

MORRISON, CHARLES A.
September 5, 1865-March 1925

Dr. C.A. Morrison "died in the harness" Tuesday morning at his home northwest of town, while dressing in preparation to visit the rural schools of the district in the company of M.A. Thrasher, superintendent.

Dr. Morrison had been ill for several weeks with an acute development of a heart affection which had troubled him most of his life, but had nevertheless, kept his feet and continued active work in the many worthwhile community activities in which he was ever a leading figure.

On the night before his death, he had attended a meeting of the school board of District Nine, remaining in session until 1:30 A.M. On leaving for his home, he made arrangements with Superintendent Thrasher to accompany him on an inspection trip among the rural schools the following morning, and then to attend the luncheon tendered by the Lions Club at the high school.

About 9 A.M. he rose from a chair where he had been seated while getting ready for the arrival of Superintendent Thrasher and started across the room to a mirror when his wife, who was a few steps away, saw him throw up both arms and fall heavily to the floor. Death was apparently instantaneous, but several physicians were immediately summoned by Mrs. Morrison and Mr. Burton Hinds, who was loading wheat at the place. They were able to find no trace of life after their arrival.

No resident of this community had been more identified with public affairs for many years than Dr. Morrison. Elected to the school board of District Nine in 1914, he remained continuously on that body since that time, and has left an enduring mark on the growth of educational facilities of the community. He also represented the county in the 16th Wyoming Assembly. He was an active member of the Wheatland Chamber of Commerce since its organization, and was one of the foremost in developments which led to construction of the Gibson railway spur, and the assurance of the north spur. As a member of the committee appointed by the Chamber of Commerce to sign up beet acreage, he labored strenuously in the developments leading to the establishment of a factory at Wheatland. It was a strange instance of irony of fate that the wire informing Wheatland of the assurance of the north spur this year reached Wheatland during the same hour Dr. Morrison died. He was not fortunate enough to hear of the partial success of the efforts of which he had been identified.

One of his last labors was as a member of a committee of the Chamber of Commerce was to sign up a block of oil lands on the Wheatland Flats, and it was again his fortune to see the practical completion of the work without living long enough to witness the results. He had spent several days during the past two weeks sitting as a member of the committee in Wheatland and also driving about for personal interviews with farmers to secure signatures for the leases. On the night before his death he telephoned to a Wheatland business man interested in securing the leases, stating that the committee had secured all save 4 leases from resident owners, in addition to a number from non-residents, and hoped to be able to report the block practically closed at the Chamber of Commerce meeting next Monday evening.

A fact unknown to most of his friends here that Dr. Morrison came to Wheatland

on account of lung trouble, giving up a medical practice in an eastern hospital, and coming here to make his home, after he had lost part of one lung.

He was born in McConnellville, O., Sept. 5, 1865. He left Ohio with his parents at an early age going to Berry Station, Ky., where his father died. From that place, while still a boy he went to Washington, Ia. in company with his mother and three small sisters. He received his education in the academy of Washington, Ia., and afterwards, received a medical education at Rush College, Chicago, making his way thru school by working in hospitals.

After completing his education, he practiced medicine for several years, associated most of the time with hospitals in Illinois and Nebraska. He made his first trip to Wyoming in 1884, when he attended the first shipment of Wyoming insane patients to the asylum at Evanston, when it was first established.

Later he made frequent trips to this section, and in the early nineties, he came here with W.G. Irvine who had worked with him in a hospital in Lincoln, Nebr., and the two men established a ranch on Bluegrass creek in which they were associated for several years, Irvine being the local manager and Morrison contributing in a financial way while continuing in his profession.

In 1896 he came to Wheatland to make his home. He was married in 1900 to Miss Mary E. Nolan, who was then engaged in teaching school here, and they established a home on what is now part of the C.F. Rietz ranch. Selling that property after a few years, they moved to the Wheatland Flats, where Dr. Morrison was a resident until his death.

Four children were born to Dr. and Mrs. Morrison, all of whom died in infancy. For several years he had made a home for a niece and nephew, Faye Nolan and Charles Williams. Besides his wife, he is survived by two sisters, Mesdames John Reitler and Moses Thompson of Washington, Ia., who are expected for the funeral.

The funeral will be held at 2:30 p.m. Friday from the Congregational church.