

year later, he returned, bought farm machinery, livestock, and additional land adjoining his homestead. He had intended farming on a larger scale than he previously attempted.

Mr. McGuire died in the fire of his log cabin home in 1926. He had attached a frame kitchen to the log cabin. The fire evidently started in the frame addition and trapped him in the cabin. Karl Sikveland was working in a field nearby and tried to break into the log cabin to rescue him, but was unable to get through the walls to help. Mr. McGuire is buried at Winnett.

McKENNA, Paul Paul and Sue McKenna were married in May of 1981. Paul was from the Jordan area, and Sue was born and raised in Miles City, Montana. They moved to Petroleum County in 1981 when Paul was employed by the Nebraska Feeding Company on Flatwillow Creek. Nebraska Feeding Company was a big steer operation until it was purchased by John Greytak and converted to farming.

In January of 1983 Paul and Sue moved to the Gardner Angus Ranch, north of Winnett on the Dovetail road. In September of 1983, Sue was employed as the clerk of the Winnett School District and worked there for four years until July of 1987, when their daughter, Chelsea Anne, was born.

Just before Chelsea's birth, Paul and Sue moved to the Two Crow Ranch in the Dovetail area where Paul works as a ranch hand and Sue remains home with Chelsea. (Sue McKenna)

McLAUGHLIN, Harry Harry McLaughlin married Ella Murphy, a sister of Joe and Andrew Murphy. They lived four miles west of Valentine on the north Roy-Valentine road.

MESSENGER, Franklin H. Franklin "Frank" H. Messenger was born in 1884 at Fort Scott, Kansas. Delila Rebecca "Helen" Covert was born in 1889 at Fort Scott, Kansas. Frank and Helen were married in 1905. In about 1912 they set out for Montana and homesteaded near Valentine.

They had two daughters — Dorothy (Bevis), born in Kansas in 1906; and Irene (Potter), born in Fergus County in 1909. The girls attended school near Valentine. Irene Messenger Potter reminisced:

"Mail was delivered by a man with a horse and buggy to our mailbox, which was on the main road near our house. The mailman would also deliver groceries and supplies to us. For most of the supplies, my folks would go with team and wagon to either Roy or Winnett. In 1925 the folks got a Whippet, so then we could go by car for the groceries, and even made trips to Lewistown.

"My folks continued to ranch for many years. Frank Messenger died in 1946 and Helen died in 1976. They are both buried at Lewistown."

MESSENGER, Milo Milo and Elsie Messenger lived about three miles northwest of Valentine, and were community leaders. Milo and Frank were brothers.

Milo and Elsie had two children — Russell (1903) and Florence (1907). Florence married Andy Lewis and they now live in Washington.

MINTER, E. P. E. P. Minter lived on the Crooked Creek drainage northwest of Valentine. Mr. Minter had gone to the Alaska Gold Rush and told a very interesting tale of his experiences there. Mr. and Mrs. Minter had no children.

The Winnett Times of July 15, 1921, tells of a neighbor's experience in "coming through the rye":

"Minter, who lives on a ranch six miles north of Valentine, has a 200 acre field of rye planted last fall on summer fallow. More than a week ago the rye stood taller than Minter, who stands more than six feet in his socks.

"One of his neighbors went to call on Minter, and as the rye field stood directly in his path, he decided to cut across it, as he later related, but after making his way for a considerable time, found he was unable to see in any direction. The day being cloudy, he wandered around until dark.

"The following morning, his wife, becoming worried over his absence, started out in search of her husband. Not finding any trace of him at his intended destination of the previous afternoon, she sought the aid of neighbors who found his tracks where he had entered the field but no trace of where he left it. A few lusty shouts were answered by the lost man within, who was then rescued by men on horseback."

MORRISON, J. V. J. V. Morrison, also known as "Ham," lived on the Crooked Creek-Blood Creek Divide, about seven miles northwest of Valentine. Through the Montgomery Ward ads, J. V. ordered a wife. She left him the day after their wedding dance at Valentine.

MYERS, Benjamin T. (Sec 27-19-27) B. T. "Tiff" Myers, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alonzo Myers, was born December 4, 1892, in Salem, Indiana. He received his education in Indiana. He came to Montana in 1913 by team and wagon from Nebraska, and took up a homestead in the Dovetail area. He left for a time to serve in World War I, then returned to Dovetail.

Lillian Cooper, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Cooper, was born February 12, 1912, at Giltedge, Montana. She received her schooling in Valentine and Lewistown and spent her early life in the Valentine area.

"Tiff" and Lil were married August 10, 1931, at Lewistown. They lived on his homestead until 1948, when they sold the ranch and moved to Winnett and bought and ran "Tiff's Bar" in the historic Hover building. They ran the bar until 1958 when they retired and moved to Lewistown.

The couple had three sons — Roy of Winnett, Lee of McAllister, Montana, and Paul of Harlem, Montana.

Lil also had one son by a previous marriage, Earl E. Atkinson of Edmonds, Washington.

B. T. Myers died November 6, 1970, and Lillian died September 18, 1980.



Charley and Nancy Myers with Harry and John at the homestead

MYERS, Charles M. (Sec 13-19-27) Charles M. Myers was born June 26, 1885, in Salem, Indiana, and received his schooling there. He married Nancy Jackson August 8, 1911, in Chicago, Illinois. They came to Montana in 1913 by team and wagon from Nebraska, and homesteaded in the Dovetail area.

Daughter Elizabeth Myers recollects: "Charles and Nancy homesteaded until 1923, when Charles couldn't resist the oil boom at Cat Creek. Nancy was a nurse, acted as a midwife, and answered any call for help no matter where they lived. Marguerite Coffey told of one time when she was sent to the Myers on horseback to get some eucalyptus oil. When she arrived she couldn't remember the name, so after some questions and suggestions, my mother discerned what she wanted.

"Son, Harry, roamed far and wide. After a rain he could always find arrowheads at Bog Springs but he never did find just where they came from.

"After Cat Creek the family moved back to Dovetail briefly, living in "Tiff" Myers house. Harry and Elizabeth attended school at Dovetail, with Mrs. Galles as the teacher. Transportation to and from school was our faithful horse, Grey. When we moved to Lewistown in 1926 we sold Grey to Coffeys, where we knew he would have a good home.

"The country dances were a highlight for the entire community and John Brown was the life of many of them. I remember that the kids were put behind the piano to sleep. I was one of those and would wake up and watch the hammers pounding. Life was hard but there were good times too, and neighbors were really neighbors.

"Charles and Nancy Myers have both passed on and are buried in the Lewistown City Cemetery."

Charles and Nancy had three children — John, who died as a child; Harry, who served in the Philippines in World War II and afterward settled in Indiana and has resided there since; and Mary Elizabeth "Beth," who married Perry Knapp, has two sons, is now a retired bookkeeper and lives in Billings. (Elizabeth Myers Knapp, daughter) (See also KNAPP — Petrolia)

NELSON, Margaret (Sec 18-18-28) Peyton and Margaret Nelson had two children listed in the District #169 school census in 1919. They were Peyton (1-19-1914) and Elma (8-5-1917).

NESS, Kjetl (Sec 9-18-27) Kjetl Ness was born in Norway. He came to the United States in 1913 and homesteaded in the Dovetail area. He sold his homestead to Tom Iverson when he went off to World War I. Karl Sikveland bought the Ness homestead from Iversons in 1919.

Kjetl came back to Dovetail after the war and bought a place just south of Sikvelands. He was called the "Happy Norwegian" because he was full of fun and entertained the children with acrobatic tricks. He also played the accordion and sang at the dances. Guri Ann Iverson Cook says, "When I was a little girl, Kjetl taught me to dance. He would grab me up, put my feet on top of his and we would dance all around the room. It was great fun!" He married Blanche Payne, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Guy Payne, soon after he returned. They had two children, Dorothy and Harold.

The Ness family moved to Coos Bay, Oregon, in 1927, where Harold died in a diving accident. Dorothy still lives in the Portland area. Blanche and Kjetl are both deceased. (Gunda Sikveland Lewis)

NITCHMAN, John (Sec 22,23,24-18-27) John and Dessie (Moody) Nitchman moved into the Dovetail area around 1914 and each took out a homestead. They raised corn and had a few cows and chickens. Mrs. Nitchman and Mrs. Everett West were sisters. John helped Everett West build stock dams for neighbors. They left Dovetail in 1925 for the Pine Ridge area near Pompeys Pillar. They had five children — Vernon (1-3-1919), Sheldon (5-4-1917), Lila (12-5-1915), Virginia and Sidney. (Sidney Nitchman, son)



Dessie Nitchman at the homestead

NUNN, Gerald "Bub" (Sec 26,27-20-27) Gerald "Bub" Nunn was born during a raging blizzard on December 28, 1923, in North Dakota about eight miles from the Teddy Roosevelt home. He came to Petroleum County in 1964 to the John Hedman place on the Musselshell River. He had also purchased the Horse Camp on Crooked Creek from John and leased the Two

Crow holdings for five years. The family moved to the Sanford place in 1966 so it would be easier to get the children to school on the school bus. Mrs. Nunn died while they were at the Sanford place, leaving Bub with four sons: Jess, now in Odessa, Texas; Jerry, who married Jane Delaney and lives on the old Skibby place; Jay, now in Sacramento, California; and Joel, who is also in Odessa, Texas.

Bub married Nona Nordahl Davenport. She had six children — Kelly, Patty, Nicky (died in a car accident), David, Darrell (died in a car accident), and Gordon.

When Bub bought out John Hedman, he called the ranch the Ox Yoke. The deal included John's herd of Angus and Hereford cows. Bub started experimenting with a shaggy, longhorned Scotch Highland bull. He also ran some buffalo for a while, but the cattle didn't like them and neither did his neighbors. In the late 1960s he brought in his first Texas Longhorns and developed a herd of Longhorns.

The Nunns had a new house built at Horse Camp, about a quarter of a mile north of the original homestead buildings. They put in a telephone but did not have electricity. They sold the Ox Yoke in 1986 to Ed Socha of Manchester, New Hampshire. He is a businessman and an avid hunter. Bub stayed on as a manager until the spring of 1988, when they moved to the Miles City, Montana, area. (Excerpts from *Lewistown News Argus* 2-22-87)

OLSEN, Jonas (Sec 5,6-18-27) Jonas Olsen was born June 6, 1877, in Stavanger, Norway. He came to Central Montana in 1886.

Amelia Rutieg was born at Holmestrand, Norway, on June 7, 1887. She came, with her sister, to Lewistown in 1905 and worked for Swend Holland for a time, and later for Perk Burnett at Giltedge, Montana.

Jonas and Amelia were married at Lewistown on November 22, 1908. Mrs. Olsen and Mrs. Tom Iverson were sisters.

Jonas and Amelia took up a homestead in the Dovetail area about 1914. They engaged in ranching and livestock. They left Dovetail in 1921 and after several moves settled on a ranch just west of the Yellow Water Lake, where they spent the rest of their lives.

They had five children — Ole R. (1910) deceased, Agnes (1913) deceased, Jonas A. (1915) deceased, Arnold (1917) deceased; and Rebecca (1920), who lives at Joliet, Montana.

Amelia died of cancer in 1944 and Jonas died in 1957. They are both buried in the Lewistown City Cemetery. (See also OLSEN — Flatwillow)

PARRISH, Elton G. (Sec 23-20-27) Elton G. Parrish, son of Thomas and Harriet (Doty) Parrish of Lake City, Iowa, was born in 1899. He homesteaded just north of the Horse Camp on Crooked Creek, probably in about 1917 or 1918. After he left the homestead and moved to the Lewistown area, he married Vinette Bell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bell, who homesteaded in Dawson County (now Garfield County).

They had two children — Bradley B. (1938), who is an attorney in Lewistown, and Marilyn P. (1941). Elton Parrish died in December of 1987. (Vinette Bell Parrish Fisher)

PAYNE, Guy (Sec 9,10-18-27) Guy and Mamie Payne had two daughters — Blanche (5-10-1901) and Altha (6-6-1902). They were listed in the District #169 school census for 1918 and 1919. Mr. Payne and son-in-law, John Aarchus, had a threshing machine to thresh not only their own grain, but also to thresh for the neighborhood.

Blanche Payne married Kjetl Ness, and Altha Payne married John Aarchus.

In the fall of 1921 John and Altha took care of the Payne place while Guy and Mamie went to the oil field to work for the winter. (W. T. 11-25-21)

PETERSON, Alfred (Sec 35-18-25) Alfred Peterson homesteaded five miles southwest of Valentine. He later moved to Valentine and operated the Valentine General Store and Post Office. Alfred was married and they had one son, Vernon.

PHILLIPS, Ilio (Sec 27-18-26) Ilio Phillips, son of Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Cotchoff, was born in Sofia, Bulgaria. He received his schooling in Bulgaria and came to the United States in 1907. He came to Montana and homesteaded in the Valentine area in 1912.

Mary Kiska, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Vendell Kiska, was born in 1900 in Czechoslovakia. She came to the United States with her parents in 1905. She received her schooling in Mississippi, Wisconsin and Montana. They came to the area west of Valentine sometime before 1915.



Ilio and Mary Phillips with Lewis (1919)

Ilio and Mary were married in 1917 and lived on his homestead near Valentine, where they farmed and raised cattle until they retired in 1959.

They had four sons who went through the grades at the Long School and then went on to the Winnett High School.

The sons were: Lewis (1918) graduated from Winnett High in 1936 and went on to college at Missoula, Montana. He married Maxine Winkes of Winnett. They have five children and live at Lewiston, Idaho. George (1919) married Winnie Gardner, and they live in Maine. Eldon (1921) returned to the ranch after school. (See PHILLIPS, Eldon — Winnett) Stanley (1929) married Katherine Christianson of Roy and had two children. He died in 1968 and is buried in Billings.

Ilio and Mary moved to Lewistown in 1959. Ilio died in 1963 and Mary died in 1972. Both are buried at Lewistown. (Eldon Phillips, son)

PHILLIPS, Vane (Sec 4-18-27) Vane Phillips was born September 15, 1886, in Macedonia, Greece. He came to the United States in 1906 and returned to Macedonia two years later. He was married in Macedonia but his wife died a few years later. He came back to the United States in 1910 and lived in St. Louis, Missouri, until 1914.

Vane came to Montana and lived and worked around Lewistown until 1917. From 1917 until 1936 he was ranching with his brother, Ilio, near Valentine. For several years he operated the Dovetail service station. He was a master stonemason, and the walls of many wells in the area show his handiwork. In later years he worked around Winnett as a carpenter until his retirement. Vane died September 15, 1961, and is buried at Winnett.

PICKARD, Willard (Sec 16,17-19-27) Willard and Mary Pickard had one daughter, Sylvia (1-3-1901). Mr. Pickard was a good blacksmith.

PITMAN, Paul Paul is the oldest son of Alvin and Ada Pitman. He has three brothers — George, Steve and Dan. Pitmans moved to Winnett in 1945 and they lived there until 1947 during which time Paul moved to Grassrange. Paul did not live in Petroleum County again until he leased part of Pat Sinclair's place on the Petrolia bench from 1955 to 1965.

In 1957 Paul married Luella Sims from California. In 1959 they moved out to the August Ihde Ranch at Cat Creek, which they leased until 1961. They then moved to their present location at Valentine, on the old Conolly Ranch, where they have resided since that time.

The Pitmans have four children — Kim (1962), Don (1964), Brad (1970) and Lura (1973). Kim is married to Robin Lewis of Claresholm, Alberta, Canada, and has two children.

All of the Pitman children had their schooling at Winnett. (Luella Pitman)

POTTER, Aaron Aaron Potter was born in 1870. Clara Adams was born in 1876 at Isadore, Missouri. Aaron and Clara were married in 1894. They homesteaded in the Valentine area in 1913. The Potter children at-

tended schools in Valentine, Roy and Winnett.

Aaron and Clara had nine children — Charles (1896), Paul (1899), Harold (1901), Goldie (1903), Vesta (1906), David (1908), Bernice (1911), Esther (1915) and Harry (1918).

Aaron Potter died in 1928 and is buried at Los Angeles, California. Clara Potter died in 1966 and is buried at Bellevue, Washington. (Irene Messenger Potter) (See also POTTER — Cat Creek)

PURYEAR, Elmer (Sec 7,18-18-28) Elmer and Verna Puryear had one son, Walter (9-7-1917) listed in the 1918 school census for District #169.

QUINLAN, Pat (Sec 31-18-27) Pat and Emma Quinlan had one child, Edward (1902) who was listed in the District #169 school census for 1917 through 1920.

RIGG, Leonard (Sec 7-18-28) Leonard was a son of Martin Rigg. According to the school census for the Dovetail-Valentine district, he had a daughter named Florence, born March 3, 1904.

RIGG, Maren (Sec 1,12-18-27) Maren Rigg was the mother of Ole Rigg. She came to Dovetail in 1916, bought relinquishment rights from John Aarchus, filed and made settlement the next spring.

RIGG, Martin (Sec 1-18-27) In the spring of 1916 the Dovetail creek and its many branches overflowed with melting snows and freshets from the surrounding hills. The verdure of the valley was appealing to all who saw it then.

Martin Rigg and wife, Emilie, arrived in the spring of 1916, with daughter Laura and four sons — William, Leonard, Fred and Herman. Herman served with the armed services overseas. Laura Rigg married Arthur Carlson at Seattle, and later they moved to Dovetail, too.

Martin Rigg was the first postmaster at Dovetail, and he and his sons also ran a small store in connection with the post office. In about 1921 Mrs. Rigg's health was failing, so they closed the store and transferred the post office to Mrs. Albert (Lois) Coffey.

RIGG, Ole (Sec 5-18-28) Ole Rigg, born in 1875, was a nephew of Martin Rigg. His wife, Ida, was born November 20, 1874, in Ludveka, Norway. She came to the United States and Minnesota when she was 14. She married Ole Rigg on October 16, 1901. Ole came to Dovetail in 1916 and filed on a homestead near Martin Rigg. Mrs. Ole Rigg, (Ida S.) came from Minnesota with their two children, Aleen and Ole Jr., in 1917 to join Ole in proving up on their homestead.

The following are excerpts from "Dovetail Valley" written by Ida S. Rigg (W. T. 3-6-1942). "Among the settlers from other states were young unmarried men, who with their neighbors, proceeded to put their hands to the plow and change the topography of the land from buffalo grass to fields of grain and tall corn.

"One time we filled a double wagon box with ripe melons of all kinds and took them to the market at Winnett. When we got there, the market was glutted with

melons and vegetables. To save us from taking them home, Mr. Hayes Smith took them off our hands and was going to send them to Lewistown. There was not much profit in that deal. On our way home, we were caught in a rainstorm in the Blood Creek area and had to stay all night as one of the horses had jumped and broken the wagon tongue. The four of us crept under the wagon for shelter until dawn, but we got pretty wet.

"At 4 o'clock a. m., Ole Jr. and I got up and with some hewn chips from a log we had spied near the Brady place plus some new movie magazines I had bought in Winnett, we succeeded in starting a fire. We had a big fire blazing by 6 o'clock, by which we dried our clothes. It had stopped raining and after repairing the broken tongue, we hitched up and started home. It was high noon when we got home. The heat was terrific. My face was swollen and my lips were cracked and bleeding when we got home and into our new log cabin. It was cool inside and the perfume of the freshly hewn pine logs had a soothing effect upon my tortured soul.

"Remnants of herds of Texas Longhorns still roamed the plains, and antelope in large numbers cavorted across our homestead. Small game was plentiful. We had no automobile nor radio; instead the lonesome howl of the coyote and the weird hoot of the owls stirred our imagination at nightfall. We got up early enough to see the glory of the sunrise, and at night the sunsets and the aurora borealis eclipsed everything else in the world that we had ever seen.

"It was a rich experience, this homestead life we had drifted into, but all too soon we realized that it was not ordained to be a life of peace and plenty, as the war progressed abroad and we had to curtail our rations.

"In February 1920 the flu came to Dovetail. At one time there were 14 people sick with the flu in the one-room cabin of Ambrose Carrell. One of the neighbors, Ike Moody, came to help care for the sick. In three days he took sick and had to go home to bed. A transient, George Featherman, was staying at the Irish cabin, caring for Charlie Carrell's horses. He went to the cabin with all the sick people and he, too, got the flu. When Charlie Carrell came to the Irish cabin to look after things, he found Featherman all swelled up from having drunk kerosene to try to cure himself. Featherman recovered and journeyed on from there to no one knows where."

In 1922 or 1923 the Rigg family moved to a small place near Winnett. (See also RIGG — Brush Creek)

RIGG, William P. (Sec 6,7-18-28) William P. Rigg was a son of Martin Rigg. (All information on the Rigg families came from Winnett Times 3-6-1942, "Dovetail Valley" by Ida S. Rigg.)

ROTHROCK, Earl F. (Sec 28-18-25) Earl F. Rothrock married Edith Lambert and they had one son, Claude. Earl traveled from Indiana with Clifford Clark in an emigrant car in 1913. His wife, Edith, came by way of train with Clifford Clark's wife, Maude.

The Rothrock and Clark party rode from Hilger (the end

of the railroad line at the time) to the homestead in a lumber wagon pulled by a span of mules and a team of horses. The Rothrocks homesteaded near Valentine in 1913.

SANFORD, Ethelbert (Sec 24-19-27) E. J. Sanford is quoted in the *Heritage Book of the Original Fergus County Area* as saying "I was a wrangler boy the first time I came up the Chisholm Trail from Texas to this part of Montana, and there wasn't a sign of anyone living here. The second trip a few years later, I was a full-fledged cowhand, and when we got here there was one lone cabin, the Davis cabin. Well, this trip I came looking for me a place and the Davis cabin was still the only cabin, but it had been moved from the top of the hill down by the spring that was dug out. It sheltered many different families until their own log houses were built, and that was about 1904."

Clairmont Clark bought the Sanford place in 1933. He says, "Mr. Sanford was a very well-liked southern cowboy of the old stock. He had a 'Texas' line of talk like no one else . . . His last trail herd had 300 Texas steers for himself, and the first winter was the worst they ever experienced. The next spring he rounded up 30 head, which was all he had left. He had a beautiful set of guns, and by all reports knew how to use them."

Mr. Clark also tells this story. "A family came through the country in the very early days in a covered wagon, and stopped at Sanfords because their baby girl was sick. The child died and Mr. Sanford made a casket for it.



Mr. and Mrs. Ethelbert Sanford



The Sanford house

Mrs. Sanford made a pretty dress for the babe, and then lined the casket so it would be attractive. They buried her east of the house, near the root cellar. After the funeral the parents went on their way. Sanfords couldn't remember their names."

Mary Elizabeth "Beth" Myers Knapp relates: "The E. J. Sanfords were our nearest neighbors, and we can be thankful to Mrs. Sanford for her snapshots. She was not only the photographer, she also developed the film. She was an outstanding gardener and had a lovely apple orchard. I remember her telling about the time she took some of her apples to the fair, but they wouldn't accept the apples because they didn't believe she actually grew them.

"Mrs. Sanford was the one who named the 'Devils Kitchen' which is a white rock formation that was just to the north of their house on the north side of the rim."

The Hedman Brothers bought the Sanford place from Clairmont Clark, and kept it until they sold all of their holdings in the area to the Two Crow Ranch.

SCHOENECHÉ, Amelia Amelia "Molly" Schoeneche was a Dutch lady who came from an Oklahoma cotton farm to homestead in the Valentine area in about 1912 or 1913. Her homestead was about a mile north of the homestead of Harlan Bevis.

She had three daughters (listed in the 1918 school census for District #168 Dovetail-Valentine). They were Pauline (1901), Theresa (1902) and Elsie (1905). She also had an older son, Otto.

She was a hard worker, and after living on a cotton farm where the cultivating was done by a mule-drawn plow and the weeding and picking were done by hand, she was not afraid to do any job that would help provide a living for herself and her children. She would even pull the wool from the dead sheep she found on the range. She acted as a midwife for several women in the community and baby-sat the children for parents who had to leave for business. Later she married James Turner, better known as "Coyote Jimmy," who ran the mail and stage route to Valentine. She also drove the mail and stage at times. Molly returned to Oklahoma when she left Valentine. (Les Bevis)

SIKVELAND, Karl (Sec 8-18-27) Karl and Guri Sikveland were both born in Norway. Karl came to the United States for the first time in 1905. He came to the Forest Grove area to herd sheep for Swend Holland. He returned to Norway in 1909. In 1909 he married Guri Sandve. Their first child, Kefas, was born in 1910. In 1911 Karl returned to the United States and filed on a homestead near Forestgrove. He sent for his wife and son in 1916. The family lived on the homestead until 1919. In September of 1919 they moved to Dovetail. Karl had bought some land from Tom Iverson. The place where they lived was originally the homestead of Kjetil Ness.

The Sikveland family grew to include Kefas, Bertha, Torger, Jennie, and Gunda. The children all attended the



Karl and Guri Sikveland

Dovetail School and later they all graduated from Winnett High School.

Life was hard during the depression of the 1930s, but the family survived and later enjoyed better days.

Kefas worked for the Northern Pacific Railroad. He married Lucille Anderson. Lucille had one daughter, Yvonne. Yvonne married Ray Shaw and lives with her husband on a ranch near Sand Springs, Montana. Kefas and Lucille both passed away in 1977.

Bertha married Howard Foster. They had one son, Raymond. Howard passed away in 1967. Bertha lives near her son and family in Reno, Nevada.

Torger and his wife, Linda, with their children — Torger and Mike — live on the family ranch.

Jennie married Paul Runsvold. They live in Lewiston, Idaho. They had four children — Jim, Nancy, Karl and Julie.

Gunda married Lee Shaw in 1949. They had three children — Gail (Wilkenson), Sarah (Brindley) and Lafe Shaw. Gunda and Lee were divorced in 1966. Gunda married Dave Lewis of Grassrange in 1975.

Karl Sikveland and his wife, Guri, lived on the ranch until Karl passed away in 1960. They enjoyed several years of "good times." They visited with their neighbors and enjoyed playing cards. They enjoyed the R. E. A. and the coming of the telephone. In 1955 they returned to their native Norway for a visit. At this time many of their brothers and sisters were still living. After Karl's death in 1960, Guri moved into Winnett. She lived there for fourteen years. Guri passed away in 1974. Both Karl and Guri were fortunate to be able to lead active lives until nearly the time of their deaths. (Gunda Sikveland Lewis)

SIKVELAND, Torger S. (Sec 8-18-27) Torger Sikveland, son of Karl J. and Guri S. Sikveland, was born in 1921 at Dovetail. He attended the Dovetail School and then went to Winnett High School, graduating in 1939. He stayed at the dormitory while going to high school. He was a member of the Winnett Boxing Club and was the Montana State AAU Light Heavyweight Champion in 1941.

Torger served in the Marine Corps in the South Pacific during World War II. When he returned home, he took over the Ray Marr Ranch on a share-crop deal. He bought the Hogan place, then in 1961 bought the home place from his mother, Guri Sikveland. Later he bought part of the Elmer Hanson place and part of the Brady place.

Torger served on many boards throughout the years including: Petroleum County Soil Conservation District, Association of State Grazing Districts, Chain Buttes Cooperative Grazing District (he was secretary from 1953 on), Petroleum County Tax Appeal Board, Winnett State Cooperative Grazing District, and Bureau of Land Management Livestock Advisory Board.

Linda Rae Lobdell, daughter of Wray and Clara Lobdell, was born in 1943 at Rapid City, South Dakota. She got her education in the South Dakota schools. Torger and Linda were married in 1967. They have two sons — Torger Wray, born in 1967; and Michael Stein, born in 1973. (Torger Sikveland)

SINCLAIR, Archibald (Sec 25-18-26) Archie Sinclair was born in Tyrone County, Ireland, on February 2, 1847. At the age of seven, he came with his parents to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where they lived three years and then moved to Monroe County, Iowa.

Archie Sinclair served two years in the Army in the Civil War in Company H, 1st Cavalry, from which he was honorably discharged in March of 1866.

On March 5, 1872, Archie married Hannah Spears. Archie and Hannah had ten children — John H., Ann Jane, Mary, William C., Barbara, James R., Robert J., Charles E., Archibald and Milo.

Archie Sinclair had a good stock farm in Iowa, but he said he could take a homestead and give it to his two sons, John H. and Robert J. He had veterans' rights and he could use them for proving claim patents more quickly.

So, in 1912, Archie traveled to Montana and homesteaded on land which joined his sons' in Valentine, Montana. He was a good neighbor and was ever ready to lend assistance in any way. He returned to Iowa after proving up on his homestead.

Archie Sinclair died April 26, 1916, in Albia, Iowa, where he is buried. His wife, Hannah, continued to visit her children in Valentine and died years later. (Viola Welter)

SINCLAIR, John H. (Sec 35-18-26) John H. Sinclair, son of Archibald and Hannah Sinclair, was born in 1873 at Albia, Iowa. He grew up with his family in Albia and worked on his father's stock farm.

Lola Belles was born in 1880 at Blakesburg, Iowa. In 1900 John and Lola were married. In 1910 John and Lola left Albia and came to Montana where they homesteaded in the Valentine area.

When they first settled, they had a small one-room log cabin built by John and a neighbor. They cut the trees and pulled the logs to the site. When John built a larger log house for the family, they used the small cabin as a chicken house.



The John Sinclairs — Isadeen, Lavelle, John and Lola

John and Lola had three children — Emmett (1901) died in 1905 and is buried at Albia, Iowa; Isadeen (1907); and Lavelle (1910). All the children were born at Albia, Iowa.

Isadeen and Lavelle attended the Long School through the grades and went on to Winnett High School, where they both graduated — Isadeen in 1926 and Lavelle in 1929.

Isadeen married Arnold Drake in 1928. She now lives at Corvallis, Montana (See also DRAKE). Lavelle married Sakuichi Sakai, and she now lives in Kapaau, Hawaii.

John and Lola enjoyed their ranch life for many years before moving to the Bitterroot Valley in western Montana.

John Sinclair died in 1959, and Lola Sinclair died in 1969. They are both buried in the Riverside Cemetery in Hamilton, Montana. (Isadeen Sinclair Drake Pewett)

SINCLAIR, Robert J. (Sec 25-18-26) Robert Sinclair, son of Archibald and Hannah Sinclair, was born in 1886 at Albia, Iowa. He grew up with his family in Albia and worked on his father's stock farm.

Della Chidester, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Chidester, was born in 1888 at Albia, Iowa. She received her schooling at the Albia schools. Robert and Della were married in 1910.

In 1911 Robert and Della Sinclair came from Albia to Montana, where they homesteaded four miles southeast of Valentine. Their homestead joined the homestead of John Sinclair, Robert's brother.

The Sinclairs were farmers and ranchers throughout their years on the homestead. Robert and Della had five children — Viola (1913), Wanda (1918), Pat and Mick, twins (1920) and Robert (1928). The children went to the Long School for the grades and to Winnett High School.

Robert and Della enjoyed their homestead days and

were well liked in the community. They especially enjoyed their ranch life, their neighbors and raising children.

The Sinclairs moved into Winnett in 1935. (See also SINCLAIR — Winnett)

Their daughter, Viola, has some memories of homestead days to share: "One of the first things I remember was when my sister was born in 1918. Mama brought the new baby home. The influenza was bad and Mama caught it. I was taken to my Aunt Jennie's and stayed all winter. My Grandmother Sinclair from Iowa moved in and took care of Mama and the new baby. The baby had to be fed a gruel made out of oatmeal. Mama's doctor was Dr. Freed, a lovely lady, who was known far and wide. She showed my father how to give Mama quinine and whiskey, and told him they could pull Mama through, which they did.

"I remember when everyone had to register all guns, when World War I was going on. My father, and other men his age, had to answer the summons to have a physical and be classified to go to the war, but the Armistice was signed before they got back home. They had a big celebration and danced until daylight, then went home, changed their clothes, milked a bunch of cows, before they got any rest.

"In the fall, the men of the area all had cattle roaming the hills to the Missouri River. There were no fences, so the men went on big roundups, which sometimes lasted for a month. The women and children took care of things at home, and helped each other. The wolves were so bad the chores had to be done before dark. Lots of times we could see the wolves' eyes shine in the lamp light.

"Mama liked to speak 'pieces' and be in the home-talent plays. My father played the violin for dances all over the country, playing with Bert Thorsheim and Jess and Tony Brooks. My uncle John was the square dance caller." (Viola Sinclair Welter)

SLUGGETT, Lester Lester and Carol Sluggett were married in Big Sandy, Montana, June 2, 1962, and lived on a ranch there for ten years. They have four children — Levi (1964), Lisa (1966), Lana (1969) and Lari (1971). In August of 1972 they moved to the Blood Creek Ranch (the former Horseshoe Bar Ranch). The headquarters are located four miles west of Valentine, Montana, or twenty-nine miles north of Winnett, Montana. They are engaged in farming and cattle raising. Levi and Lisa graduated from Roy High School. Lana and Lari graduated from Winnett High School. (Carol Sluggett)

STEIN, Anton (Sec 33-18-27) Anton Stein came from Kansas and homesteaded southeast of Valentine. He married Mary Josephine Gallagher (See also GALLAGHER) and the couple had a son, Anton Clarence, born in 1913. The family returned to Kansas because Anton Sr. was in poor health, and he died there. Mary Josephine returned to Montana with their child and married Nicholas Hayfield in 1922. (See also HAYFIELD)



Anton and Mary Josephine Stein with son Clarence

STEPHENS, Clyde E. Clyde E. Stephens, son of Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Stephens, was born at Susquehanna, Pennsylvania, in 1870. He spent his early childhood there. He came with his parents to the Fort Maginnis area in the early 1900s.

Clyde married Regina Solleder in 1907. They took up a homestead in the Valentine area in 1915 and lived there until the 1930s, when they moved to Roy.

Mrs. Stephens taught school for several years around the area. She was the clerk for District #122 of Fergus County until it was divided, then became clerk for the newly designated Valentine-Dovetail District #168.

Clyde and Regina had five children — Edmond (1909), Harry (1910), Margaret (1912), Webb (1915) and Lucille (1917).

Regina died in 1941, and Clyde died in 1947.

STEVENS, Harvey The 1915 school census for District #122 in Fergus County shows that Harvey and Lillie Stevens had one son, William (1901).

SULLENGER, Charles (Sec 28-18-25) Charles Sullenger lived on Sage Creek about five miles southwest of Valentine. He had one daughter. He is buried in Hysham, Montana.

SULLENGER, James James Sullenger, brother of Charles Sullenger, had a homestead on Sage Creek north of his brother. He raised sheep. He married Myrtle Bowman and they had seven children — Edna Mae (1896, died 1897), Effie Ellen (1898), Lillian (1899), Edward J. (1900), Edith Violet (1902), Vance (1904), and Glenn (1909).

Glenn stayed and worked on the homestead with his dad until they sold out and moved to the Lewistown area. (Jennie Lefferts, granddaughter)

TACKLE, Magnus (Sec 14.15-18-28) Magnus Tackle was born July 17, 1879, at Arendal, Norway. He came to the United States in the early 1900s and settled in the Winifred area. He moved to the John Munkeby place near Dovetail in 1929. Henry Hornseth was his nephew. Magnus never married and died August 14, 1966.

TALBOT, Hazel (Sec 1-18-28) Hazel Talbot not only homesteaded but was also a schoolteacher. According to Hugh Groves, one of her students, she taught the 79 School which was located along the 79 Trail near the Killham places.

TERNAN, Isaac According to the 1915 school census for District #122, Fergus County, Isaac and Jennie Ternan had six children — Delbert (1895), Archie (1898), Charles (1901), Clifford (1906), Arthur (1907) and Clyne (1908). Arthur married Merle Grove from the Dovetail area.

TERNAN, Merle (Sec 14-18-28) Merle Killham, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James William Killham, was born September 25, 1894, at Weldona, Colorado. On January 10, 1915, she married Earl Grove, born October 14, 1894, in Kansas. They had two children — Hugh (3-25-1916) and Vera (12-16-1918). Earl Grove died in 1918, and Merle and children came to Dovetail, Montana, to be with her family who had come out in 1917 to homestead. (See also KILLHAM)

Her family talked her into taking up the homestead that Herb Jacoli had not finished proving up on. So taking up where Jacoli left off, she finished proving up on the homestead. She and her children lived with her folks most of the time.

In 1923 Merle married Archie Ternan, who came from the Valentine area. They had one daughter, Sidney (9-1-1924), with Merle's mother as midwife. Ternans left shortly after that for Butte, Montana. Vera Grove died at Butte, February 8, 1927, and is buried at Butte. Mr. Ternan also died at Butte in 1928 and is buried there. Merle, with son Hugh and daughter Sidney, moved back to the homestead. Hugh finished elementary school at Dovetail.

Daughter Sidney Ternan Walsh adds her memories: "I was born at Gordon Coulee on my mother's homestead, with my grandmother, Lucy Killham, as midwife. Gordon Coulee is about eight miles east of the Dovetail Post Office. At that time there was a two-room log cabin, plus other log outbuildings at the homestead.

"At one time there were a lot of homesteaders out there. I can remember hearing these names: Wetzig, Massey, Crawford, DeSilva. By the time I was in school, all these people were gone. I guess the depression chased them out.

"The depression years were very tough — very dry years and the grasshoppers were bad. There was little feed in the hills for the livestock and water was scarce. Everyone was poor, but no one noticed because we were all in the same boat. We always had enough to eat and clothes to wear, nothing fancy.

"The whole country would get together at the Dovetail

schoolhouse for dances and for picnics on the Fourth of July. It was a lot of fun, and people would come from as far away as Valentine, Winnett and even Lewistown. The musicians usually came from Winnett, I think. The dances would last all night, and everyone would dance, from the old folks down to the little tots. Baby-sitters were unheard of then.

"Once we went to a Fourth of July celebration at Valentine, driving a team and wagon all the way. We stayed there a couple of days, picnicking and catching up on all the news. There was a rodeo and two of my uncles, Taft and Herb Killham, rode saddle broncs. Very exciting.

"Those were good days as far as I was concerned. I loved that country and hated to leave it. I tried to get out to the Dovetail country three years ago, but it was a rainy time of year and the roads were bad. I will make it sometime, or die trying."

Merle Ternan died March 6, 1979, and is buried at Twisp, Washington.

Hugh Grove married Blanche Saylor. They have one daughter, Betty, and one grandson, Todd. "Red" and Blanche owned and operated the Northern Hotel in Winnett for 30 years. They are now retired and living in Billings to be near Betty and Todd. (See also GROVE — Winnett)

Sidney Ternan married Ray Walsh and they have one daughter, Jean Anne. They live at Twisp, Washington.

TILLETT, Ceril (Sec 33-18-26) Ceril and Mary Tillet had three children listed in the Valentine-Dovetail school census for 1919. The children were Freda and Beulah, twins (1907) and Gerald (1911). Beulah married George Fairbairn. She died in 1989.

TILLETT, Henry (Sec 33-18-26) Henry A. and Elvira Tillet came from Redfield, South Dakota, in 1913, to homestead in the Valentine area. After proving up on their homestead, they moved to Winnett where Henry worked on the railroad section crew.

They had two sons, C. E. Tillet and James Tillet.

Henry died in 1922 and Elvira died in 1930. They are both buried in the Winnett Cemetery.

TRAPP, Ora (Sec 25-20-28) Ora Trapp (3-18-1900) homesteaded on Crooked Creek in the early 1920s as a very young man. His cabin was near the Horse Shoe Bar which had been a big cow camp. The Roy Hanson Horse Camp was nearby and neighbors Charlie and Alex Weingart and the Carl Hedman Camp were only a few miles down the creek.

Mail was delivered to the Mecaha Post Office in Garfield County — then delivered to Joe Barisich's where Ora picked it up. All the mail came by wagon or horseback.

Ora lived the better part of his life around Grassrange, and south to Flatwillow Creek where his children were raised. After losing his wife in 1942, Ora went to work for the Milwaukee Railroad at Grassrange as a section man, later moving to Piper, Montana. It was while working at Piper that he had a massive heart attack and

died at work on October 30, 1956.

Ora had married **Eva Lu Wanefisher** (1905) in 1927. They had six children — Helen Marie (1927), Esther (1929), Wanda (1931), Harold (1932), Norma (1935) and Peggy (1941).

Eva died November 15, 1942. Both Eva and Ora are buried in the Grassrange Cemetery.

Helen Marie Carpenter now lives at Ennis, Montana; Esther Nelson lives at Grassrange; Wanda Trapp lives at Ryegate, Montana; Harold Trapp lives at Lewistown, Montana; Norma Gantz lives at Ryegate; Peggy Knight lives at Riverton, Wyoming. (Harold Trapp, son)

TRIMBLE, William (Sec 6-18-25) William J. Trimble was born in 1885 at Jefferson City, Missouri. Della Mead was born in 1892 in Kansas. (See also MEAD — Blakeslee) Bill and Della were married in 1913.

They came to Montana in 1914 and picked a homestead in 1914. They raised grain, hay and cattle there. They stayed on the homestead until they retired and moved to Lewistown. They had three children — Grace born in 1915, Eva born in 1916, and George born in 1919. These children attended the Valentine and Roy schools.

William Trimble died in 1973 and Della died in 1980. They are both buried at Sunset Memorial Gardens at Lewistown. (Grace Trimble Hill)

TURNER, James (Sec 31-18-26) James Turner, well known as "Coyote Jimmy," lived with his wife about five miles southwest of Valentine. "Coyote Jimmy" was the mail carrier in the early days after Mrs. Mary Bean got the Valentine Post Office started. Mail came twice a week from Edgewater, now known as the Forbes Leslie Ranch.

He married Amelia Schoenecke. (See also SCHOENECKE) She also drove the stage part of the time.

TURNER, Lon (Sec 26,27-18-27) Lon Turner and his brother, Lone, came to the Dovetail country in the early 1900s with horses and cattle that they ran south of the George Loesch place.

Lon's wife, Dana, had a son, Humphrey. After Dana died, Lon moved to the Lewistown area. He later married Edna Patterson, who had a daughter, Ruby. Lon spent the rest of his life near Lewistown and is buried there. (Jennie Lefferts, niece)

TURNER, Lone (Sec 26-18-27) Lone Turner was born May 24, 1890, in Emmons County on a homestead about 40 miles northwest of Bismarck, North Dakota. He came to the Dovetail country in the early 1900s and ran cattle and horses with his brother, Lon, south of the George Loesch place.

Effie Ellen Sullenger, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Sullenger, was born January 9, 1898, in Fergus County on McDonald Creek. Lone and Effie were married September 14, 1914. They had seven children — Myrtle (Jennie) (1915); Forrest (1918) died at birth; Florence (1920); Esther (1921); Gloria Effie (1930); Dwain (1931) and Naomi Gladys (1941).

Lone, Effie and Jennie, their three-year-old daughter, left Dovetail in 1918 and moved to Washington. After three years they returned to the Valentine area to the Lambert place near the Jim Sullenger place.

Myrtle Turner Lefferts and Dwain Lone Turner contributed the following: "We had a log cabin with windows low to the ground. There had been a skiff of snow one evening when Mama was alone. They had brought in supplies and an order had come in from Sears and Roebuck. She lit the kerosene lamp and was unpacking the order when she felt that something was watching her, so she hung a quilt over the window and went back to check the order.

"The next morning when she went out to take care of the chickens and milk the cow, she checked the window. There were cougar or mountain lion tracks. It had sat down and switched its tail back and forth while looking in the window. It must have been getting ready to jump in when she covered the window.

"When I was small I kept running away. One time I went to a water hole at the bottom of a coulee. The pool was deep and poles had been put across it to keep the stock from falling in. When Mama found me, I was on a pole over the middle of the pool that was full of water. Another time I ran away down a coulee from the house. From then on I was tied to the clothesline. The rope was long enough I could go in and out of the house but couldn't get out of sight."

Effie Turner is living at Valley Vista in Lewistown. Lone Turner died May 18, 1969, and is buried at Sunset Memorial Cemetery at Lewistown.

The following story, "A Trip to Dovetail," was contributed by daughter Gloria Ewell:

"When Dwain and I were ten and twelve, we were still asking Mom to tell us stories about the homestead in the badlands. What was life like there? Lots of things that occurred there were interesting to us. We were growing up in Lewistown and felt we had missed out on all the action. Mom had a real knack for telling stories and never had to improvise or make them up because lots of things happened in her life. But this time was different. She had a surprise for us. The very next week we were going to Dovetail to see all the neat places and visit the people who were still there.

"It was a very hot day when we arrived at the George Loesch home and Mrs. Loesch had prepared a big fried chicken dinner for all who had gathered there to visit with my parents. Lone Turner was known for his sense of humor and jokes — Effie for her good cooking and hospitality. I looked around at the crowd and thought Mrs. Loesch must have killed the whole flock of chickens for us.

"I had wheedled a pair of English riding boots from Mom for the summer's use, and, many blisters later, I decided it was time they lived up to their name. I waited till Dad got a response to one of his tall tales and I asked him (loud enough for our host to hear, of course) 'Do you