

WEST, IRA R.
1845-1925

Ira West, an aged farmer who lived in the southwest part of the Wheatland Flats for the past ten years was found dead in his bed Tuesday morning by C.E. Saltmarsh who was attracted by a herd of cattle in his corn field and called at the house to inform him.

Mr. West drove to Wheatland Saturday with a team and wagon and was seen here by a number of friends, who state that at that time he appeared to be in unusually jovial frame of mind. He drove home that evening, stopping about 6 P.M. at the home of J.A. Harwood where he visited a short time.

Those visiting his home after he was found state that he apparently had taken care of his team and gone immediately in the house and to bed. He had set the box containing his groceries on the floor just inside the door without unpacking it, and left an egg crate in the wagon.

Appearances indicated he died in his sleep without a struggle.

He had been failing for the past two years, but steadfastly refused to give up his farm work, or to leave to live with relatives. His son, a resident of Independence, Kan., visited here last summer and at that time urged his father to return with him, but the old man refused, contending he would regain his health and would be able to actively operate his farm for several years. In spite of repeated illness during the past year, he planted his farm in crop and tended it alone until his death.

He was missed Sunday at the Pleasant View Sunday school, of which organization he was superintendent, but nothing was then thought of his absence, as he had told J.A. Harwood that he would not be able to attend as he would be obliged to stay at home and herd cattle from his corn.

Tho handicapped by age and his manner of life, he was a leading and highly respected resident of his community, especially active in religious affairs.