

BELCHER, FREDERICK L.
January 11, 1862-March 2, 1922

The past two weeks have taken a heavy toll on the pioneer residents of the section, the last to depart being Frederick L. Belcher, who died after 2 p.m. Thursday, after an illness of almost a year.

Mr. Belcher was born at Morse City, Ill. Jan. 11, 1862. At the age of 11 he came west, the family settling for settling for several years in Kansas. In 1897, he came with his father to Fort Laramie, and was employed for several years as a rider for cattle outfits, most of the time in the Sweetwater country.

In 1882, he went to Cheyenne and engaged in the freighting business, freighting for several years from Cheyenne to Uva and Fort Laramie. In 1883 he was united in marriage to Miss Mary Van Dyke and to this union were born eight children, four of whom preceded him to the land beyond. Those yet living are Oliver G. of Casper, Eunice of Wheatland, Pearl of Casper and Fred of Wheatland.

Twenty-eight years ago, the family moved to the site of Wheatland, there being no town here at the time. Mr. Belcher had engaged in the blacksmith business a short time before, and he built a residence and shop on the site of the present home of C.E. Thurston. In 1889, he moved to Hartville and was engaged in blacksmithing there for two years during the boom period. He returned to Wheatland in 1901, remaining here until his death.

The funeral was held from the Methodist church Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock, March 5th, Rev. E.L. Butler preaching the sermon and appropriate hymns were sung by a quartet from the Methodist choir. Burial services at the cemetery were conducted by the I.O.O.F. lodge of which Mr. Belcher had long been a valued member.