

Notes on the 1885 Agricultural Census

by Kathy Szelag

M S Abling

Farmer on the Florida Mesa. From census, cemetery and family tree records. Micajah S Abling, known as Mack. Born 1838 in Ohio; his father was from Holland. Served in the Missouri 2nd infantry during the Civil War (on headstone.) Married Nancy Neely in Ohio 1865; they had 3 children. Then married Alvira Partridge and they had 4 children. Finally married Lydia Rockwood 1887 in La Plata County. He died 1896 and Liddie in 1907. Both are buried in Florida Cemetery.

D Preston Bell

This is an unusual one for the time and area. He was not a farmer, but a teacher who moved several times during his career. Info from census records, a family tree, and Hillside Cemetery in Silverton. Daniel Preston Bell, born 1849 Indiana. Wife Mary Patrick. Married 1872 in Indiana, with 3 daughters all born prior in 1877 in Illinois— Carrie, Marian, Anna. (Anna died 1901 in Silverton.) Daniel graduated from the University of Indiana and then entered teaching. In 1880 he is in Illinois, 1900 Durango, 1910 Silverton, 1920 Denver. He died 1937 in Pueblo and is buried with wife and daughter in Silverton.

T D Burns

Thomas Delanao Burns (family tree on Ancestry.) Born Waterford Ireland 1844. In 1880 he is with wife Josephine in Rio Arriba, New Mexico. (In 1872 he married Maria Josefa Gallegos in NM – family tree.) In 1880 children Mary, Maggie, Ellen, Thomas. Adopted son Tracey Willie. Also with him at that time are his sister Margaret Sargeant, her husband and children. He immigrated to the US in 1850. He died 1916 in Rio Arriba.

Henry Caviness

From census and family records for his son James, Henry was born in 1815; he died 1887 Mancos. In 1900, son James and wife Lizzie are farming in Dix (outside Mancos), Colorado. They have children Roy, Eva, Hattie and Jesse. James had been born 1852 Arkansas. Hattie would marry William Monroe Menefee (see the Menefee record) 1905. James died 1916.

W T Chitwood

From Hood records, this is William, 1833-1919. He and wife Amanda (1846-1922) are buried in the GAR section at Greenmount Cemetery. He was born in Missouri and she Tennessee. Son Adam was born 1867 in Missouri (1885 census.) Lived very close to Joel Estes.

Coe

This surname appears in the 1885 record for Brown and Coe. This is a 'best guess' as to who this is. I am sure the Brown refers to the large family of Karl and Cuny Brown on the Florida Mesa. I contacted a Larry Smith, who is a descendant and has researched that family well. He had never heard of Brown and Coe. But in Florida cemetery is the old grave of an Elmer Coe, birth and death dates unknown. Close to the Brown graves. Elmer does not seem to show up anywhere, although there was a large Coe family living just over in New Mexico at the time.

J A Epperson

From multiple census records, John or Jacob Epperson, born 1839 Alabama. In 1860 he is in Liberty, Missouri, and by 1880 is in Bayfield. He married S A Miller 1887 in La Plata County (Marriage records). They had sons Albert (1888), Orby (1889), and Robert (1892.) Orby died 1894 and is buried in Bayfield. Albert married Mannie Sutton 1908. By 1910, J A has moved to Ignacio.

Joel Estes

Per 1885 census, Joel was born 1849 in Missouri. Per multiple family trees, his father was Joel Estes, who founded Estes Park. Father Joel died Farmington 1875. Son Joel's first wife was Martha Hanna. He then married widow Emily Jane Cowan Stockton in 1882 in La Plata County; see her record in Animas City Cemetery. He then married Sarah Shannon 1896 in Farmington. He shows up as a rancher in the Durango with Sarah in the 1911 city directory. He died 1927 in Farmington.

J D Heard

From the 1880 census and a family tree, this is Jefferson Davis Heard, born 1863 in California to parents from Virginia. He shows up with those parents in the 1870 Yreka (Eureka?) CA census. In 1880 he is with father Elisha in La Plata County, along with siblings George, Lennie, John and Stephen. At that point he was a miner. It would appear that about 1900 he moved to Oregon (census records there.)

R C Hensley

From the 1880 census, R C was a widower born 1820, Virginia. Bayfield area. Children Cl (Clay?) born 1860 Illinois, and Speed, Pearl and Harry all born Colorado. In 1900, Clay is a "prosperous Bayfield farmer" (Durango Wage earner), with wife Josephine. Children Pearl, Harry. A

news paper article mentions they might be leaving in the area, and in 1920 they show up in Clarkson, Washington State.

D D Kramer

From the 1900 census, this is David D Kramer, born 1839 in Ohio and farming in the Mancos area. Wife Rebecca born 1844 Indiana. Children Alvin (born Kansas) and Ruby (born 1885 Colorado.) From a family tree, wife was Rebecca Ann Dicks. Children were George, John, Alvin, Jesse, Wildie and Ruby.

In 1893 he was constable ("chief of police") in Mancos. He seems to have had some difficulty dealing with a Mormon settlement during that period. His obituary in March 1901 says he was crushed to death by a wagon wheel after being thrown from the wagon. Four of his children were still alive at that time.

M T Morris

From the 1900 census, this is Milton T Morris of Mancos, born 1836 Ohio and wife Samantha born 1841 Ohio. From a family tree she is Samantha Monroe and they were married 1867. According to his 1905 obit, he had three daughters; one shows up in 1900 – Mary born 1875 Texas. After retiring from farming, he became a judge. His obit says he had been in the area for 20 years. Obit June 16 1905 Mancos paper.

J L O'Neal

This is one of two brothers in the Bayfield area. John (born 1838 Texas) or James (born 1838 Texas) in the 1880 and 1885 censuses. John was married to Minnie/Jennie and James was married to Missonia/Minnie.

A Root

From the 1885 census, this is Alanson Root, born 1835 in Illinois and his wife Anna, born 1837 Michigan. The 1880 census also lists a Marion Root, born 1831 Ohio. Both are in the Mancos area.

J M Rush

He shows up in the 1885 census in the Mancos area. He was born 1819 in Georgia. He is with much younger wife Louisa, born 1848 Iowa. Three children, all born in Texas – Edward, James and William. In both 1880 and 1900 he is also in Mancos with Louisa. A family tree on ancestry

says this is James martin "Bud" Rush, married 1859 in Texas to Sarah Ann Henslee. The tree says he died Jan 2, 1917 in Mancos.

Y C Sallabar

Per 1910 census and a family tree, Ysmal C Sallabar, born Squador 1847. Came to US 1861. Father born France and mother Spain. Arrived in US 1861. Farmed in the Bayfield area. Married Effie 1879 in La Plata County. Children Florence, Tylan, Raymond, Ernest and Albert. Died 1918 bayfield.

Joseph S Sheek

A very early settler in the area, he was in Parrot City by 1876, having come from Denver (obituary.). In 1880 he is with wife Sarah in Rio La Plata (Mancos area). He was born 1827 North Carolina and she 1831 Tennessee. Also in the area is his brother James and his wife Mary. Children Lafayett, George, Jospeh, Lee, Esther, Rocky. (Joseph's obit says there were 12 children – 5 boys and 7 girls, of which 8 were still alive in 1909.)

He bought the George Taylor Ranch 4 miles west of Mancos (obit.) By 1894 he owned the Jennie Lind and other mines (Mancos paper.) In 1905 he travelled to Utah and returned with Anassazi sandals and other artifacts (paper.) He was known as Uncle Joe and had a summer ranch in Lizzard Head.

In 1909 he sold his ranch to William Wilson for \$15,000. William was a son-in-law. He died November 1909 and is buried in Cedar Grove Cemetery.