

**MAGNA BAKKE**

**Born: 1872 - Died: 1939**

**Liberty County Times**

**April 27, 1939**

**MRS. MAGNA BAKKE  
FUNERAL WEDNESDAY**

The body of Magna Bakke who had died in Chicago on Thursday was laid to its final rest from the Lutheran church at Joplin last Wednesday at 2 P. M.

## FRED C. BLAIR

Born: December 16, 1873 - Died: 1939

Liberty County Times

March 30, 1939

# PROMINENT MAN AND OLD TIMER ANSWERS CALL

## FRED BLAIR PASSES ON

Fred Blair, the well known rancher and stockman north of Galata, died at home after an illness of several days.

The body was immediately taken in charge by the funeral service of Holland and Bonine.

Fred C. Blair was born Dec. 16, 1873, the son of Samuel Blair. He came to Montana in 1889, settling in Flathead County. In 1917 he came to Liberty County and purchased the Bourne and Hamilton irrigated 20 miles north of Chester. Thus he has operated every since.

On Dec. 23, 1886 he was married to Anna Cox of Kalispell, who died in July 1938.

Surviving him are five daughters: Mrs. Truman Spencer of Galata, Mrs. Albert Rehn of Kalispell, Mrs. Torger Forseth of Missoula, Mrs. Melvin Lykens of Kalispell, and Miss Beatrice Blair of Galata. Two sons also survive; Harvey and Jess of Galata; one brother, Earsel Blair of Kalispell, and one sister, Mrs. Eva Dietrick of Denver.

Funeral services were conducted from the Methodist church in Chester Monday at 2:30 by Rev. Holland and the remains taken to Kalispell for burial at the side of his wife who preceded him a year ago.

Fred Blair was a home-loving man and spent most of his life attending to his crops and his flocks. He had developed one of the most artistic and attractive ranch homes in the county. A large number of his old friends attended the funeral.

## MARY GRAY BROWN

Born: 1858 - Died: 1939

Liberty County Times

August 3, 1939

### *Mrs. Walter Brown, 81, Early Settler, Passes on*

Mrs. Walter Brown, 81, pioneer matron of the Highwoods and Hill county and active in the development of those areas since her arrival in Montana in 1886, died recently in Havre. Funeral services were held at the Presbyterian church there, with the Rev. Conrad Wollen officiating. The body was placed in the mausoleum at Great Falls.

Mary Gray Brown was born in Glasgow, Scotland, one of 12 children. In 1885 she married Walter Brown in Minneapolis and the following year came to Montana with her husband, first living south of Fort Benton, where he engaged in the sheep business. In 1889 they settled near Box Elder and resided on a ranch there until 1926, when they moved to Havre. He rose to the presidency of Hill County State bank of Havre and the Farmers State bank of Chinook.

She was active in work of the Presbyterian church and Eastern Star until stricken by illness in 1930, from which she never recovered.

In addition to the husband, survivors include six children, Mrs. Ed Kaugher, Box Elder; Jack, Kalispell; William, Box Elder; Walter, Chester; and Helen and James, Havre; three sisters, Mrs. David MacKensie, Seattle; Mrs. Margaret Buck, Montague, and Mrs. Henry Schwartz Sr., Gilford, and a brother, Allen E. Gray, Highwood.

## WILLIAM WALLACE BUSEY

Born: 1909 - Died: June 7, 1939

Liberty County Times

June 29, 1939

### SON OF TIMES EDITOR PASSES AT VALIER

William Wallace Busey, only son of Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Busey, of Chester, passed into the Great Beyond at Valier on the night of June 7th.

Deceased was thirty years of age, and was a brilliant young newspaper man. He was a graduate of the Conrad high school and attended the University of Montana at Missoula for three years, taking a course in journalism. By training, experience, educational qualifications and natural aptitude he was well equipped for a brilliant newspaper career. The first of May he took complete charge of The Valerian, in Pondera county and was doing an excellent job of providing the Valier community with a first class newspaper service.

His untimely passing is mourned by his family and a large circle of friends in Pondera county and in many parts of the state.

He is survived by his parents, one sister, Mrs. C. L. Wilson, of Golden-dale, Washington, his widow and a little son who was two years old in April.

The remains were taken to Kalispell on Friday of last week and laid to rest in the family plot in the beautiful Conrad Memorial cemetery in that city.

## AXEL CARLSON

Born: March 27, 1911 - Died: August 29, 1939

Liberty County Times

August 31 - September 7, 1939

# Axel Carlson Killed When Truck Overturns on Road

Axel Carlson, prominent and well known young farmer of the community just southwest of Chester, was instantly killed on the county road two and one-half miles southwest of Joplin some time Tuesday night or early Wednesday morning when the truck he was driving toward home overturned.

Carlson, who was harvesting his crop on land between Chester and Joplin, had gone into Joplin Tuesday evening for some repairs. He had been working long hours in the harvest, and remarked that he was very tired while in Joplin. He spent some time in town, and then started for home, and it is believed that he fell asleep at the wheel and his truck left the grade. The truck had turned back onto the roadway after being turned over, and was headed in the opposite direction to that which it was traveling when the accident occurred. Carlson was evidently killed instantly, as his head was badly crushed and the body severely mangled.

The accident occurred about one mile south and one mile west of the intersection of the highway and the road turning into Joplin, and about a half mile from the home of the parents of the victim.

When Carlson failed to come home Tuesday night, Mrs. Carlson was apprehensive that some accident might have befallen him, and early Wednesday morning started a search. She went to the home of his parents, Algot Carlsons, and made inquiry, but on being informed that the missing man had not been at that place started toward Joplin. About a half mile north of the Algot Carlson place she came onto the wreck, and immediately summoned help.

Sheriff Dodds Keith and Under-sheriff Otto Fossen, Corner Nelson and County Attorney Harvey rushed out to the scene of the accident, and brought the body into town. Undertaker Bonine of the Havre office of Holland & Bonine was notified and came out and took the body to Havre.

Thursday morning funeral services were announced. Services will be held from the Lutheran church in Joplin at two o'clock Saturday afternoon, after which the body will be brought to Chester and burial services will be in the Chester cemetery.

The accident was one of the worst to occur in this county in many months, and was a distinct shock to the many friends of the family.

Axel Carlson was born on a farm north of Joplin, March 27, 1911, and spent his entire life in this community. He attended school here and at Joplin, and was married on November 18th last year, to Violet Jabes, of Chester. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Carlson established their home on a farm three miles southeast of town.

Deceased was an industrious, upright young man, and had a wide circle of friends and acquaintances throughout the county. He was a successful young farmer, and this year had a large crop on his place near town, and also on land near Joplin. His tragic death is sincerely mourned by all who knew him, and the stricken family have the sincere sympathy and condolence of the entire community.

He is survived by his parents, Algot and Anna (Handsford) Carlson; his wife; a sister, Mrs. Jack Minnihan of Columbia Falls; and three brothers, Eric of Tekoa, Wash., Melvin of Inverness, and Ervin of Joplin.

### FUNERAL SERVICES HELD FOR CAR ACCIDENT VICTIM

A large number of the friends and associates of Axel Carlson who was accidentally killed when his truck overturned two miles southwest of Joplin Tuesday night of last week, attended funeral services for the deceased at the Lutheran church in Joplin last Saturday afternoon. The body was brought to Chester following the church services, and laid to rest in the cemetery here.

It is believed that the accident was caused by the steering wheel on the truck locking. The accident occurred on a straight road, and if the wheel locked, as it is now thought, the truck was suddenly thrown from the road and overturned. The truck had been used for several years, and had given trouble in the steering apparatus before, giving rise to the belief that this was the cause of the fatal accident.

## JOSEPH CICON

Born: March 17, 1866 - Died: December 12, 1939

Liberty County Times

December 14, 1939

### JOSEPH CICON DIES SUDDENLY OF ACUTE HEART ATTACK

Joseph Cicon, well known old time resident of the community north of Joplin, died at the hospital in Chester on Tuesday morning of this week, a few hours after he had been brought to the city for treatment for a heart ailment.

Mr. Cicon had been in his usual health up until a short time before he was stricken with the heart attack, and his passing came as a surprise and shock to his family and friends. He was in a serious condition when he reached the hospital, and died within a comparatively short time.

Deceased had lived in the Joplin community for the past thirty years, and was well known throughout the county. He is survived by his wife and two sons, all residing in the county.

Funeral services were held Thursday afternoon from the Methodist church in Chester, and burial was in the Chester cemetery.

## E. A. (AL) ENGSTROM

Born: November 29, 1878 - Died: January 29, 1939

Liberty County Times

February 2, 1939

# EARLY RESIDENT OF CHESTER LAID TO FINAL REST

### ACTIVE BUSINESS LIFE COMES TO ACLOSE

E. A. (Al) Engstrom was born in Sweden Nov. 29, 1878, and came with his parents to the State of Mississippi where his father died when young Al was three years of age, and when a young man of 21 came to Montana and was employed in various capacities around the city of Lewistown, coming to Chester at the age of 21 and became identified with the ranchers in and around the Sweet Grass Hills; being in the employ at different times of Frank Laird, T. P. Strode and others in those parts.

Becoming interested in business enterprises in Chester, he opened a garage and automobile business here in 1914 in which he was engaged up to the time of his death.

On December 13 he was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Paris, who survives him, and to this union four children were born--John, a daughter that died in infancy and Sidney and Stanley. Two sister also survive, one in Mississippi and one in Illinois.

He assed away at the Deaconess Hospital in Great Falls Sunday morning at 8 o'clock and funeral services conducted from the Community Hall at Chester under the stateily service of the Brotherhood of Odd Fellows, following which the remains were laid to rest in the local cemetery. The crowds that turned out to apck the hall must have numbered more than 400 persons. Blocks of were reserved to the Rebeckahs, the Theta Rhos and the members of the ord, and flowers and songs attest the general regard.

Al Engstrom was a thoughtful man, his judgement and keen insight, was quiet but penetrating, and charged with a rare courage of conviction made his advice eagerly sought even by those with whom he difiered. The foundling and the unfortunate felt the warm glow of his restless but sympathetic heart--another rugged pioneer dissapears from whence he came---into the unknown---followed by the respect and esteem of the entire community.

Pall Bearers--T. P. Strode, Les Ward, Wm. Schafer, Harry Demarest Bert Furnell J. N. Bingham,

**MARIE GREEN**

**Born: January 17, 1895 - Died: February 25, 1939**

**Liberty County Times**

**March 2, 1939**

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**MRS. GREEN  
OF JOPLIN  
PASSES AWAY**

Mrs. Marie Green, 44, of Joplin, died at Chester on Saturday from pneumonia. The body is at the Holland and Bonine Funeral Service and will be removed to Joplin for burial.

She was born in Norway in 1895 the daughter of Emil Harlem. She migrated to the United States and settled at Barton, N. D. in 1900. In the fall of 1916 she was married to Edward Green at Barton.

Mrs. Green came to Montana in 1917 and settled in the Alma country north of Joplin. For the past 13 years she has been the housekeeper for Frank Calin. She was a member of the Lutheran church at Joplin and of the Alma Ladies Aid And.

Surviving her are two daughters, Verda and Donna, a brother, Carl Harlem, all of Joplin, and a sister Esther of Four Mountain, Sask.

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**JOSEPH HEIMBIGNER**

**Born: 1896 - Died: December 25, 1939**

**Liberty County Times**

**December 28 , 1939**

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**JOSEPH HEIMBIGNER PASSES**

Joseph Heimbigner, a resident of the Chester community for many years, died on Christmas Day, following a lingering illness. Funeral services were held Thursday afternoon from the Methodist church in Chester, and interment was in the Chester cemetery.

**JOHN HOLZER**

**Born: 1929 - Died: January 2, 1939**

**Liberty County Times**

**January 5, 1939**

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**INVERNESS CHILD  
IS DRAGGED TO  
DEATH BY COW**

**John Holtzer, Ten-Year-Old  
Lad, Succumbs Following  
Harrowing Experience**

John Holzer, ten year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Adam Holzer, of Inverness died Monday evening following being dragged three blocks by a cow through the Inverness streets about 5 o'clock.

The child was rescued by Ben Wilmes, who started to take the boy to a physician in Chester, but the child died on the way. Wilmes and Donald Meyer brought the boy to Havre where the body is at the Holland and Bonine funeral home.

The boy, who was bringing home the cow, had tied the cow's rope around his body. The animal became frightened, and dragged the boy, fracturing the skull, and inflicting other bruises and cuts.

Surviving are the boy's parents and three other children.

## MRS. GEORGE ISAACS

Born: October 14, 1881 - Died: October 20, 1939

Liberty County Times

October 26, 1939

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### MRS. GEO. ISAACS OF JOPLIN VICTIM OF HEART ATTACK

Mrs. George Isaacs, well known matron of the Joplin community, passed away at the hospital in Chester on Friday afternoon of last week, after an extended illness with a heart disorder.

Mrs. Isaacs had been in poor health for several months, and had taken special treatments at the Havre hospital and other places for some time. She was brought to the hospital here early last week, when her trouble was diagnosed as a heart disorder. She was apparently progressing satisfactorily until Friday afternoon, when her condition became critical and she passed away during the late afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Isaacs came to the Joplin community in 1914, and had made their home on their farm, which they homesteaded, since that time. They have one son, George, Jr., who is connected with the Great Northern Railway company, and lives in St. Paul. Mrs. Isaacs was 57 years of age at the time of her passing.

Both Mrs. Isaacs and her husband have taken a prominent part in the community life of the county. Mr. Isaacs is at present chairman of the county Soil Conservation committee. They came to the Joplin community from Forest City, Iowa, and took a homestead seven miles northwest of Joplin, where they made their home continuously since 1914.

The remains were taken back to the old home at Forest City, Iowa, where funeral services and interment will be held. Mr. Isaacs accompanied the body east, and will be joined by the son at St. Paul.

Friends who accompanied Mr. Isaacs to the train Saturday evening included Messrs. True Ray, George Gau, Otto Fossen, Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Smith and Mrs. O. M. Farden.

Sincerest sympathy is extended the bereaved family by their friends throughout the county.

**JOE JENSEN**

**Born: 1876 - Died: 1939**

**Liberty County Times**

**April 20, 1939**

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**JOE JENSEN  
PASSES AWAY**

Joe Jensen, 63, resident of this country for many years, died at his home on the north side of the city this afternoon at about 11 o'clock.

The deceased was an early homesteader north of Joplin. Previous to that time he had punched cows on the early ranches of Montana, having come here from Iowa in 1896. He was in the saloon business at Gold Butte, Hill and Chester for a number of years. Coming to Shelby he ran the St. Paul Pavilion, he sold three years ago to Roy Mitchell. He has also conducted a rooming house on the north side.

When the Glacier Park area was made a park in 1900, Jensen was one of the early day guides and helped lay out many of the present trails.

He had an adventurous life and in 1900 spent a full year traveling in Europe.---Shelby Promoter.

GEORGE C. JOHNSON

Born: N/A - Died: April 15, 1939

Liberty County Times

April 27, 1939

## FORMER CITIZEN PASSES AWAY IN WEST COAST CITY

GEORGE C. JOHNSON  
PASSES AWAY

George C. Johnson, died suddenly Sunday April 15 at his home in Portland, Oregon.

He was a former resident of Joplin and very prominent and active in public affairs. He was for twenty years an employe of the Treasury Department at Portland, Oregon, and a later enter the legal profession in which he achieved success. He is

well and favorably remembered by the many old friends who knew him in this community years ago.

He was a son of Harriet McClaren, formerly of Topeka, Kansas and Chester, Montana and James Johnson of Topeka, Kansas. His wife, formerly Margaret Toile of Portland and 3 sons survive.

Ralph McClaren, a brother from north of Joplin, left for Portland on Tuesday to be present at the funeral.

## OLGA KULPAS

Born: N/A - Died: June 27, 1939

Liberty County Times

June 29, 1939

### LOCAL GIRL PASSEES AWAY

Miss Olga Kulpas passed away about 7:00 p. m. Tuesday evening at the Sacred Heart hospital in Havre. She had been ill for several days but her condition was not at first thought to be critical. Dr. Delaney took her to Havre last Friday morning and all efforts were made in her behalf. She was apparently the victim of a form of sleeping sickness.

Miss Kulpas has been employed in the past at the Golden West Hotel and at the local theatre. She was an exceptionally pleasant young lady and had many friends. She is survived by her father, John Kulpas, a brother, Eddie, and a sister, Hilda.

At the time of going to press it cannot be learned whether or not funeral arrangements have been made.

## CARL MARTEL

Born: October 25, 1852 - Died: February 19, 1939

Liberty County Times

March 2, 1939

### FORMER LOCAL MAN DIES IN WISCONSIN

Word has been received here of the passing of one of Chester's early settlers, of whom many of our old timers will remember. Mr. Carl Martel of Iron River, Wisconsin died at the home of his son George Martel on Feb. 19, 1939. Mr. Martel came to Chester in the early days of 1910 where he made his home for many years, making many warm and loyal friends.

With his wife and family he resided on a homestead about 2 1/4 miles south of Chester when they arrived in the new country.

Later they moved into town and opened up a bakery. Selling out the bakery business, he in company with John Ward went into the livery business while Mrs. Martel and Birdie opened what is known as the Star Cafe where the electric shop one stood.

After a few years of active business here Mr. Ward decided to return to Wisconsin where he had property interests. Back once more in Wisconsin he opened up a dairying industry near the famous summer residence homes that line the shores of Battle River.

His dairy had the distinction of supplying President Coolidge and his party with dairy products when the former was enjoying a fishing trip on the Brule River.

Mr. Martel continued in the dairy business up to 1933 when after the death of his wife he retired from active business and went to make his home with his son George.

Mr. Martel was born at St. Peters Canada Oct. 25, 1852 and came to the United States when a boy, residing in Wisconsin until he came to Montana, only to return to his former haunts in Wisconsin, where he passed away. During the past few years he has returned to Chester for a short sojourn with old relatives and friends.

He leaves to mourn his death his son George Martel of Iron River, Wisconsin and a daughter, Mrs. Birdie Ward of Chester, Montana.

Two brothers, Emmett of Chester, Montana and Ray of Iron River, Wisconsin; eighteen grand-children, were at his bedside to witness his passing away into the unknown.

## MARY MUIR

Born: 1859 - Died: August 25, 1939

Liberty County Times

August 31, 1939

### PIONEER RESIDENT CALLED BY DEATH LAST FRIDAY

Mrs. Mary Muir, one of the pioneer and highly respected citizens of the Chester community for the past quarter of a century, passed away at her home three miles north of town on Friday of last week, August 25th, at the age of eighty years, following a prolonged illness caused from the infirmities of old age.

Mrs. Muir came to this community in 1910, and had resided here continuously since that time. Her husband passed away in 1917, but since that time she had made her home on the farm with her son Robert.

The body was taken to Havre and prepared for burial, and later taken to Mantau, Alberta, where funeral services were held on Monday of this week. The husband was buried at Mantau.

Two sons, Alex and James, came over from their homes near Augusta, and went to Alberta for the funeral service. Deceased is survived by several sons and daughters, including one daughter, Mrs. Ray Cushing, residing in Chester.

## MESHACK ROSS

Born: February 27, 1849 - Died: May 16, 1939

Liberty County Times

May 25, 1939

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### OBITUARY

Meshack Ross was born February 27, 1849 in Kosciusko County, Indiana and passed away early Tuesday Morning May 16th, at the age of 90 years. He was the eleventh in a family of thirteen children, only one of whom now survives. On February 19th, 1874 he was married to Elizebth Adaline Taylor and to this union, six children were born. His early life was spent on a farm and later he moved to Leesburg, Indiana, where he operated the telephone office and a passanger and freight office for a street car company.

In 1910, Mr. and Mrs. Ross came to Montana and homesteaded ten miles north of Chester where they resided until failing health caused them to move to the present home at 2525 Third Avenue South in Great Falls. On February 19th of this year they observed their 65th wedding anniversary.

The desceased is survived by his widow and the children; Carl and Laomer of Ill., Virgil of Great Falls, George of Rexford, Jay of Chester and Mrs. Leotha Scott of San Jose, California; a brother Cyrus Ross of Warsaw, Indiana; twelve grand children and four great grand children Also many other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were held at the Croxford Merrill Mortuary at two o'clock Friday afternoon and interment was made in the Highland Cemetery of Great Falls.

## SKONARD CHILD

Born: February, 1937 - Died: November 13, 1939

Liberty County Times

November 16, 1939

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### SKONARD CHILD DIES IN HAVRE

...The young son of Mr. and Mrs. Palmer Skonard of Joplin, 21 months old, died at the hospital in Havre last Monday evening, after a short illness of about three weeks. Symptoms of a severe illness were not noticeable until he suddenly appeared getting worse when he grew rapidly worse. His parents and a three year old sister are the survivors.

Funeral services were held in the church at Joplin Wednesday Nov. 16 by the Rev. Thronson.

**CHRISTIAN SMESTED**

**Born: 1876 – Died: January 4, 1939**

**Liberty County Times**

**February 16, 1939**

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**OLD RESIDENT  
PASSES IN PORTLAND**

Ole Smested received news the first of the week of the death of his brother Christian Smested who passed away on January 4 at the Veteran's Hospital in Portland at the age of 63 years.

Deceased homesteaded near Chester in the early days taking up a homestead in 1913. He leaves a wife and four children.

He enlisted at Great Falls in 1917 and saw his full share of battle on the Franco-German front, and after the war spent a year in Berlin.

MARGARET E. ARPUETTE STAUDACHER

Born: July 19, 1866 - Died: February 14, 1939

Liberty County Times

February 23, 1939

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**POPULAR MATRON**

**PASSES ON**

Margaret E. Staudacher, aged 72 years and 6 mos. died at the home of her daughter Mrs. L. B. Williams in Yakima, Wash. Feb. 14th, 1939.

Funeral services were held Feb. 17 from the Methodist Church in Chester, Rev. Kuller officiating, and was laid to rest beside her husband who died in 1930.

Margaret E. Arpuette was born in Necedah, Wisconsin, July 19th, 1866. She was married to John Staudacher in 1892 and 9 children were born to them, two dying in infancy. The family moved to Chester in 1910, and homesteaded six miles south of Chester.

She enjoyed good health until June 13th, 1938, when she suffered a paralytic stroke followed Jan. 22nd, 1939 and her death occurred Feb. 14th.

Those surviving are four daughters; Mrs. Nettie Folger, Duluth, Minn.; Mrs. Duvall Keith and Mrs. Frank Eggers of Chester and Mrs. L. B. Williams of Yakima, Wash.

Three sons, Leonard, John and George all of Chester, also 18 grand children and one grandson. Three sisters; Mrs. Pauline Spencer, Mrs. Rene Pete and Mrs. Exilda Callies, also two brothers James and Louie Arquette all of Wisconsin.

She had a very pleasing and cheerful disposition, was a good mother, fond neighbor and an honest friend to many.

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# JOE TEEL KILLED IN PLANE CRASH

## JOE TEEL

Born: 1911 - Died: June 24, 1939

Liberty County Times

June 29, 1939

The life of Joe Teel, respected and popular young man of the Chester community, was snuffed out in an air plane crash forty-five miles south west of Chester about eight o'clock Sunday evening, June 24th, when one of the wings on the plane he was flying crumpled at an altitude of about 2000 feet and the ship plummeted to earth.

The accident occurred near the Ray Woods ranch, thirty miles east of Brady, in Choteau county, while six friends were watching.

Teel left Chester Friday night, flying the plane to the Woods ranch, intending to do some work on the engine and tune up the plane preparatory to doing some stunt flying at the Stampede celebration here over the coming week-end. He had completed the work on the engine, and had been doing some practice stunting with the ship during the afternoon. Just before the fatal accident he was in the air with Eddie Olson, a close friend and associate, and after several tests had made a safe landing. He decided, however, to make one more flight and when up a distance estimated at about two thousand feet, went into a power dive. He was coming out of the dive, with the nose of the ship pointed upward, when the right wing crumpled and folded back against the fusilage. With the wing gone, the driver had no control of the machine, and it spun and pointed earthward like a rocket, crashing into the ground with a terrible impact.

The ignition switch had been thrown off before the impact, and no fire resulted. The body, while entangled in the wreckage, was not badly mangled. Six friends and helpers, who had been assisting during the afternoon and watching the tests, witnessed the tragic incident.

Choteau county authorities were notified at once, and the coroner and other officials went out and recovered the body. The remains were taken to Choteau, where a thorough investigation was held. Funeral arrangements were not completed until relatives were heard from.

Teel had bought the plane, a Waco two seater, several years ago, and had about sixty hours flying time. He was not a licensed pilot. The plane was brought to the state in 1928 by Earl Vance, pioneer pilot.

Joe Teel was about twenty-eight years of age at the time of his passing. He was born and raised on a ranch thirty miles east of Brady, near the scene of his death. His mother died when he was quite young, and he had been on his own most of the time since he was twelve or fifteen years of age.

A few years ago he went to Opheim, in the eastern part of the state, where he was engaged in the garage and automobile business with Steve Bowen, now of Chester. About two years ago he and Mr. Bowen came to Chester and took over the Chevrolet garage, Teel having charge of the shop. Last summer he opened a shop of his own in Chester, the Motor Home garage, on the highway, which he operated up to the time of his death. He was unmarried.

Known surviving relatives include the father, who was near Lewistown at the time of the tragedy, and three brothers, one living at Carter and the other two thought to be living in the state of Washington or some other state on the coast.

Funeral services were held at ten o'clock Wednesday morning from the Catholic church in Fort Benton. A large number of friends and former associates from Chester attended the services.

Residents of Chester contributed generously to providing a floral wreath in memory of Joe Teel. The huge floral offering was in the shape of an airplane.

MILLIE A. (VARGER) THOMPSON

Born: August 25, 1866 - Died: November 6, 1939

Liberty County Times

November 16, 1939

MRS. MILLIE A. THOMPSON

Funeral services for Mrs. Millie A. Thompson were held Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock at the Waggener & Campbell Chapel by Rev. L. M. Darnell of the Baptist Church.

During the service Don Shepard sang two solo selections, accompanied at the piano by Mrs. H. E. Robin. Friends acting as pall bearers were Walter Fehlberg, Jesse Adams, Roy Schaller, J. B. Stickels, Dr. Fred Sundellus and Dr. J. H. McConnell. Interment was made in the Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

Obituary

Mrs. Freman Thompson, nee Millie Varger, was born in Strassburg, Germany, August 25, 1866. She was married to Michael Rocks in Germany at the age of 16, becoming the stepmother of five children, left by the death of Mr. Rock's first wife. In 1900 they moved to a farm near Westakawin, Alberta, Canada, where they lived until 1912, when they moved to Joplin, Montana. There they took up a homestead and lived until Mr. Rocks' death, Sept. 4, 1925. To them nine children were born: Mike and Fred Rocks of Wilbur, Wash.; Albert Rocks of Oakland, Calif.; Julius and John Rocks of Joplin, Mont.; Mrs. Peter Fast, Butterfield, Minn.; Mrs. Martha Steckman, Mrs. Lawrence Lee, and Mrs. Eddie Nordtome of Kalispell.

In 1927 Mrs. Rocks came to Kalispell where she made her home until she married Freman Thompson of Sequim, Wash., on August 25, 1935. She lived in Washington until August 10, this year, when she was brought to Kalispell to be with her daughters. Mrs. Thompson passed away at the home of Mrs. Eddie Nordtome, Nov. 6, 1939. She was a member of the Baptist Church and a faithful worker as long as her health permitted.

She leaves to mourn her departure, her husband, five sons, four daughters, sixteen grandchildren, and one great grandchild, and a host of neighbors and friends. —Kalispell Daily Inter Lake,

## JAMES TOWNSEND

Born: N/A - Died: June 18, 1939

Liberty County Times

June 29, 1939

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### Former Chester Man Dies in California

Word was received here this week of the death of James Townsend, prominent pioneer stockman of the Marias river country south of Chester at his home in Los Angeles, California, on Sunday, June 18th, following a month's illness.

Mr. Townsend was well known in Chester and all of Montana. For years he was foreman of the Circle ranch, on the Marias river, and later became widely known as a raiser of pure-bred Hereford cattle on his own ranch on the river, which included the old Circle ranch.

He moved to California in the early thirties, where he has since made his home. Mrs. Townsend passed away in January, 1937.

Deceased leaves to mourn his passing five daughters and one son, and a wide circle of old time friends and acquaintances.

Burial was in California.

## WILLIAM TOWNSHEND

Born: August 8, 1884 - Died: 1939

Liberty County Times

February 2, 1939

# PIONEER RANCHER MAKES OF HILLS LAST ROUNDUP

### POPULAR FIGURE AND PIONEER OF WHITLASH CHOSSES LAST FRONTIER

William Townshend was born at San Francisco August 8, 1884 and at the age of twelve years his family moved with him to Reno, Nevada. At the age of 13 his mother died and two years later he left home to shift for himself. His travelogue found him at Butte for a short time, then he drifted into the employ of the stock firm of Poindexter and Orr, and it was for this firm in 1903 that he came into the Sweet Grass Hills and took up the homestead upon which he continued to live until the time of his death.

Here he met and married Miss Emily Bingham who passed away in 19018 and lies buried in the cemetery at Spokane.

William Townshend was one of a now rapidly disappearing type of plainsman---one of those restless spirits who push back frontiers and revel in the dare and adventure of living, of life's activities and of the unknown future.

He is said to have drove the first herd of Longhorns into Liberty County and had an important part in establishing the high reputation of the Hills as a grazing country and a Mecca for cattlemen.

"Bill" was as well known for his sterling integrity and sense of duty as for a peculiar quiet humor that ran like threads of gold through and through his conversation. A calm dignity clothed his mannerisms and drew to him the respect and esteem of his community.

He lived at the top of the distant Hills and delighted in moving about scape below; and it was while thus his yard looking down upon the land-occupied his heart failed and he fell looking out over the vast panorama of prairies and plains sweeping on to the sunset.

His passing sent tremors of remorse quivering thruout the homes of his neighborhood, and the friends gathered into hear the last farewells of the pastor, strew his corse with flowers and drop a silent sigh to his memory; then he was whisked away over the mountains, and laid down to his final resting place by the side of his wife in the graveyard at Spokane.

## KARL WALKMAN

Born: September 29, 1870 - Died: November 13, 1939

Liberty County Times

November 16, 1939

### KARL WALKMAN, PIONEER RESIDENT CALLED BY DEATH

1939  
Karl Walkman, who has been a highly respected citizen of the Chester community for the past twenty-eight years, died at the family home northwest of Chester on Monday, November 13th, from a heart attack, at the age of sixty-nine years.

Mr. Walkman moved to the Chester community with his family, twenty-eight years ago, homesteading northwest of town. He is survived by seven children, five sons and two daughters. Three sons, Jacob, John and Oscar Walkman, live in Chester, and two sons, Edward Walkman and Arthur Walkman, reside in Hillsboro, Oregon. One daughter, Mrs. D. R. Sigler, lives in Milwaukee, Wis., and another daughter, Miss Wilma Walkman lives in Great Falls.

Funeral services will be held Thursday afternoon, November 16th, in the Lutheran church in Chester.

#### Obituary

Karl Walkman was born in Tallin, Esthonia. At the age of five years he migrated with his parents to Simfropol, Crimea. There his parents made their home in a near-by village. There he grew up and at the age of twenty-two married Luisa Malberg. They made their home in Crimea for nine years, and four children were born to them, three sons and one daughter. From Crimea Mr. and Mrs. Walkman and their children migrated to Barons, Alberta, Canada, where they resided for one year. One daughter, Wilma, was born in Canada.

From Canada Mr. and Mrs. Walkman moved to the Chester community, where they took up a homestead and lived for many years. Two more sons, Arthur and Oscar, were born here.

**DONALD ROGER WILSON**

**Born: July 4, 1928 - Died: December 14, 1939**

**Liberty County Times**

**December 21, 1939**

**DONALD WILSON PASSES**

Donald Roger Wilson was born July 4th, 1928 in Joplin and passed away at 6 P. M., December 14, 1939, in the Mary Lynn Hospital at Chester, of septic sore throat.

He leaves to mourn his untimely passing; three sisters, Doris, Dorothy and Constance; his father, Burle O. Wilson, his maternal grandmother, Mrs. A. Johnson, his paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Wilson, and many other relatives and friends. He was predeceased by his mother, June 5th, 1937.

He attended school at Joplin and at the time of his death was in the fifth grade.

His passing was a shock to the entire community, with whom he was very popular and who extends to those remaining, their deepest sympathy.