

ROBERTSON, (RUSTY) "UNCLE BILLY"

Basin Republican no. 10 October 07, 1910, page 16

William Robinson, of Hyattville, was another of the enterprising men who came down to the fair.

Basin Republican no. 52 May 02, 1913, page 4

William Robinson of Manderson is a witness for a land homestead for Jerome Durfey of Manderson.

Basin Republican no. 29 December 17, 1915, page 1

Death By Suicide

Uncle Billy Robison, who has been a resident of this county for many years and made his home with Robert Waln during his life time, and later with Mrs. Waln in Hyattville, committed suicide last Wednesday morning. Justice Bonwell, in the absence of the county coroner, County Attorney Collins and Sheriff Wickwire went to Hyattville on Wednesday afternoon and held the inquest. On proper examination it was found that deceased came to his death by a knife wound in his throat, inflicted by himself. The jury was composed of J. F. Walters, Tude Nelson and D. W. Matthews, Rev. A. F. Glover acted as clerk of the inquest. Interment was made at Hyattville yesterday. Mr. Robison was an old time resident of the county, but has been in very bad health for a number of years, having been blind for about three years, and it is thought this is the cause of his decision to kill himself

Big Horn County Rustler no. 13 December 17, 1915, page 1

CUTS THROAT POCKET KNIFE

That was an awful thing which took place at the home of Mrs. R. A. Waln of Hyattville on Wednesday morning, when Mr. William Robertson, known to all of the people of that part of the country as "Uncle Billy," cut his throat with a pocket knife and was found dead a few hours later by Mrs. Waln.

"Uncle Billy" had been slightly ill during the early part of the night and he got up about 11 o'clock and went to the kitchen. Mrs. Waln got up and saw that a fire was built, then after a while urged that he go back to bed. He replied that he could not sleep, so he would just sit up the rest of the night.

Mrs. Waln heard him around during the early hours of the morning, as late, perhaps, as 4 o'clock, and when she arose at 6 o'clock it was to find the body of the dead man lying in the middle of the kitchen floor, with the throat cut. From the evidence at hand it was easily seen that he had pulled the coal bucket out from under the reservoir of the stove, had inserted the blade of his pocket knife deep into the lower part of his neck, just above the collar bone, and severing the artery, had stood there and let his life blood flow out into the coal bucket until he fell over onto the floor, where he passed away. He had gone very methodically about the work of taking his life, as is shown in the fact that the pocket knife with which he had cut his throat was found closed and placed back in the right pocket of his pants.

"Uncle Billy" Robertson was one of the real old timers of the Big Horn Basin. For a number of year he had been in the cattle business with R. A. Waln, the deceased husband of the lady with whom he was making his home. He had made his home here for years and it is said was provided with enough of this world's goods to pay his expenses. For the past two years he had been blind and life had become burdensome to him. A number of times he had been heard to remark that he would be glad when it was all over, and he had even hinted that he might do something to hasten the arrival of that time.

He was 86 years of age and life had lost its attractiveness, despite the fact that he could not be said to be suffering from anything except old age.

He had no relatives in this part of the country and it is understood that there is no knowledge that any relatives survive him.

The news of the affair was brought to town on Wednesday by Dr. C. X. Fawcett, Mr. Nick Carstensen and Rev. D. E. Kendall, who came down in Dr. Fawcett's car.

Upon being informed of the suicide, County Attorney W. S. Collins, Sheriff Wickwire and, in the absence of Dr. C. E. Harris, county coroner, Justice of the Peace Bonwell, went to Hyattville and Acting Coroner Bonwell empanelled a jury composed of Messrs Theo. Nelson, F. J. Walters and D W. Matthews, which heard the evidence in the case and rendered a verdict to the effect that deceased had come to his death at his own hand.

Basin Republican no. 29 December 17, 1915, page 3

The last will and testament of William Robinson is to be read on January 8, 1916 and that H. N. Carstensen be assigned executor.

Douglas Enterprise no. 34 December 28, 1915, page 8, State News

Miner no. 39 December 31, 1915, page 4, Hudson, State News

"Uncle Billy" Robertson cut his throat at the home of Mrs. R. A. Waln at Hyattville.

Note. Many times names are spelled differently in the paper and census. William Robinson is an example of that. After a search of the local census, these are the only Robertson or Robinson or Robison names found in the Ten Sleep area census. The other variation is the newspaper article states he was buried in Hyattville, however a large headstone with his name and dates of life is in the Ten Sleep Cemetery.

1900 census William Robison born Sept. 1833 single in Ohio, Ohio, Ohio. He is living on Spring Creek near the Waln family.

1910 census William Robinson is living with R. A. Waln on Spring Creek, born in 1832 in Ohio, father born in Ohio, mother born in Ohio.