

Robert Sprague

Lee Anna Everett

Her grand-parents, Judge Galatia Sprague, and his wife Caroline, were born at Marysville Ohio; he on February 14th, 1823; she on April 2, 1822. In 1860 they came to Cherry Creek, Colorado, then by successive stages to Cache Creek, Brown's Creek, then to Adobe Park; arriving there in '65 or '66. There they homesteaded a ranch. (Now the Howard Sneddon place)

Judge Sprague was an attorney by profession, later serving Lake County as Judge for a considerable period. He defended Elijah Gibbs--who was acquitted--for the alleged murder of George Harrington; this, together with the fact that he had loaned to Gibbs, for hunting purposes, a gun, which was in the latter's possession the night the "Committee of Safety" called at his cabin, caused him to become more or less involved in the "Lake County War". Mrs Everett's uncle, J. W. Sprague, a mere boy at the time, had his "neck stretched" in an attempt to force him to reveal facts of which he knew nothing.

Judge Sprague was also interested in Leadville. Being the owner of the Sprague Hotel, which he either operated himself or leased, he and Mrs Sprague spent much time in that city. They later established their home at Poncha Springs; and there Judge Sprague died in August, 1904. Ten years later his wife followed him, she having died in Meeker in 1914. Thus this region lost two of its earliest and most prominent pioneers, and many mourned the passing of these likable people.

Lee Anna French was born at De Soto, Kansas, June, 18, 1862. Her mother was a Virginian, and her father, J. B. French was of Scotch, Irish, and English descent. In 1879, Lee Anna was 17, the family emigrated to Colorado. They traveled in covered wagons, having two horse teams and 1 mule team. (This mule team was sold in Leadville for \$500) Included in the party were J. B. Owen, a school teacher, and John Hodge and family; Her brother, J. Grant French, having preceded them for the purpose of sowing the crops for the spring. After a five week trip, they arrived in Adobe Park and there located on Judge Sprague's ranch.

Marysville  
Ohio

At that time the ranches in Adobe Park included the home ranch, (Judge Sprague's) the William Malcom place, O. E. Harrington's, Frank Hill's, Cameron's, and the old William Knowlin ranch. Miss French's father purchased the latter, paying \$2,800 for the 160 acres. Here the school house was located, Miss French teaching one term--in 1880. Miss French, who had five pupils, received \$35 per month for her services at the school, which included six grades. There were no churches.

Oats were the principal crop, and brought seven cents a pound at ~~Leadville~~ <sup>the ranch</sup>. The surrounding country was a veritable garden with luxuriant green grass knee high. Cattle were wintered out, and were always fat, as were the deer, which were plentiful.

In the earlier days, prior to Miss French's coming, butter brought one dollar per pound, eggs one dollar per dozen, and flour \$100 per barrel. Clothing could not be bought nearer than Canon City; later a few things could be gotten at Cleora and Poncha. While on the subject I may add that when Miss French came to Adobe Park in '79, she found living there, three families, Hamm, Bacon, and Coffee.

As for amusements, literary societies and dancing parties were the chief indulgences. An occasional ball held in the scattered towns was an affair of delightful anticipation, and attended by all; people going by horseback and wagon as far as Granite, forty miles distant, to attend these fun festivals, which lasted "from sun down 'til sun up".

Lee Anna French and Peter C. Everett were united in marriage at Adobe Park on March 5th, 1884. Three sons were born to them, Claude, Cecil, and George; Claude and Cecil dying in infancy. Their first home was the Kraft Ranch at Brown's Canon--the house is still standing.

In 1885, the Everetts, accompanied by her brother, J. Grant French, departed, in a covered wagon, for the San Juan country. There they settled on a ranch which included the present site of Bayfield. They remained there until '87, when Mrs Everett's mother died, this, together with the necessity of aiding Mrs Everett's father <sup>to</sup> rear the younger children, demanded their return to Adobe Park.

In '88 they bought a ranch--the site of the present Fairview Cemetery--and erected a log cabin. Here George Galatia Everett--namesake of his great grandfather--was born on February 2, 1890. Two years later they purchased the William Bacon ranch, where they built

a comfortable home and became prosperous.

George Galatia Everett was happily married to Bonnie Vere Heister on June, 18, 1910. They have four children, three sons and a daughter. Mr. Everett is--as his ancestors were--a rancher, and is one of the most prominent cattlemen in the county.

In 1915, Mrs Lee Anna Everett established her residence in Salida where she operates a rooming house; and, although she is not actively engaged in ranching, she is very much interested in it as she still owns her ranch. *and cattle industry*

*Mrs L.A. Everett*