

**YATES, EDWARD M.
1859—AUGUST 12, 1926**

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EARLY TRAIL BLAZER REACHES END OF TRAIL

E.M. Yates Dies Following Illness Last Week

EARLY PIONEER

Followed Texas Trail in Early Range Cattle Days

E.M. Yates, rancher and cattleman of this section for the past 45 years, died Thursday, August 12 in a Denver hospital, after an illness of three years.

Yates had been ill for three years, trying climate changes and other means to restore his health without success. He was widely popular among the old cattlemen, and among the later comers as well, a friend to all and known to all as "Ned". During the past few months he spent much of his time in Wheatland, where he was a familiar figure seated somewhere along the street and watching the highway traffic, his mind doubtless in the days when he drove cattle over the trails not graveled and surfaced, in the historic days of '79 to '82.

A fitting feature of his funeral, which occurred Monday afternoon, was the selection for pallbearers of six of his old friends of the Texas trail and open range days as follows: J.C. Shaw, H.W. Loomis, W.H. Ralston, T.A. Shaw, George Mitchell, Osgood Johnson. All these men had been his friends for not less than 43 years. To one of them, J.C. Shaw of Orin, the Times is indebted for the following writeup of his life. Mr. Shaw came over the trails with him in 1879. His story follows:

Edward Yates was born on a farm on the Colorado river near Columbus in southern Texas in 1859. He grew to manhood there, attending the country school, helping to cultivate the farm, and handling cattle.

When he was about 18 years old, he developed a fine physical form and disposition to make one of the coming men of southern soil, and his mother desired to give him a good education and military training. In the fall of 1877 she placed him in a fine military school at Bryan, Texas. Ned took nicely to the school and did well in military training until the sun began to shine hot in March, when he decided confinement indoors would injure his health. So one night he hied himself to his home in Texas, which place he made in good time, and after meeting his mother, brother and sister, he could never be induced to going back to military school at Bryan again.

In the spring of 1878 he crossed the Colorado river and went into that beautiful cattle country along the Gulf of Mexico, going to work for Bob Stafford, who owned thousands of cattle. Stafford had sold many thousand head of cattle to Allison and Dawes to go north, and there was quite an inducement in the way of wages for cow punchers to go north. All a cowboy had to furnish was a bed, saddle, bridle, spurs, and a good six shooter. The wages on the trail were \$30 per month, but wages on the range were very much less.

About April 20 Billy Jackson started out from the Allison ranch in Wilson county, Texas, bound for Ogallala, Nebr., with Ned and seven other men, in charge of three thousand head of cattle. Then the trail crossed the Colorado river at Webbersville. The river was up and they had a hard time crossing, drowning one man and a few head of horses. That herd was sold and delivered at Ogallala in August.

Ned took the train for Texas, going by way of St. Louis. Alex Swan got the railway

company in those days to allow the trail men to return to Texas for \$45, the destination being either San Antonio or Houston, Texas, the distance being about 2,000 miles.

In 1879 Allison & Shire drove six large herds of cattle to Ogallala, and Ned started with Billy Jackson and seven other men. They reached Fort Griffin on the frontiers of Texas, where they joined another small herd being trailed through by the same company, and the two herds were thrown together, making one large herd of four thousand eight hundred head.

The herd was managed from there on by Dick Withers. Ned Yates was taken because he knew the trail, and all the creeks and rivers from the Colorado to the South Platte at Ogallala. That herd reached Ogallala the first of September. That year the famous old man, Dick Head, handled Allison & Shire's cattle, cutting them into the different classes and selling them. One herd was to go to War Bonnet, S. Dak., and E.M. Yates was chosen to go with the bunch, which was delivered September 15, 1879.

Yates, with the other trail hands, branded out the last of the trail herd and turned them over to Getterman & Warren. Then Yates and three men were picked to deliver cattle to the Indians at Pine Ridge. The first day out a negro hand stole all the grub, and Ned was two days and nights with nothing to eat.

On reaching cow camp on Wounded Knee creek, they found that Newman, who had hired the men, had gone east and left no word, so Ned and the others started back south over that tiresome old trail again. But Ned got a job carrying mail from Sidney, Nebr., to Pine Ridge. In those days, however, Indians were good Indians only when on the reservation, and a man was not safe alone. One night they stole Ned's horses and about everything he had. Ned went back to Sidney, walking most of the way, and when he reached there he loaded up for Texas.

Yates came over the trail again in 1880. When he reached Wyoming, he got a position with F.M. Phillips, who ran a cattle ranch on the Laramie river. In 1882, this ranch, together with the cattle, was sold to Henry C. Hay and Whipple, and Yates continued with them for 15 years, running the outfit the latter part of the time. He drove three herds of cattle for the Hay & Whipple and the Teschmaker & DeBillier outfits to North Dakota. The first herd went in 1890, the second in 1891, and the third in 1892. In 1892 he was married very fortunately. To this union there were born eight children, four boys and four girls. Mrs. Yates and seven children survive him, one of the little girls dying from a snake bite when three years old. He was always very fond of his family, which has turned out most creditably.

He was sick for three years before his death, suffering severely, but standing up and bearing it like a man.