

THOMPSON, W.H.

?-July 1903

W.H. Thompson was killed at the Howe ranch, near Toltec, on Thursday morning of last week. The Howe ranch is one of the properties of the Toltec Live Stock company, and is situated about ten miles south of the main ranch. On the morning in question, a couple men at the ranch were hitching up a span of horses to a heavy wagon, one of the horses being a wild one only partially broken. As the team was nearly ready to be driven, Thompson came out of a nearby bunkhouse and started toward the wagon. He was warned by one of the men against coming near one of the horses, and went around to the opposite side of the team, and is believed, picked up the lines, probably expecting to assist in handling the wild horse. The team at this moment started to run, and one of the men, J.M. Woody, sprang into the wagon thinking he could stop the runaways, but in a moment, was compelled to leave the wagon. As he did so, Mr. Woody states the other employee of the ranch called to him that Thompson was hurt, and he immediately returned to the spot from where the team started and found Thompson unconscious, and that he lived but a very few minutes afterward. An examination of the body showed conclusively that the neck was broken, and from facts gained, it is believed Thompson was jerked under the wagon as the team started to run and that one of the back wheels of the wagon ran over his shoulders and neck, resulting in the fatal injury.

The remains were brought to Wheatland Thursday night by Mr. Woody and Oliver Wilson, who is also working for the Toltec Live Stock company, and interment was made Friday in the Wheatland cemetery, Rev. J.W. Moore holding brief services at the grave.

Mr. Thompson had worked in the vicinity the past year and was well known among many of the ranch men. He came here from Nebraska about a year ago. He had no relatives here except J.M. Spurgin, who is a brother-in-law. He was a man of kindly disposition, and his tragic death is greatly regretted by all his acquaintances in this section.