

SEARS, CHARLES
1851-April 23, 1926

Charles Sears, a contractor and builder of this section for the past 45 years, died Friday evening in the Cheyenne Hospital, and was laid at rest in the Wheatland cemetery Wednesday afternoon.

While Sears had a wide acquaintanceship, he was a very uncommunicative man as far as his own affairs were concerned, and little is definitely known of his life before coming to Wyoming.

It is believed he was born in Toledo, Tama County, Iowa, a little over 70 years ago. His father was a prominent citizen of Toledo, known to several Wheatland people. Sears went from Toledo to Marshalltown, where he worked at the building trade for a time, going to Colorado in the spring of 1881. He worked there until autumn, and then came to Bordeaux, where he was employed by John Hunton to build the barn on the L.D. ranch and to install the woodwork in the stone house there. He completed building contracts for Hunton at Fort Laramie in 1889, and at the Bullock ranch about 10 years ago. In the meantime, he built many of the buildings on ranches over the whole of southeastern Wyoming, and also worked for several years in Johnson and Sheridan counties, where he was employed in county contracts.

He was known as one of the most skillful and honest workman in the country, and was regularly depended on by many of the pioneers for their building work.

He built a number of county bridges in this district. An instance of the character of his work is the old bridge over the Laramie River at the Bullock ranch, which held in during high waters that submerged the structure and washed out nearly all the other bridges along the stream.

His last large building contract was for the construction of the barn on the former Lee Moore ranch near Chugwater, about eight years ago. Since that time he worked only at intervals building a few small bridges in this section.

He was taken ill with la grippe in January, the attack resulting in partial paralysis. He lingered for weeks without improvement, until he was finally taken to Cheyenne for hospital care. On Friday morning, he experienced another stroke, which caused his death that evening.

The funeral was held at 2 p.m. Wednesday from the Watson mortuary, Rev. H.E. Shepherd preaching the funeral sermon. A number of his old friends among the pioneer residents were present, including John Hunton of Torrington. His sister, Miss Ellen Sears, of Iowa, the only immediate relative, was unable to be present.