

MRS. BILLINGTON DIES

Sarah Jane Hodson Billington died Sunday at the home ranch, 22 miles southeast of Lind, at the age of 71 years. Mrs. Billington had suffered for some time with a bone infection, but was cheerful throughout despite her affliction. The funeral was held at the home, Rev. Randall officiating, and interment was in the cemetery at Ritzville, yesterday forenoon, many attending from Lind.

Sarha Jane Hodson was born i Iowa, June 9, 1857, and came to Oregon with her parents when two years of age, traveling in a covered wagon drawn by ox teams via the old Oregon trail. She was married to George Billington on September 5, 1878, who passed away August 20, 1924. To them were born six children, all of whom survive as follows: Alvin of Lind, Glenn and Garrett of Washtucna, Mrs. R. E. DeVore of Lind, and Mrs. Mark Mills of Fruitland. When a young woman she united with the Christian Church at Centerville, Wash., her religious convictions being sincere and deep.

The sympathy of the community is extended to the sorrowing family.

PIONEER ADAMS COUNTY

MATRON DIES AT AGE OF 71

Mrs. Sarah Jane Billington, aged 71, widow of George William Billington, an early settler of Adams county who died in 1924, passed away on Sunday, Jan. 27, at the family home between Lind and Washtucn. Mrs. Billington had been ill for several months and was at one time confined to a Spokane

hospital, having arrived home only a few weeks before her death.

Mrs. Billington was born in Iowa on June 4, 1857, the daughter of Enos and Rose Hodson. She had been a resident of Adams county for many years.

The deceased is survived by three sons, Glenn and Garrett, residing on the family ranch near Washtucna, and Alva, of Fruitland; three daughters, Mrs. C. P. Blankenship of Washtucna, Mrs. Mark Mills of Fruitland and Mrs. Ralph DeVore of Lind, as well as several grandchildren.

The funeral was held from the home, at 11:00 A.M. Wednesday, Jan. 30, the Rev. H. S. Randall of Lind officiating. Burial was in the Ritzville cemetery.

IN THE COUNTY 25 YEARS

The funeral of Mrs. Sarah Jane Billington, 71, widow of George W. Billington, pioneer wheat raiser of the Lind-Washtucna region, who dies in 1924, was held at the family home between Lind and Washtucna today, the Rev. H. S. Randall of Lind officiating. Mrs. Billington was born in Iowa and had lived in this county 25 years, coming here with her husband. She is survived by three sons, Gerrett and Glenn, who manage the Billington ranch, and Alva, of Fruitland, and three daughters, Mrs. C. P. Blankenship of Washtucna, Mrs. Mark Mills of Fruitland and Mrs. Ralph DeVore of Lind.

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Notes for GEORGE WILLIAM BILLINGTON:

1880 Federal Census; Klickitat County, Washington

George Billington is shown as the head of the household with wife Gennie and one child; Lillian, age 11m. George's occupation is listed as a farmer.

1883 Washington Territorial Census; Klickitat County

Geo. Billington is shown as the head of the household with wife S. J. and daughter Lillie, age 3, and his two brothers. A. T., age 25, and Frank, age 10. George is listed as a farmer.

1885 Washington Territorial Census; Klickitat County

G. W. is listed as the head of the household with wife, S. J. and daughter Gan (Lillian) age 5. George's occupation is listed as a farmer. They are living next door to his parents; Alvin and Caroline Billington. 28830, 28831

1887 Washington Territorial Census; Klickitat County

G. W. Billington is shown living separate from his family.

1889 Washington Territorial Census; Klickitat County

Geo Billington is shown as the head of the household with wife Sarah and two children; Lillian, age 9, and Alvin, age 2.

1900 Federal Census; Centerville, Klickitat County, Washington

George Billington is listed as the head of the household with wife Sarah J.

and five children; Lillian M., age 20; Alvin E., age 12; Glenn H., age 9; Iva L., age 6; William G., age 3 and his mother-in-law; Catherine E. Hodson, age 75. George's occupation is listed as a farmer.

1910 Federal Census; Billington, Adams County, Washington

George W. Billington is listed as head of the household with wife Jane and five children; Alvin E., age 23; Glenn H., age 19; Iva L., age 16; William Garnett (Garrett), age 13; and Ellen M., age 5. George's occupation is listed as a farmer on a wheat farm.

BILLINGTON; established July 3, 1902. Renamed AMER February 9, 1905 (order rescinded May 15, 1905); Renamed HAMLET July 3, 1905.

Location: About 6 1/2 miles southeast of Othello, 12 1/2 miles northwest of Hatton, 13 1/2 miles southwest of Cunningham (NW Section 9, T15N, R30E)

When first homesteaders came to the panhandle of Adams County in the spring of 1901, there was nothing to greet them but a vast expanse of sagebrush as far as the eye could see and except for the herds of wild horses and an occasional rider from the Hutchinson ranch, there was no sign of human habitation.

By the fall of 1901 and into the spring of 1902, enough settlers had come into the territory that a general store was found necessary. A trip to Cunningham or Hatton by team consumed too much time.

A homesteader, Philip J. Amer, decided to fill this need and established a small general store and post office called Billington, on July 3, 1902. The post office was named for the homesteaders upon whose land the store was built. Mr. Amer was the first postmaster at Billington, Washington.

Philip J. Amer conducted Billington post office in a little store on his homestead which was near the home of George Billington. It served homesteaders who were coming in 1902 and 1903. The post office did not move even after its name changed to Hamlet. The order to change the name to Amer had been rescinded. Mr. Amer first submitted Bourbon as the name. It was not approved. George Billington's home was about a half-mile north of Amer's little store (NE/NE section 8); his daughter Lily had taken the homestead in her name. The post office was opened to serve a "small village of 18 or 20" according to the location report of February 7, 1902. Because of the fact that the name Billington, Washington was so often confused with Bellingham, Washington (also Billings, Montana), Mr. Amer, the postmaster at Billington, circulated a petition in the winter of 1905 to have the name changed to Amer. This was done on February 9, 1905. This name was retained until July 3, 1905 when William H. Hodson (George's brother-in-law) was appointed postmaster. By that time, Mr. Amer had sold out and left. Mr. Hodson evidently thought the name should be changed, therefore, the name Hamlet was suggested. Mr. Hodson may have suggested

this name or the postal inspector. In any case, Amer, Wshington became Hamlet, Washington on July 3, 1905. The postoffice was discontinued on April 30, 1907.

"Place names of Washington" by James Phillips

Have letters written by W. G. Billington, post marked Billington and Hamlet
A school was also built in this village, district No. 58. The Billington School also known as Mountain View, organized Jan. 11, 1902. Directors: Wm. Hodson, A. L. Hodson, G. W. Billington, J. W. Sheen. The district was dissolved 1 April 1925 and annexed to Consolidated District #106.

1920 Federal Census; Fairview, Adams County, Washington

G. W. Billington is listed as the head of the household with wife Sahara (Sarah) J. and three children; Glenn, age 28; Jarrett (Garrett), age 23 and Allen (Ellen), age 15. G. W.'s occupation is list as a farmer on a wheat farm.

BLM records; George W. Billington; 153.69 acres
issued Aug 27 1892 Vancouver

Doc. # 2473 BLM Ser.# WAVAA 054316

Authority: may 20 1862 Homestead Entry Original (12 Stat 392)

Legal Descr. E1/2NW Sec. 19 Twp 3-N Range 16-E Willamette Meridian
Washington Klickitat Co.,

NWNW Sec. 19 Twp 3-N Range 16-E Willamette
Meridan Washington Klickitat Co.

SWNW Sec. 19 Twp 3-N Range 16=E Wiiiamette
Meridian Washington Klickitat Co.,

issued Jun 25 1900, Vancouver

Doc. # 64 BLM Ser. # WAVAA 056042

Authority: Mar 03 1873 Timber Culture (17 Stat. 605)

Legal Descr. E1/2SE Sec. 24 Twp Range 15-E Willamette Meridian
Washington Klickitat

The Journal-Times Thursday, August 28, 1924 issue

Pioneer Dies Served On Staff Of Gov. Ferry

George W. Billington died at his farm home near Washtucna last
Thursday afternoon, August 21.

His death takes away one of the leading farmers of the county and one who
has been a pioneer in
the development of the west. He had been suffering with heart trouble
since early July and was

confined to his bed the past two weeks.

Funeral services were held at the home Sunday noon, conducted by Rev. J. T. Eschelman of Tacoma. Interment took place at the Ritzville cemetery, the Masons having charge of the committal service.

The story of the life of Mr. Billington is the story of those who, leaving the eastern states in early life, moved to the West and contributed their manhood to the development of this great empire. Mr. Billington was born in Oshkosh, Wis., August 30, 1855. In 1873 he came to California, traveling over the recently completed railway to the Pacific. In 1874 he came by boat to Portland. He was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Jane Hodgson, Sept. 5, 1878, locating near Centerville.

Mr. Billington became a member of the national guard in 1885 and was successively advanced to second lieutenant, first lieutenant and captain. He served on the staff of Gov. Elisha Ferry, the last territorial governor. In 1902 Mr. Billington and his family removed to the southwest part of Adams County, near what later was established as the town of Othello. In 1911 they removed to the Lind neighborhood and have since resided in that vicinity.

Mr. Billington is survived by his wife, and by three sons and three daughters. They are: Alvin of Lind; Glenn and Garrett, of Washtucna; Mrs. C. P. Blankenship of Washtucna; Mrs. Ralph Devore, of Lind, and Miss Ellen, at home. He also leaves two brothers and three sisters, residing at a distance. A brother-in-law, W. H. Hodson, of Othello, was present at the funeral.

A note of interest in this connection is that just about the hour that the life of Mr. Billington was passing away, a baby boy was born to his daughter, Mrs. Devore. Thus it is that the chain of life continues.

More About GEORGE WILLIAM BILLINGTON:

Burial: 24 Aug 1924, Ritzville Cemetery, Ritzville, WA⁴¹