

Eaton Cemetery The first four acres of land for the Eaton Cemetery were donated in 1889 by Frank Reeman, whose house is north of the cemetery. In 1910 additional acres were purchased by the town. There are presently about 12 acres. The Reeman family still live in the house north of the cemetery.

Thomas Dick Rison (b 1878 d. 1889)

From the *Weld County Democrat* newspaper May 4, 1889:

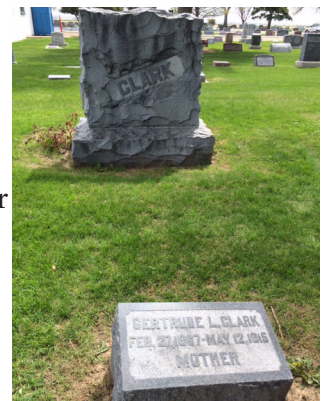
Young Tommy Rison lived on a ranch three miles west of Eaton with his parents. He went hunting with his dog and gun. When his dog started barking at a prairie dog hole, he reached in and felt a bite. The wound was painful and he returned home and informed his mother what happened. She thought it only a bee sting, as he had been stung the week before. She washed it and applied a poultice. He continued to get worse and being alone since her husband had gone to Greeley. She summoned a neighbor and he went to Eaton and posted a telegram to the doctor. The doctor received the telegram later in the evening he immediately rode out in his buggy reaching the ranch about nine. All antidotes and treatment known to the medical profession were applied to no avail. The poison had been thoroughly absorbed by his body, which by now how been determined a rattlesnake bite. He died at ten o'clock the next morning. He was an only child and the parents wanted him buried close by on the ranch. He was later transferred to the Eaton Cemetery to be its first burial.



Wilbert R. Clark (Sec 12 Lot 27 Grave 152) b unknown d.1918

Clark came to Eaton when pioneering was pioneering, where neighbors were few and far between and friends were scarce but could always be depended on. Mr. Clark lived and batched in a dugout until 1886, when he built a house and married Gertrude Brewer in Greeley. He purchased a farm three miles north of Eaton, which was farmed by his sons to the late 1990's. In 1895 the Clarks moved to Eaton to put their children in school and the next year they completed and moved into the big house on the northeast corner of Second and Maple. Mr. Clark, in addition to large scale farming and feeding, at one time had a part interest in the town's pioneer lumber establishment.

In Mr. Clark's reminisces he remembered not only were times difficult with many hardships, but life was varied and busy. The pioneers grew with the town and farmed on part of the Great American desert, life was filled with activity and promise.



Blanche Valarie Bridge (Sec 7 Lot 18 Grave 136C) b 1905 - d 1945

Sarah Soules and Blanche Soules Bridge are mother and daughter and buried next to each other. They ran a Bed and Breakfast in Laporte. Mrs. Blanche Soules Bridge and her husband were actors in movies. Mr. Bridge was the sheriff in "It's a Wonderful Life."



John Ackroyd (Sec 7 Lot 10 Grave 100) b 1823 d 1938

Amos Ackroyd was one the earliest settlers that homesteaded in the Eaton area. Amos came from England to join an uncle in New Jersey. He always dreamed of being a cowboy and eventually having a cattle ranch of his own. There was a great deal of publicity in the East concerning the newly established Greeley colony and the opportunities it offered. He and a friend worked their way West to Greeley in 1870. Young Ackroyd worked around Greeley and Windsor for various farmers. He later joined his brothers in Denver who were contracted to build the Tabor Opera House.

In 1880, Ackroyd acquired a homestead just north of Woods Lake. He later filed a tree claim and planted and with his own claim planted over 50,000 trees. The Eaton ditch was later built thru the tree claim. In 1884 he married Eleanor Fulton.



John Gillies (Sec 6 Lot 30 Grave 217) b 1829 d 1894

John Gillies, a native of Canada, accepted Horace Greeley's famous advice "Go West, young man." He came to Colorado in 1878. During his first year he worked in the Greeley Flour Mill. He also worked on the project that helped Eaton get its start, the Larimer and Weld Irrigation Canal. In 1898 he was employed by Union Pacific, driving the ties down the Poudre River from Chambers Lake. In 1885 he married Belle Parkhurst. They tried farming one year until their barn burned down. Barns with straw stuffed between two rows of barbed wire to furnish some shelter for the livestock. Then their one room shed that was then home to his livestock was set afire by a careless youth. The horses were charred and many chickens and turkeys destroyed. They moved to town and built a home on Elm Street in 1902. He then ran the town waterworks.



Dr. Norman Bellrose (Sec 5 lot 36 Grv 126) b 1864 d 1942

Dr. Bellrose was Eaton's first doctor. Graduating from Vermont Medical School he made his way west to Denver then traveled north to the new town to become the town of Eaton. His first office was in the A.J. Eaton Store. He became discouraged for the lack of patients but through friends encouragement decided to stay. A typhoid fever epidemic occurred in the area in 1892 and he was soon known throughout the area. He built a brick home in Eaton which still stands directly south of the post office. He built a talking tube in the wall so he could be reached on the second floor bedroom from the front porch when he was needed during the night. He and his bride Henrietta Trenholm were the first couple to be married in the Congregational Church. They had 3 sons and one daughter. He built the City Drug Store on Oak Street and moved his practice in the back. During this time no medicines were available and he made his own medicine from supplies from Denver. In 1905 he passed the State Board of Pharmacy Tests and became a registered pharmacist. Serving this community in many areas he served as mayor, city physician and health officer and on the Board of Education. He erected a business block in 1902 on First Street.



T. H. Wilson (sec 5 Lot 46 Grave 156) b 1855 d 1943

An English Lord traveled through the country at the time the Eaton Ditch was in construction and purchased 3,000 acres of land. Returning to Scotland he advertised for a manager for the ranch to accompany his son to the new country. T. H. (Thomas Hood) Wilson who was raised within nine miles of the home of Queen Elizabeth applied and was accepted for the position. Mr. Wilson married Mary Milne and for their honeymoon they embarked on the ocean voyage that was destined to lead them to a new country and a new home in 1881. In their terms the country was "wild and woolly". He worked for Lord Ogilvie for two years. In 1883 he took up a homestead two and one-half miles east of Eaton. This land still remains in the family. They were never ever to return to their beloved Scotland, and raised three children on the homestead.

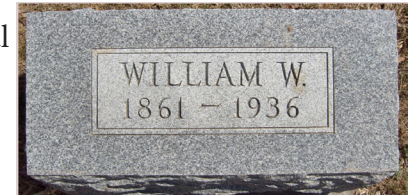


W. W. Brown (Sec 5 Lot 27 Grave 100) b 1862 d 1936

W. W. Brown and a friend were riding the train from Denver to Wyoming in 1883, where the two planned to work on a cattle ranch. On the train they met B. H. Eaton who introduced himself to them and suggested they stop at Eaton the help colonize the town. They decided to accept the offer for work from the Governor. The first job for the young men was hauling and general team work breaking up the soil that would be made ready to plant and harvest crops. Will (William) had some cooking talents and soon began preparing meals for the crews breaking up the soil.



One day after his cooking chores were done a man entered the camp and said his binder had broken down out in the field. Will with some mechanical skills jumped on a mule and followed the man back to the binder. Will soon had it running and was back in camp to prepare the next meal. Ben Eaton heard of the incident and came to the camp where he told Brown, "Billy, you were hired as cook for the camp not mechanic." Will replied that he hated to see the man sitting down, unable to continue working and since I had time from my next meal I went out and fixed him up. When the mechanic arrive the next day and saw what the excellent job on the binder, he recommended that Eaton be appointed as foreman, which he accepted for the next nine years. In 1889 he married Charlotte A. Byerly. In 1918 they moved to the lovely town home on the southwest corner of Cheyenne and Collins. (The home still stands there)

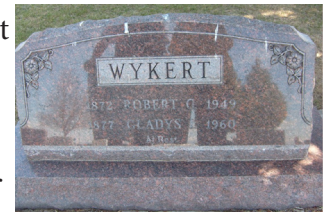


Wykert (Sec 5 Lot B Grave 3362)

Frank (1848-1916) and Laurinda (1848-1905) came by covered wagon in the Windsor vicinity in 1872. They lived in a tent while the father worked for B. H. Eaton on a ditch he was building near Ft. Collins. After one year they returned east to return again in ten years. Traveling by covered wagon drawn by a pair of mules the family of seven made their way west again. The long journey was traveled on uninhabited prairie, as far as the eye could see there no sign of habitation.



An outstanding incident and often told tale was when Dode rode out to find a lost horse in the Carr area. He spotted an animal on the prairie he had never seen before. He proceeded to herd it home when farmers along the way spied what he was up to and followed along. The farmers assisted Dode in catching the animal and he kept the young elk a year as a pet. He ended up selling it to Elitch Gardens in Denver.



Son Robert Wykert (1872-1949) struck out on his own and began farming 5 1/2 miles northeast of Eaton. In 1896 he married Gladys Alkire. Robert became an extensive landowner, and was president of the Water Supply and Storage Co. The Water Supply and Storage ditch irrigated 48,000 acres of land north of the Larimer and Weld ditch.

Albert H Myers b 1861 d 1947

AL Myers was born in 1861 in Bern, Switzerland. He came with his parents to New York when very young. In 1880, he came to Colorado, and arrived in Eaton by train in 1882 and began working for A.J.Eaton. He lived in town, but owned and farmed several farms. For several years Myers was co-owner of the Reeman and Myers Lumber company in Eaton. He served several terms as a town trustee and for three terms as mayor. In 1906, J. M. Collins and Myers organized the very successful Potato Growers Cooperative company. Myers was president from its organization until his death. According to Pauline Allison Smillie's *History of Eaton*, Myers probably planted the



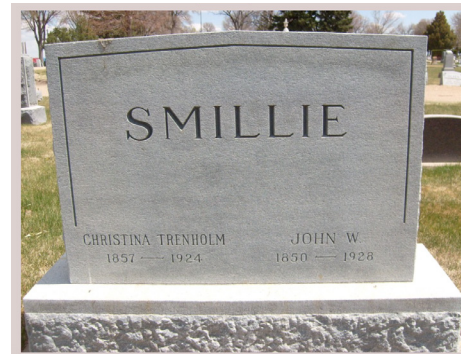
first potato: “Myers sought work at the A. J. Eaton’s work camp and was given a job. One Sunday morning Al was standing around the corral with the other hired hands, when A. J. Eaton approached them and said, “How would some of you young lads like to plant potatoes on that land,” and he indicated, with a wave of his hand the section across the road. Louis Cohler, close friend of Mr. Myers, looked at him and asked, “Can you plant potatoes?” To which Mr. Myers replied, “No, can you?” His pal answered, “I never planted a potato in my life.” “Well,” said Mr. Myers confidently, “I never planted anything in my life that didn’t grow.”

Harry T. O’Connor 1879-1911

H. T. O’Connor was originally from Iowa. He graduated from High School in LaJunta, Colorado and the Univ. of CO. He received a law degree and settled in Eaton and got his share of the growing community’s law needs. O’Connor was married to Al Myer’s daughter Nellie. He died in a carriage accident in 1911, and was buried in what was to become the Myers family plot. The O’Connors’ memorials are on the lower slab in the photo above.

John W. Smillie (Sec 2 Lot 15 Grave 103) b 1850 d 1928

J. W. Smillie brought his bride from Canada in 1883. They lived in one the Benjamin Eaton brick houses a mile and half from town. The new Mrs. Smillie brought with her possessions an umbrella which was the first to be introduced into town. This became a retold tale when Mrs. Smillie with her umbrella to shade her on her walk to town, frightened a team of horses on the road which almost caused a runaway team. Horses had never seen an umbrella either. One of the Smillie’s sons became a well known scientist. He received many honors in the medical science contributions. Dr. Smillie traveled extensively for the Rockefeller Foundation.



J.M. Collins 1871-1954

Mr. Collins came to Eaton from Georgia in 1897. He came to work for Benjamin Eaton. Many families from Georgia, all related, came to the Eaton-Galeton area to farm. Some of these families were: Dyers, Nixes, Lances, Sullivans and they continue to have a yearly “Georgia picnic” in the Eaton Park.



W. L. Baldrige (sec 4 Lot 39 grave 262) b 1856 - d. 1940

Walter came west to join his brother who was farming near Windsor. He hitched a ride to Windsor on a team and wagon. As they passed over a bridge Baldrige asked, “What is this?” His driver told him, “That’s the Cache La Poudre River, that we irrigate from.” Where he came from such streams were referred to as creeks. He married Anna Newell in 1881 and they moved to one of Governor Eaton’s farm, north of Windsor. In 1885 they settled on land six miles west of Eaton. There was not a tree to be seen all that could be seen on this barren land was cactus. Trees soon shaded their front lawn and the surrounding fields produced abundant crops.



John McCall (b 1868 d 1938)

John Mc Call homesteaded a farm bordering the town. He is one of our most noted pioneers. He assisted in the construction of the mill elevator in 1884 and was then employed as a bran packer for five years. He then held the position as engineer until his death. He married and he and his wife took up housekeeping in three rooms over the A. J. Eaton store. The rent was \$15 a month, the water \$1.50 and often the pump failed to work and would be necessary to carry water from the engine room of the mill.

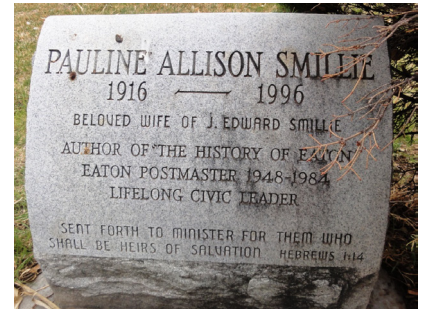


Pauline Allison Smille 1916-1996

Mrs. Smille was born on a farm near Eaton. She graduated from Eaton High School at age 16 and went on to attend college in Greeley. She was writing serialized Eaton historical pieces for the newspaper at age 19. These pieces were later put together as a book, *The History of Eaton*. The book has been through 3 editions and is used by many schools for the Eaton history.

Pauline enlisted in the Marines during the World War II era and was honorably discharged as a staff sergeant in 1946. She was appointed by Harry Truman as Eaton Postmaster. She served this position for 37 years. At one time she was the youngest female postmaster in the nation. Pauline held many major state and national posts for the National Assoc. of Postmasters.

She married Edward Smille in 1967. Mr. Smille was also one of Eaton's earliest pioneer families. (see John W. Smillie, above)



George G. Moore (Blk 14 Lot 26 Grave 167) b. Oct. 18, 1867 d. Nov. 26, 1925

George G. Moore was a Civil War Congressional Medal of Honor recipient. He served as a Private in the US Army in Company D, 11th West Virginia Infantry. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for action at Fisher's Hill, Virginia on September 22, 1864. His citation reads "Capture the Flag." He gallantly captured the flag of the Confederate Troops at Fisher Hill.

Tucker Morrel, Eagle Scout, dedicated the stone on the circle to George Moore and other veterans.



Jesse Evans b. Oct. 18, 1867 d. July 31, 1949

Jesse Evans tombstone reads "Construction Foreman on Panama Canal 1907-1911.

(Panama Canal employee manifests list a Jesse Evans from Jamaica as among the workers. As a matter of random interest, I added some notes on working in the canal construction zone include at the end of this document. Seems Mr. Evan survived incredible odds.)



Andrew Carlson 1853-1925

Mr. Carlson was one of the many Swedish pioneers. In fact, he was known as "King of Sweden" in the area. Andrew came to this country alone leaving his wife and children in Sweden. The Eaton area drew him in and he sent for his wife and children. His wife and children arrived unexpectedly as the message of their arrival time never reached Andrew. A. J. Eaton was at the depot on their arrival and he took them to his store so he could find someone who understood Swedish. Mr. Gust Anderson a native of Sweden soon untangled their dilemma and escorted them to their new home in rural Eaton.

Andrew later built a home in town on Park Ave. This home still stands and will be 100 years old in 2016. The home has stayed in the Carlson family.

