

Pioneer Merchant Thomas Shepard Dies November 1

11-1-1952

Thomas Russell Shepard, pioneer merchant and resident of Wheatland since 1894, died at his home in Wheatland Sunday, November 1, at the age of 87 years, following an extended illness.

Mr. Shepard was born in Indiana, November 17, 1865, but grew up and received his education in Missouri, where the family moved when he was only a year old.

Ill health and interest in the newly developed irrigation system here led Tom Shepard to come to this section of Wyoming before the turn of the century. Only one house stood on the prairie which was to be the site of the town of Wheatland when Mr. Shepard arrived. For 15 years he was employed by D. Miller and Sons, whose general store occupied the building which is now the Golden Rule.

In 1915 Mr. Shepard entered the grocery business in partnership with George Brandon, a business which continued to operate for 30 years under one management, perhaps a record for the town.

In 1945 Mr. Shepard sold his business and retired. He is survived by his wife, Elmyra Jane (Hodgin) Shepard, to whom he was married at Wheatland in 1898. Also numbered among the survivors are three nephews, Thomas Shepard of Dixon, Lloyd Shepard of Wheatland, and Paten Shepard of Payette, Ida.; and two nieces, Mrs. Vesta Hudson of Ridgeway, Colo. and Mrs. Mabel Crandell of Orient, Wash.

Mr. Shepard was a member of AF & AM No. 16, and had been awarded his fifty-year pin. He was also a member of the Wyoming Consistory No. 1, Mystic Order of Shrine.

Funeral services were held at the Schrader chapel today (Thursday) at 2:00 p. m. with Tom McMill, Clem McAuley, George Martin, James Chaplin, M. A. Thrasher and Adam Boyd as pallbearers. There were Masonic services at the grave.