

MERTZ, JOHN NELSON  
December 14, 1857-May 22, 1931

John N. Mertz, 64-year old pioneer rancher of the Wheatland section, passed away in his home in the north part of town, Friday night, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, after a lingering illness of three years duration.

Funeral services were held in the Congregational church Sunday afternoon with Rev. R.E. Morgan preaching the funeral service. Burial was made in the Wheatland cemetery with Longwith-Richards Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

John Nelson Mertz was born near Baltimore, Maryland, Dec. 14, 1857, and passed away at his home in Wheatland, May 22, 1931. Having the spirit of the pioneer, he first moved west to Illinois. Then he moved to Iowa where he taught school for five years. From Iowa he went to Nebraska where he married Ida May Soward, July 12, 1892. They came to Wyoming in 1885 and took a homestead and engaged in farming and stock raising, till ill health forced him to retire eight years ago. Upon retirement, he and his faithful wife moved to Wheatland, which has been their home since.

He leaves to mourn his passing, his wife, Ida M. Mertz, one sister, Mrs. Susan Wissinger and a brother, Elisha Mertz, both of Hagerstown, Maryland, and three nephews, Clarence Soward of Superior, Wyo., and William and Frank Soward of Wheatland.

Although he had no children of his own, he took the place of father to three orphans, the Soward boys, and helped them to manhood. In all the experiences of his married life, his wife had a worthy part, mothering her orphaned nephews, helping others as she could, and giving herself with loving devotion to her husband till the end. Mr. Mertz was almost helpless the last three years of his life, and through it all, his wife was faithful to her marriage vows.