

HENKE, RUDOLPH H.  
February 11, 1842-1924

Rudolph H. Henke, pioneer ranchman and one of Wheatland's leading men for many years, died at his home Tuesday after an illness of less than two hours.

Mr. Henke had been in ill health for several years, and had made yearly trips to Thermopolis, but had to all appearances feeling better than usual just before his death. Death was to an acute turn of arterial sclerosis. He was conscious until the last, bidding his family good bye and making final arrangements for the settlement of his business during the last few minutes of his life.

He was born at Schoenlanke, Germany, Feb. 11, 1842. He served in the German army in the German-Austrian war in 1866, rising to the rank of first lieutenant of artillery. He afterwards represented a large business house in Berlin as a commercial traveller.

He came to the United States in 1870, joining his brother, Raymond Henke, who had come to New York City two years before. Together, they came to Michigan working on the Lake Shore railway. Rudolph then went to Silver Plume, Colo. where they worked for a time on the construction of the Platteville ditch.

In 1873 they came to Cheyenne, joining a surveying party under direction of Henry Hays. In the fall of that year they settled on a ranch on Horse creek known as the old VK ranch, which they sold in 1875.

They then filed on land in Lodge Pole creek where they lived until 1884, selling out then and moving to the Henke Bros. ranch on Horse creek. In 1887, the brothers divided their ranch properties, Rudolph living on his Sybillee ranch until 1917, when he turned in over to his son, F.W. Henke and moved to Wheatland.

He is survived by his wife, Sophie Henke, whom he married in 1887, and by five children, F.W. Henke, Wilhelmina Swan, Julia Henke, Otto Henke and Mabel Henke-Dearinger. One brother, Raymond Henke, also survives. The funeral was held Wednesday afternoon from the Congregational church under the direction of Rev. W.W. Speer and interment was in the Wheatland cemetery.