on, looking for the second hundred years.

The Meadow Brook Ranch

Johnson County



2006

As told by Wallace Ramsbottom

Wallace Ramsbottom was born April 27, 1861 at Pine River, Wisconsin. He was the son of John (1821-1904) and Ellen Foster Ramsbottom who had both emigrated from England around 1845.

Wallace left home when he was about 14 or 15 years old and broke prairie land in Kansas with a walking plow. In 1885, he owned an 80 acre tract of land in Union Township, Iowa. In June, 1887, Wallace married Agnes Bridgett Kelly in Belleville, Kansas.

Agnes Bridgett Kelly was born in Bristol, England on February 22, 1870. She spent her childhood living on the grounds of Buckingham Palace. Her father was a Grenadier Guard in the Queen's Ward. Agnes came to America when she was 17 or 18 and

worked as a governess for two little children of a couple who had bought a newspaper in Wichita, Kansas. She was supposed to return to England but instead got a job at the farm of James Ramsbottom and it was there that she met his brother, Wallace.

Wallace and Agnes went by covered wagon to Orient, Iowa where they farmed almost 20 years before moving to Wyoming with their eight children. Wallace purchased the 1000 acre Meadow Brook Ranch in 1906 from Charleton J. and Carrie Simmons for the sum of \$15,000. The Simmons's came to the area in the 1880s after spending time in Cheyenne. They are the ones who named the ranch. Charlie Simmons had an asthma problem and that is probably why he decided to sell the ranch and retire to Arizona. The sale agreement included livestock, hay, grain, household goods, machinery, tools, brands, and numerous other items used for



Wallace and Agnes Ramsbottom, first generation on the ranch



Lyle and Hazel Ramsbottom, second generation on the ranch

ranching. The four brands were: the Lazy V Cross Lazy V, the Horse Head, the Hub and Spoke, and the Tuning Fork Bar.

Wallace moved his family from Iowa to Meadow Brook Ranch in the spring of 1907. They brought some furniture and other items with them by wagon and team. The family consisted of Wallace and Agnes and their eight children: William, age 17; Bessie, age 15; Rosco, age 13; Edith, age 11; Clifford, age 8; Leonard, age 6; and Lyle, age 3. Bernice was born on the ranch in 1910, assisted by a neighbor, Elizabeth Simmons.

In the early years, the young Ramsbottom children of school age went to Ono to school. Ono was a stage stop on the south side of Steel Creek on the west side of Greub Road. Little is known about Ono except that Edith McWilliams Hesse was the teacher at the school when Lyle Ramsbottom went to school there.

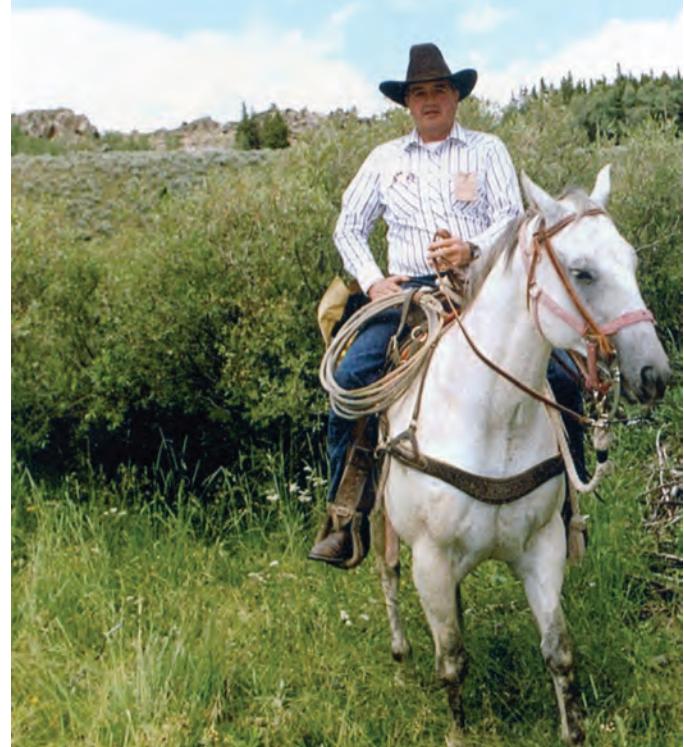
Not a lot is known about the early years on the ranch. Lyle said the first time he remembered going to Buffalo was when he was about 14 years old. It would have been about 1918. He had a bad tooth and the only reason he got to go was because of the toothache. They apparently took him by automobile to the dentist. Prior to this time, Wallace and Agnes would go to Buffalo once or twice a year with a team and wagon for supplies.

I have part of a letter written in 1911 which talks about William Ramsbottom herding sheep and having problems with wolves. A map of Johnson County in 1913 shows a lot of open range and little settlement east of the mountain.

The main house was the present-day hired help house. I believe it was originally a log cabin with a kitchen and bedroom. An upstairs second story was built after 1906 as well as a back room. The present day horse barn was built by 1906 and probably put together with used logs. The milk barn addition was built later.



Sally Ramsbottom



Wallace Ramsbottom

5 Generations on the Ramsbottom Ranch

1st Generation:

Wallace Ramsbottom born 4/27/1861 in Pine River, Wisconsin. Married Agnes Kelly 6/20/1887 in Belview, Kansas. Died 3/21/1945 in Buffalo, Wyoming.

Agnes Bridgett Kelly born 2/22/1870 in Bristol, England. Married Wallace Ramsbottom. Died 7/7/1937 on steamship Duchess of Bedford (They were on a trip to England for their 50th wedding anniversary). Buried in Greenock, Scotland.

They had nine children. The eight living children grew up on the ranch but most of them later moved away.

2nd Generation:

Lyle D. Ramsbottom born 3/26/1904 in Creston, Iowa. Married Hazel Mabbit 1/17/1932 in Hardin, Montana. Died 12/29/1971, buried in Buffalo, Wyoming.

Hazel M. Ramsbottom born 1/30/1912 in Bethney, Missouri. Married Lyle D. Ramsbottom. Died 1/9/2004, buried in Buffalo, Wyoming.

3rd Generation:

Wallace D. Ramsbottom born 4/23/1935 in Sheridan, Wyoming. Married Sally Shepperson 7/16/1961 in Casper, Wyoming. Both are still living on the ranch.

Sally J. Shepperson Ramsbottom born 12/14/39 in Casper, Wyoming. Married Wallace D. Ramsbottom.

They have two children: William D. Ramsbottom born 11/24/1963 and Kelli J. Ramsbottom Shetler born 12/29/1965. Kelli and her family do not reside on the ranch but have family interest and land.



Sen. John Barrasso, Ramsbottom Family, and Sen. Mike Enzi



(Left to Right) Kelli Ramsbottom Shetler, Darren, Kelsey, Matthew Shetler, fourth generation



(Left to Right) William D. and Allison Ramsbottom with children Samuel and Wyatt Ramsbottom

4th Generation:

William D. Ramsbottom born 11/24/1965 in Buffalo, Wyoming. Married Allison Perry 12/8/2001.

Allison P. Ramsbottom born 8/15/1975 in Casper, Wyoming. Married William D. Ramsbottom

They have 2 children: Samuel L. Rambottom born 2/9/2004 and Wyatt A. Ramsbottom born 2/17/2007.

5th Generation:

Samuel L. Ramsbottom
Wyatt A. Ramsbottom

The Rennard Ranch

Niobrara County



Rennard Homestead, Sam & Coyote

As told by Stan Rennard

Tom Rennard, Sr. came to the United States from England in 1905. He worked for ranchers for several years and in 1907 came to Niobrara County (which was part of Converse County at that time) and applied for a homestead of 160 acres close to the Cheyenne River. Tom became a citizen of the United States on January 3, 1911. On April 15, he went back to England and got Mary and their son, Robert, and brought them back to their new home in Wyoming. Gradually, Tom filed on two more homesteads and eventually bought other land from people that had given up and moved.

Tom, Jr. was born in 1912 and Sam in 1919. Tom and Mary ran sheep to start out with and eventually as they got more land they ran cattle also. In the spring, Tom would take off and go shearing sheep, which lasted several weeks, while Mary stayed home and took care of the ranch.

Tom also carried mail from Edgemont, South Dakota to Spencer, Wyoming with a team and wagon. When he carried the mail the patrons could depend upon the time he would be at their boxes. He would also take their cream and eggs to town and would bring the supplies they needed back out for them.

In October 1914 they bought 160 acres east of Cheyenne River and along Mule Creek. As the years passed, Tom and Mary bought more land up Mule Creek as other homesteads gave up. Some of that land now is where the main ranch is located. Sometimes they would move from one place to another, depending on the time of the year and the work to be done.

On December 4, 1951 Tom died as a result of a vehicle accident caused by black ice. After Tom died, they sold close to ninety head of horses. Mary suffered a stroke in 1957 and spent several years in a home before passing away on July 6, 1964. After Mary died, Sam managed the ranch for many years until his health failed and Stan took over managing the ranch.

Samuel Rennard and Vivian Griffith were married in 1944. They have three children, Cheryll, Stanley, and Carol. Both girls went to college. Stanley worked at various jobs until 1969 when he came back to the ranch. He bought some land next to what was the Rennard Ranch, bought some cattle, worked for a neighbor lady during calving and winter, and for his parents until 1998, when he bought more cattle. Sam and Vivian had retired. Stanley Rennard and Marlene Black were married in 1970. They had two children, Jennifer and Tye, deceased.

Stanley and Marlene's daughter and family live about five miles south and Jennifer's husband, Boe Kottowitz, works for another rancher. Jennifer and Boe have two little girls, Peyton, seven years old,



Rennard Family, Tom, Mary, Robert,
Sam & Tom



Sen. John Barrasso, Rennard Family, and Sen. Mike Enzi

and Abby, five years old. Both of them are around cattle with their parents and we believe they will be future owners of the Rennard Ranch, eventually.

Samuel passed away September 14, 2006. Vivian lives on the ranch but at 88 years she is thinking of giving up country living.

The Rollins Ranch

Uinta County

As told by Gary Rollins

My family was some of the very first members of the Mormon Church. The Church was organized April 6, 1830. They sent missionaries to Kirkland, Ohio in September 1830. My great-grandmother was the first one baptized there. Many of her family became members. They eventually moved to Nauvoo, Illinois. When they were driven out they went to Winter Quarters in Nebraska. They moved to Utah in 1848 and eventually Minersville and started having children. When the children all grew up there was no more land for them to buy or settle on.

In 1857, Johnston's Army established Fort Bridger and took up the whole Bridger Valley. They abandoned the fort and the valley in 1891 and shortly after it was opened for homesteading.

My grandfather, James Watson (Wat) Rollins (1856-1917), and grandmother, Harriet Ann (1864-1934), along with 53 relatives, left Minersville in 1897 and settled what is known as the lower bench because a good water right had already been filed on for part of it. Many more relatives followed.

We now own the land owned by my grandfather and his wife's sister and her husband, John Henry Blackner. They are joined together and make a good ranch. There are still lots of descendants of the wagon train still here but they had so many kids that most of them had to leave because there wasn't enough work for them.

My great-grandfather, James Henry Rollins, came in 1898 and died nine months later. He is the first person in the Lyman Cemetery.

When my dad owned the ranch when someone was haying everyone else would show up to pitch the hay and stack it. The kids would drive the horses and play. At night a lot of my uncles and aunts and their kids would get together. There was no TV then so the parents would play Roock and the kids would play outside. It was like a big party every night.

The Sommers Ranch

Sublette County



Josie McAlister, May's Mother
1910



Albert & Florence Sommers, Aunt Lil 1918



Albert (Bud) 1918-1919

As told by Jonita Sommers

The experience of the Sommers family and the establishment of the Sommers Ranch is typical of many pioneer ranching families who settled in rural Sublette County. In a pattern that was repeated by numerous ranchers in the county, Prof Sommers settled a homestead and gradually increased his holdings. He did what others did before him to enter the ranching business; he formed a partnership with family members, and also worked another job in order to increase his holdings.

Sommers was a latecomer to the valley. By 1900, much of the land in the Green River Valley had already been homesteaded. Settlers first came into the lower Green River Valley in the 1870s and subsequent settlement followed the Green River north. This is an area of dry land that explorer John Wesley Powell in 1879 called "the arid region of the United States." With rainfall of less than twenty inches a year, the land was not suitable for crop production but adequate for stock grazing. As families continued to homestead in the valley, small

family ranches grew in number and transformed the upper Green River Valley into a thriving cattle ranching community.

Albert P. Sommers, known throughout his life as Prof, was born November 8, 1871 in Ashtabula, Ohio to a German-Swiss family. At some point, he relocated to Kansas where he taught school in 1896 and 1897. Around 1900, Sommers came to Wyoming due to a lung problem and taught at the Opal school before entering into partnership with Charles Olson and leasing a ranch on Fontenelle Creek. Prof's brother, Pearl Sommers, joined him in the ranching operation about 1904. While trailing cattle to and from the Upper Green River country, they saw the open land where each would take out a homestead claim in 1907. Prof also bought isolated parcels, and filed on desert claims in the same area. He filed his first water right on the Sommers Ranch in 1908. Pearl Sommers moved to Jackson a few years later and eventually to California.

Prof married May McAlister on May 11, 1911. May, born in Illinois in 1879, moved with her

family to Kansas in 1886. She began teaching school when she was seventeen years old. In 1903, a teacher friend urged May to join her in Wyoming, telling her the land was beautiful and there were lots of men. May did come to Wyoming and taught school in Big Piney. By the time May married Prof in 1911, she had bought land and had started homesteading. Later, she, too, filed a desert land entry. Her teacher friend, Nellie Yates, also homesteaded and bought isolated parcels, which Prof and May Sommers later purchased. May's parents, Jim and Josie McAlister, came to Wyoming where Jim homesteaded. With the family and friends working together, the Sommers were able to establish a ranch of nearly 1900 acres.

Sommers is associated with a number of improvements in the county. In 1912, he helped build an important road that connected Pinedale and Big Piney. The road went through the Sommers Ranch and a two span steel truss bridge was constructed over the Green River, which is located west of the ranch headquarters. Although it is no longer a main road, it is used by the Sommers family and the neighboring ranches today. The bridge was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1985.

The Big Piney Roundup Association was created during 1890 in response to the so-called Equalizer Winter of 1889-1890 in which 90% of the cattle in the Upper Green River Valley died during the freezing months. There were no fences so the ranchers hired cowboys who traveled with chuck wagons (known as "wagons") to care for the cattle of different ranches. The Big Piney Roundup Association handled the cattle so the ranchers had time to put up hay on the river and creek bottoms. This proved to be such a success that as more settlers came, more "wagons" with cowboys were put together to manage cattle in different localities. Sommers belonged to a "wagon" that handled cattle in the Upper Green River region during the early 1900s. Sommers was a charter member of the Upper Green River Cattle and Horse Growers Association, which formed in 1916, and served on the board.



Martha Sommers (L) & Julie Hayden



May, John, Albert, Martha, & Florence Sommers About 1919



Albert, John, Martha, Florence Sommers



Old Cabin, Homestead, Jim & Josie McAlister



Ranch Home built 1908



Albert (Bud) Sommers 1946

In 1914, the Forest Service asked the wagons in the various geographical areas of the Green River to form associations for easier grazing management. The March 16, 1914, edition of the Pinedale Roundup included an article about rulings concerned with new associations forming in these areas. According to the newspaper account, “Any association where members included a majority of the local residents making use of the national forest [could] get together and select a committee to meet with the local forest officers. The Associations were to ‘act in advisory capacity’ to the federal agents.”

Associations formed to deal with these new facets of grazing cattle became increasingly important - in fact, necessary- to the ranchers. The Forest Service brought about the formation of all the associations; before their request, it was just wagons of loosely knit ranchers working together.

From the original Big Piney Roundup Association, and smaller associations, the Upper Green River Cattle and Horse Growers Association formed. (The name of the association changed in 1925 to the

Upper Green River Cattle Association, also known as the UGRCA). The UGRCA was the largest of these associations, with the longest trail (nearly 150 miles). This long trail with the cattle moving up and down the Green River with the seasons became known as the Green River Drift. Prof Sommers ran his cattle on the Green River Drift as early as 1904. The UGRCA is one of only two associations left in the Green River Valley today.

During the formation of Sublette County from parts of Fremont and Lincoln counties in 1921, Prof Sommers campaigned to have the county seat located in Daniel to prevent a feud between Big Piney and Pinedale. He lost this campaign when Pinedale became the county seat and the feud continues today.

From 1922 through 1926, Prof had the mail contract from Big Piney to Pinedale. He hired a man to run the ranch and the family moved to Big Piney. While the Sommers family was living in Big Piney, May ran the town telephone switchboard located in one end of a little log cabin. May and Prof worked hard together to build the ranch. May liked to travel and work outside. She helped with branding, cooked for the ranch hands, and grubbed brush.

Prof Sommers died July 9, 1928 from a severe case of high blood pressure that formed a blood clot on the brain. May kept the ranch running and raised their four children by teaching school in Pinedale. She became the Sublette County Superintendent of Schools on January 10, 1929. May taught school in the Green River Valley for nearly fifty years either as a full-time teacher or as a substitute teacher in later years at Pinedale. May was one of the six original members who started the Sublette County Artist’s Guild in 1928.

In 1957, May received her Bachelors of Art degree from the University of Wyoming when she was 78 years old. Some of May’s former students attended college at the same time and would carry her books to class for her. May McAlister Sommers died July 19, 1963 in Jackson, Wyoming.

May sold the ranch to her son, Albert (born 1915), known as Bud, and his wife Verla in 1947. Bud purchased additional land and improved the ranch in



order to increase its capacity. He was very involved in the Upper Green River Cattle Association where he served for many years as secretary-treasurer and/or foreman of the UGRCA. He was a lifetime member of the Green River Valley Cattlemen's Association and served on Forest Service and BLM grazing boards and committees protecting the lifestyle he loved. He was well respected by those he dealt with because of his intelligence and honesty. Bud Sommers passed away on September 18, 2000.

Bud's wife, Verla, worked beside him on the ranch - haying, moving cows, calving and fencing - when she wasn't busy cooking and raising their two children, Jonita and Albert, Jr. She was ranch women of the year in 1988 and a lifelong member of the Green River Cowbelles. In 1957, Verla realized a lifetime dream by having a house built for her, which she purchased with her own money. She passed away peacefully in her home on February 25, 2006, at age 81.

Albert, Jr. and Jonita are the third generation of Sommers on the ranch. Like his father and grandfather, Albert has ranned most of his life. He has been the president of the Upper Green River Cattle Association for fifteen years. He has served on statewide committees pertaining to sage grouse, grizzly bears, and brucellosis. Albert is a member of the Green River Valley Cattlemen's Association and was elected president twice. He was appointed to the Wyoming Livestock Board in 2007, and he is currently chairman of the Sublette County Planning



Sen. John Barrasso, Sommers Family, and Sen. Mike Enzi and Zoning Commission.

Jonita has followed in her grandmother May's footsteps. She has taught school since 1978 and has been a member of the Sublette County Artists' Guild since 1988. She is a member of the Green River Cattle Women (Cowbelles) and helped organize the local centennial ranch awards in 2007. She has served on both Sublette County museum boards and contributed to most of the displays in the Green River Valley Museum.

Today, the Sommers Ranch remains in operation on the land settled by Prof, Pearl and May McAlister Sommers. The meadows, ditches, corrals and outbuildings they built are still in use. They have been maintained or improved for over 100 years. The Sommers Ranch has raised beef cattle commercially since 1907, and Albert and Jonita started a small registered Hereford herd in the late 1980s

The Graefe Farm

Platte County



Graefe house

As told by Helen Uhlman

Richard E. Graefe, born August 10, 1863 in Elzenberg, Saxony, Germany, emigrated with his family in 1872, settling near Grand Island, Nebraska. Mrs. Graefe, the former Magdalena (Lena) Moller, was born November 7, 1874 and left the Hamburg, Germany area with her family and settled in Leavenworth, Kansas.

After their marriage on July 14, 1898 in Leavenworth, they lived near Goodland, Kansas. Their daughter, Sophie Emelie, was born there on June 2, 1900 in a sod house. Richard and Lena then moved to Wheatland in April 1902. Richard brought an emigrant car and filled it with two horses, two mules, two milk cows, one calf, simple farm equipment, household furniture, and one dog. Lena and Sophie came by train.

They first rented and farmed the Stull place southwest of town, later owned by Marlin Baker, Sr. A son, Gustave E., was born there on February 28, 1903. They then farmed the Mecklewait Place now owned by Ken Ockinga. Mr. Graefe then bought 80 acres from his brother, Herman, who had previously obtained it from the Wheatland Development Company.

After purchase of the farm in October 1903, Richard built a two-room house, plastering and shingling, of native timber which he hauled from the Decker sawmill in the hills. Over the years, he also built a



Richard, Lena, Sophie, Gustav Graefe

barn for his horses, a shed for stock, a granary, and a chicken house. He hauled posts from the hills, dug a well by hand, and prepared the native soil by using a walking plow. Many of the fence posts are still in use. Crops were oats, speltz, chicken feed, alfalfa. He used a harrow, a homemade float and hand-sowed the grain and alfalfa. Later, corn and sugar beets were grown.

Although they were hailed out the first five years, they persisted in growing crops. Hawks and skunks killed the chickens.

Mrs. Graefe developed a flock of laying hens. She brought home calves from the town dairies and neighbors. They were fed oats and skim milk. A herd of stock cattle was established and the steers at three years were sold fat. She drove the white horse to town, selling live fryers, eggs, butter, garden stuff, new potatoes, raspberries, honey, and strawberries. These paid for groceries and clothes while the fat cattle "paid off the place." Other buildings and farm implements were added. The mules were useful everywhere. The black was the saddle horse. A saddle was soon bought. They credited the mules "for making the place" for them. A new spring wagon was more prized than any later car.

Home canned and fresh vegetables and fruit, home cured meat and chicken were the staple food over these years.

A tornado-like wind tore down a new chicken house, scattering it in five pieces. It was collected and rebuilt at once.

They were avid tree planters. Soon an orchard was begun and added to constantly. They first gathered small trees from nearby creeks for shelter from the unbearable wind. They later bought large numbers of trees from nurseries. The windbreak is still standing. Parcels of land and more buildings were added, too.

Church, at first, was conducted by young missionaries in the homes. Mrs. Graefe was a charter member of the Pleasant Hour Club with Mrs. John L. Thompson as president. She borrowed books from the first library in town. Mr. Graefe helped organize the first creamery.

The children walked to the Ayers School. Later, for high school, they rode horseback, or were members of a three family car co-op. First the fathers, Mr. Beran and Mr. Graefe, or Mrs. Baker drove a car a week in turn, then later, the older students in each family drove.

Every Saturday each one dressed up to go to town, to visit, to shop, for business. Plans were made to have Sunday dinner at each other's homes. No work on Sunday, except chores and irrigation. The whole family went together, no misbehaving young people. In winter evenings, get-togethers at home were held to play cards, and again, strict supervision by the parents. An occasional dance was enjoyed. July 4th celebrations were a picnic at a ranch with an oversupply of food.

Mr. and Mrs. Graefe appreciated their opportunity to live on the Wheatland Flats. Lena passed away November 5, 1936 and Richard died February 7, 1947. They are buried in the Wheatland Cemetery.

Sophie Graefe married Claude Miller of Rock Springs. They had two daughters, Helen Uhlman



Richard and Lena Graefe



Sophie and Gustav Graefe

of Cheyenne and Amelia Miller of Fort Collins, Colorado. Helen has three children - a son, Kenneth Glenn Uhlman, of Douglas; Carol Meyer of Douglas and Deborah Ann Cvancara of Denver. Amelia Miller has no children.



Sen. John Barrasso, Uhlman Family, and Sen. Mike Enzi

Gus Graefe married Ollie McMullen of Wheatland. They had two daughters, Norma I. Nelson of Grand Junction and Linda L. Eikenberry of Denver. Norma has one son, Russell Nelson. Linda has two children, a daughter, Jennifer, and a son, Mark.

Carol Meyer, Helen's daughter, has two daughters, Jeremiah and Jonathan Meyer.

Sophie and Claude Miller and Gus and Ollie Graefe are buried in the Wheatland cemetery.

The farm has been occupied and worked by both families. It is now owned by the Graefe granddaughters, Helen Uhlman and Amelia Miller.

The Walker Ranch

Uinta County



Sen. John Barrasso, Verla and Ramon Walker, and Sen. Mike Enzi

As told by Ramon Walker

John Colvin Walker was born in Utah on August 24, 1878. He came to Wyoming from Huntsville as a teenager with a team in order to work on the canals to irrigate some of this country. John staked out his homestead in 1898. He then returned to Utah and married Mary M. Thurston of Eden, Utah, who was born September 19, 1879. John and Mary returned to Wyoming in 1899 and lived in a dugout the first winter. He worked with his horses wherever he could get work and did any other available jobs.

John and Mary had 11 children, 7 boys and 4 girls. One of their sons, Ellis C., brought the first Black Angus cows into the valley. Many people were not happy about them. Verla Walker, son of Ellis, still runs registered and commercial Black Angus.

John Walker died on June 28, 1955 and Mary Walker died on October 24, 1952.



Walker, John C & Mary T about 1935 on porch of house



Walker Ranch early 1950s



Walker Original Homestead 1898



Walker home built 1912



Walker Original Barns



Walker Barn & Garage

The Wardell Ranch

Sublette County

As told by Martin Wardell, Jr.

John and Jane Wardell came to Wyoming from Utah where John herded sheep. They settled on a homestead in 1897. John was born in 1859 and died in 1947; Jane died in 1934. They had nine children. The Wardell's raised a few sheep originally but primarily they had a horse ranch through World War I. John also did custom grain threshing. Cattle became primary from 1930 on.

The original house on the John Wardell homestead is still there and in very livable condition. Also, the shop and a granary are still standing.

Other Centennial Ranches 2007

The Frank Fear Cattle Company
Sublette County

The Hill and Hill Ranch
Sublette County

The Jensen Ranch
Sublette County

The Murdock Ranch
Sublette County

Charles and DeeAnn Price Ranch
Sublette County

Cross Lazy Two Land and Livestock
Sublette County

Wyoming State Parks & Cultural Resources

Historic Preservation Office

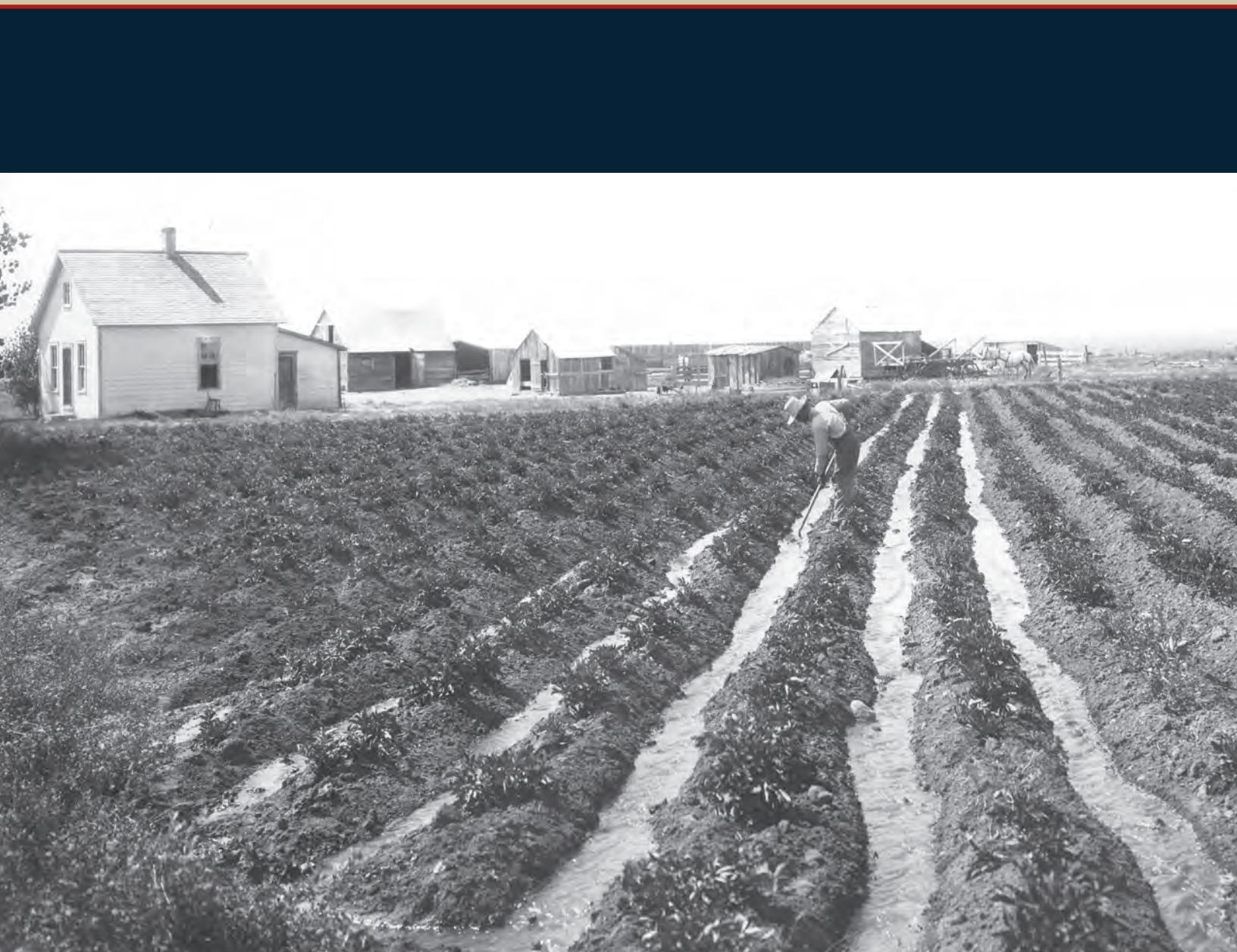
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Cover photos courtesy Wyoming State Archives

Front: Stimson Neg 674, Tweed's Ranch, head of Beaver Creek, Fremont County, WY, 1903, hand-tinted color