

## WALLACE SCOTT BENJAMIN

Born: November 17, 1925 - Died: August 8, 1943

Liberty County Times

August 19, 1943

### Instantly Killed in Motorcycle Crash

Funeral services were held yesterday afternoon (August 11th), at 2:00 o'clock at the Community hall in Devon for Wallace Scott Benjamin, age 17. Rev. H. G. Oliver of Great Falls officiated at the services and interment was made in the Devon cemetery.

Young Benjamin was killed outright Sunday night about two miles west of Dunkirk and seven miles east of Shelby when the motorcycle he was driving had a head-on collision with a truck that was driven by John Markin.

Wallace, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Benjamin, was enroute to his home three miles south of Devon after spending the day with friends in this city. At the point where the accident occurred there is a dip in the road of the No. 2 highway, and the two vehicles met as the truck came over the brow of the hill.

At the coroner's inquest, Markin testified that he did not see the motorcycle until it was within a few feet of the truck, and also said he didn't believe it had any lights on it, but it happened so suddenly he couldn't say for sure, or words to that effect. Markin's wife was riding in the truck with him, but was asleep at the time. Markin said he was driving at 25 or 30 miles an hour.

Markin said he stopped his truck and found the motorcycle on one side of the road and the boy on the other side. Ed Burke was driving another truck about a half a mile back of Markin, who also had his wife with him, and she too was asleep, arrived at the scene a few moments later. He passed the wreck and then turned his car around and focused his lights on the two machines and the body.

Ben Taylor, wife and two little daughters, were the next ones to drive up. Taylor felt of Benjamin's pulse, and believed that he was still alive and the boy was placed in the back seat of his car and taken to the Shelby hospital where it was found that he had passed away.

Markin and Burke came here a short time ago from Houston, Texas, and are employed by the Brown & Root company, who are hauling water for the Texas Co. Markin was driving a two-ton truck with a small water tank on it.

It is understood that both of Benjamin's legs and arms were broken and he also had injuries about the head. The impact of the two machines was so great that a three-inch iron pipe that was used for a bumper on the front of the truck was snapped in two. Marks on the truck indicated that the motorcycle struck slightly to the right of the middle of the left hand fender throwing up the hood, and driving the radiator back into the engine. The left hand light was torn completely off.

Wallace Scott Benjamin was born at Devon, November 17, 1925. He had attended the Devon public school and the Galata high school and since that time has been engaged with his parents in farming.

Besides his parents he is survived by four sisters, Mrs. Louis Lambott, Rudyard; Marjorie of Spokane; Phebe and Lillian of Devon, and five brothers, Clarence, Chico, California, now serving in the armed forces; Wesley, Uniontown, Washington; and Norman, Harry and Donald of Devon, and one sister, Mildred, who preceded him in death at the age of 18 on January 27, 1934. He is also

survived by one nephew.

Wallace, who had many acquaintances among the young set in this vicinity, all say that he was a fine boy, and are greatly grieved over this great tragedy. — Tribune of Shelby.

## ALFRED HENRY BERG

Born: 1886 - Died: July 28, 1943

Liberty County Times

July 29, 1943

### ALFRED HENRY BERG DIED WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Alfred Henry Berg, father of Lloyd Berg, of the Hi-Way garage, died in a Havre hospital about 10:30 Wednesday night, July 28th, as a result of a heart attack.

Mr. Berg had been ill since Monday, but it was not until Wednesday afternoon that his condition became critical. He was taken to the Mary Lynn hospital during the afternoon, and about eight o'clock Dr. Lacey from Havre arrived and ordered the patient taken to the hospital in Havre at once. Otto Fossen took Mr. Berg to Havre, and he was given immediate attention, but passed away shortly after entering the hospital.

Deceased had suffered periodically with a heart ailment since 1918, when he had a serious attack of the flu. Since that time his heart had bothered him at times, but the ailment was not considered dangerous until the last and fatal attack.

Mr. Berg was born in North Dakota in 1886, and lived in that state until 1938, when he came to Montana, locating at Malta, where he lived until December, 1940, when he moved with his family to Chester.

Survivors include the wife and eleven living children, four of whom live in Chester. Those at home are Lloyd, Lyle, Jaddie and Ensel. Other surviving children are Emmers Berg, Pocatello, Idaho; Mrs. Harold Rapley, Minneapolis; Jessel Berg, Los Angeles; Mrs. Arthur Nelson, Tacoma, Wash.; Mrs. Walter Averill, Ray, Washington; Mrs. Jalmer Jacobson, Fargo, N. D., and Miss Ansee Berg, Fargo.

Funeral services will be held Sunday afternoon, probably from the Methodist church in Chester.

### Berg Funeral Services Largely Attended

Services for Alfred Henry Berg, who died in a Havre hospital last Wednesday night as a result of a heart attack, were held Sunday at the Methodist church in Chester with Rev. J. Torrance Harvey officiating.

Attending the funeral from out of town were the following relatives: Mrs. Clara Roberts of Jamestown, N. D., a sister; Emmers Berg and family of Pocatello, Idaho, a son; Mrs. Harold Rapley, Minneapolis, Minnesota, a daughter; Mrs. Arthur Nelson, Tacoma, Washington, a daughter; Mrs. Walter Averill, Roy, Washington, a daughter; Mr. and Mrs. Jalmer Jacobson and family of Fargo, N. D., a daughter. Mr. and Mrs. Jessel Berg of Los Angeles, California, a son, arrived Monday, too late for the funeral.

Rev. and Mrs. C. L. Merry, accompanied by Mrs. L. E. Matkin, sang "Rock of Ages" and "The Old Rugged Cross."

Pallbearers were Levi and Alba Shettel, Tom Studacher, Charles Swank, Walter and Sam Heimbigner.

Mr. Berg is survived by his widow and 11 children and 15 grandchildren. He had many warm friends in this community who will join us in extending heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved family.

## JAMES ROBINSON COCKRILL

Born: August 31, 1867 - Died: April 5, 1943

Liberty County Times

April 8, 1943

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# James R. Cockrill Died on Monday

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James Robinson Cockrill, one of the picturesque early settlers of Liberty county, and widely known in northern Montana died Monday afternoon, April 5th, at a local hospital. He had been in failing health for many years, but not until Saturday, April 3rd, did he give up and go to the hospital. He became much weaker and Monday at 1 p. m. he passed to the great beyond, having suffered a fatal heart attack.

Mr. Cockrill, youngest son of Mark and Mary Goodloe Cockrill, was born on the family country home near Nashville, Tennessee, on August 31, 1867. He received his education in the common schools there and was graduated from a noted academy in Nashville.

At the age of 18 he came to Montana with the late Major Turner, father of the late J. C. Turner and later, with his cousin, Mark Cockrill, of Great Falls, became interested in horse and mule raising on the Marias river, where he has lived most of the time since coming west.

For a few years he was in Canada, near Medicine Hat where he pastured and cared for his herd of horses. He also spent a short time in Texas, and in and near Billings, Montana. He leaves to mourn his passing two daughters, Mrs. Gladys Newly and Leah Cockrill, both of Seattle, three grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, two sisters and two half brothers in the east, a cousin, Mark Cockrill, and his family of Great Falls, as well as many other cousins, nephews and nieces, and a host of friends who will long remember and miss him.

All who knew him held him in high esteem for his honesty, integrity, never failing kindness and open hospitality. In fact to many, old and young, he was known affectionately as "Uncle Jim."

Funeral services will be held in the Chester Lutheran church Friday afternoon with Rev. M. T. Gilbertson officiating. Burial will be in the Chester cemetery.

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## HANNAH BENSON ENERSON

Born: February 5, 1856 - Died: August 2, 1943

Liberty County Times

August 5, 1943

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### Mrs. Hannah Enerson Called

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Death called Mrs. Hannah Benson Enerson, 87, of the Bear Den community, north of Chester, Monday night at the home of her daughter, Mrs. E. G. Osler.

Mrs. Enerson was one of the best known figures of the community and her many friends will miss her friendliness and kindness.

She was born in Sweden in February 5, 1856, and was married at Hoby, Sweden, in December of 1876 to Martin Enerson. The couple came to the United States in 1877 when Mrs. Enerson was 21 years old and resided in Michigan two years. They then moved to Grand Forks, N. D., where they farmed until 1912, when Mrs. Enerson moved to Joplin. She homesteaded in the Bear Den community. Mr. Enerson died many years ago.

She is survived by two sons, Edward of Niagara, N. D., and John of Shelley, B. C. Surviving daughters are Mrs. Charles O. Johns, Mrs. Arthur Johnson and Mrs. E. G. Osler, all residents of the north Chester territory. Mrs. Enerson is also survived by a brother, Ben P. Benson, of Fordville, N. D.; 25 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren. Eight children preceded her in death.

Services are planned to be held at the Methodist church in Chester Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

IDA FENZL

Born: N/A - Died: December 3, 1943

Liberty County Times

December 9, 1943

MRS. IDA FENZL PASSES  
AFTER LINGERING ILLNESS

Mrs. Ida Fenzl, well known matron of the Chester community for the past thirty years, died at the Conrad hospital on Friday morning of last week, December 3rd, following a lingering illness.

Mrs. Fenzl had been in the hospital for the past two months, suffering from high blood pressure and a serious heart affliction. Her death was not unexpected.

Deceased came to this community thirty years ago, and with her family resided on a farm north of town until a few years ago, when they moved into town.

Requiem high mass was sung at the Conrad Catholic church Monday morning, December 6th, for Mrs. Fenzl, Fr. T. Weiner O. Praem officiating. Interment was in the Conrad cemetery.

Mrs. Fenzl is survived by four daughters and one son, Mrs. J. E. Barnes (Margaret) of Siletz, Oregon; Rose of Eugene, Oregon; Helen of Carson City, Nevada; Goldie and John of Chester.

## SAM FLECK

Born: N/A - Died: July 1, 1943

Liberty County Times

July 8, 1943

### Three Are Killed in Cut Bank Tank Crash

Cut Bank, July 2.—Three persons were killed and a fourth critically burned last night when a large oil tank truck and trailer plunged off a road west of Cut Bank and plunged down a 120-foot embankment.

Mrs. Amelia Burd Howell, 22, died in the blazing cab, and Sam Fleck of Cut Bank, the driver, died nearby.

Palmer Torgerson of Shelby succumbed this morning in a hospital here.

The condition of the cab's fourth occupant, Myrl Peck of Caldwell, Idaho, was described as critical.

The accident occurred when the truck and trailer started down the steep Cut Bank river hill on which a small truck had been damaged slightly in an earlier accident, and attempted to swerve aside.

Frank Whetstone of the Cut Bank Pioneer Press and Lt. Claude Stanley, commanding officer of the Cut Bank army air base, managed to extinguish the flames in Fleck's oil-drenched clothing. Whetstone and Cut Bank's mayor, Weldon Lee, brought Torgerson and Peck to the hospital in city and air base ambulances.

Mrs. Howell is the wife of Pvt. Donald W. Howell of the army air force at Roswell, N. M. She is survived by a child, 3, by a previous marriage.

The mishap brought to 39 the number of traffic accident fatalities in Montan this year.

OLE J. HANSON  
Born: 1864 - Died: August 23, 1943  
Liberty County Times  
August 26, 1943

### Ole J. Hanson Passed Away August 23rd

Ole J. Hanson, 79, well known and long time resident of Joplin, died Monday morning in a Havre hospital.

Mr. Hanson was a native of the state of Minnesota and came to Chester in the fall of 1908, later living four miles north and east of Joplin.

He is survived by two sons, Richard E. of Joplin and George R. of Santa Cruz, California. Four daughters survive. They are Mrs. Virgil Elliott of Great Falls, Mrs. Elmer Stewart of Great Falls, Mrs. George L. Brennan of Whitefish and Mrs. Lester Vincent of Inverness. He is survived by a brother, Ed. Hanson, of Inverness and a sister, Mrs. Hannah Lancaster of Kalispell, as well as nine grandchildren.

Mr. Hanson's wife passed away in May of 1936. He was buried beside her in Highland cemetery.

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## RAYMOND HARTMAN

Born: 1922 - Died: April 12, 1943

Liberty County Times

April 15, 1943

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### ETHRIDGE MAN KILLED

Shelby, April 12—Raymond Hartman, 21, of Ethridge, died at a local hospital following an automobile accident west of Ethridge early Monday morning. A car driven by Bob Dean of Cut Bank collided with a horse on the highway, injuring Dean and Clyde Momberg. The injured were taken to the Cut Bank hospital by Highway Patrolman Art Anderson. A coroner's jury here today decided that Hartman's death was due to an unavoidable accident. Dean is still in a Cut Bank hospital and may have a fractured skull. Momberg suffered less serious injuries and was able to testify at the inquest.



**ARNE HAUGE**

**Born: January 7, 1878 - Died: August 27, 1943**

**Liberty County Times**

**September 2, 1943**

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## **Funeral Services for Arne Hauge**

Funeral services for the late Arne Hauge, who died Friday evening of last week, were held Tuesday morning at 10:00 o'clock in the Chester Methodist church with Rev. J. Torrance Harvey conducting the services. A quartette composed of Mrs. Bob Wigen, Miss Mary Plank, Mrs. Frank Eggers and Mrs. Fred Brown, sang "Nearer, Still Nearer," "Safe in the Arms of Jesus" and "Abide With Me," accompanied by Mrs. Thielman.

Mr. Hauge was an old time settler in this community, coming here 31 years ago and homesteading south of Chester where he had resided continuously ever since.

He is survived by his widow, one son and two daughters. The body was taken to Great Falls immediately after the services for interment.

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## HAROLD J. (JACK) HAZELWOOD

Born: August 7, 1888 - Died: August 28, 1943

Liberty County Times

September 2, 1943

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### G. N. Conductor Dies Suddenly

Harold J. (Jack) Hazelwood, 56, popular conductor on the local freight died suddenly Saturday on his run between Tiber and Chester. He complained of a severe pain while in Tiber and went into the caboose and sat down. When the train arrived in Chester he was found to be dead.

His death came as a shock to those in railroad circles. He had been a railroad man for 33 years and began his railroad career on the Santa Fe and came to the Great Northern system in 1910. He was promoted to conductor on March 12, 1913.

Mr. Hazelwood is survived by his widow, Mrs. Ada Hazelwood, a daughter, Mrs. Ed Peterson of Havre and two grandchildren. He is also survived by a sister, Miss Garnet Hazelwood of Wichita, Kansas.

He was born in Plano, Iowa, August 7, 1887. He married Miss Ada Taylor at Seymore, Iowa, September 11, 1911.

Mr. Hazelwood had a wide following of friends and his cheerful nature was well known. Friends declared him to be a man of high ideals who had never said a harsh word to or about any individual.

He was a member of the Havre lodge 55, A. F. & A. M., Order of Railway Trainmen and a member of the Great Northern Veterans' association.

Funeral services were held in Havre Tuesday afternoon and the remains were taken to Wichita, Kansas where he will be laid to rest in the family plot.

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**MARY A. HENRY**

**Born: September 3, 1865 - Died: November 13, 1943**

**Liberty County Times**

**November 25, 1943**

**MRS. MARY A. HENRY  
PASSES IN LOS ANGELES**

The following obituary of Mrs. Mary A. Henry, one time resident of this community, will be read with interest by many old time residents:

Mrs. Mary A. Henry was born on September 3, 1865 and died November 13, 1943 at Los Angeles, California. She was the oldest daughter of a family of 14 children, all of whom lived to maturity and eight of whom survive her. She was an aunt of Brigadier Lloyd Docter. She was like a mother to him and gave him the love which she was not privileged to lavish on children of her own.

Mrs. Henry was a pioneer. She joined the western trek of civilization in the 80's of the last century, spending a short time in North Dakota, after which she went with her husband to Montana where she watched the civilization follow the winding trails of the ox carts and where she made her humble, but prominent contribution toward the building of an empire in the northwest.

Mrs. Henry came to Los Angeles with her husband in 1924 and lived for almost 20 years on a palm froned street with friends she grew to love. The towering palms on East 43rd street will miss the cheerful sound of her footsteps—the birds and the children will miss her happy greeting. The neighbors will miss her tender, affectionate services, and her family, those who felt the impact of her dearest love, will miss her most of all.

## HARRY HODGES

Born: January 24, 1898 - Died: May 10, 1943

Liberty County Times

May 20, 1943

### Funeral Services for Late Harry Hodges

A large concourse of sorrowing relatives, friends and neighbors of the late Harry Hodges gathered at the Lutheran church in Joplin on Friday afternoon of last week to pay their last respects to the memory of their departed friend.

Services were in charge of Rev. Winkle, pastor of the Presbyterian church in Havre, and music was furnished by the Lutheran church choir. A profusion of floral tokens banked the casket, silent tokens of the love and respect in which the departed was held.

Pallbearers were Emil Nelson, Art LaValley, George H. Gau, Fred Knopes, Fred Guy and David F. James. Burial was in the Joplin cemetery.

#### Obituary

Harry Hodges was born January 24, 1898, and departed this life Monday, May 10, 1943, at the age of 45 years. He came to the Joplin community with his parents in 1910, his father homesteading the land on which the present home is located in the Alma community.

Left to mourn his passing are his wife, Mrs. Sarah Hodges, and one son, Freddie Hodges, Jr., his father and mother, one brother, Frank, and two sisters, Nellie Hodges and Mrs. Wallie E. Hunt.

## JOHN KARL HOLM

Born: December 8, 1889 - Died: April 11, 1943

Liberty County Times

April 22, 1943

# John Holm Takes Own Life; Cause Unknown

The community north of Lothair as well as Liberty county in general was shocked Saturday afternoon of last week to hear that John Holm, one of the early and well known settlers of that district, had shot himself and was not expected to live.

He was found by his brother, Alfred Holm, with whom he was engaged in farming operations, and Sevier Rockman who had called at the Holm ranch a few minutes before on business. He was lying just north of the farm buildings in a pool of blood and a 25-20 rifle lay beside him. A bullet hole through the head which pierced the brain had rendered him unconscious.

Mr. Rockman and his brother, Ed., rushed the man to the Mary Lynn hospital in Chester, where everything possible was done to save his life, but he never regained consciousness and gradually grew weaker, passing away Sunday evening at 10:05 o'clock.

A coroner's jury, composed of J. T. Smith, Sr.; Merle Bathke, E. A. Bathke, B. O. Nordstrom, Otto Whelchel and J. E. Cody heard the evidence of Alfred Holm, Art Norris, who made an investigating trip to the home with Sheriff Keith immediately after the shooting; Dr. R. A. Benke, Sevier Rockman and Gordon Standiford and rendered the verdict that "John Holm came to his death by a gun-shot wound, self-inflicted."

The immediate cause of the tragedy has not been fully determined, but it is known that he was not in the best of health, having but recently returned from Rochester, Minnesota, where he received medical treatment, and that he also had met with some financial reverses.

Funeral services will be held at the Chester Lutheran church tomorrow (Friday) afternoon at 2 o'clock, with the Rev. Orlando Lee, pastor of the Galta Lutheran parish conducting the services. Burial will be in the Chester cemetery.

## JOHN KARL HOLM

John Karl Holm was born at Gary, Minnesota, December 8, 1889, the son of Torger and Andirne Holm. He passed away at the Chester hospital in Chester, Montana, Sunday evening, April 11, 1943. Mr. Holm came to Montana in May, 1910, and since then has spent most of his time farming, with his brother, Alfred, on a farm north of Lothair, Montana. He was preceded in death by his parents and two sisters, Julia and Sophie. He leaves to mourn his departure his brother, Alfred, his sister, Martha (Mrs. Rishoff of Shelby) and five nieces and two nephews. Funeral services were conducted from Our Savior's Lutheran church, Chester, April 16, by Rev. Orlando Lee. Interment was made in the Chester cemetery.

AMELIA BURD HOWELL

Born: N/A - Died: July 1, 1943

Liberty County Times

July 8, 1943

### Three Are Killed in Cut Bank Tank Crash

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The accident occurred when the truck and trailer started down the steep Cut Bank river hill on which a small truck had been damaged slightly in an earlier accident, and attempted to swerve aside.

Frank Whetstone of the Cut Bank Pioneer Press and Lt. Claude Stanley, commanding officer of the Cut Bank army air base, managed to extinguish the flames in Fleck's oil-drenched clothing. Whetstone and Cut Bank's mayor, Weldon Lee, brought Torgerson and Peck to the hospital in city and air base ambulances.

Mrs. Howell is the wife of Pvt. Donald W. Howell of the army air force at Roswell, N. M. She is survived by a child, 3, by a previous marriage.

The mishap brought to 39 the number of traffic accident fatalities in Montana this year.

## JOHN HUGHES

Born: April 6, 1881 - Died: June 13, 1943

Liberty County Times

June 17, 1943

### John Hughes Rites to Be Held on Saturday

Services for John Hughes, 62, long time resident of Joplin, who passed away in a Havre hospital Sunday after a short illness, will be held at the graveside in Highland cemetery, Havre, at 2 p. m. Saturday with the Rev. F. E. Wines of Rudyard officiating.

The deceased is survived by his widow and son, John Wallace Hughes, who is now a prisoner of war in the Philippine islands. His son enlisted in the medical corps, in October, 1940.

Mr. Hughes was born April 6, 1881, at Llangollen, North Wales, England. He came to Hill county, Montana, from Canada (from England to Canada in March, 1905) in 1913, homesteading about 25 miles north of Joplin where he resided until his death except for 12 years he lived in England, from 1924 to 1936. After returning from England he resumed farming and livestock raising and has been successful in this business. In addition to other livestock, he had considerable of a herd of Karakul sheep.

On March 12, 1912, he was married to Jennie Sanguine at Lawson, Saskatchewan. He was a member of the Baptist church.

In addition to his immediate family he is survived by his father, Thomas Hughes, of North Wales, England; three sisters, Mrs. Gron Williams of Quakertown, Pa.; Mrs. Samuel Roberts of Mold, N. Wales, England; Mrs. Edward Martin of England, and two brothers, Albert Hughes of North Wales, England, and Thomas Hughes of Lundar, Manitoba, Canada.

**GEORGE A. LaVALLEY**

**Born: December 30, 1868 - Died: November 20, 1943**

**Liberty County Times**

**November 25, 1943**

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**BROTHER OF W. H. LA VALLEY  
PASSED AWAY SATURDAY**

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Word was received here that George A. LaValley of Great Falls, Montana, had passed away at 8 p. m., Saturday, November 20, at the Columbus hospital. Mr. La Valley was a brother of W. H. LaValley, who lives north of Chester. He will be remembered by many old time friends of the Joplin community where he homesteaded in 1910 one mile east of Joplin. Later he moved to Great Falls where he resided until the time of his death.

George A. La Valley was born in Burr Oak, Iowa, on December 30, 1868. He leaves a wife and seven children, four boys and three girls, Horton of Portland, Oregon; Clifford of Great Falls, George of Great Falls, Gladys Holman of Great Falls, Esther Smith of Preston, Idaho; Vernon of Great Falls, Lillian Olson of Fort Shaw, 15 grandchildren, two brothers and one sister, L. A. LaValley of Fergus Falls, Minn.; W. H. LaValley of Chester, and Mrs. E. T. Lisle of Los Angeles, California, to mourn his passing, besides a host of friends.

Funeral services were held at the Presbyterian church in Great Falls Tuesday afternoon at 2:15. Mr. and Mrs. W. H. LaValley and L. P. LaValley attended the services.



## EDWARD CORNELIUS LUND

Born: July 7, 1876 - Died: September 15, 1943

Liberty County Times

September 23, 1943

### Funeral Services for E. C. Lund

Funeral services for the late Edward Cornelius Lund who passed away in Grand Forks, N. D., last week, were conducted from the Methodist church in Chester Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Holland & Bonine of Havre were in charge of arrangements and Rev. Merrill T. Gilbertson, pastor of the Joplin Lutheran parish, conducted the services.

Mr. Lund was born in LaSalle county, Illinois, July 7, 1876 and passed away September 15th, 1943. On May 4, 1906, he was united in marriage to Agnes C. Peterson at Lacota, North Dakota. They came to Chester in 1910 and homesteaded north of town. In 1924 he moved to St. James, Minnesota.

A quartette composed of Mrs. Walter Jensen, Miss Lillian Anderson, Miss Nellie Wickum and Mrs. Robert Wigen sang "Still, Still With Thee," "When Peace Like a River" and "My Faith Looks Up to Thee," accompanied by Chris Warnes.

Pall bearers, all old friends of the deceased, were E. R. Furlong, Chas. Swank, George Green, Clarence Biggs, J. T. Smith, Sr., and George Ainley.

Surviving relatives include the following sons: Arnold Perry, Washington; Earl Medford, U. S. navy; Loyd Melvin, Chester; Irvin Monrad, Los Angeles, Calif.; Odin Raymond, U. S. army, overseas; Martin Vernon, Valleji, Calif.; Carl Winfield, U. S. army, Washington. Two daughters, Norma Dellas Lund, Sacramento, Calif., and Verdella Elvina Lund of Stockton, Calif. Two brothers, Oif R. Lund and Sam Lund, who reside in Minnesota.

## LAURA LURENNES MATKIN

Born: January 25, 1891 - Died: August 21, 1943

Liberty County Times

August 26, 1943

### Mrs. L. E. Matkin Suddenly Called

The sudden passing of Mrs. L. E. Matkin, 52, at her home Saturday night while in the performance of her household duties, came as a shock to her many friends. She suffered from heart trouble for some time and a severe attack Saturday night was the cause of death.

Laura Lurennnes Matkin was born January 25, 1891, in Seymour, Iowa. After completing her high school education in Seymour she entered Drake university and studied music for three years. In June, 1915, she came to Great Falls and was married to Loudon E. Matkin on the last day of the month of her arrival. She was an accomplished pianist and in addition to being a faithful and devoted member of the Chester Methodist church for several years served as pianist. She was always ready and willing to offer her musical ability in a quiet and efficient manner serving at almost every funeral held in Chester. Her talents were also used at many social gatherings.

Mr. and Mrs. Matkin made their home in Carter until 1932 when the family moved to Lothair, making their home there until taking up their home in Chester.

She was a member of the American Legion auxiliary, the Rebekahs and the Order of Eastern Star.

In addition to her husband, Loudon E. Matkin, she is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Ross (Barbara) Maynard, of Hanford, Washington, and four sons, Robert E. Matkin of Camp Swift, Texas; Harold G. Matkin, Loren R. Matkin and Randall A. Matkin, all of Chester. She is also survived by a brother, Lloyd Cremens of Iowa.

Funeral services will be held this (Thursday) afternoon in the Methodist church. The services will be in charge of Rev. J. Torrance Harvey and burial will be in the Chester cemetery.

The bereaved family have the heartfelt sympathy of the entire community. Mrs. Matkin will be missed greatly.

CHARLES D. McCARTER

Born: 1913 - Died: November 20, 1943

Liberty County Times

November 25, 1943

## Charles McCarter Killed at Galata

Charles D. McCarter, 30, of Galata, was instantly killed Saturday morning when his car was struck by the Great Northern's Empire Builder. McCarter drove onto the tracks in a pickup truck, apparently not seeing the train. The pickup was carried about 100 yards by the train, but McCarter's body was thrown clear, the victim dying almost instantly with a fractured skull and other injuries.

Surviving are his stepfather, Charles Howery of Galata; a sister, Mrs. Obert Drydahl of Shelby, and two brothers, Bill with the army in Italy, and John, stationed at Fort Lewis.

**JOHANNA NELSON**

**Born: May 26, 1858 - Died: June ?, 1943**

**Liberty County Times**

**June 17, 1943**

**Mrs. Johanna Nelson  
Summoned by Death**

Death came Sunday to Mrs. Johanna Nelson, 85, old time Joplin resident, who died in a Havre hospital. Prior to being taken to the hospital, Mrs. Nelson had lived with a son, Nels, north of Joplin.

She is survived by four sons, Emil and Nels of Joplin, and Fred and Anton Zurich. A son, Albert, has been missing for 14 years and when last heard of was aboard a vessel as a sailor.

Services will be held this (Thursday) afternoon at 2 o'clock in the Joplin Lutheran church with the Rev. Merrill T. Gilbertson officiating. Following services the casket will be taken by train to River Falls, Minnesota, for interment beside the last resting place of her husband, John T. Nelson, who died in 1918.

Mrs. Nelson was born in Sweden, May 26, 1858, and when a young girl came to this country. She lived in River Falls, Minn., and was married in 1883. Following her husband's death she came to Montana in 1918 and in 1920 went to Spokane, Washington. She returned to Montana in 1922 making her home with her son, Nels. She was a member of the Swedish mission church and the Alma ladies' aid of River Falls, Minnesota.

## JAMES REID

Born: March 18, 1887 - Died: October 27, 1943

Liberty County Times

October 28 - November 4, 1943

### James Reid Funeral Rites Held Sunday

#### JAMES REID KILLED IN SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

James Reid, old time farmer of the community northeast of Chester, was accidentally killed while working on a defense project in Seattle Wednesday of this week, according to a brief telegram received here last night by Vernon Cramer.

No details of the accident were contained in the death message. Mr. Reid, with his wife, left here a few weeks ago by train for Seattle, intending to work during the winter months on some defense project.

The body will be brought back to Chester for funeral services and burial. Services will be held Sunday afternoon.

Reid lived on the Bison road about nine miles northeast of Chester, and had been a resident of the county for many years.

Services for James Reid, pioneer farmer of the community north of Chester, were held in the Methodist church at 2 p. m. Sunday. Mr. Reid was born in Aberdeen, Scotland, on March 18, 1887. He came to Montana in 1906 and homesteaded in 1911 near Chester where he had made his home since. A week prior to his death he had gone to Seattle to engage in defense work and was hurt on the first day he was employed. The accident occurred while he was coupling a trailer to a truck. The truck pinned him against the trailer and crushed his chest.

The service was conducted by Rev. J. Torrance Harvey. Mrs. Frances Brown, Mrs. Dora Heimbigner, Mrs. Edna Becker, Mrs. Ella Wigen and Mrs. Betty Harvey, accompanied by Mrs. Eddie Thielman, sang "Safe in the Arms of Jesus," "No Night There" and "Near the Cross." The pall bearers, all old time friends, were Herb Rolph, George Rolph, Herman Swan, Raymond Zorn, Alva Shettle and George Braun. Burial was in the Chester cemetery.

He is survived by his widow, Amy L. Reid, a daughter, Doris Jean; four brothers, George, David and John of Montana and Alex of Petersburg, Alaska; two sisters, Mrs. Agnes Stephens of Vancouver, B. C., and Mrs. Helen Reid of Scotland.

James Reid was a quiet, unassuming man, industrious, honest and kindly. He numbered his friends by his acquaintances and will be deeply missed by all those who knew him.

## MARGERY ELAINE ROBISON

Born: July 18, 1924 - Died: March 6, 1943

Liberty County Times

March 11, 1943

### Popular Young Lady Died Last Saturday

The entire community was saddened last Saturday on receipt of the news of the death of Margery Elaine Robison at 3:45 Saturday morning in Havre, following an illness of several weeks.

Elaine was the youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Robison, pioneer residents of Lothair, and had spent most of her life in the Lothair and Chester communities. She completed her grade schooling in the Lothair schools, and then came to the Chester high school, spending four years here, graduating with the class of 1942. She was past eighteen years of age at the time of her passing, having been born in Lothair on July 18, 1924.

Following her graduation from high school, Miss Robison went to Portland, Oregon, at the beginning of the school year last fall, and entered Multnomah business college, where she remained until taken ill shortly after the Christmas holidays.

Last Wednesday she returned to her home in Lothair, accompanied by her mother and two sisters. On her arrival home her condition was so serious that the following day she was taken to the hospital in Havre, where she gradually grew weaker until the end came early Saturday morning.

Elaine Robison was a young woman of lovely character, highly respected and admired by all who knew her. She was a member of the Presbyterian church, but during her stay in Chester she was active in the Methodist church work, and was president of the young people's society for many months. She was also active and popular in high school activities.

Funeral services were held in the Methodist church in Chester Monday afternoon, Rev. J. Torrance Harvey conducting the service. The body was later taken to Kalispell for interment. Music was provided by a ladies' quartette, consisting of Mrs. E. D. Goldan, Mrs. Frances Brown, Mrs. Orpha Eggers, Mrs. T. A. Busey, accompanied by Mrs. L. E. Matkin.

In addition to her parents she is survived by three sisters, Mrs. W. J. Blake of Kalispell, Mrs. John Swank of Chester and Mrs. Jack Larson of Havre.

Surviving uncle and aunts include Mark and Harry Wilson of Cut Bank, and Mrs. Roy Brown of Cut Bank. Four nieces and one nephew also survive.

## AUGUST HERMAN RUGTVEDT

born June 23, 1882 - Died: July 22, 1943

Liberty County Times

July 29, 1943

### A. H. Rugtvedt Passes

August Herman Rugtvedt, 61, a leading citizen of the south Rudyard community, died Thursday afternoon of last week in a Havre hospital. Mr. Rugtvedt had been ill for some time.

He was born in Norway, June 23, 1882, and came to the United States at the age of 18. He remained in this country five years before returning to Norway for three years. While in that country he saw military service. He then returned to the United States and settled at Valley City, North Dakota.

In 1909 he married Maren Hegna, who passed away in 1927.

Mr. Rugtvedt came to Rudyard in 1910 and homesteaded in the south Rudyard community where he was a successful farmer.

The deceased is survived by two sons, Isaac and Arthur of Rudyard, and three daughters, Bertha of Los Angeles, California; Mrs. Clarence Lynch of Camp Shelby, Mississippi, and Ann of Spokane, Washington. Another daughter, Mrs. Florene Kulbeck, died last winter. He is also survived by one grandson and one granddaughter.

Funeral services were held in the Rudyard community hall Wednesday afternoon, with the Rev. Merrill T. Gilbertson officiating.

MRS. W. R. SCHNEIDER

Born: April 23, 1878 - Died: May 10, 1943

Liberty County Times

May 13, 1943

DEATH TAKES MRS. W. R.  
SCHNEIDER MONDAY NIGHT

Mrs. W. R. Schneider, 65, died Monday at her home in Rudyard. She had not been in the best of health the past year. Mrs. Schneider was the wife of W. R. Schneider, music teacher and well-known Mason.

Mr. and Mrs. Schneider made their home in Joplin before going to Rudyard. Mr. Schneider at that time had charge of a music project in this county, having his headquarters in Joplin.

Mrs. Schneider was born in Iowa, April 23, 1878, the daughter of Peter Hansen and Christine Schmidt Hansen. The Schneiders came to Joplin from California five and one-half years ago and moved to Rudyard two years ago.

In addition to her husband Mrs. Schneider is survived by a sister, Mrs. Anna O'Neil of Big Sandy, a brother, Fred Hansen of Rudyard, two nephews and one niece.

Funeral services were held Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the Holland and Bonine funeral home with the Rev. Charles G. Cole, pastor of the Van Orsdel Methodist church, officiating. Burial was in Highland cemetery in Havre.



**JOSEPH EUGENE SKIERKA**

**Born: September ?, 1942 - Died: February 12, 1943**

**Liberty County Times**

**February 18, 1943**

**DEATH OF SKIERKA BABY**

Joseph Eugene, the six-months-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Skierka, died at the family home in Chester on Friday, February 12th, following an attack of pneumonia.

Funeral services were held Sunday afternoon, Rev. Father Kohnke of Hingham conducting the services. Burial was in Chester Catholic cemetery.

The parents have the sincere sympathy of their many friends in their bereavement.

## FRITZ R. STAGE

Born: August 8, 1885 - Died: August 9, 1943

Liberty County Times

August 12, 1943

### Fritz R. Stage Died Monday

Liberty county in general and especially the community north of Chester was saddened Monday by the news that Fritz Reynold Stage had passed away. He died Monday, August 9th at the home of his sister, Mrs. Mary Zorn of Chester.

He had been in failing health for many months and recently returned from Rochester, Minnesota, where it was found that nothing could be done for him. He gradually grew weaker and the end came peaceably Monday afternoon.

Mr. Stage was born August 8, 1885, in Brown county, Minnesota. He moved from his home community to Bottineau, North Dakota, in 1907 and from there moved to Chester in 1913.

Relatives left to mourn his passing are a sister, Mrs. Mary Zorn and family of Chester, a brother, Leopold Stage and family, and a sister, Mrs. Herman Schultz and family, both of Vista, Minnesota, and a sister, Mrs. Ed Schultz and family of Tagus, North Dakota. There are also three nephews, Roy and Raymond Zorn and Herman Swan and their families of Chester.

He was a long-time resident of the community north of Chester, where he homesteaded in 1913, having made his home there since that time, where his friends were numbered by all those who knew him.

Funeral services will be held this (Thursday) afternoon at the Chester Methodist church at 2 p. m. with the Rev. A. B. Holland of Fairfield and the Rev. J. Torrance Harvey officiating. Interment will be made in the Chester cemetery.

### Fritz Stage Funeral Held Last Thursday

Funeral services for the late Fritz R. Stage, who passed away at the home of his sister, Mrs. Mary Zorn, August 9th, were held from the Chester Methodist church on Thursday afternoon of last week. Rev. A. B. Holland of Fairfield and formerly of Joplin and Rev. J. Torrance Harvey of Chester officiated.

A quartette, composed of Mrs. Earl D. Goldan, Mrs. Robert Wigen, Miss Nellie Wickum and Mrs. Walter Jensen, sang "Old Rugged Cross," "In the Garden" and "Nearer My God to Thee."

Pallbearers were Harold Flogum, George Reisenauer, John Webber, Mike Anglim, William Raabe and John Liska, all old time friends and neighbors.

Interment was in the Chester cemetery.

## THOMAS P. STRODE

Born: October 26, 1862 - Died: September 28, 1943

Liberty County Times

September 30, 1943

### T. P. Strode Dies Suddenly

Liberty county and northern Montana generally was shocked Tuesday morning when it was learned that T. P. Strode had died suddenly on the street in Havre from a heart attack. Walter MacKenzie, a close friend who was with him at the time, attempted to administer aid but the owner of the famous Stirrup brand was dead when a physician arrived.

Mr. Strode was in Chester Monday and seemed in his usual health. He left the same evening for Havre to visit friends and transact business.

Tom Strode was a man among men. His well equipped stock ranch in the Sweet Grass hills area north of Chester was known to all who recognized the outfit as a landmark of cattle development in northern Montana. It is all under fence, enclosing some 12,000 acres, which grazes more than 1,000 head of pure bred Hereford cattle and breeds pure bred Percheron horses. The beautiful modern home buildings are on the banks of Bear Creek.

Thomas P. Strode was born in Lewisburg, Mason county, Kentucky, October 26, 1862. He left his home state in 1878 and came west. After looking around for a time he settled near Augusta, where he engaged in horse raising. In the spring of 1888 he traded his horses for a band of sheep which he trailed across country nearly 300 miles to the East Butte, where he had resided since that time. He was the first white man to settle in the Sweet Grass hills country.

In 1892 he traded his sheep for horses and went back into the horse and cattle business and had pursued that business ever since.

In 1895 Mr. Strode married Miss Ellen Johnson and the wedding celebration was the first to take place in the Sweet Grass hills.

Mr. Strode was a charter member of the Montana Livestock association, a leader in providing schools and roads, a former member of the board of county commissioners of Liberty county and a lifelong member of the Masonic lodge.

He is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Fred (Eva) Melvin of Great Falls and Mrs. William (Annie) DeJaney of Los Angeles, California. Mrs. Strode passed away a number of years ago and three sons and one daughter preceded him in death.

Also surviving are Mrs. C. H. Minette of Cut Bank, a niece, who as a girl, Emma Nelson, spent most of her early life as a member of the Strode family; and three sisters, Mrs. Ethel Stroud, Mrs. Virginia Herron and Mrs. Theresa Wilson, all of Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Funeral services will be conducted in the Presbyterian church in Havre under auspices of the Masonic lodge, of which Mr. Strode was an ardent member. Active pall bearers will be Dr. Joe Wright, Havre; Judge Claud E. Morris, Helena, Harold Prescott, Dodds Keith, Shebel Rehal and W. H. Shafer of Chester, all intimate friends of many years' standing.

Honorary pall bearers will include Dr. McKenzie, Havre; Judge C. B. Elwell, Havre, Walter McKenzie, Havre; Walter Brown, Havre; Dr. Timmons, Havre; O. R. Rubie, Havre; Arthur Lamey, Billings; Dr. Earl Strain, Great Falls, A. C. Gough, Lowery; J. Q. Wilson, Box Elder; James Hamilton, Washington, D. C.; Dr. Clark, Sweet Grass; Clint Clark, Sweet Grass; Frank Denison, Shelby; Patrick McHale, Robert Carroll, Cap. Toole, Leo Milles, Simms; P. J. Becker, Aden, Canada; Pete Johnson, Gildford; Frank Johnson, Gildford; Tom Spencer, Lothair; John Fey, Gold Butte; Tony Fey, Gold Butte; Edw. Christian, Geo. K. Jackson, Fred Parsell, Bert Furnell, Harry Demarest, Murray Johnson, Frank Runkel, Geo. Ainley, Allen Prescott, Edouard Lauener, Harry Gardiner, A. C. Strode, John E. Oswood, Nelson Bingham, James Fenton, Leonard Plank, Finlay Murray, Elmer Brown, Archie Stratton, Harry Hoffner, Karl Jeppesen, E. J. Blanchard, Carl Iverson, Chris Hanson, Ted Allen; Ed Gordon, Couer 'd Alene, Idaho; N. A. Nelson, Squaw Lake, Minn.; Walter Johnson, Minneapolis, Minn.; Harry Larson, Cokato, Minn.; L. D. Pugsley, Corning, California; Dr. Butler, Helena; Edw. Phillips, Helena; H. C. Schyler, Helena; Dan Whetstone, Cut Bank; J. D. Ryan, Cut Bank; Don McRae, Cut Bank.

## GUSTAV TEMPLE

Born: March 9, 1882 - Died: May 20, 1943

Liberty County Times

May 27, 1943

### Funeral Services for Late Gustav Temple

Funeral services were held in the Chester Methodist church at two o'clock on Tuesday afternoon of this week for the late Gustav Temple, who passed away on Thursday of last week, May 20th, at his farm home northeast of Chester.

The services were in charge of Rev. Merrill T. Gilbertson of the Joplin Lutheran parish. Pallbearers were Tom Colbry, Harry Hoffner, Joe Osler, Julius Schaefer, Albert Langeman and Lynn Edward, all old friends and neighbors.

Gustav Temple was one of the well known and substantial farmers of the community northeast of Chester, where he had developed one of the fine grain farms of the county during the past few years. He came to this county in 1919.

Deceased is survived by his wife, six children, several brothers and sisters, and other relatives. One son is serving in the armed forces, but the other five children reside at the family home.

The funeral services were largely attended, a large number of relatives, neighbors and friends being present. Many beautiful floral pieces attested the high esteem in which the departed was held by those who knew him. Burial was in the Chester cemetery.

AUGUST W. TERNSTROM  
Born: July ?, 1869 - Died: May 7, 1943

Liberty County Times

May 13, 1943

AUGUST W. TERNSTROM  
DIES SUDDENLY IN JOPLIN

August W. Ternstrom, pioneer resident of the Joplin community, died very suddenly of a heart attack at his home on Friday afternoon of last week, May 7th, at the age of 73.

Deceased had been in poor health for several months, and was confined to his home most of the time. His condition seemed no worse than usual Friday, but he was taken with the heart attack early in the afternoon and died within a few minutes after being stricken.

Funeral services were held in the Bethel Lutheran church Tuesday afternoon at two o'clock, with Rev. Merrill T. Gilbertson in charge of the services. Burial was in the Joplin cemetery.

Survivors include his widow, a daughter, Mrs. Peter Spoonheim of Joplin; a son, Archie, of Joplin; three grandchildren, two sisters and one brother who resides in Sweden, and a cousin, Martin Matson, of Havre.

Mr. Ternstrom, who would have been 74 in July, was born in Stockholm, Sweden, in 1869, and came to the United States at the age of 17. He worked as a mason in Kansas and was connected with an elevator company in Minnesota for a number of years. On June 28, 1899, he married Mary Sevalson at Cyrus, Minnesota. He came to Montana in 1912 and purchased a farm three miles south and one mile east of Joplin. From 1919 to 1927 he worked as a carpenter for the Great Northern railway. Since 1928 he had resided continuously on the farm.

## PALMER TORGERSON

Born: N/A - Died: July 1, 1943

Liberty County Times

July 8, 1943

### Three Are Killed in Cut Bank Tank Crash

Cut Bank, July 2.—Three persons were killed and a fourth critically burned last night when a large oil tank truck and trailer plunged off a road west of Cut Bank and plunged down a 120-foot embankment.

Mrs. Amelia Burd Howell, 22, died in the blazing cab, and Sam Fleck of Cut Bank, the driver, died nearby.

Palmer Torgerson of Shelby succumbed this morning in a hospital here.

The condition of the cab's fourth occupant, Myrl Peck of Caldwell, Idaho, was described as critical.

The accident occurred when the truck and trailer started down the steep Cut Bank river hill on which a small truck had been damaged slightly in an earlier accident, and attempted to swerve aside.

Frank Whetstone of the Cut Bank Pioneer Press and Lt. Claude Stanley, commanding officer of the Cut Bank army air base, managed to extinguish the flames in Fleck's oil-drenched clothing. Whetstone and Cut Bank's mayor, Weldon Lee, brought Torgerson and Peck to the hospital in city and air base ambulances.

Mrs. Howell is the wife of Pvt. Donald W. Howell of the army air force at Roswell, N. M. She is survived by a child, 3, by a previous marriage.

The mishap brought to 39 the number of traffic accident fatalities in Montan this year.

## EUGENE V. WEST

Born: November 16, 1862 - Died: May 4, 1943

Liberty County Times

May 6, 1943

### Eugene V. West Dies After Long Illness

Eugene V. West, pioneer resident of the community south of the Marias river in this county, died at a local hospital on Tuesday of this week, May 4th, at the age of 80 years, 5 months and 18 days.

Deceased had been in poor health for several months, and death came as a relief to his suffering.

Funeral services were held on Thursday afternoon of this week from the Chester Methodist church. The services were conducted by Capt. Wm. T. Mitchell of the Salvation Army post of Havre. Mrs. J. Torrance Harvey sang two solos, accompanied by Mrs. L. E. Matkin. Pallbearers were Wm. Brouillard, Fred Romain, Wm. Earl, Jr., and Joe McIsaacs, all old friends and neighbors.

West came to what is now Liberty county in 1910, homesteading near the Wm. Earl place, south of the river. He was an old friend of Mr. Earl, Sr., and had worked for him in the state of Washington before either came to Montana. When Mr. Earl took up land here, West came a little later, and had resided here ever since. He retired from his farm several years ago because of advancing age.

Eugene V. West was born November 16, 1862, in Tuscola, Missouri. No known relatives survive.

Burial was in the Chester cemetery.