

OTTO N[ATHAN] BLAKESLEY
1853-1942

Researched and compiled by Faye Bell (SLC) 2013

Otto N[athan] Blakesley was born in 1853 in Illinois (as per 1920 U.S. census) and his father was born in Canada and mother in NY. His own marital status at the age of 57 (1920) was 'divorced'. He was listed as a boarder at the McCann residence (no given name for McCann) in Worland, WYO. It is believed he is a relative of John and James H Blakesley whom also, both are listed in the 1920 U.S. census records—all three in Worland, WYO. He passed away 13 June 1942 in Worland and his obituary showed up in the 16 June issue of the Wyoming Daily News (A Austin's extractions).

The writer has no memories of Otto Blakesley.

Last Rites Held Sunday For Otto Blakesley, 92

TEN SLEEP—(Special)—Funeral services were held at 2:30 p. m. Sunday at the Ten Sleep community church for Otto Nathan Blakesley, 92, Big Horn basin pioneer, who died Friday at Worland hospital, where he had been taken for treatment of injuries incurred in a fall at his home.

The services were conducted by the Rev. H. H. Basley of the Worland Baptist church. Hymns sung by a quartet composed of Mrs. Roy Shriver, Mrs. Dave Egbert, Mrs. Glen Montgomery and Fern Jacobs, with Norma Egbert as accompanist, were "Over Yonier," "Whispering Hope," and "Some Day He'll Make It Plain."

Pallbearers were W. A. Waldo, Virgil Helms, Henry Mills, George Brown, Henry Tully and Edward Beckley.

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Blakesley was born in Stephens county, Ill., March 18, 1850. He was married to Emma Elizabeth Robinson of Washington county, Kansas September 20, 1876. Two children were born to this marriage, James Blakesley, of Thermopolis, and John Blakesley, of Ten Sleep.

The family moved to Denver, Colo., about 1880 and then to Wyoming, where they located in the Big Horn basin, in the spring of 1890. Blakesley procured a job "jingling" horses on a cow round-up with Johnnie D. Hopkins, and fell heir to the nickname "Jing," which clung to him to his death. He followed wrangling horses for several years and then started cooking for round-ups. This work he followed as a professional until about 12 years ago when his age prevented further activity.

"Jing" became almost famous throughout the basin country as a round-up cook, and he was called upon many times to display his talent upon special occasions aside from the range.