

## FRANCIS LEROY DUVALL

Francis Leroy DuVall was born March 19, 1886 to in . Married Elsie Mae Jones March 9, 1910. They had children: sons and daughters. Died  
Buried

"I was three-and-a-half when my brother, Warren, started to school. I cried to go and the teacher accepted me as a student. After several months I had enough and wanted to stay home but Dad thought it was no good to go when I wanted and stay when I wanted so I stayed in the White Dave School. I wore the pages out where my thumb held the book before I was old enough o go to the second reader. When I was five we moved into a brick house one mile north of Moravia and lived there until I married. I only went to the ninth grade of school. The entire school quit because of a teacher who whipped us with a hose whenever we didn't give the right answer. A school board meeting was held to get rid of the teacher but I didn't start back when the est did. When I was eight the last day of bare feet before school started, I stepped on a nail with the right foot. It went into the bone and all winter my foot was never healed properly and to this day I favor that foot. I was light man (180) on the football town team. I used to debate in the school team.

I was 14 or 15 on my first date. I took Gayle Taylor to a do at the church. The grownups didn't think I was old enough to have a date. A year later we had company who had a daughter my age. I took her out a few times and when she went home, we wrote. Her letters were the most loving letters I ever read. I think Mary thought they was too, because when she helped mother clean my room she found the letters under the carpet and read them. She gave me such a bad time, I never wrote to the girl. The first time we went back for a visit my mother sent us a hundred dollar check and we thought she must be homesick so we

again. Zell and Charlie Pense (cousins) were my main buddies.

I tried my wings out by going to Kansas, north of Simpson, and worked for a year on a farm for \$25.00 a month. Dad promised me a Stetson hat if I didn't smoke until I was 21. My crowd didn't smoke and I never started. When I was 21, Dad gave me the \$5 it took to buy a Stetson then. I never got the habit of coffee or tobacco or liquor.

I was sprinkled in the United Brethren Church when Elsie was. Where we both were until we joined the Congregational Church in Cheyenne where we still belong, and occasionally donate money to, and attend. I joined the Masonic Lodge in Iowa when I was 26 in 1912. I joined the Shrine in Cheyenne in 1946. I started going with Elsie because she was fun and good looking. (Marie DuVall asked Roy if Elsie gave him a bad time. He laughed and said not after she started going with me - it was before that she gave me the bad time.)

Asked what he thoguht of Elsie in her wedding dress, he said she was always pretty. I thought she was a good looking Jane.

We moved to my father-in-law's place and farmed. Later we heard of the good homestead landin Wyoming, so we went there and filed on ½ section. As others left, I bought their ½ sections and I made a go of it. Today I own 6½ deeded sections and have 1½ sections leased. We finished a two room house and a barn (from lumber at Chugwater) and had a load of hay from Wheatland before the first snow ht the first of December. Three feet lay on the ground until the first of February. The next winter we knew to prepare for winter on a ranch in Wyoming.

used the money and bought a return train ticket home for a visit and had a little money left.

In 1922, we moved a two room house from a section we bought from Baroni and put it against ours making a four room house. In 1927, we moved into a new house we had built - two bedroom upstairs, two bedrooms down and a front room and kitchen and basement. Later we added a sun porch and a bathroom and had them finished by November, 1941.

I started in the cattle business by getting ten head of cows in Denver, shipping them by railroad. My father had sheep when I was born so I thought I needed some and I bought a hundred head.

We never were so hard up but what we could go where we wanted, do what we wanted, and have plenty to eat. The only way the war affected us was to make our cattle bring better prices. I was too old in march to register in June. We didn't notice a shortage of help. None of my immediate folks and friends went. I don't know as I would change anything if I had life to live over again. My folks were good people. Dad had a lot of swearing to do, but my mother was as good a woman as you ever see. I vaguely remember my maternal grandparents. Warren and I stayed with them over night some. My father's mother I remember but very little.