

Knight Wamsley Dies; Was First White Boy Born in Colorado

Knight Wamsley, long time resident of Chaffee county, died at two o'clock this morning at the Edwards Rooms. Mr. Wamsley had been in failing health for the past few years. He was born Oct. 23, 1859, at Golden, Colo., and shortly after that he came to Chaffee county, where he has resided since that time. He has no survivors.

Funeral services for Mr. Wamsley

will be held at 2 o'clock Wednesday afternoon at the Stewart Mortuary. The Rev. H. C. Alley of the Methodist church will be in charge and burial will be in Fairview cemetery.

Mr. Wamsley was the first white boy born in the state of Colorado. His parents lived at Golden City, near the site of present town of Golden, near Denver.

Taming of West Was Scene of Early Life of Knight Wamsley; First White Boy Born in State

Funeral services for Knight Wamsley, who died Tuesday morning, were held at 2 o'clock Wednesday afternoon at the Stewart Chapel, with the Rev. H. C. Alley officiating. There were many beautiful floral offerings.

The ballbearers were Richard Sneddon, William Harvey, Mr. Heisterberg, Jesse Glenn, James Bopp and James Habenicht. Burial was at Fairview cemetery.

Mr. Wamsley was one of the most interesting personages in Colorado. His parents traveled by ox team from Indiana to Pikes Peak in 1859, a three month journey. They spent three months at Manitou Springs before there was a town there and then moved on to Golden City near the present city of Golden. Mr. Wamsley was born in Golden City Oct. 23, 1859, and was the first white boy born in Colorado. The cabin in which he was born still stands.

Mr. Wamsley's father was a tanner by trade and he operated a tannery at Golden City for eight years. Later he operated a butcher shop. He farmed at Evergreen for two years and in June, 1873, removed to a farm on the highway four miles out of Hartsel. He and his wife made a good income selling groceries and meals to teamsters, the road being filled with wagons moving to the new gold strikes. However there were so many tramps afoot, broke and hungry, that all the profits of the business went into feeding the unfortunates. The elder Mr. Wamsley operated the hotel at Hartsel in 1881. In that year he went to Gunnison, and he built the first bridge across the

Gunnison river.

The younger Wamsley had now become a young man. He drove a team in Gunnison for a few months and then drove the Mears stage from Poncha Springs over Marshall Pass. In those days Poncha Springs had two livery stables, a bank and a hotel and the teams of eight mules formed a constant procession over the pass.

Mr. Wamsley returned to the South Park in 1882 and in the same year he drove overland to Montana. On the trip he killed 576 buffaloes. He sold the hides for \$3 each and 45,000 pounds of buffalo meat at 12 cents a pound.

He visited Colorado in 1885 and returned to Montana. In 1887 he rode a horse to Nebraska and became a cowhand on a big ranch. He was called back to Montana to watch cow thieves and he stayed on the job two years.

One day he rode 125 miles on horseback to get a doctor for a woman who was ill. On the trip he arranged to have change of mounts ready for the doctor. The doctor left at once and reached the sick woman the next day.

Mr. Wamsley returned to the South Park in 1888 and lived there, and in Chaffee county until his death. He gave Thomas A. Nevens a complete history of his life and it forms one of the most interesting chapters in Mr. Nevens' collection.

Donald Bement Is Unhurt When Hit By Car Wednesday