

YATES, EDWARD M.
1859-August 12, 1926

E.M. Yates, rancher and cattlemen of this section for the past 45 years, died Thursday, August 12 in a Denver hospital, after an illness of three years.

Yates had been ill for three years, trying climate changes and other means to restore his health without success. He was widely popular among the old cattlemen and among later comers as well, a friend to all and known to all as "Ned". During the past few months he spent much of his time in Wheatland, where he was a familiar figure seated somewhere along the street and watching the highway traffic, his mind doubtless in the days when drove cattle over the trails, not graveled and surfaced, in the historic days of '79 to '82.

A fitting feature of his funeral which occurred Monday afternoon, was the selection for pallbearers of six of his old friends of the Texas trail and open range days as follows: J.C. Shaw, H.W. Loomis, W.H. Ralston, T.A. Shaw, George Mitchell, Osgood Johnson. All these men had been his friends not less than 43 years. To one of them, J.C. Shaw of Orin, the Times is indebted for the following writeup of his life. Mr. Shaw came over the trails with him in 1879. His story as follows:

Edward Yates was born on a farm on the Colorado river near Columbus in southern Texas in 1859. He grew to manhood there, attending the country school, helping to cultivate the farm and handling cattle.

When he was about 18 years old, he developed a fine physical form and disposition to make one of the coming men of southern soil, and his mother desired to give him a good education and military training. In the fall of 1877, she placed him in a fine military school at Bryan, Texas, Ned took nicely to the school and did well in military training until the sun began to shine hot in March, when he decided confinement indoors would injure his health. So one night, he hied himself to his home in Texas, which place he made in good time, and after meeting his mother, brother and sister, he could never be induced to going back to military school at Bryan again.

In the spring of 1878, he crossed the Colorado river and went into that beautiful cattle country along the Gulf of Mexico, going to work for Bob Stafford, who owned thousands of cattle. Stafford had sold many thousand head of cattle to Allison and Dawes to go north, and there was quite an inducement in the way of wages for cow punchers to go north. All a cowboy had to furnish was a bed, saddle, bridle, spurs, and a good six shooter. The wages on the trail were \$30 a month, but wages on the range were very much less.

About April 30, Billy Jackson started out from the Allison ranch in Wilson county, Texas, bound for Ogallala, Nebr., with Ned and seven other men, in charge of three thousand head of cattle. Then the trail crossed the Colorado river at Webbersville. The river was up and they had a hard time crossing, drowning one man and a few head of horses. That herd was sold and delivered in Ogallala in August.

Ned took the train for Texas, going by way of St. Louis. Alex Swan got the railroad company in those days to allow the trail men to return to Texas for \$45, the destination being either San Antonio or Houston, Texas, the distance being about 2000 miles.