

GEORGE T. AINLEY

Born: July 18, 1873 - Died: April 4, 1944

Liberty County Times

April 13, 1944

GEORGE T. AINLEY CALLED SUDDENLY

George T. Ainley, pioneer resident of the Chester community, and well known business man of this city for many years, died suddenly of a heart attack about 1:30 last Saturday afternoon.

Mr. Ainley was stricken shortly after arriving at the cemetery, where he had gone to supervise the installation of a headstone, and to look after other work which he was instrumental in having done in preparation for Memorial day.

Soon after arriving at the cemetery he complained of a severe pain, and while being assisted to the car, collapsed and died within a few minutes.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday afternoon from the Methodist church in Chester, with Rev. J. Torrance Harvey in charge. A large gathering of friends and neighbors from all over the county, as well as from outside points, assembled to pay their last tribute of respect to the departed pioneer. Special musical numbers were given by members of the Methodist choir under the direction of Mrs. Eddie Thielman. Body bearers, all old friends and neighbors, were Frank Dennison, of Shelby, E. J. Blanchard, T. J. Smith, Geo. H. Gau, Roy Walden, P. H. Kuhry, Shebel Rehal and Dodds Keith. Burial was in the Chester cemetery.

Obituary

George Thomas Ainley was born July 18, 1873, at Winterset, Iowa, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Ainley. He was married in 1899 in Greenfield, Iowa, where he lived for a time and then moved to Nebraska where he engaged infarming for a time, and then moved back to Iowa where he farmed until coming to Montana in 1910.

Mr. Ainley came to Montana with his family in the spring of 1910, and settled on a homestead just west and south of Chester. After farming for a few years he went into business in Chester, starting the first telephone exchange in town. He operated the telephone business until 1938, when he sold it, and since that time has devoted his time to the management of the Chester hotel, which he has owned and operated for a number of years.

In addition to his business activities, Mr. Ainley also took an active part in community affairs, and was a member of the city council when he died. He was county coroner for many years, and had charge of the funeral establishment for Holland & Bonine in Chester for a number of years.

Mr. Ainley was always active in worthwhile community projects and took a leading part in the creation of Liberty county. He is credited with first suggesting the name of "Liberty" for the new county. A number of the sponsors of the new county gathered to decide on a name, each one writing his suggestion on a piece of paper, and from the list a choice was made through the process of elimination. Ainley suggested the name of Liberty, it quickly caught on and was adopted. Mr. Ainley is survived by his

wife, two sons and one daughter, two brothers living in Chester and two in Iowa, and six grand children.

The sons are Wesley and George, of Kalispell; and the daughter is Mrs. James Christian, of Shelby. The two brothers living in Chester are Arthur (Mike) and John (Jack).

George Ainley was a friendly, congenial, well respected citizen, and will be greatly missed in the community. The many friends of the family extend sincere sympathy and condolence in their hour of bereavement.

EDWARD ANDERSON

Born: August 14, 1867 - Died: November 1, 1944

Liberty County Times

November 16, 1944

Funeral Services for A. B. Anderson Held

Funeral services for Edward Anderson, pioneer resident of the Joplin community who died very suddenly at his home in Kalispell, were held on Thursday, Nov. 2nd, at two o'clock p. m. in the Wagner and Campbell chapel. The services were in charge of Rev. Amon Johnson, of Bethlehem Lutheran church of Kalispell, assisted by Rev. Merrill T. Gilbertson, of Joplin. Friends acting as pallbearers were Glenn Shepherd, A. Madson, O. G. Engebretson, Jacob Isackson, A. E. Runsvold, and W. E. Iverson. Interment was in the Conrad Memorial cemetery.

Edward Anderson was born August 14, 1867, at Soler, Norway. At the age of four years he came to the United States with his parents to make his home at Black River Falls, Wisconsin. He was married at Blair Wisconsin, in 1893, and moved to New Auburn soon afterward and farmed there for seven years. In 1917 the family moved to Joplin, Montana where they made their home until moving to Kalispell in May, 1944. Mr. Anderson passed away at his home in Kalispell on November 1st, 1944, at the age of 77 years, two months and 17 days.

Mr. Anderson is survived by his widow, Mrs. Lena Anderson, at home, two sons, Carl William and Byron, both of Cut Bank, and five daughters, Mrs. A. Magnusen, of Oakland, Cal.; Mrs. A. L. Davis, of Sacramento, Cal.; Mrs. Chas. Anderson, of Portland, Oregon; Mrs. Lysie Jensen, of Oakland, California and Mrs. Ray Conn of Lewistown, Montana.

THOMAS ARMSTRONG

Born: November 19, 1889 - Died: November 15, 1944

Liberty County Times

November 23, 1944

Funeral Services Held For Thos. Armstrong

Funeral services for the late Thomas Armstrong, who died suddenly at his home in the southwest part of the county on Wednesday night of last week, were held in the Methodist church in Chester on Monday afternoon of this week, November 20th, with Rev. Gilbertson, of the Lutheran church, in charge of the services.

Music was beautifully and touchingly rendered by Mesdames Ella Wigen, H. H. Johnson, Mildred Hanson and Henry Kolstad, with Chris. Warnes as accompanist.

Pall bearers, all old friends, were Austin Broadhurst, Robert Pugsley, William Brouillard, Joseph McIsaac, Fred Romain and Hayden Gessaman.

Burial was in the Chester cemetery.

Relatives from out of the community who were here for the services included two brothers, J. H. and George F. Armstrong, of Alberta, and J. H. Sims and family, cousins of Mrs. Armstrong, of Malta, Mont.

Obituary

Thomas Armstrong was a well known farmer of Liberty county, having lived in the county since 1910, having arrived here that year from his home in Scotland, after having visited a few months with a brother in southern Saskatchewan.

He settled on a homestead 11 miles southeast of Chester, where he resided until he was married to Etta May O'Donnell in 1915, when he moved to Mrs. Armstrong's homestead, south of the Marias river, in the Earl district, where they made their home until 1923. Later he entered the employe of the late Jas. Townsend on the Marias river ranch, and managed that ranch and the Marias River Sheep Company properties for a period of 16 years. He then purchased the place where he has lived for the past five years.

Mr. Armstrong was born in Shetkirkshire, Scotland, on November 19, 1889, and passed away on the evening of November 15, 1944, lacking four days of being 55 years of age. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Etta May Armstrong, and two sons, James C., of Chester, and Allen W., serving his country in the U. S. navy, and stationed in the central Pacific area as hospital corpsman 1/c. He is also survived by three brothers, two living in Alberta and one in Scotland. He also is survived by three sisters, two living in Scotland, and one in England, and many other relatives and a host of friends.

MERLE F. BATHKE

Born: February 8, 1917 - Died: June 9, 1944

Liberty County Times

June 15, 1944

Body of Merle Bathke Found Near His Home

The body of Merle Bathke was found about noon today near his home on Willow Creek by a searching party that went out from town during the forenoon.

The body was lying near a large tree only a short distance from the creek, and a distance of about a block and a half from the house.

Beside the body was a 30.05 shotgun. How the tragic accident occurred is not and never will be known.

Bathke had been missing since last Thursday, June 8th. He came into town on that day and took out a load of distillate, and was never seen alive again, so far as is known.

Mrs. Bathke and the little boy remained in town to assist Mrs. Bathke's father, George Hunnewell, with some house work, expecting to return home Friday. On Friday it was raining and she was unable to go out. Saturday she returned home but Merle was not there. She then went to the True Ray home, intending to await the return of her husband. No particular alarm was felt at first, as Mr. Bathke would go out after stock occasionally, and sometimes be unexpectedly detained.

When still no trace of the missing man had been found the first of the week an investigation was started, and on Wednesday the incident was reported to Sheriff Dodds Keith. This (Thursday) morning a searching party was organized in town and went out shortly before noon. The party, consisting of about fourteen men, organized into groups and started out in all directions from the house. Only a few minutes after starting from the house Donald Wigen, who was working with Joe Smith, discovered the body.

The condition of the body indicated that death had occurred some time previously.

Guards were left with the body, and the rest of the searching party returned to town. An undertaker was called from Havre, and the body will be brought in this afternoon. An inquest will probably be unnecessary.

The news of the tragic accident is a distinct shock to the whole community. Merle Bathke was one of the best liked young men in the community, and was well known throughout this part of the state. He was born and raised here. He was raised here, the son of Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Bathke. He was married, and leaves his wife and a little son about three years of age.

Funeral Services Held for Late Merle Bathke

Graveside services for the late Merle F. Bathke were held at the Chester cemetery Friday afternoon of last week at four o'clock.

The services were conducted by Rev. Winkle, of Havre, and were attended by a large number of friends and neighbors who gathered to pay their last tribute of respect and sympathy.

Pallbearers were Donald Wigen, Joe Smith, Robert Pugsley, Harry A. Heimbigner, Leonard Pugsley and Austin Broadhurst.

Merle F. Bathke was born February 8th, 1917, in Chester, Montana, the son of Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Bathke. He passed away June 8, 1944, being a little more than twenty-seven years of age. He attended the Chester schools, and started farming and raising stock when quite young. He had farmed land southwest of Chester, on Willow Creek, the past few years, and had made a success of this venture. He was living at the Willow Creek farm at the time of his death.

He is survived by his wife and a little two year old son; his father and mother and three sisters.

JAMES BERRY

Born: 1876 - Died: December 6, 1944

Liberty County Times

December 7, 1944

**JAMES BERRY, OLD TIME
JOPLIN RESIDENT, DIED ON
WEDNESDAY IN HAVRE**

James Berry, old-time resident of the Joplin community, died in a Havre hospital early Wednesday morning, Dec. 6th, following a lingering illness.

Berry had been badly crippled with rheumatism for several years, and was in the hospital in Chester for several months for treatment. He was moved to the Havre hospital a few weeks ago.

Funeral services will be held in the Lutheran church in Joplin on Saturday afternoon at two o'clock.

HARRY B. BROOKS

Born: 1877 - Died: July 11, 1944

Liberty County Times

July 13, 1944

Great Falls Editor Dies Suddenly

Great Falls, July 12—A brilliant career in Montana journalism, which covered a period of nearly 40 years and during which he was a factor in the proper direction of public opinion, ended Tuesday morning when Harry B. Brooks, editor of The Great Falls Tribune, died suddenly while at work. Death was due to a heart attack.

Brooks, 67, had suffered intermittent attacks of a heart ailment during the last three years but continued his editorial work continuously except for a few brief absences. Recently he had appeared to be in good health.

Tuesday morning at about 9:30, Brooks walked from his office to a change room and was suddenly stricken. He collapsed in the arms of his associate, Lester Cole, editor-manager of the Montana Farmer. Death was almost instantaneous.

Recognized as one of the outstanding editorial writers in Montana Brooks' knowledge of Montana problems and future and his grasp of national subjects on many occasions brought him signal honors.

Tribute From President

On Oct. 4, 1937, President Roosevelt paid tribute to an editorial entitled, "Balancing the Budget of Our Resources." The president referred to Brooks as "an editor of more than usual ability" and declared that "this editor has written in simple language that the layman can read and understand, a clear and accurate statement. It is so fine that it speaks my own mind better than I could speak it myself."

Brooks also received national recognition from the national executive committee of the American Legion in 1940 and from various other organizations and individuals.

Brooks was born Jan. 15, 1877, at Renville, Minn. He studied on his grandfather's farm, graduating from high school at 14 years of age and from the University of Minnesota four years later.

Brooks commenced his newspaper career at Renville, and during April, 1898, interrupted it to enlist in Co. H, 14th Minnesota Volunteer infantry during the Spanish-American war. He was mustered out of service the following December.

In 1905 he moved to Chinook, being employed by E. L. Carver, a banker, to work on the Chinook Bulletin, then engaged in marked rivalry with the Chinook Opinion.

About a year later, Brooks and the late Earl T. Richards purchased the Chinook Opinion, Brooks becoming editor. This publication subsequently became one of the best known county papers in the state.

In 1928, Brooks, John Survant of the Phillips County News, Dan Whetstone of the Cut Bank Pioneer Press and Harry Polk of Williston, N.D. purchased the Havre Promoter from R. G. Linebarger, renaming it the Havre Daily News. Brooks became editor and continued in that capacity until he became editor of The Great Falls Tribune, May 13, 1934. He retained his interests in the Chinook Opinion for several years, although severing his executive and editorial duties upon removing to Great Falls.

LEE ROY BUBNASH

Born: January 13, 1937 - Died: October 19, 1944

Liberty County Times

October 19 - 26, 1944

Bubnash Boy Killed In Bad Auto Accident

Lee Roy Bubnash, eight year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Andy bubnash, was fatally injured in a bad car accident, near the Bubnash home, 20 miles southeast of Chester, about five o'clock this (Thursday) afternoon.

The injured boy was rushed to the hospital in Chester, but died within a few minutes after arriving at the hospital.

Mrs. Bubnash was painfully but not critically hurt in the accident, as was also Mrs. George Anderson, a neighbor who was riding with Mrs. Bubnash and her son at the time of the accident. Both women are in the hospital, and the extent of their injuries had not been determined at the time of going to press.

The exact cause of the accident is not known, but it is supposed to have been caused from a blow-out.

The car spun around in the road, and then plunged into a ditch, turning over. Mrs. Bubnash was the only one of the three who was able to leave the wreck and go for help.

The accident occurred between the George Anderson and the Joe Anderson homes, about three miles east of the Bubnash home.

Mr. Bubnash is at Hot Springs, west of the mountains, and was notified at once of the tragedy.

Funeral Services Held For Lee Roy Bubnash

Funeral services for Lee Roy Bubnash, eight year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Bubnash, who was fatally injured in an automobile accident last Thursday afternoon, were held in the Methodist church in Chester Tuesday afternoon of this week, Rev. Gilbertson, of the Lutheran charge, having charge of the service.

A large crowd of sympathizing friends and neighbors attended the services. Burial was in the Catholic cemetery.

Lee Roy was an unusually bright and lovable boy, and his tragic death was not only a severe shock and loss to his parents, but to everyone who knew him. The saddened parents have the sincere sympathy and condolence of all their friends in their bereavement.

Those here for the funeral from out of the county were Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Folden, of Libby, Mrs. Francis Paulson, of Kalispell, and Arthur Folden, of Glendive; Mr. and Mrs. Benj. Folden, of Wolf Point, and Mrs. Wm. Shabronski, of Po. son.

Broken Rear Wheel Cause of Car Accident

Mrs. Andrew Bubnash and Mrs. George Anderson were only superficially hurt in the automobile accident in which Mrs. Bubnash's little son, Lee Roy, was fatally injured and both women were able to leave the hospital this week. They were slightly cut about the body, but suffered mostly from bruises and shock.

The accident was caused by a rear wheel shearing off from the hub, throwing the machine into the ditch alongside the road. It was a pick-up, and was being driven by Mrs. Anderson, and Mrs. Bubnash was holding the Anderson baby in her lap at the time of the accident. The baby was not hurt.

Lee Roy was riding in the back of the pick-up, and was thrown clear of the wreckage when the car went over. He was found about fifty feet from the machine, but it is thought that he must have been hit as the pick-up turned over.

Mrs. Bubnash went about one mile for help, and the injured boy was rushed to the hospital in Chester, but died a few minutes after arriving at the hospital.

HANNAH CAIN

Born: October 4, 1876 - Died: July 27, 1944

Liberty County Times

August 3, 1944

Mrs. Cain Passes

Mrs. Harold Jensen received the sad news that her mother, Mrs. Hannah Cain passed away July 27, at Oakland, California.

Mrs. Hannah Cain was born Oct. 4, 1876 in Mount Ewin, Canada. She came to Montana in 1910 and lived here until 1935, when she went to California to live.

She leaves to mourn her loss, two sons, Edward and Lester, of Oakland, two daughters, Mrs. G. W. Linton of Oakand, and Mrs. Harold Jensen of Chester, and seven grandchildren. Mr. Tom Cain died on March 3, 1940.

Mr. and Mrs. Cain lived in this communtiy for several years, having a farm east of Chester.

MARION GROVER COOLEY

Born: March 14, 1888 - Died: February 28, 1944

Liberty County Times

March 2, 1944

FATAL ACCIDENT TAKES MAN'S LIFE

Marion Grover Cooley, transient laborer, was instantly killed on the highway about four miles east of Chester Monday night when he was hit by a truck driven by Henry Leighton, of Chester.

The unfortunate accident occurred about ten o'clock Monday night. Mr. Leighton was coming into town with a load of coal, and the accident victim stepped out onto the highway right in front of the heavily loaded truck, making it impossible for the driver to miss him.

A thorough investigation was made of the accident at a coroner's inquest held Tuesday morning, which absolved Mr. Leighton of any possible blame.

It is reported that Cooley stepped out in front of the east bound bus a short time before, but the bus driver was able to stop in time to avoid hitting him.

Little is known of the accident victim here. He recently came from Great Falls, and was on his way out to the George Adams ranch, north of town, to work.

The body was taken to Havre after the inquest, and funeral services were held Wednesday afternoon at the Holland & Bonine funeral home, with the Rev. George Reid, pastor of the Van Orsdel Methodist church, officiating.

Later information obtained here disclosed that Cooley was born in Dawson, Ill., March 14, 1888. His parents were Charles H. and Nancy Elizabeth McDaniel Cooley. Mr. Cooley came to Montana in 1912 and homesteaded near Roy. He later worked on various ranches and farms.

Survivors included three sisters, Mrs. Guy Allan of Denton, Mrs. Jennie Brake of Springfield, Ill., and Mrs. Ethel Rutherford of Pawnee, Ill., and a brother, Louis Cooley, of Springfield, Ill.

FRANK N. DOLEZAL

Born: July 4, 1867 - Died: July 4, 1944

Liberty County Times

July 13, 1944

FUNERAL SERVICES HELD ON THURSDAY FOR FRANK N. DOLEZAL, CHESTER PIONEER

Funeral services were held in the Catholic church in Chester on Thursday of last week, July 6th, for Frank N. Dolezal, pioneer resident of the community northwest of Chester, who died July 4th in a Shelby hospital, following a lingering illness.

Services were in charge of Father Konhke, of Hingham, and the pall bearers were John Liska, Frank Liska, Pete Kuhry, Ike Diemert, Eddie Hutcheson, and Joe Skierka.

The body was taken to the old home at Bechyn, Minnesota, where it was laid to rest beside the body of Mrs. Dolezal, who passed on in 1942. The body was accompanied to Minnesota by John Dolezal, one of the sons.

Obituary

Frank N. Dolezal was born in Scott City, Minnesota, July 4, 1867, and died July 4, 1944, in Shelby, Montana. He was married to Mary Kodet at Bechn, Minn., on July 4, 1894, and had Mr. and Mrs. Dolezal lived until July 4th of this year they would have celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Dolezal made their home in Bechyn where Mr. Dolezal operated a store for six years. After selling the store in Bechyn they moved to Olivia, Minnesota, where they operated a store for seven years, after which they moved to a farm near Bechyn and operated that for seven years. Mr. Dolezal came here in 1914 and homesteaded land 21 miles northwest of Chester, where he resided with his family the remainder of his life.

The family came out to Montana in 1916.

Mrs. Dolezal died on April 5, 1942.

Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Dolezal, four sons and five daughters. The sons are Sgt. Ben T. Dolezal, who has been in England two years; Henry, of St. Paul; Frank of Olivia, Minn.; and John, who has been operating his father's farm for the past three years. The daughters are Mrs. J. J. Serbus, of Bechyn, Minn.; Sister Mary Francine, Sacred Heart hospital, Spokane; Mrs. Bennett Oswood, of Hill; Mrs. Harry Rockman, of Chester, and Mary Dolezal, of Helena. He is also survived by three sisters, two brothers, and 25 grand children.

ALEXANDER CAMPBELL EDWARDS

Born: September 28, 1874 - Died: March 6, 1944

Liberty County Times

March 9, 1944

A. C. EDWARDS IS CALLED SUDDENLY

A. C. Edwards, well known old time resident of the Lothair community, died suddenly at his home late Monday afternoon; apparently from a heart attack or stroke of paralysis.

Mr. Edwards had just returned home from a trip to the home of his son near Valier, and shortly after entering the house collapsed and died within a few minutes.

He had been in poor health for several years, and had been unable to do active work. He had been under the care of a physician, and while his general health was impaired, his sudden passing was a shock to his family and his many friends.

Mr. Edwards had lived in this community since 1910, and until his health failed, always took an active part in community and county affairs. At one time he was chairman of the county democratic committee, and spent one winter in Helena where he was employed as a clerk in the state senate.

Funeral services will be held this (Thursday) afternoon in the Methodist church in Chester, and burial will be in the cemetery at Lothair.

Obituary

Alexander Campbell Edwards was born in Renfrew, Ontario, Canada, September 28, 1874. He moved to Drayton, N. D., with his family when he was five years old and resided there until he was married, April 16, 1906, to Mary Ellen McGlynn, of Stehena, Minn. To this union six children were born, two passing in infancy. He had five brothers and sisters.

He came to Montana and took a homestead south of Lothair, where he resided until his death.

Surviving relatives include his wife, one son and three daughters. The son, John T. Edwards, resides near Williams, Mont. The daughters are Mrs. Harry McCracken, of Shelby; Mrs. James Townshend, of Shelby; Mrs. Joe Malingo, of Missoula. There are five grand children.

The living brothers and sisters are F. W. Edwards, Rev. T. D. Edwards, J. D. Edwards, G. C. Edwards. There is also one surviving sister, Mrs. Benjamin Warner.

MRS. ELIZABETH FALLON

Born: April 11, 1870 - Died: December 9, 1944

Liberty County Times

December 14, 1944

Mrs. James Fallon Dies At Home Here Saturday

Mrs. James Fallon, pioneer resident of Liberty county, died at the family home in Chester on Saturday, December 9, following a lingering illness.

Mrs. Fallon had been in ill health for several years, and early last fall went with Mr. Fallon to Hot Springs in the hope that a change might prove beneficial. She was unable to remain at the Springs, however, and returned home in a short time, and gradually grew weaker until the end came last Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Fallon were pioneer farmers in the community southwest of Chester, where they lived for many years. For the past few years they have lived most of the time in town, Mr. Fallon carrying on his farming operations, and during the farming season they would live on the farm. Mrs. Fallon was highly respected and enjoyed the esteem and friendship of all who knew her. She was 74 years of age at the time of her passing.

Funeral services were held Wednesday afternoon in Havre from the Holland and Bonine chapel, and burial was in the Highland cemetery in that city. Palbearers were John Wanken, Oliver Morkrid, Mark Libor, Chris. Kolstead, Henry Kolstad and old friends.

MINNIE LOUISE ZANK FETTER

Born: October 11, 1864 - Died: March 31, 1944

Liberty County Times

April 13, 1944

MRS PETER FETTER DIES ON FRIDAY

Funeral services were held for Mrs. Peter Fetter, 79, from the Roschen Funeral Chapel Monday afternoon, with the Rev. T. H. Albrecht officiating. Mrs. Fetter, who had been ill for nearly two years, died Friday, March 31, at the Lake City Hospital. Cause of death was coronary thrombosis.

Minnie Louise Zank was born near Berlin, Germany, on October 11, 1864, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Zank. She came to America at the age of 16 years and went to Augusta, Wisconsin, to make her home with her sister. She married Peter Fetter on October 3, 1883. Mr. and Mrs. Fetter observed their 60th wedding anniversary at their home near Lake City last October.

She is survived by her husband, one son, Edward of Lake City, two daughters, Mrs. Charles Erickson, Great Falls, Montana, and Mrs. Charles J. Kepler of Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Also surviving are a sister, Mrs. E. J. Mieceke of Augusta, Wisconsin, four grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Burial was at Oakwood Cemetery. Pallbearers were Claus Klinke, John Peters, William Fitschen, William Roschen, August Piote, Ed. Hinck.

The Feters were old time residents of Joplin, and ran the Great Northern Hotel, at Joplin. They still own there land same is being farmed by the Poetzi boys, north west of Joplin, fifteen miles.

JOHN FIEDLER

Born: April 22, 1882 - Died: June 16, 1944

Liberty County Times

June 22, 1944

**PIONEER LEDGER FARMER
IS CALLED BY DEATH**

John Fiedler, pioneer farmer of the community east of Ledger, in the extreme southwestern corner of Liberty county, died at a hospital in Great Falls on Friday of last week, following a long illness.

Mr. Fiedler was seventy years old at the time of his death, and had been in poor health for a number of years.

Funeral services were held from the Catholic church in Chester on Tuesday morning of this week, and burial was in the Chester cemetery.

FLORA C. HILL

Born: 1874 - Died: November 2, 1944

Liberty County Times

November 16, 1944

**MOTHER OF MRS. RAY BUCK
DIES AT HOME IN WASHINGTON**

Mrs. Flora C. Hill, mother of Mrs. Ray E. Buck, of Chester, and a former resident of this county, died November second, in Washington.

Mrs. Hill was the wife of Ernest L. Hill, and with her family lived in Chester from 1917 until 1922. She visited here for five months in 1922. She is survived by eight children, 22 grand children and four great grand children. Two sons, Orlo and Harry passed away several years ago.

Survivors, besides Mrs. Buck, include the following: Nelie Jeffers, of Clemy, Alberta, Ralph and Arthur Hill, of Bremerton, Wash., Elsie Koepke, Chehalis, Wash.; Flora Belle Riley, Centralia, Wash.; Viola Dickson, Klammath Falls, Oregon; and Howard Hill, in Concord, California.

Mrs. Hill was born in 1874 in Hesper, Iowa. All of her brothers and sisters and her parents preceded her in death.

FREDERICK V. HODGES

Born: February 14, 1867 - Died: March 16, 1944

Liberty County Times

March 23, 1944

Alma Pioneer is Called by Death

Frederick V. Hodges, pioneer resident of the Alma community, north of Joplin, died at the family home Thursday night of last week, March 16th, following an illness of about four weeks.

Mr. Hodges had been suffering with asthma for several years, but it had been getting progressively worse for several months, and about four weeks ago he went to the hospital in Havre for treatment. He returned to his home, and gradually grew worse until the end came last Thursday night. He was past 77 years of age at the time of his passing.

Funeral services were held Tuesday afternoon at two o'clock in the Luthern church at Joplin. Rev. Merrill T. Gilbertson, pastor of the Joplin church, had charge of the funeral service. Pall bearers were Dodds Keith, George H. Gau, G. A. Isaacs, Mike Myers, Emil Nelson and Nels Nelson.

Obituary

Frederick V. Hodges was born in South Wales, England, February 14, 1867. He was united in marriage to Sarah Ann Young in 1887. He served as a sergeant in the English army for several years. When he left the English army he came to this country, first locating in Chi-

cago. He came to Chicago in 1892, where he worked for a year in Hotel Jackson for a year. His wife then came from England, and they went to Oquauka, Illinois, where he was associated with his brother, Tom, and a sister, Anna Boden, in the management of a hotel for 11 years.

Following his experience in the hotel business, Mr. Hodges went in for farming, operating for a few years in Missouri and Iowa. During this time five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Hodges, three boys and two girls, Nellie May, Harry Lee, Alfred Valentine, Frank Ethelbert and Agnes Isabel.

In 1910 Mr. and Mrs. Hodges, with their family moved to Montana, settling on a homestead 20 miles north of Joplin. Mr. Hodges made his home in this community since 1910, and always took an active and leading part in every worthwhile community affair. He was a successful farmer, and laid the foundation for the big Hodges holdings, later developed by his sons into one of the most extensive grain producing farms in northern Montana.

While proving up on the homestead Mr. Hodges was instrumental in having built the first school house in the Alma community. He served for several years as clerk of the school district, and as trustee of the district.

F. V. Hodges was a sterling citizen, a good neighbor, and beloved by his family. His passing is a great loss to his family and all who knew him.

WALTER W. HUTCHESON

Born: March 22, 1892 - Died: April 14, 1944

Liberty County Times

April 20, 1944

Walter Hutcheson Dies After Attack Liver Disorder

Walter W. Hutcheson, well known farmer of the community north of Lothair, died at the hospital in Chester shortly after midnight last Thursday, following a brief critical illness.

Hutcheson had been in town on Thursday, and while he had not been in good health for the past two or three years, he was not feeling any worse than usual that day. On the way home, however, he was taken violently ill, and was brought back into the hospital. His condition was diagnosed as an acute liver ailment, from which he died within a few hours.

Mr. Hutcheson had undergone several operations during the past three or four years. About a year ago he was back at the Mayo hospital in Rochester. He never fully recovered from the stomach trouble for which he was operated.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday morning, with Rev. Father Kohnke, of the High Line Catholic church, in charge of the service. Burial was in the Chester cemetery.

Pallbearers were Clarence Adams, Frank Schroer, Willis Violet, John Swank, Lawrence Hemmer, John Dolezal.

Obituary

Walter W. Hutcheson was born in Red Wing, Minnesota, March 22, 1892, being just past fifty-two years of age at the time of his passing. He came to Montana in 1910, and took up a homestead south of Lothair. He later sold the original homestead, and bought land north of Lothair, where he continued to make his home and operate the farm up to the time of his death.

Mr. Hutcheson was never married and for several years his mother made her home with him during the summer months. He was a member of the Catholic church of Chester and also of the American Legion having served overseas in World War I.

He is survived by his mother, two brothers and three sisters. One brother, N. J. Hutcheson, lives here and has been associated with Walter in the operation of the farm. Three sisters live in Seattle, one in Choteau, Mont., and one in Minnesota.

Three of the sisters came for the funeral, Misses Rose and Ceil Hutcheson, of Seattle, and Mrs. G. N. Tennant, of Choteau.

MARTHA JANE SHANK HYLE

Born: October 31, 1871 - Died: November 25, 1944

Liberty County Times

December 7, 1944

MRS. MARTHA HYLE PASSES AT HOME IN JOPLIN SATURDAY

Mrs. Martha Hyle, mother of Mrs. Art LaValley, died at the LaValley home in Joplin on Saturday evening, November 25th, following a lingering illness.

Funeral services were held from the Lutheran church in Joplin on Wednesday afternoon of this week, with burial in the Joplin cemetery.

The obituary will be published next week, having been received too late for this week.

MRS. MARTHA HYLE

Martha Jane Shank Hyle, a daughter of David and Elizabeth Shank, was born at Siglerville, Pennsylvania, on October 31, 1871, and died at her home in Joplin, Montana, at 10 p. m. on November 25th, at the age of 73 years and 25 days.

She was baptized when an infant and joined the Evangelical Lutheran church when quite young.

On March 16, 1897, she was married to Thomas H. Hyle, of Bellville, Pennsylvania. To this union was born six children, all of whom are living. Thomas Hyle passed away at Inverness on May 22, 1928.

In 1901 Mr. and Mrs. Hyle moved from Pennsylvania to a farming community near Rugby, North Dakota, and resided there for nine years. In 1910 the family came to live on a farm one and one-half miles northeast of Inverness. In 1933 Mrs. Hyle left the home at Inverness and came to live in Joplin, where she resided until her death.

Those who live to mourn her departure are one sister, Mrs. Myrtie Alexander, Millroy, Pa., and the six children: Mrs. James (Mildred) Walker, Kansas City, Kansas; Mrs. Ervin (Irene) Zoerb, Osborne, Idaho; Mrs. Manley (Josephine) Goldberg, Helena; Mrs. Arthur (Bernadien) LaValley, Joplin; Mr. Gerald Hyle, Sandpoint, Idaho; and Corporal Artura Hyle, in a Medical Army Corps, Phillipine Islands. She also leaves seventeen grand-children, and seven great grand-children.

ANNA ELENE SVINGEN JOHNSON

Born: June 29, 1879 - Died: December 15, 1944

Liberty County Times

Decembe 21 - 28, 1944

PIONEER MATRON OF JOPLIN DIED IN HAVRE LAST FRIDAY

Mrs. Anna Johnson, pioneer matron of the A ma and Joplin communities, died in a Havre hospital on Friday of last week, December 15th, following a protracted illness.

Mrs. Johnson had been in ill health for several months, and spent several weeks in the hospital in Chester before being taken to Havre.

For many years Mrs. Johnson had made her home in the Joplin community with her family. The Johnsons were among the pioneer settlers of the north Joplin community, having established their home there in 1910. In later years they made their home in Joplin part of the time.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday of this week from the Lutheran church in Joplin, with Rev. M. T. Gilbertson in charge of the service. Burial was in the Joplin cemetery.

Mrs. Anius Johnson

Anna Elene Svingen was born at Hedalen, Norway, June 29th, 1879, and at the age of six weeks came with her parents to America. They first settled in Minnesota and in 1882 came to Overly, North Dakota where she grew to womanhood.

In 1902 she was married to Ole O. Haugen who preceded her in death. To this union two children were born.

In February 1907 she married Anius Johnson who died April 1933. Eight children were born to this union.

They came to Montana in 1915, settled on a farm north of Joplin where she lived until her death December 14th, 1944 following several months of illness.

She leaves to mourn her passing one sister, Mrs. Emma Knutson, Marin, California, three brothers, Peter, Overly, Cal. John and Edward Svinger, Glasgow, Montana, nine children—Paul, Alfred and Robert Johnson, Mrs. Julia Olson, Mrs. Mildred Aaberg, all of Joplin, Mrs. Loretta McKay of Creston, Washington, Mrs. Lorene Wester of Fairfield, Montana, Mrs. Olva Biallas of Great Falls, Montana and twenty grandchildren.

A daughter, Mrs. Clara Wilson and a sister Mrs. Matilda Hinek also preceded her in death.

She was loved and respected by all who knew her, a wonderful mother, an active member of the Immanuel church and Ladies Aid.

The Immanuel Ladies Aid have given a special memorial gift to missions in honor of Mrs. Johnson. Relatives and friends have given memorial wreaths to be used for foreign missions, the Joplin and Alma communities have presented In-memoriam gifts to be used as a living memorial for their beloved neighbor and friend.

INA ROSE KEITH

Born: January 8, 1865 - Died: May 14, 1944

Liberty County Times

May 25, 1944

MRS. JOHN KEITH DIED AT ALBANY, OREGON SUNDAY

Mrs. John Keith, pioneer and highly respected citizen of Liberty county, died in Albany, Oregon, on Sunday last, May 14th.

Mrs. Keith was an aunt of Sheriff Dodds Keith, and for many years made her home with her family in this county. After the death of her husband several years ago she went to the west coast, where she has made her home with relatives.

The body will be brought back to Chester for burial beside her husband in the local cemetery. Funeral services will be held Friday afternoon in the Methodist church in Chester, with Rev. Winkle, of the Presbyterian church of Havre, in charge of the service.

Services Held for Mrs. Ina Keith Last Friday

Funeral services for the late Mrs. John Keith, pioneer Liberty county matron who died May 14th in Albany, Oregon, were held at two o'clock Friday afternoon of last week in the Methodist church in Chester.

Rev. Winkle, pastor of the Presbyterian church of Havre, delivered the funeral sermon and eulogy, and a ladies' quartette, composed of Mrs. Frank Eggers, Mrs. Robert Wigen and Mrs. Harry Heimbigner sang several numbers. They were accompanied at the piano by Mrs. Eddie Thielman.

Pall bearers were George H. Gau, J. C. Gulick, Shebal Rehal, Ed. Tempel, Bert Smith and Emil Nelson.

Ina Rose Keith was born January 8th, 1865, in Menmuir, Scotland, and died May 14th, 1944, in Albany, Oregon. She was married to Mr. John Keith in April, 1886. She was preceded in death by her husband, who died in 1934.

Mrs. Keith is survived by two daughters, Mrs. George Evers, of Albany, Oregon, and Mrs. Troy Duncan, of Joplin, Mont. Other surviving relatives include three grand children and two great grand children. She was an aunt of Sheriff Dodds Keith.

Mrs. Keith came to the Chester community in 1902 with her family and made her home here until after the death of her husband in 1934, but for the past few years has made her home with the daughter in Albany, Oregon. She has visited here frequently since making her home in Oregon, and for several years spent most of her summers with relatives here. She was a devoted member of the Presbyterian church most of her adult life, was a kind friend and good neighbor and had a wide circle of friends among the older residents of the county.

THOMAS DODDS KEITH

Born: July 11, 1855 - Died: February 22, 1944

Liberty County Times

February 24 - March 2, 1944

THOMAS D. KEITH CALLED BY DEATH

Thomas D. Keith, pioneer citizen of Liberty County, and father of Sheriff Dodds Keith, died at the hospital in Cheseter on Tuesday of this week, February 22nd, from the infirmities of old age, following a lingering illness.

At the time of his passing Mr. Keith was past eighty-eight years of age, having been born in Edenboro, Scotland, July 11th, 1855.

He had been in the hospital for several weeks, and for the past two weeks had been gradually growing weaker. The end was not unexpected.

Thomas Keith was among the earliest settlers in this part of Montana, which in later years was incorporated in Liberty county. He arrived in Chester on Thanksgiving day, 1902, accompanied by his wife and two sons, Dodds and Milan. He filed a homestead on land northeast of Chester, and from this small beginning built up one of the finest stock ranches in this country. The buildings on the home place of the Dodd Keith ranch are located on the original homestead land taken by Thomas Keith in 1902.

Mr. Keith lived on the ranch until about six years ago, when he retired. Mrs. Keith preceded him in death in 1938.

Mr. Keith lived in Scotland until he was grown, and before leaving that country completed a five year course in steam engineering. On arrival in this country, during his early twenties, he first went to Texas, and from that state came north and west, eventually locating in this community. He was one of a family of eleven children, the son of Edmond Dodds Keith and Margaret Dodds Keith. He was married December 19th, 1889, to Martha Ellen Eggers in Paola, Kansas.

He is survived by two brothers and a sister, still living in Scotland. Three brothers, Ed., Alex., and John, at one time lived in this community, but are not living. A sister, Mrs. Mary Ossler, also lived here, but is now deceased.

Mr. Keith was a typical western pioneer, and had a wide circle of friends throughout northern Montana. He was a good citizen, friendly neighbor, and liked and respected by all who knew him.

Funeral services will be held Friday afternoon of this week at the Methodist church in Chester, Rev. Winkel, pastor of the Presbyterian church of Havre, to be in charge of the service. Burial will be in the Chester cemetery.

FUNERAL SERVICES FOR THOMAS KEITH HELD FRIDAY

Last tribute to Thomas Dodds Keith, pioneer Liberty county resident, was paid by many relatives and friends at services held Friday afternoon at Chester with Rev. Yyman W. Winkle, minister of the Presbyterian church of Havre, officiating. Burial was in the Chester cemetery.

Pallbearers were John Brinkman, Charles Johns, Ed Tempel, Finley Murray, Julius Schafer and Arthur Morris.

Mrs. Tom Busey, Mrs. Frank Eggers and Mrs. Fred Brown, accompanied by Mrs. Ed Thielman, sang "Old Rugged Cross," "Safe in the Arms of Jesus" and "In the Garden."

JAMES LAIRD
Birth: August 17, 1856 - Death: August 17, 1944
Liberty County Times
August 24, 1944

**James Laird, Alma
Pioneer, Died on His
88th Birthday, Aug. 17**

James Laird, well known pioneer rancher and farmer of the Alma community north of Joplin, passed away shortly after noon on Thursday of last week, August 17th, on his 88th birthday.

Laird, who was born at Aberdeenshire, Scotland, settled in the Sweet Grass Hills country with his two brothers, Jack and Frank, and engaged in the ranching business.

The aged rancher was first married in Scotland to Miss Agnes Robertson in 1889, and to this union two children were born, the late John R. Laird and Mrs. Jean Anderson, who resides in Kent, England. The first Mrs. Laird died in Scotland, and after Laird came to this country he was married to Miss Elizabeth Tulloch, of LaCrosse, Wis., April 8, 1916.

Surviving the aged rancher are Mrs. Laird, his daughter Jean of Kent, two cousins, William Meldrum of Joplin, James Meldrum of Somers, and eight grand children.

Funeral services were held from the Methodist church in Chester on Wednesday afternoon of this week, Rev. J. Torrance Harvey conducting the service. Burial was in the Chester cemetery.

ERNEST LOUDEN MATKIN

Born: July 31, 1886 - Died: November 24, 1944

Liberty County Times

November 30, 1944

E. L. Matkin Dies Very Suddenly in Spokane

E. L. Matkin, for many years a well known resident of Chester and Liberty county, died very suddenly of a heart attack in Spokane on Saturday of last week, November 24th., at the age of 58.

The body was brought back to Chester for burial and funeral services, the funeral being held Wednesday afternoon from the Methodist church, with Rev. J. Torrance Harvey in charge of the service. Music was provided by a ladies quartette consisting of Mrs. Frances Brown, Mrs. Ella Wigen, Mrs. Edna Beckner, and Mrs. Betty Harvey, with Mrs. Marion Thielman as accompanist.

Pallbearers were Dodds Keith, T. L. Wright, Clarence Kolstad, and H. H. Johnson.

All of the five sons and daughters were here for the funeral except Loren, who is serving in the army overseas. Robert and Barbara (Mrs. Ross Maynard) came from California; Harold came from the Steve Bowen ranch where he is working, and Randall came from Kalispell, where he is making his home in that city with Mr. and Mrs. George Ainley.

Ernest Loudon Matkin was born July 31st, 1886, at Starbuck, Wash. He came to Montana in 1915, taking a homestead in the Lothair community. He was married to Lora Clemens, of Iowa, in June of 1915, and they made their home on the homestead for several years. Mr. Matkin operated an elevator at Carter for a time, and of late years the family had made their home in Chester until the death of Mrs. Matkin a little more than a year ago. He left Chester early in 1944, and had been employed in Spokane and other places near there until his sudden death last week.

Surviving relatives include four sons and one daughter, Robert, who is in the army, stationed at Stockton, California; Loren, in the navy and now serving overseas; Mrs. Barbara Maynard, of Stockton, California, and Randall, now living in Kalispell. One son, John, died in 1935. There are also two sisters, Mrs. Clara Hitchcock, of Spokane, and Mrs. Lillian Hitchcock, of Fort Shaw, Montana.

WILLIAM McCLURE

Born: January 26, 1922 - Died: ?, 1944

Liberty County Times

November 2, 1944

William McClure is First War Casualty

William McClure, grandson of Mrs. May Cady, of the community north of Joplin, was killed in action with the American forces in Italy, Mrs. Cady was officially informed by the war department this week.

McClure, who was also known as "Pete Stevens" was registered with the Liberty County Selective Service board on June 30th, 1942, and was inducted on November 9th, 1942. He was born Jan. 26, 1922, in Conrad, Mont. He had made his home most of his life with his grandmother, Mrs. Cady, and Mrs. Cady was listed by him as "next of kin." No particulars were contained in the official announcement of McClure's death, which was received by Mrs. Cady last Sunday.

Plans are being made to hold memorial services in the Lutheran church in Joplin on Sunday, Oct. 29th.

Of more than 200 men in the services, McClure is the first man to be officially reported as killed in action. Several have been wounded, discharged because of illness contracted in combat areas, and at least two are known to be prisoners of war, but this is the first to be reported killed in action.

Memorial Services for County's First Casualty

More than 250 people gathered in Bethel Lutheran church in Joplin last Sunday afternoon, October 29th, to pay tribute and honor to the first war casualty from Liberty county, William McClure.

McClure was killed in action in Italy. He spent most of his life in Liberty county, and was highly respected and esteemed in the community.

The Immanuel choir sang "Still, Still With Thee," and "When the Last Bugle Blows." Connie Meldrum sang "The Lord's Prayer" and Margaret Lyle sang "One Sweetly Solemn Thought."

A message "Our Comfort at a Time Like This" was brought by Rev. Merrill T. Gilbertson.

The American Legion fired a salute of honor at the close of the services. The buglers were Sanford Anderson and Aubrey Whelchel.

A memorial gift was presented to the county to be used toward some type of permanent memorial to honor our service men and women.

NORMAN LEWIS OBIE

Born: September 20, 1920 - Died: January 2, 1944

Liberty County Times

January 6, 1944

Norman L. Obie Suddenly Called

Norman Lewis Obie, prominent young farmer of the Alma community, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Obie, died in a Havre hospital on Sunday, January 2nd, following a very brief illness and operation.

Young Obie entered the hospital just last week, suffering from an attack of sinus trouble. An operation was performed later in the week, and a series of complications set in that proved fatal.

Norman Obie was born September 20, 1920, in Libby, Montana. He came to Liberty county with his parents the following spring, and has made his home on the family farm, 30 miles north of Joplin, practically all of his life. He attended school in the Alma district and in Joplin, and was a young man of sterling character. He was well and favorably known not only in his own community but throughout the county, and his sudden passing was a surprise and shock to his family and many friends. He is survived by his father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Obie of Joplin; three brothers, Gordon, of El Monte, California, and Willard and Lawrence of Joplin, and two sisters, Mrs. Norman (Rose) Grogan and Miss Gillette Obie, both of Havre.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday afternoon of this week in the Lutheran church at Joplin, Rev. Merrill T. Gilbertson having charge. Special musical numbers were provided by the Lutheran choir. Pall bearers were Henry Hawks, Eddie Temple, Chas. Smith, Robert Johnson, Rex Gullick and Alvin Olson. Interment was in the Joplin cemetery.

VIOLA MAGDALINE PANCAKE RICHARDSON
Born: June 4, 1903 - Died: November 5, 1944

Liberty County Times

November 9, 1944

Mrs. G. F. Richardson Passed Away Sunday

The community was saddened last Sunday morning when the news came from Havre that Mrs. Gilbert F. Richardson, who had been in a critical condition in a Havre hospital for six weeks, following an operation, had passed away.

Mrs. Richardson underwent the operation several weeks ago, but was never able to rally, and her condition steadily grew worse until death came Sunday morning as an end to her long period of suffering.

Mrs. Richardson had lived in the Chester community with her family since 1934, and was one of the highly respected and well liked matrons of the community. She was active in social and civic circles, and her passing is a distinct community loss.

Mrs. Richardson, who before her marriage was Viola Magdalene Pancake, was born June 4, 1903 at Forest City Minn. and passed away November 5, 1944, at the age of 41 years.

She was the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Pancake, of Malta. She graduated from the Malta high school in 1920, and later attended the State Normal college at Dillon, teaching near Malta for a time after her graduation. She was married to Gilbert F. Richardson on December 5, 1922, and to this union two boys were born, Joe W., now recovering from wounds received in service in the Pacific theatre of war at a naval hospital in Seattle, and Robert W., with the naval forces stationed at San Francisco. Also surviving are two sisters and four brothers, one brother, Lee, preceding her in death.

Funeral services were held Wednesday afternoon from the Community church in Malta. Rev. J. Torrance Harvey, of Chester, delivered the funeral sermon, and was assisted in the service by Rev. Rostead, of Malta. A large number of friends from Chester attended the service. Burial was in the Malta cemetery.

ALLO SCHROER

Born: 1901 - Died: October 23, 1944

Liberty County Times

October 26, 1944

**A. SCHROER DIES IN SHELBY
OF SUDDEN HEART ATTACK**

Allo Schroer 43 Great Northern Roadmaster between Havre and Blackfoot, passed away at his home in Shelby 2 A. M. Monday morning Oct. 23, 1944 from a heart attack. Mr. Schroer spent his boyhood days on a farm near Lothair. where he started working on the Great Northern as a section Laborer. He was promoted to section boss in 1926 and moved to Snowden, Montana near the North Dakota line, later he was moved west as foreman taking the position of Track inspector at Whitefish in 1936 which position he held until his promotion to Roadmaster about 1941 since when he made his home in Shelby. He leaves his widow and three children Charles, Lois and Joan, a sister Mary of Lothair and several neices and nephews, The Hemmers, of Lothair.

LOUIS H. SCHUHMACHER

Born: April 12, 1892 – Died: June 9, 1944

Liberty County Times

June 15 – 22, 1944

Lewis Schumaker Dies

Louis H. Schumaker, well known farmer of the community south of Chester, died in a Great Falls hospital on Monday of this week, at the age of fifty-two years, following a lingering illness.

Mr. Schumaker had been afflicted with a form of palsey for several years, but had been able to do a considerable amount of work, and direct his farm operations. A few weeks ago his condition grew worse and for some time his condition was critical.

Lewis Schumaker was born in Illinois, but moved to North Dakota when quite a young man. He came to Montana in 1910, homesteading near Big Sandy, and in 1917 bought the farm south of Chester where he had resided since.

He is survived by his wife, two daughters and two sons.

Funeral services were held Tuesday morning at ten o'clock from the Catholic church in Chester. Burial was in the Chester cemetery. Pallbearers were Geo. H. Gau, T. C. Theiselle, William Brouillard, P. M. Kuhry, John Liska and Wm. Earl, Jr.

Lewis H. Schumacher

Louis H. Schuhmacher was born in Sigel, Illinois on April 12, 1892 and died in Great Falls, Montana on June 9, 1944. When 6 years old he moved with his parents to Tripp, S. D. where he resided until he was 14 when his parents sold out and moved to Dickinson, N. Dak. In 1912 he came to Montana and took up a homestead near Big Sandy. In 1917 he bought his farm fifteen miles south of Chester, which he farmed until his death. Mr. Schuhmacher has been in poor health for many years. He came down with the flu last December and never fully recovered from the effects of it.

He was married to Helen Safar on May 14, 1923 at Chester. Four children were born to this union, (Geraldine) Mrs. Carl Schultz of Ogden, Utah, Rosemary of Great Falls, Leo and Louis of Chester.

JUSTIN SCHWANDNER

Born: June 5, 1871 - Died: August 4, 1944

Liberty County Times

August 17, 1944

**JUSTIN SCHWANDNER FOUND
DEAD IN BED AT SHEEP CAMP**

Justin Schwandner, 73, who had been working as a sheep herder at the Meissner ranch on the Marias river south of Chester, was found dead in his bed at the sheep camp on Friday morning of last week.

Sheriff Dodds Keith and County Attorney Peter M. Rigg investigated the case and were satisfied that death came to the aged man from natural causes, and no inquest was deemed necessary.

Schwandner was born in Germany on June 5, 1871, and had been in this county. He was a steady, hard working man, and had many for the past few years, and before that had worked on other ranches in this county. He was a steady, hard working man, and had many friends among the oldtimers.

Funeral services were held from the Catholic church in Chester on Tuesday morning of this week, and burial was in the Chester cemetery.

LOUISE MARIE STORES
Born: September 5, 1938 - Died: January 18, 1944
Liberty County Times
January 20, 1944

LOUISE STORES PASSES
AWAY TUESDAY NOON

Louise Stores, five and a half-year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Stores, died Tuesday noon in a Havre hospital. The little miss was taken suddenly ill Sunday and was rushed to the hospital that evening where an emergency operation was performed about 1:00 a. m. Monday morning. Her illness was diagnosed as appendicitis. She grew gradually weaker and in spite of two blood transfusions and every possible care passed away about 1:00 o'clock p. m. Tuesday.

Louise was a lovable child and will be deeply missed by her sister, two brothers, one a twin of deceased, her mother, father and a host of other relatives and friends.

Funeral services will be conducted Friday morning at 10:00 o'clock and interment will be made in the local cemetery.

CHARLES HOUTZ THIELMAN

Born: N/A - Died: 1944

Liberty County Times

June 29, 1944

Baby Thielman

Cemetery services were conducted for Charles Houtz Thielman, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Thielman, of Chester by the Rev. J. Torrance Harvey, Thur., June 29.

OTTO EDWARD THIELMAN

Born: September 9, 1875 - Died: October 7, 1944

Liberty County Times

October 12, 1944

Pioneer Resident Dies Suddenly

Otto Thielman, pioneer farmer of the Tiber community, and a well known resident of the Chester and Tiber communities since 1916, died suddenly of a heart attack last Saturday afternoon, October 7th.

Mr. Thielman had not been in very good health during the past year or more, but his condition had not, apparently, been any worse of late, and his sudden death came as a surprise and shock to his family and many friends.

Saturday he had not been feeling well, and had remained in the house during the forenoon. Soon after lunch he got in his car and drove to the St. Anthony & Dakota elevator to see his son, Eddie, who is manager of that institution. The son noticed his father drive up to the elevator, and when he did not come in at once, went out to see what the trouble might be. He found his father in the car, apparently dead. Death was attributed to a heart attack.

About two years ago, while still living on the farm at Tiber, Mr. Thielman suffered a broken leg, and never fully recovered from the effect of this injury. He retired from the farm about a year ago and moved in to Chester, where he had built a nice home.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday afternoon of this week at the Methodist church in Chester, with Rev. Gilbertson, pastor of the Lutheran church, in charge of the service. A large number of relatives, friends and neighbors gathered to pay their last respects to the memory of the departed pioneer citizen.

Obituary

Otto Edward Thielman was born in Posen, Germany, September 9, 1875, and passed away at Chester, Montana, October 7th, 1944, at the age of 69 years.

He came to the United States with his parents when 16 years of age, settling at Hector, Minnesota. He was married to Louise Schwanbeck on February 27th, 1900, at Hector, Minnesota. To this union seven children were born.

In 1903 Mr. Thielman and his family moved to Gardner, N. D., where they lived for thirteen years. They then moved to the Chester community in the fall of 1916, where they lived since.

Surviving are his widow, Mrs. Louise Thielman, and six children, Mrs. Fred Harris, of Leola, N. D., Mrs. John Walkman, of Chester, Harold Thielman and Eddie Thielman, of Chester, George Thielman, of Joplin, Mrs. Emerald Greer, of Cut Bank. Marjorie Thielman died in 1930. He is also survived by one brother, Ferdinand, who lives in Lewistown, and five sisters, Mrs. Elenia Brown, of Helena, Mrs. Bertha Rice, of Haywood, Calif., Mrs. Hulda Arnold and Mrs. Art. Czarnstaki, of Gardena, North Dakota, and Mrs. Ella Grininer, of Hector, Minnesota.

JOHN VAN DESSEL

Born: September 21, 1919 - Died: August 29, 1944

Liberty County Times

November 23, 1944

KILLED IN ACTION



John Van Dessel

John Van Dessel Killed In Action in France

John Van Dessel, son of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Van Dessel, now living in Missoula, but old time residents of the Alma community, was killed in action in France on August 29, according to official information received by the parents from the war department the latter part of last week.

Van Dessel was first reported as missing in action, but last week he was officially designated as killed in action, the second man from this county to be reported as killed. Both men killed were from the Alma section, William Mc-Clure having been killed some time earlier than Van Dessel.

T/5 John VanDessel was 25 years of age, having been born in Joplin,

September 21, 1919. He attended the Joplin schools, and before going into the service was associated with his father in their large farming operations, both in Hill and Liberty counties, in the Alma community. He entered the service from Hill county on March 18, 1941. He received his basic training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, Camp Young, Cal., and Fort Lewis, Washington.

Van Dessel went overseas in 1942, landing first in England, and later saw service in north Africa, Sicily Italy, and France.

MARY ANN WALDEN

Born: June 3, 1857 - Died: June 26, 1944

Liberty County Times

June 29, 1944

Pioneer Matron is Called by Death

Mrs. Mary Ann Walden, beloved pioneer matron of the community, mother of Roy and Claude Walden, Chester business men, died at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Walden Sunday night, June 24th, following an illness of only a few hours.

Mrs. Walden had apparently been in usual health during the day Sunday, and had gone to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Walden for dinner. After dinner she had gone with the family for a ride, but on returning was stricken with a heart attack or stroke, and passed away in short time.

Funeral services will be held this (Thursday) afternoon at two o'clock from the Methodist church in Chester, after which the body will be taken to Walker Station, near Eugene, Oregon, for burial beside her husband. The body will be accompanied by four sons.

Mrs. Walden was a typical pioneer woman of the west. She was born June 3rd, 1857, at Cottage Grove, Oregon, and was one of the first white children born in the state of Oregon. She was just past 87 years of age at the time of her passing, and was the sole surviving member of a family of five children. She was the oldest daughter of John F. and Mary Jane Walker, pioneer residents of Oregon who were attracted to the west coast during the gold rush of 1849. She was married in 1878 to Nathan B. Walden at Weston, Oregon, and a year later moved to the Willamette Valley and with her husband established a home near what is now the city of Eugene, where they resided continuously until 1904. In the latter year the

couple moved to Grangeville, Idaho where they lived for a year, and then moved to Alberta, where they resided until 1909, when they came to Montana, where they lived until 1927, when they moved back to the old home near Eugene. Here Mr. and Mrs. Walden made their home until 1927, when Mr. Walden passed on. After the death of her husband Mrs. Walden returned to Chester, and has made her home here since with her son, Roy.

Mrs. Walden raised a family of seven sons, all of whom are living. They are George, Mark, Ralph, and Paul Walden, all living in Alberta; John Walden, living in Eugene, and Roy and Claude Walden, living in Chester.

With his son, Roy, Mr. Walden established a mercantile business in Chester, but later sold his interest in the business to Claude Walden when he and Mrs. Walden returned to their old home in Oregon. Since that time the business has been continued under the firm name of Walden Brothers.

During their residence in the Chester community, Mr. and Mrs. Walden made friends with all of the residents during that period. Their home was a haven of hospitality and help and advice for the homesteaders, workers and others here at that time. Mr. Walden was a lay minister of the Gospel, and religious services were often held in their home.

Mrs. Walden lived to a good old age, enjoyed an eventful and useful life, and leaves to her family and all those who knew her a heritage of loving service and companionship that will ever be cherished in fondest memory.

EDWIN J. WIGEN

Born: October 1, 1887 - Died: April 27, 1944

Liberty County Times

May 4, 1944

Funeral Services Held for Edwin J. Wigen

Funeral services for the late Edwin J. Wigen, 56, who died last Thursday in a local hospital following a lingering illness, were held Sunday afternoon at the Methodist church in Chester at two o'clock, with Rev. J. Torrance Harvey in charge of the service.

A large number of old friends and neighbors, including quite a number from out of town, were present to pay their last respects to a departed friend.

Edwin J. Wigen died at the hospital in Chester on Thursday, April 25th, following a lingering illness, at the age of 56 years. He had been in poor health for several years, but his condition took a turn for the worse early last week, and he was taken to the hospital, the end coming Thursday about eleven o'clock.

Edwin J. Wigen was born at Standhope, Iowa, October 1st, 1887. He is survived by three children, Mrs. Lawrence Coats, of Portland, Oregon, Pvt. Donald Wigen, in the Coast Artillery, serving in the Aleutian Islands, Cpl. Leo. Wigen, in the anti-aircraft, serving in England.

He is also survived by one brother, O. J. Wigen of Chester and three sisters living in Iowa, Mrs. J. S. Brown, of Estherville, Mrs. W. J. Fagan and Miss Sadie Wigen, of Laurens, Iowa. There is one granddaughter.

Edwin Wigen, lovingly known to all his friends as "Slim, homesteaded near Hingham, where he lived for a number of years. He moved to the Chester community in 1927 and made his home here most of the time since. He spent some time working in the oil fields at Kevin.

EDWIN J. WIGEN
Born: October 1, 1887 - Died: April 27, 1944
Hi-Line Weekly, Havre
May 4, 1944

**Edwin J. Wigen Rites
Held at Chester**

Funeral services were held Sunday afternoon in the Methodist church at Chester for Edwin J. Wigen, who passed away in the Chester hospital last Thursday morning following a protracted illness of heart trouble. Rev. J. Torrance Harvey of Chester, who conducted the services, read the 23rd Psalm and gave tribute to the departed as an esteemed pioneer, neighbor and friend. Burial was at Chester.

Palbearers were John Kulpas, Otto Welchel, E. A. Bathke, J. T. Smith, E. A. Albright and John Kindschy.

Miss Mary Plank, Mrs. Fred Brown, Mrs. Dora Helmbigner and Mrs. Frank Eggers accompanied by Mrs. Marlon Thellman sang "Nearer Still Nearer," "No Night There" and "Near The Cross."

Mr. Wigen was born at Stanhope, Iowa, on Oct. 1, 1887, the son of Mr. and Mrs. M. O. Wigen. He came to Montana in the spring of 1910 and located on a homestead seven miles northeast of Hingham where he resided until 1927 when he accepted work in the Kevin oil field. A few years after he and his children made their home at Chester.

Mr. Wigen is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Lawrence Coats of Portland, Oregon, the former Esther Wigen who graduated from the Sacred Heart school of nursing at Havre in 1939; two sons, Donald with the coast artillery in the Aleutians, and Leo with an anti-aircraft unit in England; a brother, Oscar Wigen of Chester and three sisters, Mrs. J. S. Brown of Estherville, Iowa, and Mrs. Will Fajen and Miss Sadie Wigen of Laurens, Iowa; also one granddaughter.

"Slim" as many of his old Hingham friends well remember him, took an active part in the development of this section of the hi-line. He not only busted many acres of virgin sod and later knocked out many bushels of golden grain with his threshing machine, but also took time off, during those busy days, to play ball with the Hingham team at his customary place behind the plate. He was a good loser and never enjoyed a game without fair play, not only in base ball but in all the varied and complex games in the great drama of life he always championed the rights of those less fortunate. His standard of wealth was not measured in worldly goods but rather in the kindred bonds of true friendship and service. His philosophy of life was based upon the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man.

ALLEN WOARE

Born: N/A - Died: October 31, 1944

Liberty County Times

November 2, 1944

FUNERAL SERVICES HELD IN HELENA FOR ALLEN WOARE

Military rites for Allan Woare, 23, machinist's mate, second class, who was killed Tuesday at San Diego, Calif., in a motor accident at a navy flying field, will be conducted, here Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock in the Opp and Conrad chapel. The Rev. Nels Norbeck of St. John's Lutheran church will officiate.

The guard of honor and pallbearers will be composed of Carroll college naval cadets. Honorary will be Sgt. Ernest (Buzz) Palmquist, Lt. Lee Schimpf and Lt. Henry Schimpf, all of the U. S. army; Midshipman Jean Picotte of the navy, and Kenneth Johnson and Lt. Jack Rummell of the marines.

Burial will be in Forestvale cemetery.

Petty Officer Woare, who was born in Chester, is the son of the late Henry O. Woare and Mrs. Marie Woare, 1233 Leslie. He saw action in the South Pacific on the aircraft carrier Bataan. He was promoted to second class machinist's mate only a few days before his death and was scheduled for leave to come home in two days.

Out-of-town persons who will attend the services include his uncle, Oliver Morkid, Chester; two aunts Mrs. Cliff Lucas and Mrs. Sadie Visby, Spokane, and Mrs. Gertrude Drumheller, Cut Bank.—Helena Independent-Record.