

NELLIE D. (ARMSTRONG) BASSFORD

Birth: January 30, 1892 - Died: March 1, 1940

Liberty County Times

March 7, 1940

MRS. HENRY BASSFORD PASSES FOLLOWING LINGERING ILLNESS

Mrs. Henry E. Bassford, prominent matron of the Chester community for a number of years, passed away at the family home at 1:30 a. m. on Friday morning, March 1, following a lingering illness.

Death came as a relief to a long and patient period of suffering, and was not unexpected by members of the family and a large circle of sympathizing friends. Last July Mrs. Bassford was taken ill, and was taken to a leading surgeon in Spokane who diagnosed the affliction as a cancerous growth. Everything humanly possible was done to stay the ravages of the disease, but to no avail, and for weeks the inevitable end was certain.

Through all the weeks of suffering Mrs. Bassford maintained her courageous patience, and it was only a few days before her passing that she expressed to her family the conviction that the end was not far distant. To the very end she maintained her uncomplaining attitude and patience, and when the final summons came she passed away peacefully.

Deceased had been a resident of the Chester community since 1937, coming here with her husband and family from Naples, Idaho, where they had resided for six years. During her residence in Chester Mrs. Bassford made many warm friends, and her passing is sincerely mourned by the many close associates and friends of the family.

The remains were taken to the old home in the Flathead valley, where funeral services were conducted on Monday afternoon in the Campbell Funeral Home, with Rev. Allen, pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Kalispell, conducting the services.

Committal services were conducted by the Eastern Star chapter of Columbia Falls, an organization to which deceased had long belonged, and the remains were laid to rest in the beautiful Conrad Memorial cemetery at Kalispell.

A profusion of floral tokens, and a large concourse of sympathizing friends at the funeral services, attested the high esteem in which the departed was held.

Obituary

Nellie D. Armstrong was born in East Riverside, Pennsylvania, on January 30th, 1892, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Armstrong. She came west with her mother and brother in 1907, and located at Whitefish. On May 22nd, 1916, in Kalispell, she was married to Henry E. Bassford, and for many years the Bassfords made their home at Coram, where Mr. Bassford was depot agent. After leaving Coram the family lived at Naples, Idaho, for six years before coming to Chester to make their home.

She is survived by her husband, Henry E. Bassford, one son, Edgar, a student at Whitworth college in Spokane, and one daughter, Elaine, of Chester. She is also survived by her mother who resides at Bonners Ferry, Idaho; three brothers, B. H. Armstrong, of Whitefish, H. H. Armstrong, of Somers, and Thomas Armstrong, of Summit, and one sister, Mrs. Paul Mellon, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Mrs. Bassford was also a first cousin of County Commissioner Russell Keith, of Chester, and has numerous nieces and nephews and other relatives and a large circle of friends to mourn her passing.

KATHRYN KEITH BECKNER

Birth: November 15, 1918 - Died: April 26, 1940

Liberty County Times

May 2, 1940

MRS. R. BECKNER CALLED BY DEATH

The community was saddened last Friday evening, when it was learned that Mrs. Robert Keith Beckner, wife of Robert Beckner and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dodds Keith, had passed away following a brief illness of a little less than one week.

The sad news quickly passed through the community, and the dance scheduled for Friday evening in the Community hall was immediately postponed, and expressions of sincerest regret and sorrow were general.

Mrs. Beckner, who had been living with her husband on the Keith ranch north of town most of the time during the winter, was taken suddenly ill early last week, and on Tuesday was brought into town for medical attention. She was suffering from a severe attack of the flu, which developed rapidly into a serious condition, and she grew steadily worse until the end about nine o'clock Friday evening.

Mrs. Beckner was one of the popular young people of the community, and had a wide circle of friends and acquaintances. She had spent almost her entire lifetime in this community, having graduated from the local high school with the class of 1938. She was married to Robert Beckner on December 16, last year, and the couple had made their home on the Keith ranch since that time.

She was a charming and lovable character, and her sudden calling is a severe loss to her family and all of their friends. The family have the sincere sympathy and condolence of the entire community.

Funeral services were held Monday afternoon from the Methodist church in Chester, with Rev. Stuart of Havre delivering the funeral sermon, assisted in the services by Rev. Kuller, pastor of the local church.

A profusion of floral tokens of love and esteem banked the entire front of the church around the casket, speaking in silent and eloquent terms of the love in which the departed was held.

Several musical numbers were provided by the ladies' quartet, consisting of Mrs. Fred Brown, Mrs. Frank Eggers, Mrs. T. A. Busey and Miss Loreda Keldrauk, accompanied by Mrs. L. E. Matkin.

Pallbearers were Karl H. Jeppesen, J. H. McAlear, Claude Walden, George H. Gau, Arthur Norris and True Ray.

Members of the graduating class of which deceased was a member who were able to be present attended the services in a body.

The class was composed of the following: Mavis Ballou, Pauline Miles, Marshal Gau, Marietta Kuhry, Philip Furlong, Billie Schultz, Dorothy Blanchard, Hilda Kulpas, Leo Wiggen, Barbara Matkin, Ruth Plank, Cecil and Wayne Bassett, Cletis Wright, Inez Schaeffer, Mildred Thielman, Harold Oswood, Idella Walden, Mabel Hoffner and Leonard Sykes.

Relatives here attending the funeral from out-of-town included Mr. and Mrs. Austin Lynch, of Highwood, Mrs. Milam Keith, of Fortine, Mont., Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Killam, Havre, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Sailor and Mrs. Sailor, Sr., of Havre.

Obituary

Kathryn Keith Beckner was born November 15, 1918, and was adopted into the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dodds Keith in infancy. She grew to womanhood here, and was loved by her family and friends as it is given but few to enjoy. She attended the grades and high school in the Chester schools, and was graduated with the class of 1938.

On December 16th, 1939, she was married to Robert Beckner, and since that time had made her home with her husband on the Keith ranch north of town.

She is survived by her husband, Robert Beckner, her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dodds Keith, one brother and sister in the Keith home, Dean Keith and Peggy Ann Keith, and two sisters, Miss Georgia Patterson, of Vancouver, Wash., and Mrs. Roger Hoover, of Vancouver, and a brother, Herbert Johnson, of Laurel, Montana.

CARIE BERG

Birth: 1875 - Died: May 1, 1940

Liberty County Times

May 2, 1940

MISS CARIE BERG PASSES

Miss Carie Berg, an elderly maiden lady whose home is in the extreme south end of the county, passed away at the Mary Lynn hospital in Chester on Wednesday morning of this week, following a lingering illness of heart trouble.

Miss Berg was brought to the hospital here on Friday of last week from her home, but her case was so far advanced that there was no hope for her recovery, and she gradually grew weaker until death relieved her suffering. She was about sixty-five years of age, and had lived in the south part of the county for many years. She is survived by numerous relatives in the county, including a niece, Mrs. Austin Broadhurst, and two brothers, Knute and Iver Berg, who live on farms south of the river.

Funeral arrangements will not be announced until relatives living at a distance have been heard from.

JAMES N. BINGHAM

Birth: September 13, 1881 - Died: August 29, 1940

Liberty County Times

September 5, 1940

J. N. BINGHAM DIES AT ROCHESTER

James N. Bingham, prominent rancher of the Sweet Grass Hills community for the past thirty years, passed away at the Mayo hospital in Rochester, Minnesota, at 3:30 p. m. on Thursday of last week, August 29th, following an operation for tumor of the brain.

Mrs. Bingham, who was with her husband during the time he spent at Rochester, accompanied the body back to Havre, where it was taken from the train, and on Sunday was brought to Chester where funeral services were held at 12:30 p. m., and the body was then taken to Kalispell for burial in the Conrad Memorial cemetery in that city.

Mr. Bingham had been in poor health for some time, and several weeks ago went to Rochester where his ailment was diagnosed as tumor of the brain. He underwent an operation, and was apparently well on the road to recovery, when he suffered a relapse, and had been in a critical condition for the past two or three weeks. News of his passing was not unexpected.

James N. Bingham was born on September 13th, 1881, at Ontario, Canada, being nearly fifty-nine years of age at the time of his death. He is survived by his wife, his mother and one son, Nelson Bingham, and one daughter, Mrs. Olive Roberts, all of Whitlash.

When a boy he went with his parents to Michigan, where he lived until 1910, when he came to Montana and settled in the Sweet Grass Hills community. He built up a fine stock ranch near Whitlash, and was among the outstanding and successful ranchmen of the northern part of the county. He was a good neighbor, highly respected, and always took an active part in his community and in county affairs. His passing will be sincerely mourned by a large circle of friends and acquaintances, and the family have the sincere sympathy of the entire community.

He had lived in the Hills country continuously with the exception of two years, when the family resided in Kalispell. He left Chester on July 13th for Rochester, and immediately entered the hospital where he remained until the end.

Funeral services were conducted by Rev. J. W. Kuller, pastor of the Chester M. E. church. Music was furnished by a ladies trio, composed of Mrs. Frank Rogers, Mrs. Ralph Ward and Miss Idella Walden, with Mrs. J. W. Kuller as accompanist.

JACK BLAKE

Birth: N/A - Died: June 25, 1940

Liberty County Times

June 27, 1940

TWO KILLED IN CAR CRASH ON HIGHWAY WEST OF DEVON

Two lives were snuffed out, four persons badly injured and two cars practically demolished in a car collision on Highway No. 2, just west of Devon and about twenty-five miles west of Chester late Tuesday afternoon, believed to have been indirectly caused by too much drinking.

Peter Pontuso, Havre cook, was killed instantly in the crash, and Jack Blake, proprietor of the Round-up, a Havre night club, died a few hours later in a Shelby hospital from injuries received in the wreck. John Downes, a bartender at the Blake resort, was driving the car, and Mrs. Downes was the fourth passenger. Both were seriously injured.

Mr. and Mrs. James Gregory, of Detroit, Mich., who were driving west, were also seriously but not fatally injured in the crash, and are still in the Shelby hospital. A third car, which had just been passed on the road by the Havre car a short distance west of the wreck, passed the wreckage and went on into Devon and reported the crash, asking that the highway patrol and Toole county officers be notified and that doctors be sent to the scene at once. In the excitement the identity of the third car, which was in no way to blame for the accident, was not obtained, and the car evidently proceeded east after notifying Devon residents of the accident.

The exact cause of the accident is not known, but at the investigation it was learned that the Havre car was proceeding east, and passed another car near the top of the grade just west of Devon. Tracks indicated that the Havre car swerved over to the left side of the road as it approached the Michigan car, and was probably traveling at a high rate of speed. The Michigan driver, seeing the other car approaching on the wrong side of the road, evidently pulled over to the left, and the actual crash occurred on the south side of the road. The Havre car was thrown from the grade, and rolled and skidded for a distance of about 45 feet before coming to a stop. The Michigan car was thrown to the right hand side of the road.

The Havre party was in Chester early Tuesday morning, between eight and nine o'clock. They visited two beer parlors, and according to persons who saw them when they left town were evidently drinking at that time. They are reported to have gone as far west as Cut Bank, and were returning toward Havre late in the afternoon when the accident occurred. The coroner's jury of Toole county brought in a verdict of accidental death in a car crash, but fixed no criminal responsibility.

MAGGIE AUGUSTA BROADHURST

Birth: January 8, 1866- Died: January 10, 1940

Liberty County Times

January 11 - 18, 1940

MRS. MAGGIE BROADHURST PASSES

Mrs. Maggie Broadhurst, resident of Chester since 1916, died at the hospital here about 8:30 Wednesday evening of this week, following a lingering illness. She had been in the hospital for more than a year.

Mrs. Broadhurst was a little past 76 years of age at the time of her passing.

Funeral services will be held in the Methodist church in Chester at two o'clock on Friday afternoon, with Rev. John Kuller in charge of the service, and burial will be in the local cemetery.

FUNERAL SERVICES HELD FRIDAY FOR MRS. BROADHURST

Funeral services were held in the Methodist church in Chester last Friday, January 12, for Mrs. Maggie Broadhurst, who died following a lingering illness at the hospital here on Wednesday of last week.

Rev. John W. Kuller, pastor of the local church, was in charge of the services, which were largely attended by a large concourse of sorrowing friends and neighbors. Many beautiful floral pieces expressed the esteem and love in which the departed was held.

A ladies quartet, composed of Mrs. Frank Eggers, and Misses Barbara Matkin, Phyllis Shepherd and Loreda Keidrauk, with Mrs. L. E. Matkin as pianist, sang "Beautiful Isle of Somewhere", "Saved by Grace" and "Jesus Saviour, Pilot Me."

Pallbearers were John Sherard, Walter Heimbigner, Harold Jensen, J. H. McAlear, John Staudacher, and Dodds Keith.

THOMAS CAIN

Birth: 1868 - Died: March 13, 1940

Liberty County Times

March 21, 1940

**Thomas Cain Dies
At Oakland Home**

Thomas Cain, former well known resident of the Chester community, died at his home in Oakland, Calif., on Wednesday of last week, March 13, at the age of 72 years, according to word received by friends of the family here during the week.

Deceased was one of the first settlers in the Chester community, having lived on a farm east of town for many years, leaving here about four years ago to go to California for his health.

Survivors include the wife, Mrs. Hanah Cain, two sons, Edward and Lester, and one daughter, Mrs. G. W. Linter, all of Oakland, and one daughter, Mrs. Harold Jensen, of Chester. There are five grandchildren.

MICHAEL CICON

Birth: 1880 - Died: July 15, 1940

Liberty County Times

July 18, 1940

MICHAEL CICON DIES FROM INJURIES RECEIVED IN FALL

Michael Cicon, brother of Joseph Cicon, well known farmer of the community north of Chester, died at Belt on Monday of this week, following injuries sustained when he fell from a load of hay while working on a ranch near Lewistown on July 5th.

The body will be brought to Chester, and funeral services will be held on Thursday afternoon of this week from the Methodist church, with Rev. J. W. Kuller in charge. Burial will be in the Chester cemetery.

Deceased was about sixty years of age and made his home in Belt for a number of years, where he was engaged in coal mining. During the summer he was working on a ranch near Lewistown, where the accident occurred. In the fall Cicon sustained a broken back and fractured skull, and had little chance for recovery.

WILLIAM JAMES DOW

Birth: N/A - Died: January 16, 1940

Liberty County Times

January 25, 1940

**FORMER CHESTER RESIDENT
PASSES AT SPOKANE**

William James Dow, a former well known resident of the Chester community, died at his home in Spokane Washington, on Tuesday of last week. and funeral services were held Friday, according to information received here by Mrs. J. H. Hay the first of the week.

The Dow family lived here for a number of years on a farm north of town, and later lived in Chester where Mr. Dow was engaged in the mercantile business. The family moved to Spokane about eighteen years ago, and have made that city their home since that time. Mr. Dow in later years, was engaged in the clothing business, and made trips through this section in connection with his business.

WILLIAM H. EARL

Birth: April 6, 1866 - Died: August 20, 1940

Liberty County Times

August 22 - 29, 1940

W. H. EARL DIES AT ROCHESTER

William H. Earl, prominent farmer of the community south of the Marias river in Liberty county since 1910, and a member of the board of county commissioners, died early Tuesday morning at a hospital in Rochester, Minn., following an operation.

Wm. Earl Jr. was informed by telegram Tuesday morning of the death of his father, and left on the Empire Builder Tuesday night for Minot, N. Dak., where he expected to meet his mother, who was returning to Chester with the body. Mrs. Earl had been with her husband in Rochester.

No definite information is available Thursday morning as to funeral arrangements, but it is expected that services will be held in the Methodist church in Chester Friday afternoon, with Rev. Stewart, of Havre, officiating.

Mr. Earl left here about ten days ago for Rochester where he entered the Mayo hospital for observation and treatment for a bladder trouble from which he had been suffering for some time. He later underwent an operation, and was apparently recovering satisfactorily. His condition changed for the worse Tuesday night, and his death came as a surprise and shock to his family and friends.

Deceased came to this community in 1910, from the state of Washington, moving onto a homestead south of the Marias river where he has resided since that time, with the exception of a few winters spent in town while his children were in school. He is survived by one son, Wm. Earl Jr., who also resides in the community south of the river, and three daughters. He was seventy-six years of age at the time of his passing.

When Liberty county was created Wm. H. Earl was appointed as a member of the first board of county commissioners. He was re-elected to that position for two terms, and then declined to become a candidate for a longer service. Early this year he was appointed to membership on the board by Judge C. B. Elwell, to serve out the unexpired term of Russell Keith, deceased. In a recent primary election he filed as a candidate to fill out the unexpired term, and was unopposed in the republican primaries, and no candidate filed against him on the democratic ticket. He was regularly nominated for the two-year unexpired term on the republican ticket, and his name was written in a number of times on the democratic ticket, making him the nominee of both parties.

William H. Earl was one of the most highly respected and trusted men in Liberty county, and enjoyed a wide acquaintanceship and a host of friends. His passing will be sincerely mourned by the entire community, and the family have the sincere sympathy of their many friends in their sad bereavement.

FUNERAL SERVICES HELD FRIDAY FOR W. H. EARL

Funeral services for the late Wm. H. Earl, prominent rancher of the community south of the Marias river, and a member of the Liberty county board of county commissioners, were held in the Community hall in Chester on Friday afternoon of last week, with a large number of his former neighbors, associates and relatives in attendance.

The funeral service was conducted by Rev. Stewart of Havre. Music was provided by a ladies trio, composed of Misses Lucille Demarest, Gladys Jeppesen and Ethel Hutchison, with Miss Jean Lyders as pianist. The trio sang "The Old Rugged Cross," "The Land of the Unsetting Sun," and "God Will Take Care of You."

Pallbearers were George Gau, T. P. Strode, William Schaefer, Shebel Rehal, Fred Romain and Louis Schuhmacher.

Obituary

The following obituary was read at the service:

Mr. William H. Earl was born in Fall River, Kansas, on April 6, 1866 and passed away at a hospital at Rochester, Minn., on August 20, 1940 at the age of seventy-four years.

Mr. Earl spent his early life in Kansas, Nebraska, and Iowa. At the age of 14 he had the misfortune of losing his father. He then left his home to make a living for himself on the west coast. On May 7, 1901, he was united in marriage to Elsie Brush at Seattle, Wash., where he carried on a successful business until 1910 when he moved with his family to the homestead south of the Marias.

When Liberty county was formulated he was appointed County Commissioner and served in that capacity for eleven years. Following the death of Mr. Keith he was appointed again to fill an unexpired term, and was serving as commissioner at the time of his death.

The deceased is survived by the following:

Mrs. Wm. Earl, his wife; and the following children: Mrs. Edward Baker, of Flowree, Mont., Mrs. Norman Lybbert, of Shelby, Miss Evelyn Earl, and Wm. Earl Jr., of Chester. Three children have preceded him to his death. There is also a sister, Mrs. Wm. Eaton, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Mr. Earl was a noble character and was highly respected both in private and public life. His passing will be felt as a distinct loss to the entire county.

SYLVIA GARDNER

Birth: N/A - Died: October 19, 1940

Liberty County Times

October 24, 1940

**MRS. SYLVIA GARDNER OF
GOLD BUTTE PASSES**

Mrs. Sylvia Gardner, well known resident of the Gold Butte community died on Saturday of last week in a Great Falls hospital following an extended illness.

Mrs. Gardner spent most of her life in the Gold Butte community, where she was raised and where she taught school for several years previous to her marriage. She was well known and highly respected by all who knew her. She is survived by a family consisting of two daughters and three sons.

Funeral services were held Tuesday afternoon at two o'clock in Shelby, Rev. E. M. Rostron conducting the services.

GEORGE THEODORE GUNDERSON

Birth: September 24, 1882 - Died: May 13, 1940

Liberty County Times

May 16, 1940

GEO. T. GUNDERSON PASSES FOLLOWING LINGERING ILLNESS

George T. Gunderson, prominent rancher and farmer of the community thirty miles north of Chester, passed away at ten o'clock on Monday evening of this week, May 13, following a lingering illness.

Mr. Gunderson had been suffering with an internal malady for several months, and had made numerous trips to Rochester, Minnesota, for surgical and medical attention at the Mayo hospital. He failed to find permanent relief, and his death came as an end to a long period of suffering.

Deceased had lived in the north community for nearly thirty years. He had built up a fine stock and grain ranch, and was considered one of the substantial and highly respected citizens of the county.

Funeral services will be held from the Methodist church in Chester on Thursday afternoon of this week, with Rev. Holland, of the Joplin Lutheran church, in charge of the services. Burial will be in the Chester cemetery.

Obituary

George Theodore Gunderson was born in Rochester, Minnesota, September 24, 1881, the son of Peter and Louise Gunderson. At an early age the family moved to a farm near Kensington, Minnesota, where he resided until early manhood. He then moved to North Dakota where, in 1913, he met and married Ellen Otem. They then came to their present home, thirty miles north of Chester, where he resided until his death on May 13th, 1940.

He is survived by his wife, Ellen Gunderson; two sons, Edwin and Douglas Gunderson; a daughter, Mrs. Esther McClellan; two grandchildren, Donald and Dale Gunderson; one brother, Edwin Gunderson of Kensington, Minn., and three sisters, Mrs. Anna Bergland, of Minneapolis, Mrs. E. W. Christie and Mrs. Henry Haatvedt of Kensington, Minn.

OHMER D. HILL
Born: August 12, 1876 - Died: August 29, 1940
Havre Daily News, Havre, Mt.
August 30, 1940

Ohmer D. Hill

Funeral Sunday

Ohmer, D. Hill, 64, a resident of the Minneota community for 30 years, died at a Havre hospital at 11:50 a. m. Thursday, after an illness of a couple of weeks.

The body is at the Holland Bonine funeral home. Funeral services will be held Sunday at 2 p. m. at the Minneota community hall. Burial will be at Grace church cemetery.

Mr. Ohmer D. Hill was born Aug. 12, 1876. He came to Montana from Barton, N. Dak., in 1911, settling 25 miles north of Inverness, where he has ever since made his home. His first wife, Mary Phelps Hill, died some years ago.

Surviving him are his widow, Mrs. Susanna Fair Hill; three daughters, Mrs. Frank Hodge of Joplin, Mrs. Gilbert Young of Kalispell, and Mrs. Julia Ward, also of Kalispell; and four sons, Wesley, Arthur and Walter of Joplin, and Ray of Havre and Lloyd of Kalispell.

CHARLES (SON) IRWIN

Birth: September ?, 1850 - Died: July 9, 1940

Liberty County Times

July 11, 1940

PIONEER RESIDENT DIES

One of the most picturesque careers among the early settlers of this part of Montana came to a close in Chester this week, in the death of Charles (Son) Irwin, who passed away at the Mary Lynn hospital early Tuesday morning, following a lingering illness, at the age of about eighty-five years.

Irwin first came to Montana from Canada, where he had served for some time in the Mounted Police service. After crossing the line, he first landed at the Frank Laird ranch, where he remained for about a month while looking for employment. Mr. Laird does not recall the exact date, but it was some time in the late '90s or the first part of this century. He had remained in this section ever since, working at different ranches and at various occupations. For many years he worked on the Prescott ranches, for Bourne & Hamilton, and many of the other old time outfits. He was married at one time, but his domestic venture was not successful, and most of the years he lived alone. In later years he worked as a herder, but in his younger days was a good horseman, and at different times rode the range for some of the big cattle outfits.

With the passing of the years his strength waned, and long after his days of usefulness had passed he remained with his former employers, visiting and doing chores for his keep, until he was finally stricken with cancer and became a county charge.

He had no known relatives, but was supposed to have been born in Kentucky. Irwin had been at the Mary Lynn hospital for many months, and death came as a relief to a long period of suffering.

Funeral services will be held from the Methodist church in Chester on Thursday afternoon of this week, with Rev. John W. Kuller in charge. Many of the oldtimers who learned of his passing will be in attendance, and the remains will be laid to rest in the Chester cemetery.

MRS. AUGUST JOHNSON

Birth: N/A - Died: August 20, 1940

Liberty County Times

August 29, 1940

**MRS. AUGUST JOHNSON DIED
AT HOME IN SEATTLE**

Mrs. August Johnson of Seattle, formerly of Chester, died on August 20. Burial was at Seattle on the 22nd.

Mr. Johnson preceded Mrs. Johnson in death about five years ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson settled on a homestead about 17 miles north of Chester about 25 years ago and where they lived for a number of years.

The Johnsons were held in high esteem in the neighborhood in which they lived and their home was always a place of welcome where sincere friendliness and good will always prevailed.

A son, Mr. Elmer Johnson of Seattle, and a daughter survive.

RUSSELL FREDERICK KEITH

Birth: December 5, 1890 - Died: March 23, 1940

Liberty County Times

March 28, 1940

RUSSELL KEITH ANSWERS FINAL SUMMONS

**COUNTY COMMISSIONER PASSES
AFTER LONG ILLNESS—WAS
PROMINENT RESIDENT FOR
MORE THAN THIRTY YEARS**

Russell Keith, county commissioner of Liberty county and prominent resident of the community for the past thirty years, passed away at the family home in Chester at 8:45 Saturday evening, March 23, following a lingering illness.

Death came as a relief to a long period of suffering, and was not unexpected. More than two years ago Mr. Keith was taken ill with an internal affliction that later proved to be a cancerous infection, and despite every effort of loving relatives and friends and the aid of the best in medical and surgical science, the ravages of the disorder could not be stayed. About a year ago he was taken to the Mayo hospital in Rochester, where an operation was performed, and for a time he seemed to improve. Later he returned to Rochester for further treatment, and on a different occasion spent some time at the veteran's hospital in Helena, and for a few weeks during the summer was at Camas Hot Springs. Despite the steady progress of the ailment, it was only during the last few weeks that he was confined to his bed, and all during the long illness he was courageous and cheerful, and his fortitude was the source of admiration and inspiration to his family and friends.

Russell Keith was known and loved by nearly everyone in the community and his circle of friends embraced his entire wide acquaintanceship. He had lived in this community for nearly thirty years, coming here when a young man and taking a homestead south of town in 1912. During all these years he had taken an active part in every worth-while community activity, and was a tireless and effective worker for every movement of progress and community betterment throughout the years. He had lived here continuously since coming to the community in 1912 from his former home in Nebraska, with the exception of the time he served in the United States army during the World war. He was active in civic affairs, being a member of Liberty Post, American Legion, the Chester Lions club, the Farmers Union and the Elks Lodge. He was an ardent sportsman, and was ever active in protecting and propagating wild life throughout the state, and hunting and fishing were his favorite sports.

Mr. Keith also took an active interest in the affairs of the county, and in 1936 was elected to membership on the board of county commissioners for a six-year term. He was a faithful attendant at the board meetings, even up to the last few weeks, and was keenly interested in the conduct of the business affairs of the county.

During the last few weeks of his illness one of his chief pleasures was the frequent visits of his friends and associates, and he was seldom too weak or tired to enjoy and appreciate the calls of the old friends.

In the passing of Russell Keith the county loses one of its outstanding citizens, and his death is sincerely mourned by a wide circle of friends. The sorrowing family have the deepest sympathy of the entire community.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday afternoon from the Methodist church in Chester, Rev. John Stewart, of Havre, an old friend and associate, having charge of the services. Musical numbers were provided by a ladies quintette, consisting of Mrs. Fred Brown, Mrs. Frank Eggers, Mrs. T. A. Busey, Mrs. Barbara Maynard and Miss Loreda Keldrauk, with Mrs. L. E. Matkin as accompanist.

Members of the American Legion acted as an escort of honor, and conducted the ritualistic service of the Legion at the grave. Burial was in the Chester cemetery.

Russell Frederick Keith was born December 5, 1890, in Alma, Nebraska, son of Frederick and Elizabeth Keith. He was married to Mollie Rebekah Keith on June 19, 1920, she dying February 18, 1928. He was married April 15, 1930, to Lela Katy Patterson, who survives him. Also surviving are a son, Earl Frederick, of Chester; a step-son, Chester Patterson, and a step-daughter, Mrs. Ethel Erickson, of Billings; and three grandchildren, George, Norma and Douglas Erickson, of Billings; four brothers, Chester Keith, of Lima, Neb.; Ross, of Carman, Neb., and Duval Keith, of Chester; and one sister, Mrs. William Mizell, of Oshkosh, Neb.

The American Legion firing squad was composed of the following: Otto Welchel, Clifton Gray, J. H. McAlear, True Ray, Robert Zanda, Claud Walden, Steve Bowen, Edgar Bailou, Chas. Schaefer. Other officers of the Legion participating in the service included Leonard Plank, chaplain, John Dalimata, bugler, and George H. Gau, commander.

Pallbearers were Hilmer Johnson, C. O. Johns, John W. Hutchison, John Schwab, Orville Brain and Daniel Wolf.

HENRY E. LORANGER
Birth: 1862 - Died: 1940
Liberty County Times
November 14, 1940

OLDTIME RESIDENT PASSES

Word was received here this week of the death of Henry E. Loranger, pioneer resident of Chester at his home in Burbank, Calif.

Loranger was 78 years old at the time of his death. He came to this part of the state in 1900, settling on a ranch south of Chester. He later moved into town, and for a time was engaged in the saloon business here. He then moved to Havre, and was the first sheriff of Hill county. In later years he was chief of the Burbank police department.

ROBERT MERRILL

Birth: 1888 - Died: November 30, 1940

Liberty County Times

December 5, 1940

**ROBERT MERRILL, FORMER
RESIDENT, DIES SUDDENLY
IN EUGENE, ORE.**

Robert Merrill, prominent resident of Chester for many years, died suddenly at his home in Eugene, Ore., on Saturday morning of last week, Nov. 30, according to information received by friends here this week.

Merrill was connected with the First National bank in Chester up to the time of the merger of that institution with another bank here. He was prominent in social and business circles throughout this part of the state, and took a prominent part in the creation of Liberty county, which was finally effected in 1920.

Shortly after the county was created and the banks merged, Mr. Merrill left Chester for Eugene, Ore., where he soon became associated with the First National Bank in that city. He attained a place of prominence in the business, social and religious circles in the Oregon city. He was 52 years of age at the time of his death. Mrs. Merrill died in 1933. He is survived by one son, John B. Merrill, who is with the Boeing airplane concern in Seattle, and several brothers and sisters.

According to newspaper reports received here, Merrill died of a heart attack, and was ill only a few hours.

CHRISTOPHER I. MORKRID

Birth: May 4, 1866 - Died: April 20, 1940

Liberty County Times

April 25 - May 2, 1940

C. I. MORKRID, PIONEER RESIDENT DIED SATURDAY IN SEATTLE

C. I. Morkrid, pioneer farmer of the Chester community, and a prominent resident of this county since 1910, died at his home in Seattle at nine o'clock Saturday evening, April 20th, at the age of 75 years.

Mr. Morkrid had been in failing health for some time, and his passing was not unexpected. His two sons, Iver Morkrid and Oliver Morkrid, of the community south of town, spent most of last winter with their father in Seattle, and only returned a short time ago to start spring farming operations. They were notified by wire of their father's passing, and left Sunday for Seattle to attend funeral services.

C. I. Morkrid came to the Chester community with the first contingent of farmers in 1910, and lived here continuously since that time. In recent years he had been associated with his son, Iver Morkrid, in his farming operations. He was a successful farmer, a good neighbor, and a highly respected citizen.

About two years ago he went to Seattle for his health, and had spent much of his time in that city since.

Funeral services were held in Seattle, and burial was in that city.

SERVICES HELD FOR C. I. MORKRID IN SEATTLE

Burial service for C. I. Morkrid was held from the Mitteldtadt Funeral Home Wednesday afternoon, with the Rev. O. L. Haavik, pastor of the Ballard First Lutheran church, officiating and Magnus Peterson singing. Interment took place in the Crown Hill Cemetery, in Seattle, Wn.

Christopher I. Morkrid was born in Sogn, Norway, May 4, 1866. His parents were Iver and Gunhild Morkrid. He came to America, the first time in the nineties, returning to Norway after three years.

In 1910 he came again to America, this time with his family. After spending about a year in Grand Forks, N. Dak., he took up a homestead near Chester, Montana. There the Morkrid family has been ranching, on a larger scale, through the years. Last September Mr. and Mrs. Morkrid and son, Oliver, went to Seattle, having spent some winters there in previous years. Illness came to Mr. Morkrid more than two years ago, and the last several months he was altogether confined to bed. Death came Saturday, the 20th of April, at the age of 74 years, lacking a few days. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Mary Morkrid; two sons, Iver and Oliver, of Chester; three daughters, Mrs. Marie Hauge, Chester; Mrs. Joan Brooks and Mrs. Sophie Griffith, Seattle; a brother, C. M. Morkrid, Petersburg, N. Dak., a sister, Mrs. Johanna Washmuth, Northwood, N. Dak., and 14 grandchildren. A daughter, Mrs. Hilda Oxness, passed away in 1925, as did a boy, Alf, in infancy. All the children were present at the burial of their father.

Several substantial gifts to various missions in the Norwegian Lutheran church were given by the children and families. Mr. Morkrid was an honest and honored gentleman. During his stay here, in Seattle, his implicit faith and trust in God impressed those who knew him.

IVER CHRISTOPHERSON MORKRID

Birth: 1888 - Died: November 26, 1940

Liberty County Times

November 28 - December 5, 1940

IVER MORKRID DIED IN SEATTLE ON WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

Iver Morkrid, prominent old-time farmer and resident of the community southwest of Chester for nearly thirty years, died at a hospital in Seattle at 2:30 Wednesday afternoon of this week, according to information received by friends here.

Mr Morkrid left Chester about a month ago for Seattle to spend the winter, as has been his custom for a number of years. At that time he was apparently in good health, and it was with much surprise that his friends here were informed last week of a sudden attack of paralysis with which he had been afflicted. His brother, Oliver Morkrid, left last week for Seattle, and word received here the first of the week was to the effect that an operation would be performed, and that Mr. Morkrid was in a serious condition. News of his death Wednesday was not unexpected.

Deceased had lived in this county since about 1910, coming here with his parents and other members of the family from North Dakota. He was a successful farmer, and was held in highest esteem by his friends and neighbors. He was born in Sogn, Norway, coming to this country with his parents when only a boy. He was about fifty years of age.

Funeral services will be held in Seattle on Saturday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock, and burial will be in the family plot in that city, where his mother and father were previously buried.

IVER MORKRID PASSES IN SEATTLE

The day after Iver Morkrid underwent a serious operation at the Swedish Hospital in Seattle, Wash., he passed away, Tuesday, the 26th of November. Burial service was held from the Mittelstadt Funeral Home the Saturday following. The Rev. O. L. Haavik, Pastor of the Ballard First Lutheran Church, who ministered to Iver Morkrid during his illness, officiated. Mr. Magnus Peterson sang. Interment took place in the Pacific Lutheran Cemetery, Seattle.

Iver Christopherson Morkrid was born in Sogn, Norway. With his parents he came to Grand Forks, N. Dak., in 1910. The following year the Morkrid family moved to Chester, Montana, where they have been farming through the years. During the past 10 years Iver Morkrid and family have spent the winters near Bothell, Wash. At his death Iver Morkrid was 52 years, five months and 19 days of age. He is survived by his wife, Agnes Morkrid; their two children, Lila Wadhams and Lloyd Hendrickson; the mother, Mrs. Mary Morkrid; three sisters, Mrs. A. I. Hauge of Chester, Mrs. V. W. Brooks and Mrs. C. T. Griffith of Seattle, and the brother, Oliver Morkrid. The mother, Mrs. Mary Morkrid, and Oliver, being informed of Iver Morkrid's serious illness, drove by automobile to Seattle and came there three days before his death. Last spring the father, Christopher Morkrid, passed away in Seattle. Father and son rest together in the Pacific Lutheran Cemetery, Seattle.

A beautiful greeting from the Pastor, A. B. Holland of Joplin, Mont., pastor of the Morkrid family, was read at the burial service by the Rev. O. L. Haavik. A very large gathering of relatives and friends were present at the memorial worship.

ARCHIE O'DER

Birth: June 15, 1884 - Died: March 28, 1940

Liberty County Times

March 28, 1940

ARCHIE O'DER KILLED WHEN CAR IS STRUCK BY TRAIN AT LOTHAIR RAILROAD CROSSING

NASH-FINCH SALESMAN SUFFERS BROKEN NECK WHEN CAR IS HIT ON CROSSING BY EMPIRE BUILDER THURSDAY MORNING

Archie O'Der, old time traveling salesman in this territory, and a representative of the Nash-Finch company of Havre, was instantly killed about ten o'clock this morning at the railroad crossing at Lothair, thirteen miles west of Chester, when the car he was driving was struck broadside by the west bound Great Northern passenger train, the Empire Builder.

The car was picked up by the cow-catcher on the big passenger train engine and hurled up against the engine, clearing the tracks, and was carried for a distance of about a quarter of a mile before the train could be stopped and the wreckage removed.

The lone occupant of the car was probably killed instantly, suffering a broken neck. His body was not badly mangled, only a few minor cuts and bruises being sustained outside the fatal break of the upper vertebrae. The car was badly demolished, and was removed from the engine with great difficulty.

The train crew immediately called Sheriff Dodds Keith's office in Chester, and the sheriff, County Coroner Nelson and County Attorney Albert Harvey went immediately to the scene of the accident. They found the body of the dead man still in the car, which by the time they arrived had been removed to the side of the railroad right-of-way. The body was brought into Chester, and taken to the morgue of Holland & Bonine, and shortly after noon was removed to Havre.

No apparent cause for the accident is ascertainable to the authorities. The track was clear at the crossing and the train could have been seen for a distance of a mile or more. It is believed that the victim of the accident, intending to go into the store at Lothair, had turned off the highway and drove directly into the pathway of the oncoming train without even looking down the track. The car was evidently right in the center of the track when it was hit by the train.

As soon as word of the accident reached town, several persons drove out to investigate, but the only visible signs of the catastrophe that could be seen at the crossing were a large number of cigars, probably carried in the back of the car, scattered over the ground and some broken glass. The train had carried the wreckage and the victim a considerable distance to the west, out of sight from the roadway, before the train could be stopped and the wreckage removed. The car was finally taken from the front of the engine in the cut just north of the big snow fence west of Lothair, in quite a deep cut, and out of sight of persons passing by on the highway.

A peculiar thing about the wreck was the fact that the glass on the left hand side of the car was not even broken. The impact of the big passenger train engine threw the car clear of the tracks and caught it in the air, holding it fast to the engine until the train stopped. It required a large number of men to remove the wreckage, and the train was delayed more than a quarter of an hour before it could proceed on its way.

Victim Well Known Here

O'Der was well known here and throughout the territory in northern Montana. He was a salesman for the Nash-Finch company in Havre, and made regular trips through the towns along the Hi-Line going as far west as Shelby and north to Sweet Grass. He frequently remained over-night in Chester.

O'Der had been a salesman in this country for thirty-five years or more. In the early days he made the territory for the T. C. Power company of Fort Benton, selling supplies to the large cattle and sheep ranches as well as calling on local merchants and was known by all the old time stockmen and ranchers.

Of late years he had been employed by the Nash-Finch company. He was considered an exceptionally good salesman, and was generally liked and respected by all who knew him.

He is survived by one daughter, who resides in Havre. He was past sixty years of age.

MRS. JOHN N. OLSON

Birth: June 9, 1869 - Died: December 13, 1940

Liberty County Times

December 19, 1940

**PIONEER JOPLIN RESIDENT
IS CALLED BY DEATH**

Mrs. John N. Olson, pioneer resident of the Joplin community, passed away at a Havre hospital on Friday of last week, Dec. 13, at the age of 71 years, following an extended illness.

Funeral services were held in Joplin on Tuesday afternoon of this week from the Lutheran church at that place, Rev. A. B. Holland conducting the services. A large number of sorrowing friends and relatives attended the funeral services, attesting the high esteem in which the departed was held by all who knew her. Music was furnished by the Joplin senior choir.

Pallbearers were Emil Nelson, Nels Nelson, Peter Fusk, Art Stewart, Carl Nelson and Ed Hovee.

Mrs. John N. Olson was born June 9, 1869, at Westerbotten, Sweden. She came to America as a young woman, and for a time lived with her family in Canada. In 1912 the Olson family moved to a homestead north of Joplin where they lived until 1928, then moved to their present home three miles south of Inverness. She passed away at a Havre hospital on Friday, Dec. 13, 1940.

Those left to mourn the passing of this estimable pioneer woman include the husband, John N. Olson; three children, Mrs. Nellie Dahler, Hilding and Albert Olson; two sisters and a brother in Sweden, one brother in Canada, and five grandchildren.

LEONARD CLIFTON PARSELL

Born: December 29, 1904 - Died: July 28, 1940

Liberty County Times

August 1, 1940

ONE DEATH AND SIX INJURIES RESULTS OF DISTILLATE BLAST

An explosion caused by throwing distillate into a stove to liven up a slow burning fire caused the death of Leonard Parsell, age 35, and the severe burning of six other persons in a small house on the Parsell ranch five miles from Whitlash last Saturday afternoon.

The escape of any of the occupants of the small room after the explosion was almost miraculous, and was due in large measure to the cool action of Jimmy Morrison, who kicked out a window and got all the others out of the flaming room before he made his own escape.

Others injured and badly burned in the accident included Morrison, Tom Gardipee, Joe Welsh, Jack Olcott, and Mr. and Mrs. James Townshend, all neighbors. Of those not fatally injured, Gardipee suffered the most severe burns, and will be in the hospital here for some time. Olcott sustained severe burns on the hands, and Morrison was badly burned on the arms and hands, while Mr. and Mrs. Townshend suffered only slight burns and were released from the hospital after receiving treatment for their injuries. Olcott was cut quite badly in making his escape out through the broken window. Morrison, Gardipee and Olcott are still in the hospital, but all are expected to recover and are well on the way to recovery.

The accident occurred about four o'clock Saturday afternoon while the seven persons were in the room, playing cards during a rain storm. The room had cooled off, and Parsell took a five gallon can of distillate and threw some of the contents onto the fire. The flame followed back the stream from the stove to the can, causing a terrific explosion and enveloping the entire room in flames almost instantly. Parsell was knocked down and so severely burned that he had little chance for recovery. He died in the hospital at 6:15 Sunday morning.

The door in the small house was jammed, and escape for any of the entrapped occupants was impossible at first. Jimmy Morrison kicked out a window, and in some way got all of the occupants, including Parsell out of the flaming building before it was destroyed.

Word was immediately sent into Chester of the accident, and Dr. Benke and Mrs. Buck, a trained nurse from the Mary Lynn hospital, started from here at once for the scene of the disaster. Due to the bad condition of the roads as a result of the rains, it was some time before the doctor and nurse could get through, and it was after six o'clock before they reached the injured parties. After giving first aid, the injured were brought into Chester and taken to the hospital, but it was after ten o'clock before they arrived in town.

It was known from the first that Parsell had little if any chance to survive, so severe were his burns. Everything possible was done to save him, but he passed away early Sunday morning.

The Townshends were able to return home after receiving medical attention, and the others were not considered dangerously hurt from the start.

The house where the tragedy occurred is located on what is known as the old Hicks place, a part of the Parsell ranch. The injured persons caught in the fire trap had been working on the ranch, putting up hay, but were unable to work Saturday because of the rain, and were congregated in the small building.

Funeral services for Parsell were held at Whitlash on Tuesday, and were attended by a large number of neighbors and friends.

JULIUS PETERSON

Birth: 1890 - Died: December 14, 1940

Liberty County Times

December 19, 1940

Julius Peterson Killed When Hit by Train at Gildford

Julius Peterson, former well known resident of Chester and Lothair, but who had been stationed at Gildford for the past two years as second trick operator at that place, was instantly killed when he was struck by the east bound Empire Builder shortly after ten o'clock Saturday night of last week near the depot at Gildford.

The exact cause of the unfortunate occurrence will probably never be known, as there were no witnesses and only meagre details could be worked out by officials investigating the affair to substantiate a theory of exactly what had happened. Two notes, giving the address of a brother and a cousin, were found on the telegraph desk, together with some small change and a bunch of keys, which were taken by the coroner to indicate a suicide motive. The Hill county coroner, after making an investigation, decided that the case was one of suicide, and did not deem an inquest necessary.

The many friends and neighbors of Peterson, who had known him for years and many of whom had seen him and talked with him recently, discredit the suicide theory, however, and believe that he must have fallen in front of the oncoming train by accident. The body was evidently struck by the train near the crossing west of the depot, where the operator would have been putting out the mail for the train which does not stop at that point.

Word of the accident was received here shortly after it happened, as Ben Ish, operator on duty in the Chester office at that time was notified. Agent H. E. Bassford went immediately to Gildford, and was there when the Hill county officials arrived. Members of the engine crew of the Empire Builder did not know of the accident until the train reached Havre.

Peterson worked as a telegraph operator here for several years, first coming to this station in about 1934. He later worked at Lothair for more than a year, and was then transferred to Gildford, where he had worked since. He was a little past fifty years of age and was unmarried. He lived with his aged mother, past 92 years of age, whom he had supported for a number of years. He was a man of exemplary habits and had taken an active part in the religious and civic activities of the community. Only recently he had visited at the home of friends in Chester.

Funeral services were held from the Lutheran church in Gildford on Wednesday afternoon of this week.

ETHEL POIRIER

Birth: February 27, 1899 - Died: August 23, 1940

Liberty County Times

August 29, 1940

**MRS. JACK POIRIER PASSES
FOLLOWING LONG ILLNESS**

Mrs. Ethel Poirier, wife of Jack Poirier of the Hi-Way Garage of Chester, died on Friday night of last week at a hospital in Great Falls, following a protracted illness.

Mr. Poirier came to Chester about a year ago, when he purchased the Hi-Way Garage, and a few weeks later he was joined by his wife and one of their nieces. Mrs. Poirier was ill when they came to Chester, and spent much of her time in hospitals in Great Falls and Butte. They made their home in the Kolstad apartment while in Chester.

Funeral services were held Monday afternoon in Great Falls from the Croxford Mortuary, under the auspices of the church of Latter Day Saints, of which deceased was a member. Burial was in Highland cemetery in Great Falls.

Born Feb. 27, 1899, at Morland, Idaho, Mrs. Poirier had made her home in Great Falls for 13 years before coming to Chester. In addition to the husband, survivors are four sisters, Mrs. Glendora Thompson and Mrs. Donna Perrine, both of Great Falls and Mrs. Clara Triplet and Mrs. Jessie Packer of Butte, and three brothers, J. L. Stoddard of Hyrum, Utah, and Wallace Anderson and Esther Anderson, both of Great Falls.

PETER PONTUSO

Birth: N/A - Died: June 25, 1940

Liberty County Times

June 27, 1940

TWO KILLED IN CAR CRASH ON HIGHWAY WEST OF DEVON

Two lives were snuffed out, four persons badly injured and two cars practically demolished in a car collision on Highway No. 2, just west of Devon and about twenty-five miles west of Chester late Tuesday afternoon, believed to have been indirectly caused by too much drinking.

Peter Pontuso, Havre cook, was killed instantly in the crash, and Jack Blake, proprietor of the Round-up, a Havre night club, died a few hours later in a Shelby hospital from injuries received in the wreck. John Downes, a bartender at the Blake resort, was driving the car, and Mrs. Downes was the fourth passenger. Both were seriously injured.

Mr. and Mrs. James Gregory, of Detroit, Mich., who were driving west, were also seriously but not fatally injured in the crash, and are still in the Shelby hospital. A third car, which had just been passed on the road by the Havre car a short distance west of the wreck, passed the wreckage and went on into Devon and reported the crash, asking that the highway patrol and Toole county officers be notified and that doctors be sent to the scene at once. In the excitement the identity of the third car, which was in no way to blame for the accident, was not obtained, and the car evidently proceeded east after notifying Devon residents of the accident.

The exact cause of the accident is not known, but at the investigation it was learned that the Havre car was proceeding east, and passed another car near the top of the grade just west of Devon. Tracks indicated that the Havre car swerved over to the left side of the road as it approached the Michigan car, and was probably traveling at a high rate of speed. The Michigan driver, seeing the other car approaching on the wrong side of the road, evidently pulled over to the left, and the actual crash occurred on the south side of the road. The Havre car was thrown from the grade, and rolled and skidded for a distance of about 45 feet before coming to a stop. The Michigan car was thrown to the right hand side of the road.

The Havre party was in Chester early Tuesday morning, between eight and nine o'clock. They visited two beer parlors, and according to persons who saw them when they left town were evidently drinking at that time. They are reported to have gone as far west as Cut Bank, and were returning toward Havre late in the afternoon when the accident occurred.

The coroner's jury of Toole county brought in a verdict of accidental death in a car crash, but fixed no criminal responsibility.

MARY QUIMLIN

Birth: 1880 - Died: November 18, 1940

Liberty County Times

November 21, 1940

FUNERAL SERVICES FRIDAY FOR MRS. MARY QUIMLIN

Funeral services will be held at the Catholic church in Chester Friday morning of this week at ten o'clock for Mrs. Mary Quimlin, sister of Mrs. E. J. Blanchard, who passed away in Great Falls on Monday of this week, at the age of sixty years, following a lingering illness.

Mrs. Quimlin, who for a number of years had made her home with her family south of Rudyard, was for many years a resident of the Chester community. She had been suffering from a diabetic condition for several years, and a few weeks ago was taken to the hospital in Great Falls for treatment.

She is survived by her husband, Patrick Quimlin; one daughter, Mrs. Exinia Ludwig, of California; and two sons, Walter and Elmer Lazure, and several grandchildren. She is also survived by Mrs. Blanchard, of Chester; Mrs. W. A. Smith and Mrs. Celia Oder, of Missoula; Mrs. Helen Brigger of Post Falls, Idaho; all sisters, and two brothers, William Villeux, of Fort Benton, and Ernest Villeux, of Seattle.

CHRISTEN I. ROCKMAN

Birth: May 30, 1863 - Died: September 30, 1940

Liberty County Times

October 3, 1940

C. I. ROCKMAN CALLED BY DEATH

Christen I. Rockman, pioneer business man and long time resident of Chester and Liberty county, died at the Mary Lynn hospital Monday afternoon of this week, September 30th, following a brief illness of asthma pneumonia.

Mr. Rockman had been critically ill only a few days, although he had been in failing health for more than a year. Last year Mr. and Mrs. Rockman made a trip back to their old home in Norway leaving here the middle of July and returning home on October 12th. Mr. Rockman was not well when they arrived home, and for some time was confined to his bed. He apparently recovered, however, but never entirely regained his strength, and gradually grew weaker for several months. Last week he was taken ill with pneumonia, and on Saturday was removed from the family apartments in the hotel to the hospital, where he passed away Monday afternoon. He was a little past seventy-seven years of age at the time of his passing.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday afternoon of this week, October 3, at 2:00 o'clock, from the Methodist church in Chester. Rev. A. B. Holland, pastor of the Lutheran churches of Chester and Joplin, will conduct the services. Music will be provided by the Lutheran church choir.

The choir sang "Beautiful Isle of Somewhere," "In the Garden," and "The Old Rugged Cross."

Burial was in the Chester cemetery.

Obituary

Christen Rockman was born at Stongelandseidet, Norway, May 30th, 1863, son of Christen and Kaurina Rockman. He came to the United States from Norway 45 years ago, in 1895, settling in Milwaukee, and was later in Chicago. In 1908 he came to Chester and started the Grand Hotel, which he operated ever since.

On first coming to the Chester community, Mr. Rockman filed on a homestead 20 miles north of town, and made his home there for a time before engaging in the hotel business in Chester.

When a young man, before coming to America, Mr. Rockman was a sailor, and for twenty years sailed the seven seas of the world, having visited nearly every important port during that long period of service on the high seas. In later years he loved to talk of his experiences as a seaman, and told many thrilling tales of his adventures during that period of his life.

Surviving relatives include his wife, Mrs. Helga (Johnson) Rockman, and ten children: Edward and Sevier, of Chester; Gunnard, of Seattle, Wn.; Ruth (Mrs. Ben Ish), Willard, Harry, Helen, Lillian (Mrs. Lynn Wright), Loyd and George, all of Chester, and ten grandchildren. Also surviving are two brothers living in Norway, Daniel Rockman and Conrad Selmyhr.

The grandchildren are Vivian and Leslie Rockman, of Chester; Robert and James Rockman, of Seattle; Helen and Elwin Ish, of Chester; Winifred and Jeannette Rockman, of Chester; and Violet and Sharon Wright, of Inverness.

NANCY COOPER RUSSELL

Born: May 4, 1878 - Died: May 24, 1940

Liberty County Times

June 6, 1940

Charles M. Russell's Widow Dies in California Hospital

Mrs. Nancy Cooper Russell, 62, widow of Charles Marion Russell, famous cowboy artist, died at Huntington Memorial hospital, Pasadena, Calif., on May 24, after a three-year illness. Burial was in Great Falls, where her artist husband was buried in October, 1926.

Mrs. Russell was born in Kentucky May 4, 1878, and came to Cascade in 1894. There she made her home with Mr. and Mrs. Ben R. Roberts, now of Helena. Roberts has an art shop in the capital city, where he displays many of Russell's art works and paintings.

In 1895 Nancy Cooper met Russell and in September, 1896, they were married at Cascade. After living at Cascade for a year, they moved to Great Falls. In 1900 the Russells built a home at 1219 Fourth avenue north, where they lived until Russell's death Oct. 24, 1926.

Because Russell wanted a studio to work in, he built the log cabin next door to their home in 1903. This building is now the Russell Memorial studio.

On advice of Charles Schatzlein of Butte, owner of an art store which handled many of Russell's paintings, Mrs. Russell became Russell's business manager and proved successful. She encouraged Charley in his work and traveled with him when he showed his pictures in the east.

In 1914 the Russells took 19 oil paintings to London, where they were shown in the Dore library. In 1915 his paintings were exhibited in New York, Chicago and other eastern cities. Four years later Mr. and Mrs. Russell again went east to show his paintings. In 1920 one of Charley's pictures sold for \$10,000 at Los Angeles.

Mrs. Russell left Great Falls in the spring of 1927 and moved to Pasadena.

She spent her later years at her home there, called "Trail's End," and at the Russell cabin, Bull's Head lodge, on Lake McDonald in Glacier park. She spent nearly every summer at the lodge in Glacier park.

Survivors include her adopted son, Jack, of Pasadena; her father, John A. Cooper, and an uncle, both of Pasadena, and a half-sister, Mrs. Jean Ironsides, in Seward, Alaska. She was a member of the Episcopal church and had been active in church work in Great Falls before she left for California.

After Russell's death she edited a volume of his correspondence, "Good Medicine." She had nearly completed his biography when she was stricken with her last illness.

"Mrs. Russell deserves the credit for putting Charley in the limelight," Sid Willis, close friend of the noted artist and his wife, said. "Up to the time of his marriage Charley had no idea of the worth of his paintings. Nancy was smart enough to recognize their value and to push him forward. She took his canvases into eastern cities, stopped at the finest hotels and soon found art enthusiasts who were willing to pay good prices for the works of the cowboy painter."

Another tribute to Mrs. Russell was paid not long ago by William S. Hart, famous film portrayal of cowboy parts, in his biographical volume, "My Life East and West." Recounting the last time he and Charley were together, he recited how "Charley and Nancy Russell were in town. One could never say Charley without saying Nancy, too, for they were always together—a real man and a real woman."

Coffee constitutes 80 percent of the exports of Salvador.

ELIZABETH SCHWARTZ

Birth: April 14, 1878 - Died: November 24, 1940

Liberty County Times

November 28, 1940

PIONEER RESIDENT OF LOTHAIR COMMUNITY PASSES SUNDAY

Mrs. Elizabeth Schwartz, pioneer resident of the Lothair community, passed away at the home of her sister, Mrs. Bruce W. Clouser, south of Lothair, on Sunday, Nov. 24, following a lingering illness, at the age of sixty-two years.

Mrs. Schwartz came to Montana with her husband in 1911, when they established their home on a homestead eight miles southeast of Lothair where they resided during the pioneer homestead days. After making final proof they moved to Shelby where they made their home for several years, Mr. Schwartz doing contracting work there until 1930. Mr. Schwartz died in 1932 at their home in Lothair. Mrs. Schwartz then moved to Colorado Springs, Colo., where she lived until 1938, when she moved back to the old home near Lothair, where she remained until the time of her death.

Mrs. Schwartz was born at Savannah, Mo., on April 14, 1878. She is survived by the following brothers and sisters: W. J. Abels, Colorado Springs, Colo.; E. L. Abels, Barnett, Mo.; L. J. Abels, Savannah, Mo.; Mrs. Rachel Brown, Barnett, Mo.; and Mrs. Bruce Clouser, Lothair, Mont.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday of this week at the church in Lothair, and burial will be in the Lothair cemetery.

OTTO WILLIAM SILBERMAN

Birth: N/A - Died: November 6, 1940

Liberty County Times

November 14, 1940

Otto William Silberman Dies After Long Illness

Otto William Silberman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Silberman of Chester, passed away on Wednesday night of last week, following a three months illness.

Mr. and Mrs. Silberman had been called to Provo a few days before the end came, and were with their son at the time of his passing.

Otto Silberman was well known here and had a host of friends who learned with sincerest regret of his passing. He had attended the Chester schools when a boy, and had worked for fifteen years for the Chester Trading company. He visited in Chester during the summer of 1939. The family have the sympathy and condolence of their many friends throughout the community.

The following account of the death and funeral services of Mr. Silberman is taken from the Provo newspaper:

SPRINGVILLE—Otto William Silberman, 38, manager of the Art City Tourist park, died Wednesday night at a Salt Lake City hospital, following three months illness.

Born in Buffalo Lake, Minn., he was the son of William and Anne Drier Silberman. He received his early education at Chester, Mont., where he spent his early life. He came to Springville in 1937, and had operated a grocery concern in connection with his tourist park business. He was in the mercantile business a number of years before coming to Springville.

He was a member of the Springville Kiwanis club and the chamber of commerce and had taken active part in community projects and activities. He married Ida Virginia Rehal, June 15, 1927, at Havre, Mont.

Surviving, besides the widow, are the parents of Chester, Mont.; six brothers and sisters, Herbert Silberman of Conrad, Mont.; William Silberman Jr. of Blackfoot, Mont.; Alfred Silberman of Shelby, Mont.; John Silberman of Springville, Mrs. Martha Crane of Collins, Mont.; Mrs. Rose Wilkins of East Helena, Mont.

Funeral services will be conducted Saturday morning in the Springville Third L. D. S. ward chapel. Burial will be in the Provo city burial park.

JUDGE MAURICE SPANGLER
Birth: N/A - Died: August 1, 1940
Liberty County Times
August 8, 1940

**JUDGE MAURICE SPANGLER
DIED IN HAVRE AUG. 1**

Judge Maurice Spangler, pioneer resident of the Chester community, passed away in a Havre hospital on Thursday of last week, August 1, following a lingering illness.

Judge Spangler was one of the early day residents of this county, and for many years took an active part in the business and community life. He was highly respected by all who knew him, and had a host of friends.

Judge Spangler had been in poor health for several months. He suffered two or three paralytic strokes, and for weeks had been confined to his bed in a Havre hospital. His brother, J. N. Spangler, of Alberta, spent much time with Judge Spangler during the past few months, and wired friends here Thursday night of his brother's death.

The body was taken to the old home at Edgar, Neb., where funeral services and burial were held.

MARGARET ANN STAUDACHER

Birth: July 31, 1932- Died: January 24, 1940

Liberty County Times

January 25, 1940

**MARGARET ANN STAUDACHER
DIED ON WEDNESDAY MORNING**

Margaret Ann Staudacher, eight year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Staudacher, passed away at the family home here Wednesday morning of this week, at nine o'clock, following a lingering illness.

She had been seriously ill since the middle of December, suffering with leakage of the heart. About three years ago she suffered an attack of scarlet fever, and the heart ailment was a direct result of that illness. The heart was somewhat enlarged, and this winter leakage of the heart developed, resulting fatally.

The stricken parents and other relatives have the sincere sympathy of the entire community in their bereavement.

Funeral services will be held Saturday morning at the Catholic church at 10 o'clock. Burial will be in the Chester cemetery.

WALTER STORRY JR.

Birth: 1928 - Died: July 16, 1940

Liberty County Times

July 18, 1940

BOY SUFFOCATED IN WHEAT BIN TUESDAY

Walter Storry Jr., twelve year old son of Walter Storry, of Cut Bank, was accidentally killed by suffocation when he fell into a pool of wheat being removed from a bin at the farm of his uncle, Mike Yurman, four miles northwest of Chester, about eleven o'clock Tuesday morning.

The tragic accident which snuffed out the life of the boy occurred while Mr. Yurman was removing wheat from a storage bin on his farm a few miles northwest of Chester. In company with several other children the accident victim had been playing in the bin while Mr. Yurman was taking out the wheat with a power pump working from the bottom of the pit. Only a few minutes before the tragedy, Mr. Yurman had warned the children of the danger of playing in the wheat, and had told them to go to the house and get a drink. The others had left, and Mr. Yurman thought they had all gone. He was alarmed when he heard screaming in the bin, and rushed in only to see the boy sucked into the whirling pool formed by the removal operations. He made a frantic effort to rescue the boy, but was unable to get him out, and it was only after tearing out a portion of the side of the storage pit that the body was removed. It is estimated that at least ten feet of wheat passed over the body before it could be removed and death occurred from suffocation.

This is the second tragic death to occur in the Storry family in the last few years. The mother was burned to death about five years ago from an explosion in a stove caused by using distillate in starting a fire. At that time the family was making their home northwest of town.

After the mother's death, Mr. Storry moved with his children to Cut Bank, where they have since made their home. There is one other son in the family, a younger brother aged about eight years.

The boys had been visiting at the Yurman and Laas homes for some time. The mother was a sister of Mrs. Yurman and Mrs. Laas.

Funeral services will be held in Cut Bank on Thursday of this week, and the remains will be taken to Great Falls for burial beside the mother.

Members of the stricken family and the relatives have the sincere sympathy of the entire community in their bereavement.

MARY A. STRONACH

Birth: February 26, 1865 - Died: September 4, 1940

Liberty County Times

September 12 - 19, 1940

FUNERAL SERVICES HELD SATURDAY FOR MRS. MARY STRONACH

Funeral services for Mrs. Mary Ann Stronach, prominent matron of the Chester community for many years who passed away in Cut Bank on Wednesday Sept. 11, were held from the Methodist church in Chester on Saturday afternoon of last week Sept. 14, with Rev. W. Friend Day of the Episcopal church of Great Falls, conducting the services. Rev. Day was assisted by Rev. A. W. Barber, pastor of the Presbyterian church of Cut Bank. Interment was in the Chester cemetery.

Miss Alice Calvert, of Great Falls sang several beautiful numbers. Miss Calvert was accompanied by Mrs. Roy Page, also of Great Falls.

Pallbearers were Allen Prescott, Dodds Keith, Finlay Murray, Roy Walden, Clarence Langley and George Gau.

Mrs. Stronach suffered a stroke of paralysis at her home in Chester on Dec. 1, last, and had been in a critical condition most of the time since. She spent several weeks in the Conrad hospital but had been removed to the home of her daughter, Mrs. G. C. Chambers, at Cut Bank, where she passed away. The end came at 5:45 Wednesday morning, Sept. 11 and was not unexpected.

Obituary

Mary Ann Story was born Feb. 26, 1865, at Medford, Ontario, Canada. She came with her family to the Red River valley, in North Dakota, in 1879, the family establishing their home near Davton. On April 4, 1899, she was married to Alexander Stronach, and moved to Montana with her husband and family in 1910, locating in the Judith Basin country north of Geysers on a sheep ranch. The family moved to Chester in the spring of 1917, where they were engaged in stock raising near the Sweet Grass Hills. Mr. Stronach passed away in October, 1919, as a result of an accident. Since 1920 Mrs. Stronach had made her home in Chester.

Survivors include one son, Roy Stronach, of Chester; two daughters, Mrs. Harry Greiner, of Chester and Mrs. George Chambers, of Cut Bank; two sisters, Mrs. Jennie Smith, of Drayton, North Dakota, and Mrs. Alex Johnston, of Nekoma, North Dakota, and one brother, Walter Story, of Fargo, North Dakota.

MRS. MARY STRONACH PASSES AT CHAMBERS HOME IN CUT BANK

Mrs. Mary A. Stronach, pioneer resident of Chester, passed away at the home of her daughter, Mrs. G. E. Chambers, in Cut Bank early Wednesday morning of this week, following a lingering illness.

Mrs. Stronach had been a resident of the Chester community for the past thirty years, and was one of the highly respected pioneer citizens of the county. She had been in poor health for many months, and spent considerable time in the Conrad hospital before being taken to the home of her daughter, Mrs. Chambers, in Cut Bank. She was seventy-five years of age.

Mrs. Stronach is survived by two daughters, Mrs. G. E. Chambers of Cut Bank and Mrs. Harry Greiner of Chester, and one son, Roy Stronach of Chester. Her husband preceded her in death several years ago.

Funeral services will be held in Chester on Saturday afternoon of this week, at 2:00 o'clock, from the Methodist church. Burial will be in the Chester cemetery.

CHARLES N. THURMAN

Birth: September 11, 1875 - Died: September 30, 1940

Liberty County Times

October 3, 1940

CHAS. N. THURMAN, OF DEVON, DIES OF AUTO CRASH INJURIES

Chas. N. Thurman, old time resident of the Devon community, and prominent in Masonic circles throughout the state, died in a Shelby hospital at 10:00 p. m. Monday of this week as a result of injuries received in an automobile wreck one mile north of Shelby Sunday night.

Thurman came to Montana about thirty years ago, settling on a homestead south of Galata, and northeast of Conrad. While homesteading he went to Conrad where he organized a municipal band which he led for a number of years. He then went to Devon where he opened a blacksmith shop, and of late years had operated the place as a machine and welding shop.

Charley Thurman was known and liked by nearly every member of the Masonic fraternity in northern Montana. He was a member of the Galata lodge, but was a familiar figure in all Grand Lodge meetings in the state for many years, and was a frequent and welcome visitor in neighboring lodges.

According to reports of the accident received here, Thurman had been on a trip through the oil fields north of Shelby, and was returning home early in the evening. Hugh Frazer, who was driving the car in which Thurman was a passenger, turned out sharply upon meeting another car at the crest of a hill, when the car skidded on the rain-soaked pavement and turned over into a deep ditch. Frazer was not seriously injured, but Thurman received fatal injuries. He was taken to a hospital in Shelby, and passed away at ten o'clock Monday night.

Funeral services were held on Thursday afternoon from the Community Methodist church in Shelby, and burial services were held at Galata, with the ritualistic services of the Masonic order and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, of which he was a member.

Deceased was born September 11, 1875, at Rapatee, Ill. He is survived by his widow and one son, Lyman Thurman, of Devon.

ISABELLE REDMOND WALLACE

Birth: July 15, 1860 - Died: June 13, 1940

Liberty County Times

June 13 - 20, 1940

**MRS. ISABELLA WALLACE
DIES IN CONRAD HOSPITAL**

Mrs. Isabella Wallace, widow of the late Wm. J. Wallace, pioneer stockman of the Sweet Grass Hills country, died in the Conrad hospital at 12:45 this (Thursday) morning, following a lingering illness.

Mrs. Wallace was 79 years of age, and had been suffering from diabetes for several months. Pneumonia and complications are given as the immediate cause of death.

Funeral services will be held in the M. E. church in Chester at two o'clock Sunday afternoon.

MRS. ISABELLA WALLACE

The funeral of Isabella Wallace was held from the Methodist church Monday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock p. m., Rev. Bailey of Havre officiating.

Isabella Redmond was born July 15, 1860, in the county of Down, Ireland. In 1880, she was united in marriage to William J. Wallace who a few years thereafter left for the United States to provide a home for his family. Mr. Wallace farmed in the Palouse country of Washington for several years before his family arrived here. In 1889 the Wallaces moved to a ranch in the vicinity of Whitlash where they have since resided. Mr. Wallace was appointed county commissioner on the creation of Liberty county; he died in 1934.

Mrs. Wallace was well known throughout the county for her honesty and integrity.

She is survived by two sons, James H. and William J. Jr., who because of doctor's orders were unable to attend her last rites, and a sister, Mrs. Sara Wotten of Drexel Hill, Pa.