

Newcastle's

GREENWOOD CEMETERY



WALKING TOUR GUIDE

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DIAMOND L. 'SLIM' CLIFTON

W.C. Clifton was better known as “Diamond L. Slim” for his build and previous employment at the Diamond L Ranch. Slim was 16 when he came to Wyoming in 1888 to work as a freighter and cowboy.

A young Iowa couple Slim knew — John and Louella Church — were fascinated by Slim’s stories of the West. He convinced them to move to Wyoming and take up a homestead next to his.

But in the fall of 1902, the sheriff was called out to settle a dispute between Slim and the Churches.

BLOCK 8
POTTERS
SECTION,
UNKNOWN
LOCATION



The following spring, the young couple was expecting their first child, and John’s mother was enroute from Iowa to help.

On March 14, 1903, W.O. Bishop, the Churches’ neighbor, stopped by for a visit — but they were nowhere to be found. In fact, the couple was never seen alive again. Suspicion began to fall on Slim, and he became the prime suspect in the disappearance.

On April 17, 1903, he was arrested for the murders and eventually confessed. And on the night of May 26, a group of masked cowboys broke Slim out of jail and hanged him from the railroad bridge.

Thus was vigilante justice.



STOKIO & RISTANA CRISTOFF

Stokio “Nick” Cristoff was born in 1862 in Macedonia, a part of modern-day Greece. On February 19, 1877, the 15-year-old boy married his 19-year-old sweetheart, Ristana “Chirstina” Triko, in their native village of Galicani. Ristana was born in June 1858, also in Macedonia.

Stoiko carved a name for himself in his native land, serving as justice of the peace, mayor, chief of police and treasurer of his community.

But in 1880 Turkish persecution sent Stoiko to Rumania. Eight years later, he was bound for America and hope for a better life.

Upon his arrival in New York, however, he was met with bitter disappointment when he was quarantined and turned back to Germany. For the next 18 months, while dreaming of his home village and his wife, he worked as a brick maker and cement worker.

He then got the chance to go to America again, this time making it through Ellis Island. For three months, he worked in the east at his trade before becoming a miner.

After 12 long years, Ristana left Macedonia to join her husband in America. She reunited with Stoiko in Cambria where, until the mines closed, they lived and worked.

In 1909 Stoiko became an American citizen and, in 1928, the couple moved to Newcastle. On February 19, 1933, surrounded by their many friends, the couple celebrated their 56th anniversary at their home.

Ristana passed away March 9, 1934, after battling a long illness. Stoiko suffered a stroke September 21, 1937, and passed away. They had one son who survived them in Macedonia, but left no relatives in America.

The Cristoffs are the only ones to be buried in a mausoleum in the Greenwood Cemetery.

BLOCK 9
LOT 5
N 1/2, N 1/2



JENNIE ELLIS

Some pioneers of the Old West were unique characters who helped shape the land, and Jennie Ellis (1874-1938) was certainly one of them. Always a tomboy, early in life she escaped the confines of a convent school in Nebraska and ran away.

Before she turned 15, she met and married George Ellis, but she soon realized being married and the mother of three children was not for her, either, and she ran away again.

She ended up in northeast Wyoming, where she secured a job driving a team of oxen hauling ties to build the new railroad. Jennie appeared frail and fragile, but she could make a muleskinner's ears burn.

About 1918, she took a homestead midway between Newcastle and Custer. She built a home, cleared some land and logged the timber. During prohibition she made a living moonshining.

In her later years, she moved to Newcastle, where she was known to have many companions. In spite of the way she lived and provided for herself, she was a kind-hearted person who was always willing to help others who were down on their luck.

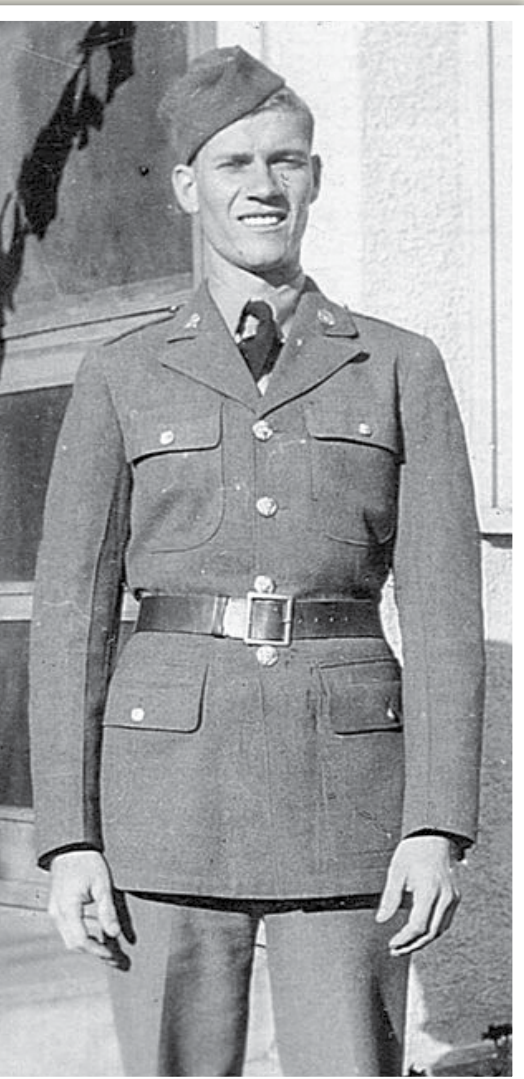
Jennie also loved animals and had a flock of ducks she cared for.



BLOCK 2
LOT 24A



Pvt. THOMAS G. GARLINGHOUSE



Pvt. Thomas G. Garlinghouse was born October 6, 1919, and died January 18, 1943, at the age of 23. He served in the Quartermaster Corps during World War II.

Thomas died a prisoner of war of the Japanese in the Philippines. He took part in the horrific Bataan Death March of 1942, an event later declared a Japanese war crime. The march involved the forcible transfer of 75,000 American and Filipino prisoners of war from the Bataan Peninsula to prison camps further inland in the Philippines.

The march was characterized by wide ranging physical abuse and murder. It is estimated that one in four marchers died before they reached their camps. The death rate among those who survived the march to the internment camps is uncertain, but was very high.

Thomas was one of those who perished in 1943. His remains were finally brought home to rest in 1949 and, on August 7 of that year funeral services were conducted

BLOCK 2
LOT 15A
SW 1/4

by Rev. Neil McDaniel at the Mumper Funeral Home in Newcastle with full military rites.

Pvt. Garlinghouse was the son of Emma Copley of Newcastle. On May 7, 2015, the remains of Pvt. Thomas G. Garlinghouse were disinterred and buried in the family plot at Diamond Lake Cemetery in Aitkin, Minn., next to the rest of his family.

LLOYD 'RED ROOSTER' GRIFFITHS

Lloyd was born November 2, 1906, at the country home near Red Butte to Tim and Annie (Mock) Griffiths. He was delivered by a neighbor lady, Mrs. Williams.

Born with a handicap that was with him all his life, he never let it stop him from working hard, being a friend and staying happy. He was the self-proclaimed guardian of Red Butte; anyone trespassing on the geological landmark north of Newcastle would have to avoid Red and his double barreled shotgun.

He never shot anyone, but admitted to having "scared the heck out of quite a few folks." He enjoyed playing his music and being with friends.

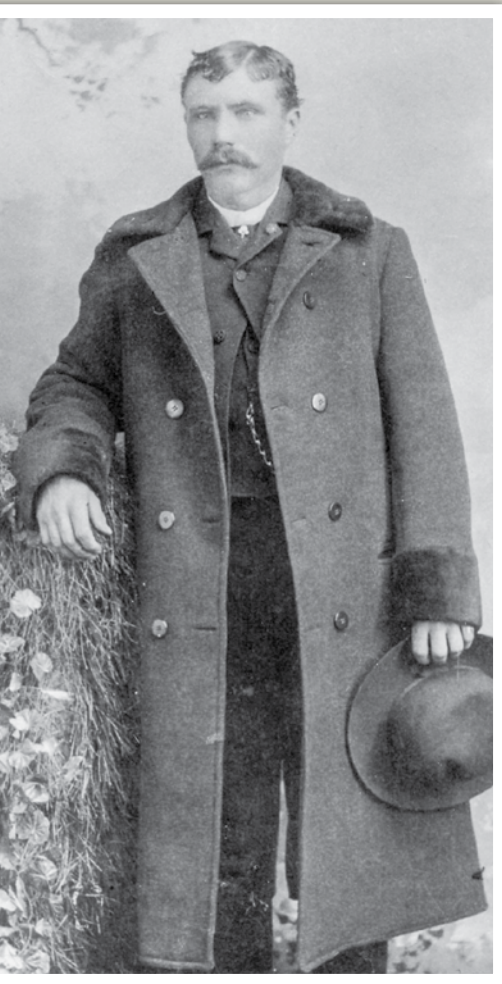
Red was a legendary character throughout Weston County.



BLOCK 8
LOT 38
N 1/3, NE 1/4



SHERIFF BILLY MILLER



William Henry “Billy” Miller was born December 16, 1863, in Ohio. At the age of 14 he earned some money working in a circus and left home.

Billy eventually ended up in Wyoming working on cattle ranches. In 1886 he filed on his own homestead in Crook County.

He married Anna McMoran in 1887, and to this union seven children were born, though two passed away at childbirth. The family remained in Crook County until 1894.

The Millers later moved to Weston County, where they ran a milk ranch. On January 1, 1899, Billy became the sheriff of Weston County, and his family moved into the sheriff’s house in Newcastle.

In the fall of 1903, Billy organized a posse to go out and arrest some Native Americans. Before Billy could talk them into surrendering shots were fired and Billy and his deputy were killed in the line of duty.

BLOCK 3
LOT 31
N 1/3, SW 1/4



BERTHA MINNICK

Bertha Minnick was born in 1894 but died March 19, 1896 after a brief battle with pneumonia. She was the youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Minnick.

Her loss fell heavily on her family and the entire community. Her funeral was held on March 20th, 1896. Her burial was the first one in the Newcastle Greenwood Cemetery.

BLOCK 2

LOT 13
N 1/3, NW 1/4



SHERIFF JOHN OWENS



Weston County's third elected sheriff, John H. Owens, was born August 11, 1843, in Marshall, Texas. At the age of 16, he was in Missouri with his father helping care for government horses. At 17, he joined the Missouri State Guard under Mayor General Sterling Price.

In 1863, he came to Wyoming as a scout and outlaw hunter. John could shoot with deadly accuracy, loved to gamble and race horses.

Between 1868-1873 it is believed that he took up a homestead and began establishing a ranch, as well as driving a stagecoach. During this time a big winning in a card game gave him possession of the Chug Springs Station.

His expertise with a gun was widely known, and one account reports that he even beat Wild Bill Hickock in a match. But even with his skills with guns and cards, John was considered a solid

citizen. At 43 he was appointed special deputy in Lusk, Wyo.

In 1889 he moved to the booming town of Newcastle, where he built a saloon and music hall. He called it the "Castle Theatre," though it soon became known as the "House of Blazes" because of the unending blazing of guns going on there.

In 1892 he was elected Weston County sheriff. He continued to operate his saloon while serving as sheriff, not considering it a conflict. In 1894 he married Addie Parker and they had one son, Sterling Robert. John served a total of 16 years as sheriff.

John died on his 84th birthday in Thermopolis. He was brought home for burial.

BLOCK 2
LOT 20
N 1/3, NE 1/4



STOIN 'CY' RISTEFF

Stoin Risteff was born March 1, 1885 in Macedonia. He was a twin, though his brother was the more handsome and stronger of the two.

Stoin's twin died in a drowning accident, his family always wondered why it had not been him instead. So as a very young man Stoin set out on his own.

After several years of wandering he headed for America. Upon his arrival in New York, Stoin set out for Cambria, Wyo.. He was hired in the coal mines and proved to be a very good worker. He did his job with such zest, his boss called him a cyclone. And from that day Stoin was known as "Cy."

In 1913 Stoin became a U.S. citizen. He took a homestead near Buckhorn, and later Boyd, while working at Cambria. Cy had an accident while working at the coal mines that almost cost him his leg, but after many months in the hospital the injury finally healed.

FIRST ADDITION 2
LOT 3
BLOCK 17G
DIR N 1/3

A stiff ankle and special shoe soon became a permanent part of Cy's life. When his leg began to bother him, he sold his land and moved to Newcastle, though he still visited his friends at the Prairie Store often.

In the Spring of 1960 the Prairie Store became the last place Cy was seen alive. For the next six-and-a-half years, his disappearance remained a mystery until, on November 20, 1966, two hunters discovered human remains and numerous belongings. The remains and belongings were all identified as belonging to Cy, and it was determined he died from natural causes.

The remains were taken to Newcastle for burial with a funeral at the Catholic Church on January 14, 1967.



WALTER SCHOONMAKER



Walter Schoonmaker was born August 7, 1866, in New York. In 1889 he became associated with the KB&C Co. as an accountant during the building of the CB&Q Railroad from Newcastle to Sheridan.

In 1893 he moved to Cambria and worked as the office manager for the Cambria Fuel Company. He soon advanced to the position of the cashier; then went on to become the general manager of the mines until their closure in 1928.

In 1895, Walter married Susan Lambertson of Wyoming, Iowa. She was the sister of Ellen (Mrs. Fred) Horton. The Schoonmakers had four children, including two sons, William and Gwynne, and two daughters, Ruth and Althea. Althea died at the age of two. Susan passed away February 14, 1906.

BLOCK 2
LOT 29
S 1/3, SW 1/7

Walter had purchased the Mallow's homestead on Beaver Creek in northeastern Weston County. In 1935 he donated it to Weston County in memory of Susan. On October 19, 1911, Walter married Caroline Hayes Ingoldsby of Kingston, New York. She passed away December 19, 1931.

Walter was elected Mayor of Newcastle in 1938 by an overwhelming majority, and was serving in that capacity when he died on April 14, 1940, from complications following a major surgery on March 18.

Walter Schoonmaker was a much admired and respected man in Newcastle and northeast Wyoming. It was said of him that "there was never a moment for the uplifting of humanity or for the betterment of his community that he was not one of the most ardent leaders and supporters, especially in building the character of our youth." Upon his death flags waved at half mast, and businesses in Newcastle were closed for his funeral.



ESTHER 'SHORTY' SHENTON

Esther “Shorty” Brazil was born May 27, 1896, to Thomas W. and Clara (McCain) Brazil in Charter Oak, Iowa.

In 1913 her family moved to Wind Cave National Park and Shorty became the first female United States Park Ranger there.

BLOCK 8
LOT 18
N 1/3, SE 1/4

In 1918 she graduated from Spearfish with a teaching certificate. She taught at a variety of rural schools and continued to work at Wind Cave in the summers until she met and married Ora S. Cleveland in Sundance, Wyo.

The Cleverlands took up sheep ranching in South Dakota, but in the 1930s they gave that up and moved to Newcastle. After arriving here, they built and operated the Castle Theatre, along with the Antlers Bar and Black Hills Beer Concession. They even built a pop factory, an outside dance pavilion and the Peerless Bar.

Shorty and Ora both were interested in aviation and were active pilots. In 1943, Ora was killed in a plane crash.

In 1954 Shorty married Reginal (Rex) Shenton. They remained together until his death in 1976.

In 1950 Shorty built a bigger and more modern theater, named the Dogie Theater. It remains as such today.



Dr. WELLS FAMILY

Weston County's "Little Doc" arrived here January 5, 1905. Nathan E. Wells was the son of a doctor and was born in Pennsylvania June 12, 1876, and in 1898 graduated from Baltimore Medical College.

On June 3, 1903, Dr. Wells married Elizabeth Mabey from Scranton, Pennsylvania. Nathan was having some health problems, so the couple decided to move west. Soon he was hired as the company doctor in the coal mining town of Cambria.



BLOCK 7
LOT 11
S 1/3, NW 1/4

In 1911 the Wells moved to Newcastle, where the doctor set up his own practice. In 1920 he agreed to be Cambria's doctor again, and he made daily trips there to see patients. He remained Cambria's doctor until the mine closed in 1928.

Beth became active in community affairs and belonged to several organizations. She was always very supportive of her husband and his practice.

On January 3, 1913, the Wells' son, Elmore, was born. Elmore was an outside boy with a keen interest in animals. He would go on calls with his father and ask many questions about animals and birds. Elmore started setting traps and got into the fur business. He even caught and eagle by its toes in a trap and, while trying to rescue it, Elmore was clawed on the back of his hand.

Elmore died from brain fever the day after his 16th birthday in 1929. The loss was a tremendous one for his parents.



BLOCK 2

BLOCK 3

BLOCK 6

BLOCK 7

**FIRST
ADDITION 1**

BLOCK 1

BLOCK 4

BLOCK 5

BLOCK 8

**FIRST
ADDITION 2**

**100F
BLOCK**

BLOCK 9

**ADDITION
2017**

CEMETERY PLOT MAP



**Cemetery
Map Sign**

Please recycle to museum, chamber or city

Weston County Museum District
P.O. Box 698
Newcastle, WY 82701

