

DARST, RODNEY W.
November 27, 1856-June 29, 1937

Rodney W. Darst, second son of Thomas L. and Eunice A. Darst, was born November 27, 1856 in Clay County, Illinois. At the age of about six months, he moved with his parents and elder brother to Vinton County, Ohio, about ninety east of Cincinnati.

In the early sixties, his father went to seek his fortune at Pike's Peak, Colo.; where he remained for seven years, leaving his wife, two sons and small daughter in Ohio. Upon leaving Colorado, the father went to Kansas City, Mo. where he was soon joined by his family. They remained in Missouri for a number of years when they moved to the southeastern part of Kansas. Later the family moved near Denver, Colorado, and finally moved to Wyoming.

The children had very meager educational opportunities because the family moved from place to place so frequently, and the children were also called upon to help support the family by working out.

During his young manhood, Mr. Darst felt a call to the ministry and spent much of his spare time in preparation for Christian work. The greater part of his time, however, had to be spent earning a livelihood in other kinds of work.

On June 22, 1904, Mr. Darst and Miss Lela D. Hudson were united in marriage. To this union was born a son, C. Calvin and a daughter, Esther Alta, who survive him.

The family resided on a ranch near Wheatland, Wyoming for many years. Following a call to do Christian work, Mr. and Mrs. Darst organized a Sunday School in their home. Mr. Darst was elected Superintendent and Bible class teacher. He and Mrs. Darst worked together in religious work for a number of years.

Mr. Darst was granted a local preacher's license in the M.E. church. In 1921, Rev. E.L. Butler, who was then pastor of the M.E. church in Wheatland, appointed Mr. Darst assistant pastor of the church and four rural school houses which were being used for religious worship. When Reverend Butler was absent from his church, Mr. Darst took charge of the services. Reverend Butler and Mr. Darst were united one in Christian love and co-workers together for Christ.

Mrs. Darst was at her husband's bedside during his last illness. His son, Calvin, coming from Pasadena, Calif., and his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence E. Cox of Globe, Ariz.

Funeral services for Mr. Darst were conducted last Saturday afternoon from the Baptist church with Rev. Pipkin in charge, and Rev. Paul Dodds of the Nazarene church assisting. He was interred in the Wheatland cemetery in the family lot, beside his mother and father.