

SAMUEL BELLAMY

1879-1910

Researched by Faye Bell (SLC) 2013

Having noticed that the Ten Sleep Cemetery Registry doesn't give year of birth/death for Sam Bellamy, the researcher pursued the evidence shown on the newspaper item of his death June 2, 1910, in Ten Sleep, Wyoming (then Big Horn County). The 1880 census lists John T Bellamy and his wife Esther as the parents of Samuel Bellamy who was at that time 1 year old living in Franklin, Edwards County, KS. In the Kansas State 1895 state census Sam is again shown with his father John T and Mary [Esther?] and lives in Lincoln, Edwards County, KS. It is only presumed that Sam helped his father farm. *At this point, it is unimagined how Sam got to be the shepherd for Dr. George Walker of the Big Horn Basin usually operating from Basin/Hyattville area. Walker had a band of sheep and Sam was his herder. As per the newspaper article herein contained, Sam had told an acquaintance on June 1, that Walker had best find someone else to herd for him because he himself intended to quit! Of course, this is shortly after the April 1910 spring creek raid that killed sheepmen who got in the way of the cattle rancher. The gun on the bed and Bellamy sitting upright with a bullethole in his chest ??? head doesn't really hold in today's forensic evidence as "self inflicted".*

BELLAMY, SAMUEL-News Article

Worland Grit no. 28 June 02, 1910, page 1

LOCAL NOTES OF INTEREST

A shepherd named Samuel Bellamy in the employ of Dr. Walker, of Hyattville, was found dead on the Nowood range this week from the effects of a pistol shot, supposed to have been self inflicted.

Big Horn County Rustler no. 39 June 03, 1910, Basin

SHEEP HERDER SUICIDES.

On last Friday the news was telephoned from Hyattville that Sam Bellamy, a sheep herder in the employ of Dr. Walker, had been found dead in his wagon at a point a few miles from Tensleep, where he was in charge of the doctor's band of sheep.

The camp tender who found the body had made no investigation and there was no information as to the manner of his death. When the matter was brought to the attention of Sheriff Alston, that official telephoned Al Morton, justice of the peace at Tensleep, authorizing him to make an investigation. He did so, and a few hours later reported to the sheriff that it was a clear case of suicide. It seems that Bellamy, who was about 32 years old, had told some one on the night preceding the finding of the body, that they had better send some one else to care for the sheep, as he was going to quit. When the body was found, it was sitting on a box beside the bed, with the gun lying on the bed. There was an empty cartridge in the gun and the bullet had passed through the man's heart, out through the back, and out of the window.

Dr. Walker, who was away at the time, was called home by wire, passing through Basin on Wednesday. Sheriff Alston notified the father of the dead man, Mr. J. T. Bellamy of

Kansas, and a letter was received from him on Wednesday asking for a copy of the coroner's verdict.

Park County Enterprise no. 57 June 04, 1910, page 1

For several days a report has been current that a sheep herder named Samuel Bellamy had been murdered in cold blood on the range a short distance from where Allemand, Emge, and Lazier lost their lives. The report proves to be a mistake. Bellamy, who was in the employ of Dr. Walker of Hyattville, was found dead upon the range and the report at once went out that he had been murdered. A careful investigation of the body and of all the circumstances tends to only one conclusion and that is that he committed suicide. When found he was lying face downward on the ground with a bullet hole through his forehead. His gun lay on the ground a short distance from him and with one chamber empty. The bullet in his head was also of the same caliber as those remaining undischarged and the verdict of suicide was speedily reached. Friends of the unfortunate fellow raised a purse with which to defray the expenses of burial.

NOTE. Shortly after this Dr. Walker moves to Fresno California with his family, see George A. Bell, Ten Sleep Cemetery.