

September 25, 1864-November 21, 1917

John O'Brien died on Wednesday, Nov. 21, 1917, at the Wheatland hospital. Mr. O'Brien had been ill several months from ulcers of the stomach. He had sought relief in Thermopolis and from physicians in Cheyenne, but continued to fail. On the 7<sup>th</sup>, inst., while at home on his ranch near Uva, he was taken with a severe internal hemorrhage and was brought to the hospital for treatment. The hemorrhage was checked, but the attendants gave no hope to the sufferer or to his friends that there was any possibility of recovery. His decline was rapid until the inevitable end occurred.

John O'Brien was one of the few remaining pioneers whose life story was the embodiment of the romance and development of the west. He was born in the state of New York, Sept. 25, 1864. He came to Wyoming while yet in infancy, his father having been an officer in the U.S. army, rising to the rank of captain. During his childhood, the family lived at various military posts including Forts Russell, Laramie and Fetterman. His father also saw service in the Spanish-American war in the Phillipines, retiring from the service then until his death about two years ago.

Mr. O'Brien chose the live stock industry as his life's work while yet a boy, beginning as a cowboy on a ranch owned by his father near Fort Fetterman, on the Laprele. After working for various outfits, he was employed about twenty years ago as foreman of the upper ranch of the Tolland Cattle Co., which is located on Deer Creek near Glenrock, and is known as the "VR". After five years at that place he was transferred to the "Italie H" near Uva, where he acted as foreman until his death. In addition to his position as manager of the Tolland Cattle Co., he owned a ranch of his own on the Laramie river and held extensive live stock interests in his own name.

In 1892 he was wedded to Miss Maggie Devue, and one daughter was born to this union, now Mrs. Warren Powell. After the death of his first wife, he was married again to Miss Margaret Lockett who survives him. Four sons were born to them: George, the oldest, aged 14; John Jr.; Edward and Lee. He is also survived by three brothers and four sisters.

Mr. O'Brien enjoyed the respect and esteem of a wide number of friends. Among the old pioneers and stockmen, he was widely popular, and was known also as a capable business man. His death makes an irreparable vacancy in the already thin line of pioneers and builders of the state.

The funeral was held on Friday afternoon from the Pepper Mortuary, and was conducted by the local chapter of the Masonic Lodge, of which Mr. O'Brien was a thirty-third degree member. He was buried in the Wheatland cemetery.