

OBITUARY FOR PRESERVED O. FISH

1883-1935

Researched and compiled by Faye V Bell, SLC, 2012

Allegedly, Preserved O (Orphansent) Fish was abandoned as a baby on a Scottish Loch in 1883. The people around Ten Sleep thought put some stock in it and Historian William F Bragg, Casper, WY in his book "Rough and Ready" mentioned it. It was an amusing word game with vain imaginings, but it is incorrect. Preserved Offensend Fish was born in New York, and unfailingly states this on U.S. Census's 1910, 1920 and 1930. Another of the alleged tales was that he had been employed as a gentleman's valet in England before coming to Wyoming. In 1900, Mr. Fish is shown on the census record as a partner in homesteading with Pete Shandy, an early school teacher on Spring Creek from Kansas, (at that time in Big Horn County), WY. Even at that time Fish would have been only 17 years old and certainly unmarried and had no time to become a valet to anyone anywhere. The Federal records show his occupation as 'farmer'. It was also reported locally that Preserved had been employed by the X-Bar-X ranch (now Bay State owned by P. Lyman, formerly Wm Spratt) and it is possible that he was, but by the 1920 census records it shows his wife Jeannie (Jennie) and their first child, a daughter, shows up as 6 years old making her born in 1914 and a son George H Fish born in 1917; they resided in Election District #1, Park County, Wyoming although both children were born in Montana. That proves that P O Fish had been here and there for a decade or more. On September 12, 1916, he registered for WW I draft as Preserved Offensend Fish living in Belfrey, Carbon County, MT and born on August 14, 1883 in New York. The draft card says Preserved Fish is of slender build, blue-eyed and brown haired.

By 1930, the Fish family are registered in District #3, Washakie County, WY. They were living in Ten Sleep up until ca. 1938 and were, by loss of the head of the home, forced to find another place to live. Preserved O[ffensend] Fish died in 1935 leaving his two children [Sadie and George H] and a child in the household named Robert [Bobby] Fish who had attended school in Ten Sleep.

NOTE: Neither Faye V Bell, *Vanguards of the Valley* nor William F Bragg "Rough and Ready" (both wrote about this man) are correct in their writings. There is much to be said about modern technology in the digital world. I am happy to correct those errors. FB

P. O. FISH, RESIDENT OF TEN SLEEP DIES

Funeral services were held at Ten Sleep on Monday for Perser-vit O. Fish, a resident of the Ten Sleep country for the past 22 years.

Mr. Fish passed away at a Thermopolis hospital on Saturday after a lingering illness of rheumatism, heart trouble and asthma.

Services were held from the Ten Sleep church with Rev. Jno. Frank Smith officiating. Music was furnished by Mrs. John James, Mrs. Vernon Rice, Mrs. Dave Egbert, Mrs. Roy Shriver, with A. J. Schnorr at the piano.

Pall bearers were Charles Ford, Wm. Pearson, Wm. Lewis, Merton Bader and Bert Simpson. Honorary Pall bearers were W. S. Ficus, Jack Hawks, Archie Jacobs, E. S. Rice, R. W. Wood, Frank Wood, Charles Wyman and Paul Frison.

Obituary

Perser-vit O. Fish was born in White Hall, New York, August 14, 1883, and died in Thermopolis, Wyoming, October 5, 1935. Being 52 years, one month and twenty one days. He came to Wyoming in 1905 and settled in Thermopolis for a short time. Soon moving to Ten Sleep. There he married Miss Jennie Robinson in 1911. To this union were born four children, Mrs. Sadie Fish Lindley, George Henry, Albert Edward, who died in infancy, and Robert Francis. Other than the immediate family he has one surviving brother, Bradley Fish of White Hall, New York.

In 1913, Mr. and Mrs. Fish moved to Bridger, Montana where they resided for eight years. In 1921 they returned to Ten Sleep where they made their home until