

Robert Lee Bybee, Pioneer Storyteller

(Obituary in Idaho Falls Daily Post, 6 October 1929, page 1)

Robert L. Bybee, 91, Victim of Pneumonia, Was Prominent in State Politics

Robert Lee Bybee, 91, at one time prominent in Idaho political circles, passed away at a local hospital Friday night, a victim of pneumonia. . . .

Mr. Bybee was born in Clay county, Indiana, May 4, 1833. His early boyhood was spent in Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri and Utah. In 1885 the family settled at Weber river, seven miles from Ogden, Utah, where the family took up ranching. In 1857 he was married to Jane Miller. Before moving to Idaho in 1883, he was married to Harriet Raymond. . . who now survives him. In 1858 Mr. Bybee accompanied an expedition of 180 men from Ogden to Salmon City, Idaho, for the purpose of bringing back to Utah a number of families who had been attacked by Indians and [some] of them killed and wounded. The settlement was broken up and the people taken to Utah at the time when Fort Hall was the only settlement in the Snake river valley. Mr. Bybee settled in Menan upon moving to Idaho. His home at the time of his death was in Rigby. He was a senator from Bingham county in 1901, elected on a fusion democratic ticket, and played a prominent part in the political life of the state.

He is survived by 11 children, 61 grandchildren, 59 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren. . . .

Notes by Mary Jane Fritzen:

Bybee's Mormon Pioneer experience included living near Nauvoo, Illinois, where he met Church leader Joseph Smith when Robert was six years old, and also viewed the prophet's body in 1844. His experience included carrying mail between Salt Lake City and Independence, Missouri; and the Fort Lemhi rescue. His grandchildren loved to hear his stories about Indians, bedbugs, and innumerable mosquitoes in Idaho, where he operated a ranch owned by Robert Anderson of Anderson Brothers in the first days of irrigation here. He also was a leader among the early LDS in the first two stakes in this area—Bannock Stake and Bingham Stake. See me to receive a copy of stories of his autobiography.

Idaho Falls Daily Post, 6 Oct. 1929, p. 1.

Death Summons Valley Pioneer, Robert L. Bybee

Robert L. Bybee, 91, Victim of Pneumonia, Was Prominent in State Politics

Robert Lee Bybee, 91, at one time prominent in Idaho political circles, passed away at a local hospital Friday night, a victim of pneumonia. He had been in the hospital only a few days.

Mr. Bybee was born in Clay county, Indiana, May 4, 1833. His early boyhood was spent in Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri and Utah. In 1885 the family settled at Weber river, seven miles from Ogden Utah, where the family took up ranching. In 1857 he was married to Jane Miller. Before moving to Idaho in 1883, he was married to Harriet Raymond. . . who now survives him. In 1858 Mr. Bybee accompanied an expedition of 180 men from Ogden to Salmon City Idaho, for the purpose of bringing back to Utah a number of families who had been attacked by Indians and many of them killed and wounded. The settlement was broken up and the people taken to Utah at the time when Fort Hall was the only settlement in the Snake river valley. Mr. Bybee settled in Menan upon moving to Idaho. His home at the time of his death was in Rigby; He was senator from Bingham county in 1901, elected on a fusion democratic ticket, and played a prominent part in the political life of the state.

He is survived by 11 children, 61 grandchildren, 59 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren. The children surviving are Frank Bybee and Mrs. A. H. Boomer of Idaho Falls, James Bybee of Boise, Mrs. C. W. Poole of Rexburg, Mrs. Jabez Nowlin of Claresholm, Canada, Fay Bybee and Mrs. Ida Campbell of Anaconda, Mont.; Mrs. Arthur Hancey of Osgood, Leslie Bybee of Rigby and Harold Bybee of Pocatello. . . .

Rexburg Journal, 11 Oct. 1929, page 1:

Early Pioneer Answers Call

Robert Lee Bybee, 91, died at an Idaho Falls hospital Friday night at nine o'clock, following a short illness, a victim of pneumonia. Mr. Bybee. . . was an early pioneer of the upper Snake River valley and took a prominent part in Idaho politics, and had a wide acquaintance. . . .