

In 1879, Allison & Shire drove six large herds of cattle to Ogallala, and Ned started with Billy Jackson and seven other men. They reached Fort Griffin on the frontiers of Texas, where they joined another small herd, being trailed through by the same company, and the two herds were thrown together, making one large herd of four thousand eight hundred head.

The herd was managed from there on by Dick Withers. Ned Yates was taken because he knew the trail, and all the creeks and rivers from the Colorado to the South Platte at Ogallala. That herd reached Ogallala the first of September. That year, the famous old man, Dick Head, handled Allison & Shire's cattle, cutting them into different classes and selling them. One herd was to go to War Bonnet, S.Dak., and E.M. Yates was chosen to go with the bunch, which was delivered September 15, 1879.

Yates, with the other trail hands, branded out the last of the trail herd and turned them over to Getterman & Warren. Then Yates and three men were picked to deliver cattle to the Indians at Pine Ridge. The first day out, a negro hand stole all the grub, and Ned was two days and nights with nothing to eat.

On reaching cow camp on Wounded Knee creek, they found that Newman, who had hired the men, had gone east and left no word, so Ned and the other started back south over that tiresome old trail again. But Ned got a job carrying mail from Sidney, Nebr. to Pine Ridge. In those days, the Indians were good Indians only when on the reservation and a man was not safe alone. One night they stole Ned's horses and about everything he had. Ned went back to Sidney, walking most the way, and when he reached there he loaded up for Texas.

Yates came over the trail again in 1880. When he reached Wyoming, he got a position with F.M. Phillips, who ran a cattle ranch on the Laramie river. In 1882, this ranch, together with the cattle was sold to Henry C. Hay and Whipple, and Yates continued with them for 15 years, running the outfit the latter part of the time. He drove three herds of cattle for Hay & Whipple and the Teschmaker & DeBillier outfits to North Dakota. The first herd went in 1890, the second in 1891 and the third in 1892. In 1892, he was married very fortunately. To this union were born eight children, four boys and four girls. Mrs. Yates and seven children survive him, one of the little girls dying of a snake bite when three years old. He was always very fond of his family, which turned out most creditably.

He was sick three years before his death, suffering severely, but standing up and bearing it like a man.