

BAGLEY, NATHAN G.
1869-1926

Nathaniel Bagley, rancher of this district of over 20 years, and a leading contractor and highway builder of Wyoming, died here at 8:30 last night, after a severe illness of a little over a week.

Bagley is believed to have ruptured his appendix the first of last week while he was wrestling with calves which he was vaccinating at the ranch. He was seized with acute pains at that time, but thought at first it was acute indigestion. Treating himself for that ailment, he doubtless rendered his case more acute, until he was taken to the Wheatland Hospital and operated on during the early morning hours of Tuesday of last week.

The operation revealed conditions which made his case very doubtful from the start, and after a losing battle, with two or three rallies which brought momentary hope to his many friends here, he finally died last night.

He was born in 1870 on a farm near Plano, Collin County, Texas, growing up on the farm and working there until 1894 when he joined his brother John in Oklahoma, where they first engaged in farm work and then began work on railroad construction. They worked on the building of the Choctaw railroad out of El Reno into the Panhandle district, then on the Santa Fe from Amarillo to Boswell, hauling ties and grading.

They then went to Capitan, New Mexico, where they worked on a log road into the mountains. From there, the two brothers went to Colorado, arriving at a coal camp near Walsenburg, with a mule and cart and \$7.50 as their worldly capital. They worked in the coal mines here for a period. Here they bought their first teams, and together they freighted among the mining camps of Colorado, working at Del Norte, Creede, Monte Vista, and other points. From there they went to Orchard, near Fort Morgan, Colo., where they did their first dirt work on contract, building a ditch. From thence they went to Primrose, Colo., where they built switches for coal mines. After that they contracted under W.R. Stubbs, later governor of Kansas, building main line for the Rock Island. They worked with the George Good construction company on the same line, buying more teams and contracting on a larger scale.

Then for two and a half years, they freighted up Boulder Canyon for the construction of the Moffat railway west of Denver. From there, they came to Wyoming in 1904, contracting the construction of the Bordeaux ditch for the Wyoming Development Co. They next built part of an irrigation canal near Ft. Collins, until the project was suspended, when they returned to Wyoming and entered the employ of J.M. Carey & Bro., on the Carey ranch on Horse Creek. From there they went to Careyhurst in the spring of 1905, and in the fall of the same year they bought the land on Antelope Creek, which they later developed into the property now known as Bagley Bros. ranch.

They have made this place their headquarters since that time, Nathaniel Bagley operating the ranch, while John managed the highway and other construction work which they did under the firm name of Bagley Bros. During the last 8 years, the firm has operated on a large scale, leaving its mark in large letters in the highway building of the state.

Nathaniel Bagley was married while in Colorado to Miss Mayme Mattison. To this union were born two sons, one of whom died in infancy. The other, Russell Bagley survives, together with the widow.

The body will lie in state at the Watson Mortuary tomorrow morning, and the funeral will be held at 2 p.m. tomorrow afternoon from the Christian Church.

Rev. Charles E. Hannan, pastor of the Christian Church of Cheyenne, will preach the funeral sermon.