

January 1935 M.E.Gill

W.C.Stover

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W.C. Stover was born in Franklin county Penn in 1857. When a boy learned the blacksmith trade in Penn. As a young man he took the advice of Horace Greeley and came to Ill after two years stay came to Iowa and then moved to Colo in 1888 . In 1889 he moved to Brush, then a town of about 50 people and established a blacksmith shop in Brush and for more than thirty years he has worked at his trade in Brush all the time having the interests of the community at heart.

He served as Deputy Sheriff, constable and marshal for twelve years. In 1888 he was married to Miss Turpin. Two children were born - Edward, 1889 and Harry 1892.

M.B. Gill

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Tom McDowal

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Tom McDowal was born in Carrol county Tennessee in 1869. Came to Colorado in 1893 and started feeding sheep for Young bros. at Snyder afterward moved to Beaver valley south of Brush, finally engaging in the mercantile business in Hillrose. After a short time sold out and bought a store at Snyder sold out and bought one at Gary in 1903 , Was Postmaster at Gary for several years.

Married Anna Woberman about 400 acres in Beaver Valley south of Brush. He always kept his place in the ranks of community progress and was respected by his neighbors.

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M.B. Gill

Carl E. Wagner

Native Son.

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Son of Moses N. & Clara Wagner born January 21 1887 in Fort Morgan. Graduated from Ft. Morgan High School 1906. Attended Lehi University of Pennsylvania and graduated in 1912 in Civil Engineering. Worked about two years in Penn. Served as Corporal in world's war. Was in officer's training camp six months. After the world's war came back to Ft. Morgan worked for one year in Platte Valley Mill co. then bought Morgan Abstract business of which he is president at the present time. In 1934 he was appointed post master of Ft. Morgan.

In 1917 he married Miss Mary Esto Carrier of Vinton Iowa. ^{is} Mrs. Wagner a graduate of Knox college, Galesburg Ill and worked for her master's degree at the University of Wisconsin.

Three children have been born to this union: Jack, born in 1920, Joe, 1921 and Carl Jr. 1922.

Carl E Wagner is one of Fort Morgan's native sons of whom a few still live in Ft. Morgan.

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Verni Stoops

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Born at Ferth Nebraska in 1882. The whole family came to Colorado in 1888, settling in Beaver Valley south of Brush. Son of Henry J. and Rebecca Perry Stoops. Father and Mother now deceased. He still lives on the old homestead and has continued to live in this same house for 47 years.

Has been interested in the grazing and raising of cattle and sheep.

In 1910 he married Miss Armie . Three children were born to this union: Victor in 1910 , Sherley in 1917, Howard 1924. Was the very first settler in Beaver Valley after free range for cattle . His ambition was to keep step with the country in the country's ~~apress~~ press for progress.

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P.W. Putman

This sketch of P.W. Putman was given M.B. Gill by his daughter, Mrs Emma Putman Reed.

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P.W. Putman died March 19, 1934 in Sacramento California. In 1886 he owned 700 acres of land around Orchard and owned several thousand of sheep. Mr. Putman was one of the builders of the Weldon valley ditch in the early eighties. He bought the Igo place at Orchard 1876. In fact, spent practically all his time since '71 in Colo. He believed in the building up of land by feeding live stock. His business was feeding sheep and the business of farming grew and prospered.

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Story of

Mrs. W . H. Clatworthy (sister of Abner Baker)

M.B.Gill

At the close of the Civil War among those who went from Baraboo, Wisconsin to Greeley, Colo. were the Clark and Baker families. These each were families of six. In 1870 the Clarks arrived ^{in Greeley} and Max Clark's brother-in-law, A. S. Baker (Abner Baker).

The last move the Baker family made westward was to Ft. Morgan in 1884 when Abner, Lyman, Frank and my husband (W.H. Clatworthy) and myself arrived with my family and forded the river Platte in a buckboard. By April first, when the rest of the Bakers came, the river had risen so high that it was necessary to use a lumber wagon to cross.

Among my memories of that first summer were first, the naming of the town "Fort Morgan " by post master General Gersham. second, although an occasional preacher came thru that first summer the main support of our servicies came through two staunch Scotch-Irish Presbyterians who had taken up claims near here, Father Glassey, and John Anderson; ^{Father Glassey his} ~~wax~~ proved up on/ claims at the age of 94. Third, In our first home, the claim shanty, we hung the chairs up on the wall when we let the bed down at night. The shanty was 12 by 12 and contained our bedroom suite oil stove and also the George F. Prince Melodeon, which later furnished music for the Presbyterian church for years. Antelope,- curious creatures that they are- often came close to the cabin to watch the clothes blowing on the line. Our daughter, Nina's first birthday was celebrated in this shanty and her Uncle Max Clark threw a beautiful bisque doll to her from the train, on his way to Brush. One wash day, while hanging clothes on the line I heard a slight noise and going around the house found my baby ^{head} ~~had~~/first in the tub of rinse water where she had toppled over the board, placed in the door for safety. She was rescued unharmed but

Story of Mrs. W.H. Clatworthy
(sister of Abner Baker)

badly frightened. Fourth, After living in the shanty about 9 weeks we moved into the rear of the new Abner Baker store building. That summer I cooked for 11 section men beside baking bread and making yeast to sell.

Our present home was first bilt in 1885 on 5 acres, purchased from Lyman Baker. Our two ^{younger} children were born in this home and we have here resided for the last 48 years.

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Story Of W.G. Warner as given in interview M.B. Gill

as given by Mrs W.G. Warner. *Doc*

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Since a period antedating the organization of Morgan County and the founding of the village of Fort Morgan, Mr. Warner has been identified with the history of this part of Colorado.

He came to the state in August 1881 settling first at Greeley and entering the employ of Abner Baker, the well known contractor for whom he remained as book keeper and in charge of construction work until 1884. Upon the incorporation of the Fort Morgan Ditch Company in 1883, he was made its secretary. The following year he severed his connection with Mr. Baker and opened the first real estate office in Fort Morgan, afterward being made the agent of the town site.

When Morgan County was organized he was appointed by District Judge Downer to the office of ^{clerk of} the district court and was the first county official installed into office.

Largely to his efforts the organization of the county was due. He labored ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ unweariedly to secure its formation which was rendered possible by the division of old Weld county in 1888

Politically, Mr. Warner entered one more term of office, that of Receiver for the Land Office at Akron, Colorado. He received his commission from President ~~Mxx~~ McKinley in December 1897 and took office the following December.

The subject of this sketch homesteaded 320 acres adjoining Fort Morgan in 1882, which was his only home from the time of his entry into this part of the state. Here it was that he forsook his bachelorhood and took to wife Louise Farnsworth the daughter of John Farnsworth of Fort Morgan another early pioneer.

The result of this marriage was the four children Leona, Esther, Willys and Louise. Willys and Mrs. Warner still reside an

that homestead taken in 1882.

Mr. Warner was born in Baraboo Wisconsin, May 22, 1855. His mother and father were of old New England stock, their lineage dating from the early ^t seventeenth century.

His schooling was completed on graduating from high school in Baraboo. He immediately started teaching school which occupation he followed for six years forsaking this occupation he followed the lure of the West. He arrived in Greeley in 1881 and immediately identified himself with work already mentioned.

Since the subject of this sketch was quite active in community affairs it would seem only fitting to mention some of these. As near as the writer can ascertain Mr Warner was a member of the first baseball team, the first band, the first Little Theater and took rank of Second Lieutenant in original Co. 1 (militia) holding rank of Captain, later.

He became a member of the first Masonic order, to which he remained devoted till his death. Knight Pythas also claimed him as a member as long as that order was active in Fort Morgan.

Mr Warner was a republican. More than one church was the recipient of his donations.

The cemetery, of which Fort Morgan is justly proud, was made possible by the generosity and public spiritedness of Mr. Warner and seven others who gave \$25 apiece to buy the original site.

January 1913 saw the close of this active career. Mr. Warner's passing was as he desired it to be. Sudden and uneventful.

Agriculture

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Interview by M.B. Gill

O.S. Crook born in
June 18, 1906.

Illinois in 1868. Came to Colorado

Since coming to Colorado has been interested in farming.

The advent of the automobile had much to do here as elsewhere with the "good roads" movement, which became effective in Colorado in 1902, when the owners of motors first combined to secure better roads.

In 1906 the movement was going strong. There would be higher taxes. But Mr. Crook's idea of good living was not to block progress.

He started farming on the G.W. Warner farm, taken up from the government in 1882. and success soon followed his trail and He very soon bought a farm choosing land near Weldon/Colorado, located at the edge of the little town of Weldon.

This man is a stock feeder. He fed sheep several years and counted it gain whether he made money on the stock or not always thinking of the good of his farm. It is now an accepted fact that O.S. Crook owns one of the best farms in Weldon County.

In the early days when the growing of high production in beets was not generally known, on a 68 acre patch of beets he cliqued an average of 18 tons per acre. In 1912 he raised 107 bushels of oats per acre, making no other spacial effort to increase production other than the field was given his regular farming attention. In 1923 his corn went 85 bushels per acre.

He was married in 1893 to Ida Grayson. to this union was born one boy, Grayson Crook, a graduate of Fort Collins now teaching agriculture at Timnath, Colorado.

Agriculture

Interview by M.B. Gill

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I.G. Aker born at Barneyville N.Y. 1869.

He has lived in Weldon Valley 40 years . He contributes his bit toward the progress of the state. He is one of the big sheep feeders of North Eastern Colorado.

He was County Commissioner of Morgan Co for eight years, identifying himself with the good roads movement.

While the Good Roads Association of Colorado continued thru the years to fight for better roads with varying results he was busy raising crops that would justify the taxes. He built up his land by feeding sheep. He was one of Colorado's big sheep feeders for 38 years and figured the improved land as a big part of the profits.

Progress is no stumbling block to him. (In 1933 he raised an average over a field of beets of 22 tons, in 1929 he raised 90 bushels of barley per acre. (in 1930 he raised 85 bushels of corn per acre.)

He is still pulling strong for Colorado irrigation and Weldon Valley.

He was married in 1894 . Four children were born to this union Olive, Rosabel, George, Irvin (deceased) His wife passed on

In 1910 he married Miss Ida Davis . th them was born one child , Floyd.

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A Personal Interview with Mrs. W.H. Clatworthy.

by M.B. Gill

I was graduated in 1875 in the class in which Belle Case Lafollete was valedictorian in Baraboo, Wisconsin. I taught that first winter in Wisconsin at \$20 a month. Hearing that wages were better in the West I went then to Iowa and taught there the following summer. Then my brother Abner, who had been in Colorado 6 years told me that I could get \$40 in Colorado so from there I came to Greeley in the Fall of 1876. (My brother Lyman came to Greeley in 1870 to work for The Greeley Tribune. He was a printer and had learned his trade from Ansel Kellogg in Wisconsin who afterward made an enormous fortune with a news paper patent.) I taught in Greeley a year and a half and then was called to Wisconsin because of the chief industry from '73 to '76 in Greeley was the tanning of buffalo hides. my father's illness. The year 1876 is memorable to me because the grass had little patch of lawn and morning glories hung in festoons of grass hoppers. hopper plague. Max Clark (brother-in-law) was. In 1882 I was married to Mr. Clatworthy in Baraboo and went from there to Edgerton Wis. where Mr. Clatworthy was a foreman of a tobacco warehouse in the winter and in the summer he painted. The Greeley colony, because it was founded on the city's Temperance, it being written in the ordinance that no liquor should be ever sold within its jurisdiction, it attracted people from many places, and the Earl of Airlie so arrived from Scotland. He established a large ranch on Crow Creek for his son Laylph. It was while building the Brush canals in 1883 financed by the Earl of Airlie, that Abner thought of establishing a settlement up the river. However Max. Clark said "there never will be any water taken from the Platte River because of the sand."

When Abner wrote that there was still government land here I was unwilling to proceed to Colorado until Mr. Clatworthy saw the

land because of my grasshopper experience in Iowa.

One Monday morning Mr. Clatworthy came home, said he had and said he had been laid off work for a week or ten days and we decided that he should come out and look at the land. My mother accompanied him home from Greeley at the end of the next week. As a result we came to Colorado about November 1883. My mother, Lizzie Kitel and my baby and myself arriving in Greeley about Thanksgiving time. Mr. Clatworthy followed me on the following January. My first months were spent with my brother Ed, a well known engineer. On March 28 th, 1884 we came to ^{Fort} Morgan, in a storm which started with blowing off the roundhouse roof in Sterling, lasting 4 days and ending with 9 foot snow drifts. We forded the river below the Narrows following the old Indian trail, to reach the horse camp, established for the ditch men by my brother Abner.

Mr. Clatworthy had taken up a tree claim and had moved a shanty on to it west of the town of Fort Morgan. When he took ^{up} this tree claim he thought it was going to be under the Morgan ditch.

In three days there were a dozen families at the horse ^{claim} camp, mostly Bakers and their relatives, so we moved into our shanty.

The only building I could see when we arrived was the framework to my brother's store, on the corner of Railroad Ave. and Main street. The Post Office was established in this store in August of the same year Post Master, General Garsham appointed Mr. Clatworthy as Postmaster at this time. He also was in charge of this store. We lived in the rear of the store and Mr. G. W. Warner, brother Abner's secretary, had an adjoining room as his office.

In order to get the Burlington railroad to move its station from Ensign, Abner gave them half the lots.

The first land plotted here was on 80 acres belonging

to Ella Courtney and 80 acres on my father's land.

The first school was built by J.H. Farnsworth who sold the building to the district for \$400. He also built the first hotel. Mr. Sidney Prince was the first school teacher. (I was president of the school board when the first graduates were presented with diplomas)

Lyman Baker's house was the first in Fort Morgan, It was located on the corner of Main and Platte Ave. My father's claim shanty ^{Fort} was located where the first/Morgan Times building was built. In August ^{issue of the} 1884 the first/paper was published by George Warner (W.G. Warner)

Weld County was 110 miles long and 55 miles wide. School district No. 3 was 19 miles long. The school was built close to the railroad as the railroad was supposed to pay big taxes.

The Ladie's Library association was formed during the time that Mrs. Anna R. White was county sup. The Carnegie Library foundation was established .

In 1889 the town bought trees in Otis Colorado. and outlined the streets. The town was incorporated in 1888.

Our start came from the Post Office and from the sheep business. Our hardware store or general store was established in 1884 and continues to this day.

I sold yeast cakes made by myself and cooked for 11 section men besides caring for my baby, doing my own washing and the rest of house keeping that goes with it.

The Relief Corps was one of the first organizations.

The dining room of the present residence, is the original home built in 1885.
