

MERRILL, MALCOLM RISLEY
January 28, 1866-October 15, 1943

Malcolm Risley Merrill was born Jan. 28, 1866 in Lincoln, Nebr., the first male white child born in Lancaster county, and died October 15, 1943 at the Wheatland hospital after a short illness. He was buried in the Wheatland cemetery October 17 following services at the Schrader chapel, conducted by the Rev. C.S. Higby.

Mr. Merrill, well known in Platte county and the state for his interest in newspaper work, the democratic party and band music, began his newspaper career at an early age and at the time of his first marriage in 1888 was the owner of a paper in St. Paul, Nebr. In 1902 he came to Wheatland from Cleveland, Ohio where he had been in the publishing business for twelve years. Under I.O. Middaugh, editor of the Wheatland World, he published a pictorial edition of that paper as an advertisement of the Wheatland colony, promoted by the Wyoming Development company.

Mr. Merrill started the Laramie County Times with George Carroll as partner, and this paper later became the Wheatland Times. He was likewise founder of the Casper Press, since known as the Casper Tribune.

He owned papers at Chugwater, Glendo and Lost Springs and at the time of his death, was a director of the Sheridan News Advocate, a publication he helped to start in March, 1943.

He was leader of the Wheatland band as early as 1903, and from 1913 to 1918 was Wheatland postmaster. Mining was another interest claiming much of his time.

Mr. Merrill again came to Wheatland to live in July 1943, after spending the past few years in Glendo and Douglas.

Besides his wife, the former Mabel Buffington to whom he was married February 10, 1932 in Casper, he is survived by two daughters, Mrs. R.A. Ferguson of Wheatland and Mrs. Ruth Watkins of Long Beach, Calif.; five grandchildren, Mrs. Ted Scott Porter of Ventura, Calif., Merrill K. Watkins of the Coast Artillery in Kodiak, Alaska, Kirk Watkins in the Air Corps at Salt Lake City, Utah, Robert M. Ferguson of Wheatland and Mrs. Kenneth Brighton of Rawlins; and six great grandchildren.