



David Rees Moses
1868 - 1901

David Bowen Moses born November 2, 1857/58 to Margaret Rees and William Moses at Llywel, Breconshire, Wales and was partially assisting his sister Catherine at Pentwyn and was ready to leave the Old country by the time he was of age. In 1981 the author was informed that he was known as Dai in their family and community. In America he was known as Dave. He told of being a stowaway and being discovered aboard ship where they promptly employed him throughout the Atlantic trip to pay for his passage. Roger Evans, contact in England 2011, states that David came on the SS Erin (it is a Norwegian line leaving Liverpool & Queenstown and docking at New York City) on 22nd of April 1879. There were 368 passengers on the SS Erin. Whatever the case, he came to the United States and stayed at least an estimated year in Cleveland, OH, with a cousin named Henry Lewis. Henry had one child and a wife, Mary Lewis. David was 22 years old on the 1880 U.S. census which was taken 3 June 1880 and indicates that he is a laborer and has been unemployed 2 months. It also says he cannot read or write; however, the instructions say for affirmative you make a / mark which he did. One assumption I believe can be safely made is that he came in February 1880 and two months later, he is still unemployed. During the next couple of years, it appears that he went to Kansas. Tales of the Thomas family have that he had a singing voice so beautiful they recalled it in the 1960's (letter from Anita Niles to Faye Bell from Lebo, KS, ca 1966) about him singing the song of the *ripening wheat!*

Three or four years later depending on his first arrival date, he returned to Wales and brought his sisters Ann and Elizabeth with him in 1884 (see attached passenger lists and accompanying data). The three of them were on the ship "City of Chicago" and that the ship was supposed to land in Baltimore, but instead arrived at New York City 30 June 1884. See the New York Passenger Lists for each of them. David is written with a capital D followed by a super d; it is necessary to use this abbreviation to find him on the List. Attached is a

photograph of the ship that brought them to the United States in 1884.

He married Adele Ashwill, school teacher in Emporia and daughter of Colonel Henry Clay Ashwill of Ottawa, KS in 1887; David was 29 years old and still comparatively unsettled as far as a profession. The Welsh Moses family felt he had married well. Two children were born in Lebo, KS: Elizabeth (Bessie) and Arthur Richard (Art) Moses. David headed for Wyoming—there was coal mining in Rock Springs, WY and he was there temporarily only as his third child and second daughter, Edna Moses, was born on their way to northern Wyoming 1890. In quick succession four more children joined the family: Mabry Merton (1894); Millard Fillmore (1896); George Dewey (1898) and Florence Jane (1900). The offspring of their children include a number of proven scholars, singers, and musicians which is a significant number because Mabry and Dewey had no children.

At this point, we begin to see more than a footloose gambler and singing troubadour, we see David Bowen Moses knowingly/defiantly(?) heading a band of sheep into cattle country in 1890. He made it as far as the Nowood River coming in from the south of Ten Sleep, then part of Big Horn County, Wyoming Territory (about to be made a state at that time 1890). He was met by a vigilante of five men masked and armed on horses. They threatened him with, “Don’t cross the river with those sheep, Mister!”

The feisty Welshman’s answer was to plunge his horse into the water, wave a challenging arm and shout brashly, “And who is to stop me!” Thus, they crossed the river into a would-be cattle empire! He made a *difference!* *But he again showed his urge to gamble.*

He settled himself and his small family on a homestead that ran 160 acres from where Ten Sleep town established its city limits. It was known as Sackettville, prior to Adele Moses’ promotion to call it Ten Sleep. Ten Sleep was a midpoint

between reservations where the Indians moved from Sheridan to Cody, WY. In 1890, he had lots of space and there were not many families within shouting distance. As a citizen of Ten Sleep, he and his young wife were exemplary. He helped to dig the Victoria canal/ditch that helped other ranchers to water their hayfields. She surveyed the town, promoted the name of it, and taught school. Together they were civic minded and donated land for the Community Church site and later on, for the Ten Sleep cemetery.

But on November 2, 1901, eleven years after their challenging entrance into the area with 'sheep', David Moses met his death over the hill from his own property line, at the age of 43 and was the first man buried in the cemetery land he had donated. (*Clarification: another person (male) M E Casshire (Carshire) was buried in the cemetery boundaries before that, but it was simply boothill then!*). He had built a log home soon dyed red by the dust from the surrounding red hills. By this time, David was running sheep on the mountains above Hyattville, WY, about 20-25 miles northeast of Ten Sleep. He had left his 12 year-old son Arthur with the sheep and had gone to Basin, WY to buy lumber, etc. The family heard later that he had been playing cards in Basin before he left that evening. The report is that his team ran away with him and threw him into an unexpectedly steep gully. His son Millard F Moses described his father as red haired and blue eyed. The red hair must have been auburn as it appears black in all the photos and doesn't give the impression that he is blond or strawberry in any way. He was small and his boot size as small as a woman's might have been. He was the first person to be buried on the land he had donated for a cemetery.



Ship Chicago 1884 –David's 2nd trip when he brought his sisters with him.