

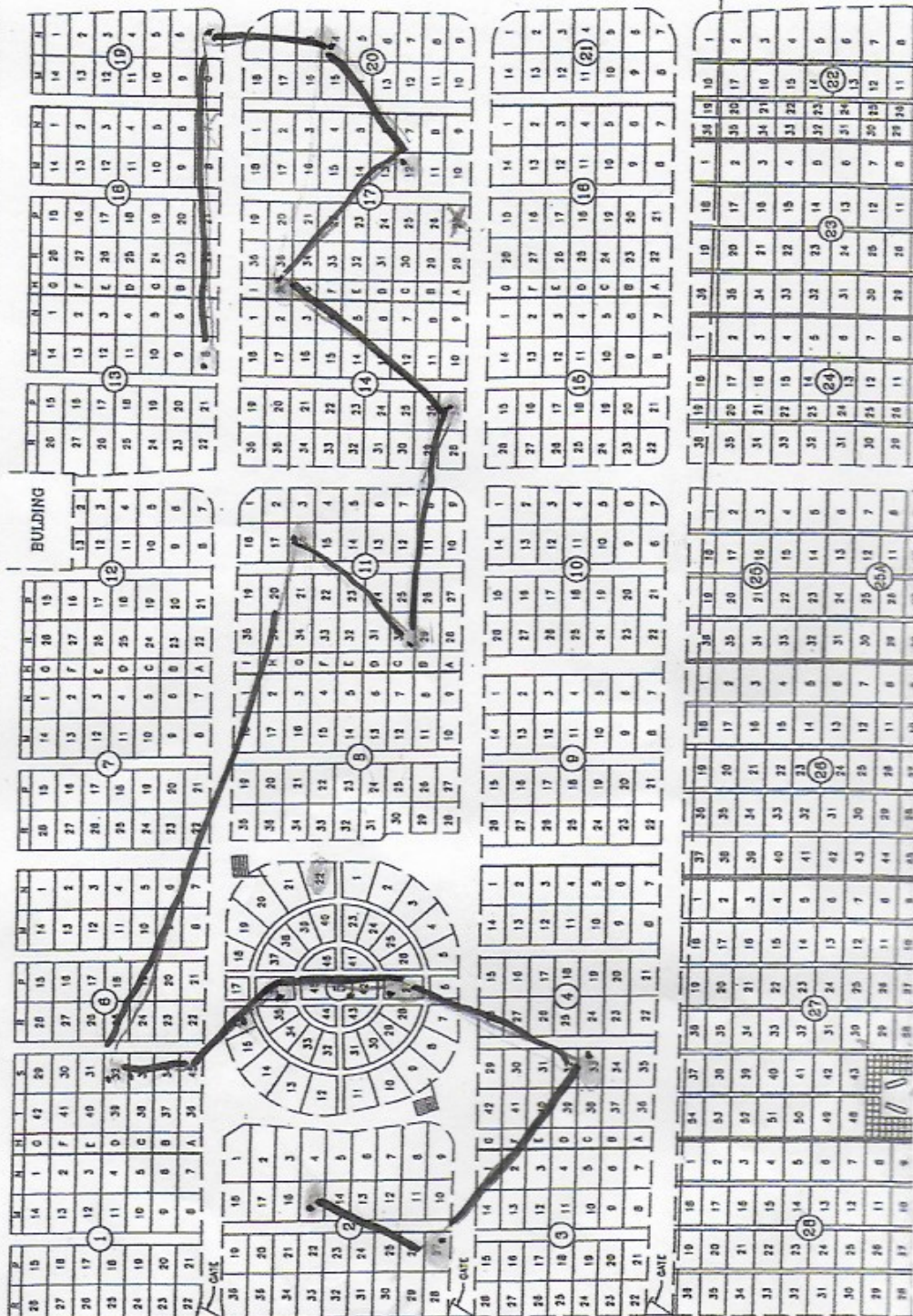
EATON CEMETERY THE TOWN OF EATON, COLORADO

LEGEND

19

30.00
FEET

APPROXIMATE NORTH LINE OF CEMETERY



WELD COUNTY ROAD 39

We would like to honor the pioneer women of Eaton. These ladies are seldom mentioned in the settlement of the community but we know they played an essential part in the settlement of this country. They faced many hardships, deprivations and loneliness. They were strong in character and spirit. A quote from The History of Eaton, "Money or man did not make this country. It was the love of these ladies."

Christina Trenholm Smillie

1857-1924

Blk 2 lot 15 Grv 105

J. W. Smillie brought his bride from Canada in 1883, and they lived in one of B.H .Eaton's brick houses one-half mile west of town .

Among the possessions which Mrs. Smillie brought with her to this pioneer community was her umbrella. Christina was a very proper lady and when walking to Eaton from her farm she used an umbrella to protect her from the sun. Mr. Gillies was passing her on the road when his team was spooked by the unusual sight of an umbrella and they almost had a tragic run-away. Mrs. Smillie liked to tease Mr. Gillies in later years about the time she almost put him off the road.

Wilson, one of the Smillie's son became a noted scientist and contributed research in the medical field. Dr. Smille specialized in research work in the interests of public health. He traveled extensively for the Rockefeller Foundation and was a lecturer at universities.



Lou Anna Bolz Brewington

1889-1946

Sec 2 lot 27 grv 196

Lou Boltz came from Missouri to Eaton in a covered wagon with her father and mother. They went through the flood waters of the Mississippi River with water running through the floor of their wagon on their way west. They lived in a tent when they arrived in Eaton. Lou's mother died shortly after arriving and her father returned to Missouri. Lou Anna remained in Eaton where she had found work. The new undeveloped country appealed to her as she had an adventurous spirit.

Lou Anna married Pat Brewington. The Brewington Brothers started the Brewington Brothers Livery Stable in Eaton. Lou and Pat moved from a farm to live in town so Pat could be close to the business.



Anna Newell Baldrige

1861-1942

Sec 4 lot 33 Grv 264

Anna came to Colorado with an aunt and uncle and lived with them on a farm east of Windsor.

She married Walter L. Baldrige in 1881. They lived on a Governor Eaton farm north of Windsor then moved to LaGrange for two years, returning to Eaton and breaking the barren prairie to farm. They had one son, Walter Norman.

The Baldrige subdivision east of Severance was the homestead of Walter Norman Baldrige. He was Jack Schneider's great grandfather. The Baldrige family farmed the land and raised cattle. In 1939, Roy Schneider married Barbara Baldrige and purchased more land from her aunt. In 1999, Schneider founded the Baldrige subdivision, which lies south of the Trestle Lake Farm property at Severance.



Charlotte A Byerly Brown

1867-1966

Sec 5 lot 27 Grv 99

William Brown was on the train on his way to Wyoming to find work. He met Benjamin Eaton on the train who offered him a job in Eaton. He proved to be an outstanding mechanic.

Charlotte came from Iowa in 1887 to be with her mother who had traveled to Eaton at the death of her daughter. Charlotte and William met, married and raised three children on a farm north of Eaton. They later moved to a town house on the corner of Cheyenne and Collins. The Browns are numbered among first pioneers of Eaton and became prominent and successful farmers. Charlotte lived to age 99.



Henrietta Bellrose

1876-1957

Sec 5 lot 36 Gr 125

Henrietta Bellrose was born in Canada as one of eight children. She was the sister of Mrs. J. W. Smillie and when visiting her sister in Eaton she met Dr. Norman



Bellrose. The couple were the first marriage performed in the Congregational church in 1893. Their first home was three rooms in the rear of the Drug Store. They later built the brick home at 2nd and Elm. This house is still there.

Dr. Bellrose was the first doctor in Eaton. He signed the incorporation of the town of Eaton in September 1892.

The Bellroses had three children; Kenneth, Norman and Eileen.

Laurinda Wykert

1848-1905

Blk 5 Lot 16 Grv 58

Laurinda came to the Windsor area in 1872 with her husband Frank and oldest son Robert in a covered wagon. They had made the long trip from Iowa. They lived in a tent near Windsor. Frank worked for Benjamin Eaton on ditch excavation near Ft. Collins. Those were the days when pioneering was genuinely pioneering with Indians mixed in.

In later years Laurinda related stories to her children of the Indians creeping to the tent opening flap and playfully hollering “boo!”

The family only remained in Colorado for one year before returning to the east. The “lure of the west” called to them and they returned to Colorado after ten years. They now had four children and returned in a covered wagon pulled by two mules. A day could pass on the vast prairie without seeing one dwelling.

The return trip in a covered wagon had to be a an arduous journey with four children!



Belle S D Parkhurst Gillies (Gill-us)

1867-1966

Sec 6 lot 32 Grv 235

Belle's first glimpse of Eaton in 1885 was a barren cactus prairie with two small buildings in sight. Belle had first come west with her mother and step father and lived in Wyoming where she taught school. She was married in 1885 to John Gilles in Eaton, Mr. Gilles was employed at the mill. Belle taught music in



the Eaton School. She was a charter member of the Women's Club and the Loyal Rebekah's Lodge.

They decided to farm in 1891, and temporarily lived one half mile south of Eaton. Their barn burned down and their horses were charred but survived. The barn was a typical structure of two strings of wire with straw stuffed between them to make a shelter for their animals. A young neighbor boy had set fire to the barn and the shed and all their chickens and turkeys were killed. Their insurance had expired only a day before the fire.

They were forced to move to town and Mr. Gillies then owned and operated a meat market behind the mill. They decided to move to a warmer climate but the Mayor asked Mr. Gillies to stay and operate the town waterworks and they remained in Eaton until their deaths.

Agnes Gillies Schoonover

1867-1955

Blk 11 lot 18 grv 117



Agnes was born in Canada in 1867. She was married to Ernest Schoonover. Agnes was one of the ladies who organized the Women's Club in 1896, whose purpose was to study subjects of intellectual interest.

Mr. Schoonover was killed in an auto accident in 1917. Agnes was left to raise four boys on her own ages 14, 11, 8 and 2. Mrs. Schoonover was the first postmistress in Eaton. She graduated from State Normal School in Greeley. She lived at 330 Cheyenne Avenue and her house remains there today. She was a faithful follower of Christian Science.

I got my information from Lorraine Bayer, who was her daughter-in-law. Lorraine married Morris Schoonover and spoke very highly of Agnes. She mentioned how proud Agnes was of her peonies and a peony plant remains in her family to this day.

Isabelle J. Foster

1863-1961

Sce 11 lot 29 Grv 187



Isabelle was born in West Virginia. She married Franklin Foster who was also from West Virginia. They traveled to Eaton in 1883. Franklin had previously been to Eaton and loved the wide open spaces. They farmed two years for J. M. Collins west of Eaton. The

Fosters later managed the Hotel Hume. A story was related how the men who were hired to construct the ditches were taking their meals at the Hotel and had become bored with pork for every meal. When they complained and asked how much longer there would be pork the cook said, "I'm not sure. Let's go down and count how many hogs are left in the pens." It looked like there were 51 more days of pork on the menu.

Isabelle was known as "an angel of mercy", caring for the sick and assisting in homes when there had been a birth or death. There were no doctors, undertaker or drug store in the small village of Eaton at that time. The only medicine she could buy at the Big Store was Vaseline and salves.

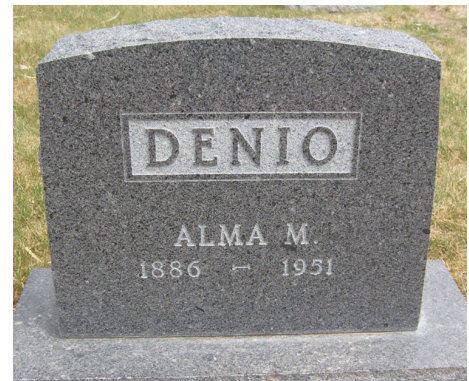
Alma Denio

1886-1951

Sec 14 Lot 27 Grv 177

Alma was married to Hugh Denio in Denver. They made their home in Eaton. Alma is credited for obtaining the first library building in Eaton. She collected money and supervised the little room of culture and literary value to Eaton. It was constructed in 1893 and it was free and open every day.

The census records show Alma had no formal education but could read and write. She taught school in Eaton in 1908-1910.



Pearl Matilda (Dowers) Mullis

1887-1918

between 14 and 17 H

Samuel and Pearl moved from Missouri to Washington state, for Pearl's health. Pearl suffered from TB and needed a different climate. The Washington climate did not help her and the doctors recommended she move to a dry, higher area. They took the train to Cheyenne and caught the spur to Eaton. They made their way to the Commercial Hotel in Eaton. Pearl passed away that night, she was 31.

The couple had one daughter, Velva who was 11. Samuel was 25 years older than Pearl and did not know what to do with Velva. He went to the newspaper and ran an ad



“Would anyone like a little girl with long, dark hair”? The Harstocks saw the ad and invited her to live with them. The Harstocks had a general store (the same store as A.J. Eaton's Big Store). Mrs. Harstock had a degree in accounting and disliked cooking and cleaning, so she was happy to have the help. Velva's father found a job in Eaton and kept in contact with Velva, although the Harstocks raised her until she married Herman Magnuson in 1930. Velva cared for Mrs. Harstock until her death. Velva Mullis Magnuson herself was an active and involved member of the Eaton community throughout her life and lived to the age of 102.

Mary Leadbetter

1853-1954

Blk 20 lot 12 grv 71

Thomas Leadbetter had spent a year in Eaton before returning to Maine to wed Mary. What a shock for Mary to come from a cultivated area to a desolate prairie. They settled in the Lone Tree area where Mary immediately began planting flowers. Mary was so frightened of Indians although she admitted she had never seen one. She was startled when passing antelope would look in the cabin windows out of curiosity.

They moved from Lone Tree to Eaton and on the way Thomas pointed out to his new bride where the future town was going to be. The town seemed like a fantastic dream to Mary.

Their homestead was three miles from Eaton. The area was sparsely populated with a single railroad track running through it.

Do you ever wonder if these ladies were sorry they left civilization to move to the unpopulated land in the west?



Maude Maria McClave Haythorn

1867-1939

Blk 20 Lot 4 Grv 23

Maude McClave was a teacher in the Platteville Schools and met Robert when he was the Deputy Superintendent of Weld Schools. Robert was one of the first teachers in the Washington School in Eaton, which was located on the same block as Eaton



Elementary.

These pioneer teachers married in 1890 and made their home in Eaton and became prosperous farmers.

The couple had two children; Joseph and Hattie. Hattie completed 4 years of college.

Sybil Loretta McCall

1868-1958

Blk 19 lot 7 Grv 58

Sybil was born in New York. She married John in 1890. John assisted in the construction of the flour mill in Eaton. He worked at the mill as a bran packer and engineer until his death.

Sybil and John lived in three rooms above the Big Store for \$15 a month and \$1.50 fee for water. Sybil commented that "Those were the good old days. When I hear someone say now, when a young couple is starting life together in the face of obstacles, I wonder how they are going to live, I wonder why no one seems to think that what youth once accomplished, youth can do again, and how much better they are equipped for the tasks."

I wonder what Sybil would wonder about the youth in 2019?

They had one daughter, Margaret. Sybil moved to Ft. Collins in 1940 and lived with her daughter and husband.



Augusta Mari Carlson

1876-1939

Sec 18 Lot 8 Grv 153

Augusta was married to Andrew, both were born in Sweden. Andrew came alone to America and later sent for Augusta and three children to join him in Eaton. After a long boat journey to America, Augusta and the children took the train west. The bravery of this lady to make this journey without knowing the language can only be imagined.

Andrew had sent a letter and passage money to make their way to Eaton and was waiting



for a letter from Augusta of their arrival date. He met almost every train in Eaton but missed the one his family was on. Augusta and the three children had ridden in the caboose from Greeley to Eaton and there was no one there to meet them. Augusta struggled with luggage and three children and made her way to the Big Store. She attempted to communicate with A. J. Eaton at the store but he knew no Swedish and she knew little English. Luckily Gust Anderson was in the store and directed them to the Carlson home two miles north of Eaton. They were wearily trudging the two miles to the new house when they met John Newman who stepped aside to permit the suitcase and bundle laden group to pass on the narrow path. Little Charlie whispered to his mother, "Mother I think that boy is afraid of us." Mr. Newman was so surprised to hear his native tongue. He happily escorted the family the remainder of the distance to their new home in a land by a native of their own country. The Carlson house was one of the few brick homes as many others lived in dugouts or tents.

The children soon settled in to their new life and quickly learned English while playing with other children.

The Carlson family farmed this land to the present time. Augusta moved to a home on Park Avenue after Andrew passed away. The home on Park Avenue is still owned by a Carlson and was 100 years old last year.