

if the wind blew it would cover up the tracks, he saddled up and took off, dragging a little go-devil sled to haul the wolf back. He thought for sure it would snow or blow that night. It took him most of the night to get the job done, but he wanted to see the wolf and the tracks."

Berry settled in the Lower Musselshell River area. In 1916 he married Alta Alva Fox. Alta, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Fox who homesteaded in the Lower Musselshell River area, was born in 1894 at Belt, Montana. Berry and Alta lived on the river until 1931 when the ranch was sold to Ward and Norman Taylor. The family moved to the Wyola and Hardin (Montana) area.

Berry and Alta had six children — Garnett, Berry J., Robert J., Lee, George and Alta. Berry died in February of 1956 and Alta died in March of 1956. They are buried in the Hardin Cemetery.

ROBERTS, W. G. "Zeke" (Sec 1,13-17-29) Zeke Roberts, son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Roberts, was born in 1893 at Denton, Texas. He was educated at Denton. He came to Montana in 1911 and worked as a cowboy for several years before enlisting in the United States Army and serving in World War I.

Carrie M. Bagwell, daughter of W. C. and Gincy Bagwell, was born in Fox, Virginia. She was educated in Virginia. She moved to the Lower Musselshell in 1919 to teach school near Lodgepole Creek.

Carrie and Zeke were married in 1920 and lived on their ranch on the Musselshell until they retired and moved to Lewistown.

Zeke wrote the following: "I came to Montana from Denton County, Texas, by train and landed in Miles City, Montana, April 17, 1911, on Easter Sunday. To my surprise, about every other fellow I met on the street stopped me and asked when I came up from Texas. It puzzled me at the time how everyone could tell I was from Texas, but realized later that about half the cow punchers in Montana were from Texas and everyone could tell a green Texan kid like me as far as they could see him.

"I sold my saddle before leaving Texas so I could get me an 'Al Furstnow' saddle. In about three days, I had me an outfit — saddle, bridle, blanket, spurs and short on money. The Montana Stockgrowers Association was meeting that week in Miles City, so I landed a job from J. P. 'Josh' McCuiston. He owned and ran the H Cross outfit on Squaw Creek. He told me he would give me \$40 a month and all I'd have to do was eat, sleep and ride a pony.

"The middle of May the roundup wagon pulled out and on the first of July we were camped close to Jordan waiting for other roundup outfits to exchange cattle. Four cattle outfits, the CK, two 79 wagons, and the H Cross all celebrated the Fourth of July in Jordan. It was a lively time for all, but the 5th was a 'headache' day, and not a roundup wagon so much as moved camp. The 7th we camped at the mouth of Lone Tree Creek on the Big Dry. A big hail storm hit at 4 p.m., just at supper time.

"One of the worst things that happened was that a 79 remuda stampeded and piled up in a cut coulee, killing eleven head (of horses) for the 79 and two head for the H Cross. Killed thirteen horses in all. My cowboy days were spent with the H Cross, 79, and N Bar outfits. I lived in what is now Garfield County for forty-nine years — from April 1911 until April 1960. I now live in Lewistown. I still think Missouri River, Musselshell, and Squaw Creek breaks are the best place left on God's Green Earth."

Carrie and Zeke had three children — Ruth, June, and Bill Jr. Zeke died in 1975, and Carrie died in 1987.

ROBSON, George (Sec 36-14-29) George and Minnie Robson were homesteaders. They sold to Carl Nelson. The school census of District #107 for 1915 shows they had three children — Elmer (1911), Kenneth (1913) and Vera (1916).

James and Iva Robson were listed as the parents of one son, Fredrick (1916), in the 1917 school census for District #107, Weede.

ROCKETS, Joseph Joseph and Lena Rockets are shown as the parents of Luella (1911) and James (1914), in the school census for District #107 in 1921.

ROGERS, Jacob (Sec 13-21-27) Jacob and Myrtle R. Rogers homesteaded this land and sold it to Rachael Douglas on March 12, 1920. The Rogers moved to Kalispell, Montana.

ROWTON, Lemuel (Sec 18-14-30) Lemuel Rowton, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Rowton, was born in 1876 in Osceola, Missouri. In 1900 he married Mary Nancy Lilley at Yates Center, Kansas. They moved to the Musselshell River in 1907 and spent the rest of their lives in that area. They had ten children — Easton, Russel, Lawton, Parley, Mildred, Lucile, Shirley, Dawson, Neva and Warren.

Lemuel and Mary were instrumental in getting a school established at Mosby in 1907 and Lem served on the first school board. This new school district was in Dawson county and ran from the Missouri River to the Rosebud County line. All of Lemuel and Mary's children attended this school and many of their grandchildren and great-grandchildren received their early education there.

The Rowtons ran sheep and cattle and the boys worked out as part-time help to add to the income. Lemuel and John Hill (his brother-in-law) built a refinery. Lemuel bought John out in 1921. This was the first refinery in the area and they processed Cat Creek crude. Lem later sold the refinery to Fred Dunlap.

In the early days their only transportation was team and wagon or saddlehorse. Because of distance involved in going for supplies, Mary seldom left the home place. There were chores and children that had to be taken care of. She was not the only homestead woman that lived this way; most of them did. It was not uncommon for these ladies to spend years within a five-mile radius of their homes. They learned to do without a great many things but the one thing they had in abundance was work. Mary died of heart failure in 1946. After her death, Lem lived



Lem and Mary Rowton

with their son, Parley, and his family until his demise in 1958.

Russel and Easton Rowton homesteaded places near their parents. After Mary's death, Warren took over the home place. On Valentine's Day in 1925, Russel and Easton went to Lewistown for their double wedding. Russel married Anna Dale Peters, daughter of William and Edith Peters of Mosby, and Easton married Mary Pribble, daughter of Sam and Mary Pribble of Weede. The community gave them a large party and dance when they returned to the area.

Easton and Mary Rowton had four children — Leone, Everett, Leta and Esther. They attended grade school at Mosby and high school at Jordan and Winnett. Easton followed ranching and supplemented his income by carrying mail from Mosby to Mecaha and from Mosby to Melstone. Mary taught school around the area, finally moving to the Hot Springs area where she taught until her retirement. She passed away in 1988. In the 1950s Easton sold his place on the river and moved to Jordan, where he lived until taken with a heart attack in 1962 at the age of 61.

Russel (1903) and Anna Dale (1908) had two children — Kent (1926) and Lucy (1927). Both children attended river schools and Winnett High School. Russel ranched on the Garfield side of the river and worked part time in the oil fields as a pumper. Russel had emphysema and his death in 1963 was attributed to this. Anna Dale moved to

Lewistown, where she lived for several years before moving to California.

Kent married Hazel Coon (1946) while he was in the service. After his return to Mosby, he went to work at the Hanlon refinery. In February of 1955, there was an explosion and fire at the refinery and Kent was fatally burned. Kent and Hazel had four children — George, Sheila, Letha and Dennis Kent (who was born eight months after his father's death). Dennis was killed in a car wreck at the age of seventeen. Lucy married John Calfee and they had three children — Steven Russell, Barry Hon, and Hanni Lou.

Dawson Rowton married Margaret Foster and they lived in Laurel, Montana, where Dawson worked in the refinery. They had three children — Larry, Mary Ellen and Doris.

Shirley married Ed Nordahl. They lived mostly at Choteau, Montana. He was known for his violin playing. He played for many dances. He worked for the county at Choteau. Shirley worked at a hospital. Their children were Lee, Lynn, Sharon and Betty. Ed died of cancer. Shirley lives at Choteau.

Lucile married Darrel Gibson. They lived at Helena. Their children were Wayne, Carolyn, Marilyn, Linda and Glen. Darrel died of cancer. Lucile lives at Helena.

Mildred married Glen Hiatt and they lived at Arlington, Washington. Their children were Lou, Roy, Alene, Jean, Barbara and Winona. After Glen's death, Mildred married John Black. Mildred is deceased.

Lawton married Agnes White. They lived in Idaho on a ranch for awhile. Later they moved to San Jose, California, where they still live. They had one child, Barbara.

Neva married Guy Nordahl. Their children were Gary, Roger, Donna, Gayle and Karen. They lived around Mosby for awhile and then moved to Billings. They later separated and both remarried. Guy is deceased. Neva lives in Port Townsend, Washington.

Warren married Marion McMains. They ranched the former Lemuel's ranch and later sold out and moved to Lewistown and later to Zortman, Montana. Their children were Rosina, Dale, Ronald and a twin that died of crib death. Marion died of cancer. Warren lives near Grassrange close to his son Ronald. (Alma Rowton)

ROWTON, Parley Parley was two years old when he came to Montana with his folks. He attended school near Mosby for eight years. In later years, he served in the Army two years.

In 1934 Parley married Alma Ellis from Bridger, Montana. She was teaching at the Weede School. She taught there about three years. They lived on the Angelo Watterson place for several years. During the first summer, they lived in a sheep wagon and tent until they finished building a log house. They hauled water in barrels from a well several miles away. In the winter a lot of snow was melted for use. They had a small wood stove for heat.

Those were hard years, with drought and grasshoppers. Parley worked on a government project for two

dollars a day. Alma sold vegetables in Cat Creek and Winnett. One year she planted a thousand tomato plants, but an early frost got all of them. She was pregnant at that time also. They got their start in the cattle business by trading oat hay for a cow. Alma washed clothes on a washboard for ten years or more.

In about 1945 they bought Horace McGiboney's place. It was farther up the river. They moved a house from the Eager Ranch, near Winnett. In 1950 the house burned down from an overheated oil can on an oil stove. They built another log house at the same location. At first they had a cistern for the water. Later on water was piped from Lou Hill's well, thanks very much to him.

Parley and Alma had seven children — Verda (1936), Vernon (1938), Lloyd (1941), Janice (1944), Phyllis (1948), Rhoda (1949) and Gerald (1951). Gerald had an incurable disease and was sick all his life. He spent much time in the hospital before he passed away at the young age of five years.

In 1950 Alma and children moved to Winnett to send their children to high school. Verda was a freshman. On weekends they went to the ranch, except when it was very cold. They lived in Winnett for seventeen years. Alma worked at Clark's Store part time after Gerald's death.

Verda married Jack Keith. (See also KEITH, Jack)

Vernon married Donna Baucke and they continue to farm the home ranch, along with land purchased from Easton and Russel Rowton. They have three children — Tammie, Rodney and Patricia.

Lloyd attended Northern Montana College for two years, majoring in diesel technology. He married Marion Hinthier of Jordan and is in partnership with his brother, Vernon. They have three children — Bradley, Lorna and Darwin.

Janice married Mike Monaco after graduating from high school. He was a teacher at Winnett High School. From Winnett they moved to Noxon, Montana. Later they moved to Baker, Oregon, where they still reside. Janice works in a newspaper office. They have three children — Brenda, Colette, and Janine.

Phyllis attended college before marrying Jack Herman. They settled in Maple Valley, Washington. They have three children — Andrea, Alex and Andrew.

Rhoda graduated from Eastern Montana College. She married Robert Miller. They still reside in Billings. Their two children are Nicole and Ryan.

In about 1959, Parley discovered that he had Parkinson's disease. Even after several operations, his speech and walking didn't improve very much. He sold the ranch to Lloyd and Vernon in 1967. Parley spent about 11 years in private or public nursing homes before passing away in 1985.

At the age of 50, Alma went back to college in order to be qualified to teach again. She taught for twelve years before she retired when the Mosby School closed.

In 1979 there was a big ice jam at Rowtons. The ice

cakes were huge. One large ice cake went through the chicken coop, and the corrals were nearly washed out. The water was a foot deep in the house and not only left a muddy mess, but also ruined the carpets. In addition, the refrigerator, washing machine, dryer, and furnace had to be repaired. Alma said that if it happened again, she'd move out.

Alma still lives on the ranch and plants a big garden in the summer. She keeps busy gardening, quilt-making, and crocheting. She lives in Winnett in the winter. (Alma Rowton)

RUKAVINA, Marko (Sec 1-19-29) Marko Rukavina, son of Ivano and Mara Rukavina, was born in 1876 at Pazarste, Yugoslavia. He immigrated to the United States and Montana in 1904. He went to work in the Red Lodge mines.

Marica Krpan, daughter of Martin and Ika Krpan, was born in 1880 at Lipe, Yugoslavia. She immigrated to the United States in 1906. Marko and Marica were married in 1906 at Trinidad, Colorado, where Marko was working at the time. They had known each other in the "Old Country." They left Trinidad in 1908 to return to Montana.

Later that year Marko and Louie Doctovich went by raft from Fort Benton down the Missouri and beached at Fort Musselshell. Marko established a homestead south of the Fort on the Musselshell River. Marko and Marica lived at the homestead for many years.

Marko continued to work in the mines at Red Lodge intermittently, while Marica stayed at the homestead to take care of it. They raised hay and cattle on the river until 1935, when the place was bought by the U. S. Government for inclusion in the Fort Peck Dam project.

Marko and Marica had ten children: Phyllis Josephine (1908) married Joseph E. Johnson and died in 1951 in Billings, Montana; Frank (1910) died accidentally in 1928 when he was thrown from a horse and kicked in the face; John Henry (1912) married Donna Cannon and died in 1967; Anton Edward (1914) served in the Army in World War II and died in 1964; Anna Lucille (1916) married Dugal Marks; Margaret Joan (1917) married Ivor Leo



Marko and Mary Rukavina — Golden Wedding Anniversary



Fred Luke and Tony Rukavina

Johnson; Matthew Robert (1919) married Phyllis Meldene Lewis; Peter John (1921) married Alzena Marie Smith; Mike (1923) was a World War II veteran who died in 1982; and Jack Martin (1926) married Irma Mae Keschrell.

Marko, Marica and family moved to the Bridger, Montana, area in 1936. Marko and Marica retired in 1959 and moved into Bridger. Marko died in 1962, and Marica died in 1967. They are buried at Bridger. (Josie Bohn, granddaughter)

SAMPSON, William L. (Sec 4-14-30) William L. Sampson was born in Iowa in 1858 and was reared in Montana. He and his wife were early settlers in the Weede community. Mrs. Sampson passed away in 1916 and was buried in the Musselshell Cemetery. William moved from the river to Winnett in the late 1920s and lived there until his death in 1934. They had no children. He was buried alongside his wife in the Musselshell Cemetery.

SANDIDGE, Larkin In 1898 Larkin Sandidge came to the lower Musselshell River area and "squatted" on land near the mouth of Blood Creek. He remained there for eleven years. Previously he had driven sixteen horses on a jerk line for freight lines between Fort Benton and Fort Shaw. He also drove four, six, and eight horses on freight and stage lines between Helena and Bozeman. In 1912 he was killed while driving a two-horse load of lumber. He was coming down Blood Creek Hill when his leg became tangled in the brake rope; he slipped and fell under the wheel, which ran over him. (*Heritage Book of Original Fergus County*)

Larkin Sandidge had come to Montana as a child during the gold rush days. He married Charlotte Dixon in Helena, and they had two children — Cora and Charles. Cora married Thomas Gilfeather.

Charles Sandidge came to the river with his father and took a homestead on the west side. He carried mail for the Meca Post Office. After proving his homestead, he sold to W. D. Bowen and went to work for the railroad. Then he went to work for the Liquor Control Board in the 1930s and worked in Helena until his death in 1945.

SCHAEFFER, Robert A. Robert and Isabelle Schaeffer lived on the Fail Ranch with Isabelle's brothers for a number of years. For a full account of their lives, see SCHAEFFER — Cat Creek.



Robert and Isabelle Schaeffer (1974)

SCHLEUTER, Fred Fred and Bertha Schleuter were early settlers at the mouth of Flatwillow Creek, where Fred worked as a sheepherder for the B. F. Lepper Ranch. The school census for District #26 in 1906 shows that Fred and Bertha Schleuter had four children — Martha (1894), Ida (1899), Elizabeth (1901) and Fred (1903).

The Schleuter family moved down the Musselshell River, probably in late 1906. They lived about 10 miles north of Mosby on the Bottoms place, close to the river. Mr. Schleuter worked mostly as a sheepherder, but also worked some for Ole Nordahl repairing fence and doing other ranch chores.

Mr. Schleuter died suddenly in the fall of 1907, leaving Mrs. Schleuter and children alone. Mrs. Schleuter spoke only German and understood very little English. Most of the neighbors couldn't understand her unless Martha was there to translate for them. Mrs. Schleuter and her children perished in a fire, under suspicious circumstances. (See also NORDAHL, Ole and LUGO)

SHAFER, Courtney Courtney and Jean Shafer and sons, Craig and Jason, moved to Mosby in 1984. Courtney filled the opening left by the retirement of Reynold Ziesman. Craig enlisted in the Navy in 1985 and currently works on a California off-shore oil rig. Jason attends the Winnett Schools. Courtney's mother, Eileen, moved to Winnett from Thermopolis, Wyoming, in October 1989.

SHAW, Henry (Sec 15-14-30) In the 1899 school census for District #26, Henry and Winifred Boyle Shaw had three sons listed in the Weede area. Willie (1882) went to the Garneill area. Harry (1885) stayed on the place at Weede and had three sons — Floyd Leonard (1911), Forrest Winifred (1913) and George (1924). Harry died in 1935 and is buried at Roundup.

Clement (1886) is the Henry C. Shaw in the story that follows.

SHAW, Henry C. (Sec 15-14-30) and **SHAW, Mary E.** (Sec 5-12-30) Henry Clement "Clem" Shaw was born on January 15, 1886, in Sedalia, Missouri. He came to Montana before 1900 with his mother and some brothers. His mother, who was then Mrs. Boyle, settled on the "divide" east of Lewistown. Clem (or "Bugger Face," as he was sometimes called) worked as a cowboy for different outfits. Some of these outfits had headquarters out of Miles City.

Mary Emma Mead Orr was born on February 1, 1886, in Spearfish, South Dakota. She came to Montana with her mother and her stepfather at the age of three. Her stepfather was a freighter by the name of Frank Orr. About 1897 the family arrived in Lewistown. Mary Emma received some schooling there, probably she received an eighth grade education.

Clem had a homestead east of the Musselshell River, and he and his bride lived there in a sheep wagon for two years. Clem ran sheep in the area. His homestead is now a part of Joe Dutton's ranch. This place was referred to as Breed Springs.

When their oldest child became of school age, the family would move into Sumatra, Montana, for school. They continued to do this for many years.

After a time, Clem decided he did not care for life in what was termed the "sand hills," so he moved the family west to the Musselshell River. He had acquired the Billy Dunn homestead south of Mosby on the east side of the Musselshell River. There, he went into the hog-raising business.

During this time the children attended the Mosby School. Pansie, the oldest girl, went to high school in Winnett for at least one year.

The hog business turned out to be a disaster. John O'Dea, who was Clem's financier, acquired the Billy Dunn place as collateral for a debt, so the Shaw family moved across the Musselshell River into Petroleum County to the Gates place. At this time, the children attended school at the Weede School. This probably took place about 1927. The older children went to high school at Melstone.

Mary Emma was a great reader. She had a hunger for books and magazines. She said that she hated to throw any reading material away because she would re-read it whenever she had no new reading available. She owned numerous books. Her children acquired the love of books and reading from her.

In 1930 Clem and Mary Emma separated. Clem went off to hither and yon. Mary Emma and her children con-

tinued to live at the Gates place. Pansie managed to get a college education in Missoula, Montana, by working for her board and room. The older boys worked wherever they could to help support the family. Times were very hard, and doubly so because of the Great Depression. One winter the family had little more than coffee and potatoes.

Clem and Mary Emma had ten children. Pansie K. (1912) married Harry Field in 1941 at Racine, Wisconsin. They had two children, Adele and Gary. Pansie died in 1980.

Craig (1913) was a veteran in World War II, serving with the Air Force photographic laboratory. He married Laura Ferch in Texas, but they were later divorced. They had one son, Craig Jr. Craig died in 1957.

Glen (1915) was in World War II in the South Pacific. He was killed in 1942, and the Glenn Shaw Post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars was named in his honor.

Bud (1917) married Anna Noll of the Flatwillow area in 1957 (See also NOLL, Pete; and ROSTAD, Bernt — Flatwillow) They live at the old homestead. They have two sons — Orval, who married Jolene Reynolds and has two children, Ryan and Grant; and Brett, who is as yet unmarried. Both sons are working at home.

Roy died as a baby.



Shaws moving from Weede in 1921: Pansie, Henry C., Mary Emma, Craig, Glen, Bud, and Ray



Henry Shaw and his winter coyote catch

Raymond L. (1919) was injured in the Marines in World War II. He married Yvonne Thomason, and they live on a ranch about ten miles west of Sand Springs, Montana.

Erwin L. (1922) served in World War II with an ambulance unit in the European Theater. After the war, he worked in an earth moving business with his brothers, Ray and Lee. In later years he had a house in Winnett. He died in 1983.

Lee (1924) married Gunda Sikveland of the Dovetail area. (See also SHAW, Lee)

Daisy (1927) married Bruce Dutton. (See also DUTTON)

Jess (1929) never married and still lives on the place on Johnson Flats, west of the river and about three miles south of Mosby.

In 1946 Clem married Rose Brown of Miles City. They lived on a ranch in Garfield County on Calf Creek. Clem died in 1950. He is buried on the ranch, which is now owned by Ray and Yvonne Shaw. Rose died in 1981 and is buried in Rosebud Cemetery.

Mary Emma, Craig and Jess continued to live at the Gates place until about 1954. At this time they moved to a new house on the Johnson Flats, closer to Mosby.

Mary Shaw died in 1968 and is buried in Sunset Memorial Gardens near Lewistown. Mary Emma was a true pioneer woman. She had lived when the country was sparsely settled. She had her children without benefit of hospitals and raised them without any modern conveniences. She suffered the loss of some of her children, both as adults and as a baby. She knew the pain of loneliness and of being poor. Through all of these hardships, she endured and lived to be old. She found her happiness in the love of her children and in her books.

SHAW, Lee Lee Shaw, seventh son of Henry C. and Mary E. Shaw, was born in 1924 at Mosby. He went to school at the Weede School and at Melstone. In 1941 he and his brother, Ray, enlisted in the Marine Corps. Lee lied about his age to get in, as he was only sixteen at the time. His mother said she did not try to recall him, because she thought he would be safer going with his brother.

Lee and Ray were stationed at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. They saw much combat in the Pacific Theater. Lee was wounded at the battle of Bougainville. He spent a year in the Naval Hospital at Seattle and was then given a medical discharge.

After World War II, Lee, Ray, and Erwin went into the earth moving business. They disbanded this operation in 1949.

In 1949 Lee married Gunda Sikveland of the Dovetail area. They made their home on a small place which had been occupied by Parley Rowton. Lee worked as a trucker for Kenny Bratten and also had a small ranching operation.

In 1952 Gunda began teaching at the Mosby School and later taught at the Cat Creek School and at the Weede School.

The ranching operation was unsuccessful. In 1964 Gunda and the children moved to Winnett, where Gunda



Gunda and Lee Shaw — Wedding day, July 30, 1949

taught continuously for the next sixteen years. Lee and Gunda were divorced in 1966.

They had three children. Gail (1958) graduated from Winnett High School and the University of Montana. She married Larry Wilkerson of Miles City, and now works at the Miles City Public Library. Sarah (1960) graduated from Winnett High and from Montana State University. She married Bill Brindley, and they live on the Matovich Land and Livestock Ranch near Mecaah. (See also BRINDLEY) Lafe (1962) graduated from Winnett High, then graduated from University of Montana. He married Lori Aubin in Calgary, Alberta, and they now live in California.

Lee Shaw died in 1974 and is buried in the Sunset Memorial Gardens near Lewistown.

Gunda married Dave Lewis and they live on a ranch eight miles north of Grassrange.

SHERMAN, Sam The Shermans were ranchers on the east side of the Musselshell River in the 1920s. They raised horses and gathered wild horses.

The Winnett Times reports, "Thirty-five wild bucking horses, including the original 'strawberry roan,' have been gathered by Sam Sherman, to supply plenty of horse flesh for the big 4th of July celebration to be held in the city. Mr. Sherman has completed the roundup of horses, and is busy making arrangements to build the corral and chutes north of town."

Sam Sherman claimed to be the only man to ever find gold on Crooked Creek. He was riding and found a calf in a washout. He climbed down into the washout and got

the calf out. At a nearby ranch, he stopped to have a visit and a meal. While scraping the mud from his boots, he noticed something yellow, like a grain of corn, in the mud. Picking it out, he discovered it was a gold tooth.

The Shermans moved to Susanville, California, in the late 1930s, then moved back to Grassrange in 1950.

SHRANGER, Sherman (Sec 8-13-30) Sherman and Hattie Shranger had the following children listed in the census of School District #107: Georgia (1907), Reata (1908), William (1911), Hattie (1915), and Gladys (1917). These children were in the first census of this district. The last listing for them was in 1917-18.

Transfer of land records indicate that they sold to Jesse Burrington.

SIMS, Henry H. Henry Sims, son of Thomas and Martha Sims, was born in 1887 at Galt, Missouri. He came to Montana from Missouri in 1911 and homesteaded in the Ross area.

Alice Atwood, daughter of Wesley and Catherine Atwood, was born in 1897 at Cross Timbers, Missouri. She came to Montana with her parents, and they homesteaded in the Mecaha area.

Henry and Alice were married in 1915. They made their home in the Ross community, until they moved from the river to the Ashley area, where they lived until 1933. They then moved into Winnett and lived there until 1943.

They had 12 children: Wesley (1917), Dorothy (1918), Howard (1919), Glenn "Jiggs" (1921), Claude (1922), Dean (1925), Irene (1928), Cecil (1930), Ray (1934), Robert (1936), Kenneth (1938), and Katherine (1940) (See also SIMS - Cat Creek and Winnett).

In 1943 Henry and Alice Sims moved to Lewistown, Montana, where he engaged in trucking and timber work. Then he was employed by the railroad at Lewistown until he retired in 1956.

Alice Sims died in 1966, and Henry died in 1967. (Glen Sims)

SMITH, Bernard (Sec 14-12-30) Bernard J. and Elsie B. Smith were homesteaders in the Willow Creek area and in School District #164. They are listed as the parents of three children in the census report for 1913. The children were: Carl H. (1906), Addis (1909) and Dora (1911). The Smiths did most of their trading in Melstone and Musselshell.

They raised chickens and turkeys for market, so it was necessary for them to trap coyotes. The coyotes must have been fairly thick, because the paper tells us that by the 1st of December 1924, Bernard and Carl had caught twenty-three. Carl helped his father with the trap lines. He also drove the stage for J. W. Bowers.

SMITH, George George Smith came into the Musselshell River area during the early homestead days. He settled on a place just across the Musselshell River, east of the John Winter place.

Mr. Smith is remembered as being the first to grow alfalfa on the Lower Musselshell. Soon the neighbors were buying seed from him to start alfalfa meadows.

George did no socializing and did not encourage close friendships; in fact, he was somewhat of a loner. Memories of the people of the area seem to indicate that he was a real "character."

John Winter told of one time, when he was riding at the top of the Blood Creek hill, he met a team and wagon coming down the road with Mr. Smith sound asleep in the back of the wagon. John tied his horse to the back of the wagon, and drove the team home to Smith's. Once there he tied the team to the fence, took his horse, and went home. Smith never did mention getting home.

Smith ran out of coffee one spring. Every morning he would appear at Mrs. Gilfeather's and borrow two tablespoons of coffee. He would never take more than two tablespoons, but he made the trip every morning.

One time he hired Bert Kastner to work for him. Smith told Bert what to do, and said he would be back when he got the table cleared. About four o'clock, Bert went to the house to get a drink of water. He found Smith asleep in the cellar, so Bert saddled up and went home.

One spring the Musselshell River came up to flood stage and stayed up for several days. When the river began to calm down, John Winter went to Gilfeathers to get the mail. Mrs. Gilfeather asked John if he had seen Smith since the flood. Since he had not, he went across the river to check. When he got to Smith's, he found that George Smith had left with all of his possessions. No one ever heard where he had gone. (Hazel Gibson)

SMITH, Paul Paul and Lillie B. (Songer) Smith came from Wyoming to the Musselshell River area in August of 1912. They homesteaded and filed the first water rights on Lower Musselshell and Lodgepole Creek. Lillie B.'s two sons, Alvin and Clarence Songer, also came with them. In the fall of 1919, Millers brought in about 1400 head of steers. It was a severe winter; and in the spring when Clarence and Alvin Songer, Lee Maury, and Alvin Mock gathered, they found only 700 head. The rest had perished.

E. W. Carmichael bought the Miller cattle, and he and Smith ran them until 1926. 1926 was another bad year, so Carmichael got some cattle buyers to come up from Wyoming and bid on the cattle. Smith sold as did almost all the other ranchers in the area. 3000 cattle were trailed out of the Musselshell and Missouri River breaks into Lewistown, and loaded onto Great Northern Railroad cars in October 1926. Lillie B. went along to cook and was wagon boss.

"Smithie" was a practical nurse, tending the sick and delivering babies. During the flu epidemic, she and Dr. Lon Keith traveled night and day, doing what they could for their neighbors. The family resided on various ranches in that area until 1937, when Lillie B. moved to Winnett. (See also SMITH, Lillie B. — Winnett)

The Songer boys married sisters by the name of Elliott.



The Paul Smith homestead; Clarence Songer and children, Mrs. Hotledahl, and Lillie B. Smith

The Elliotts were homesteaders (Sec 17-12-31) in the southeast corner of the county. Clarence had two children, Vera and Dick. Alvin's children were Betty Mae, Ida, Alvin, Jack, Ed and Mike. In 1941, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Songer and family of Tyler, Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Songer and family of Spokane, and their mother, Mrs. Lillie B. Smith, attended the funeral of their father, John Songer, in Buffalo, Wyoming.

The following bit of history was compiled by Ida S. Rigg, and printed in the Winnett Times in 1941: "I am indebted to Mrs. Elsie Coon and Mrs. Lillie Smith for the following account of a Red Cross benefit in Mecaha for World War I.

"At a meeting called by Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Tina Busic, Mrs. Smith was elected chairman and Mrs. Bert Green was elected secretary. Plans were made to hold a benefit picnic. Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Busic to take charge of necessary details.

"These details assumed rather generous proportions, as their first act was to borrow \$200 to buy picnic supplies. Mrs. Ed Fox was the only person on the river who at that time had an automobile, which she gladly volunteered to use for the occasion. She, her son Fred, and the two ladies went to Lewistown where they spent the \$200 for fruits, candy, gum and such novelties as hats and canes, that they thought could be sold at the picnic.

"Sam Sherman gave a white mule which was raffled twice. George Allan gave a two-year-old colt that was also raffled twice. The ladies of the community gave butter and each donated ten loaves of bread, the only white bread many of them made during the whole war period.

"The picnic was a great success. Everything was sold, including sixteen gallons of ice cream served in 1100 ice cream cones, eighty gallons of lemonade made by Gid Busic. The lumber, bought from McCane and Johnson of Roy, to erect a 40 by 60 foot dance pavillion, was sold and brought \$60.00. The attractive hat check girl, Lillie Smith, claims to have checked more hats than there were heads at the picnic. \$232 was sent to the

Glendive chapter of the Red Cross.

"This picnic was long remembered by the 400 people, some of whom came over 65 miles to make it such a success."



Lillie "Smithy" Smith — good samaritan, mother, cook and care-giver

SMITH, Thasia According to the school census of District #107, Thasia Smith had six children — Mary (1908), Lucy (1910), Irene (1912), James, and Charlie Clayton Smith.

The Winnett Times reported that H. E. McGiboney repaired and refurbished the Angelo Watterson house, which he had purchased, for Thasia Smith and family. That same year, several neighbor men helped her apply for a widow's pension.

SNYDER, Robert (Sec 6-14-30) Robert and Jessie Snyder homesteaded in 1914. They enrolled three children in the Weede School — Joel (1894), Ruth (1896) and Jack (1905). The bank repossessed their place in 1919.

STOFEL, Albert M. (Sec 19-19-30) Mr. and Mrs. Albert Stofel and their three sons settled on their homestead in 1915. Their daughter, Martha, and her husband, Harry Gracer, came at the same time.

Albert claimed 160 acres of land — half was in Dawson County (now Garfield), half was in Fergus County (now Petroleum County). The boys, Ed and Bob, filed on the Dawson side of the river, and Harry and Martha filed downriver toward the mouth of the river, next to Louis Ledoux.

When they left, they sold their places to George Matovich.

STONER, Samuel Samuel and Leota Stoner were the parents of Olivia Pearl (1910), Minnie (1911), and Samuel (1919) according to the 1921 school census report of District #107.

STROUP, William (Sec 5-15-30) William "Bill" Stroup was born at Mound City, Missouri. He and other members of the Stroup family took up homesteads in the Yellow Water area. (See also STROUP — Flatwillow) Bill later moved to the Calf Creek country east of the Musselshell River.

Katherine Adam was the daughter of Edward and Katherine Adam of the Calf Creek area. (See also NILES) Bill and Katherine were married at Winnett in 1926. They lived in the Cat Creek and Musselshell River areas for many years.



Family get-together at the Bill Stroup Ranch on the Musselshell River. Kay Stroup, her nephew Ed Warner, and her sister Eline "Linnie" Warner, holding Wilma Stroup McFadden's son, Billie Ray

Stroups moved to the Lynn and Eline Warner homestead on Calf Creek. Eline "Linnie" was Katherine's sister. They eventually sold this place to Phil Matovich, after Bill had worked at Cat Creek for several years.

When Bill and Kay left Petroleum County, they moved to St. Ignatius and remained there until Kay died of cancer in 1959.

After Kay died, Bill traveled quite a bit. He had lost the sight of one eye, so his many friends took him on trips. He especially enjoyed western shows and rodeos like the Calgary Stampede and the Cheyenne Rodeo. Mrs. Warner, Kay's sister, drove around with Bill and they enjoyed the sights together. Bill always had time to visit with friends --- anywhere --- anytime!

Bill died in 1970 at Big Pine, California. (Wilma Stroup McFadden)

SULLINGER, Alfred and Dean Alfred and Martha Sullinger are shown as parents of Anne (1901), Floyd (1908), Freda (1910), Dean (1912), and Judith (1914) according to the census report of District #164.

The deed transfer books at Winnett show that Dean and Lauretta Sullinger bought land in Sec 26-14-29, from Ellen Jensen, a homesteader. They still own this land.

SULT, Harold R. Harold Sult (better known as "H.R."), son of Mr. and Mrs. George H. Sult, was born in 1894 at Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He spent his boyhood in Iowa and moved to Marmarth, North Dakota, as a young man.

Edna Liming, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Liming, was born in 1898 at Pauline, Nebraska. She attended schools in Marmarth.

H. R. and Edna were married in 1916 at Baker, Montana. They ranched at Alzada and near Lodge Grass. They moved to the Mosby area in 1942 and went into partnership with Ralph Knuths. They bought land and leased more. The two main holdings were the one near the highway (the present Bill Brown Ranch) and one on lower Calf Creek (the present Phil and Bette Matovich Ranch). They bought, and brought in, Mexican Longhorn steers.

The Sult family formed a corporation, including the parents and sons, Roland Sult, Raymond Sult, and Edward Sult. Later, Phil and Bette (a daughter) bought shares in the corporation and moved from their river ranch to the ranch on Calf Creek.

(W. T. 10-1-42) "Largest Stock Shipment Here Moved Sunday."

"The largest herd of cattle ever to leave Winnett over the Milwaukee in one shipment was loaded out Sunday on 39 stock cars. In the herd were 1176 head, mostly Mexican cattle, with a bunch of 36 whitefaces belonging to Marcus Matovich.

"The stock was shipped by H. R. Sult and Ralph Knuths, largest operators in this area, headquartering in the northeastern part of Petroleum County and the northwestern part of Garfield County, with thousands of acres owned and many more thousands leased.

"The partners headquarter on two locations — Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Sult and family occupying the old Warner place on Calf Creek, and Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Knuths living on Lodgepole Creek.

"Roundup of the nearly 1200 head was begun on September 10th, and actual trailing to the railroad took four days of 20-hour shifts. Ten cowboys and the cook and 47 saddle horses were required to handle the shipment.

"Senior and junior runs to strong extremes in ages of cowboys. Ray Sult, 12-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Sult, was the youngest and declared by other men in the outfit as the 'best hand in the bunch.' Oldest man at 83 years was Bob Bailey, father of C. H. Bailey of Cat Creek. But 83 years doesn't mean anymore to Mr. Bailey than 50 years does to a lot of men we know. He's hale and hearty and able to handle his end of a day's work any old time.

"The Mexican cattle were a distinct curiosity to people who are used to seeing shorthorn and whitefaces on the range. The strangers were of every description and color — black, black and white, buckskin, sorrel, etc.

"Saturday night the 'dogies' were held about a mile north of the golf course, with camp being set up inside the golf course grounds. Residents of Winnett had a field day on Sunday, when at most anytime during the day, a car could be seen on nearly every ridge surrounding the herd. Most spectators expected to see some pretty wild stock, but were disappointed in that the herd was well behaved due to expert management by the 'hands.' Numerous rolls of film were used up in attempting to get a good 'shot' of the unusual scene.

"During loading operations, the cattle were held just across the highway north of Winnett. Loading began late in the afternoon and was completed in record time and the stock train pulled out shortly after 10 a.m.

"No estimate was available as to the price paid per pound, but it is thought the price for the entire shipment was around \$100,000. They were shipped to feeding lots at Scotts Bluff, Nebraska, and the native cattle were shipped to Illinois.

"Largest single previous shipment out of Winnett occurred a number of years ago, when Walter J. Winnett shipped around 1000. With the range in the best condition it has been for a good many years and plenty of room for expansion of the industry in the county, it is highly probable that scenes like the one Sunday will become more common."

The Sults had four children: Roland married Clara Koeble from Jordan. They sold their share of Sult holdings and ranched in Wyoming for several years before selling that ranch and moving to Billings, Montana, due to bad health. They had two children — Margo and Sandy.

Ray married Patty McVay from Winnett and continued to run the ranch at Upper Calf Creek. They sold their share of Sult holdings and bought a ranch in Georgia, where they lived for several years. They sold the Georgia ranch and moved back to Sidney, Montana, where they

operated a ranch. They have three children — John, Richard and Sheila. Ray died suddenly in January 1989, and is buried in the Richland Memorial Park Cemetery at Sidney.

Ed married Mirth Kiehl of Winnett. They sold their shares of the Sult corporation and moved to the Willette Ranch on the Musselshell in Petroleum County. Later he sold that place to Fails. He worked for local ranchers for several years and owned a bar in Winnett for awhile. Due to bad health, Ed and Mirth moved to Billings. They have two daughters, Vicki and Cathy. Ed died in 1968 and is buried in Sunset Memorial Gardens.

Bette married Phil Matovich. (See also MATOVICH, Phil) In 1960 Bill Brown bought the Sult Ranch near the highway, and Bette and Phil bought the lower Calf Creek Ranch, where they still live. Phil and Bette have three children — Harold, Linda and Carey.

H. R. and Edna retired in 1960 and moved to Billings. H. R. died in 1971, Edna died in 1976. (Bette Matovich)

TAYLOR, Norman and Ward (Sec 1-17-29) Norman Taylor, son of William and Katie Taylor, was born in 1892 in Iowa. He came to Montana in 1913, lived near Roy for several years, then homesteaded near the mouth of Blood Creek on the Lower Musselshell River.

During World War I, Norman served in the 77th Division in France and was a member of the famed Lost Battalion. He then returned to his Lower Musselshell ranch.

His brother, John Ward, joined him in 1928, and their operation was called "Taylor Brothers." They lived on the Musselshell River for about 45 years.

Norm died in Miles City at the Veteran's Hospital in 1965 and is buried in the Winnett Cemetery.

After Norm's death, John remained on the ranch until retiring in 1972 and moving to Winnett. Neither John nor Norm ever married.

John died in 1977 and is also buried at the Winnett Cemetery.

THOMAS, William Kendrick (Sec 4-18-29) William Kendrick "Kenny" Thomas was born in 1877 at Elizabethtown, Kentucky. Evalena Smith was born in 1879 in Henderson County, Kentucky. Kenny and Evalena were married in 1903 at West Franklin, Indiana.

They lived there for two years, and two sons, Otis and Owen, were born. They moved to Henderson County, Kentucky, where another son, Preston, and a daughter were born. Mr. Thomas and his family came to Lewistown, Montana, with his brother, Clinton, in the spring of 1914. After living in Lewistown during the summer, they homesteaded on the Musselshell River, ten miles south of the Missouri River in the fall.

Mr. Thomas and his brother walked from Lewistown to the river to look over the homestead. A few weeks later he moved his family down by wagon and hayrack. They lived for three weeks under a tarpaulin stretched over a pole to make a tent, cooking on a stove in the open. It rained all during the trip, making it necessary to bail water out continually from under the tarpaulin.