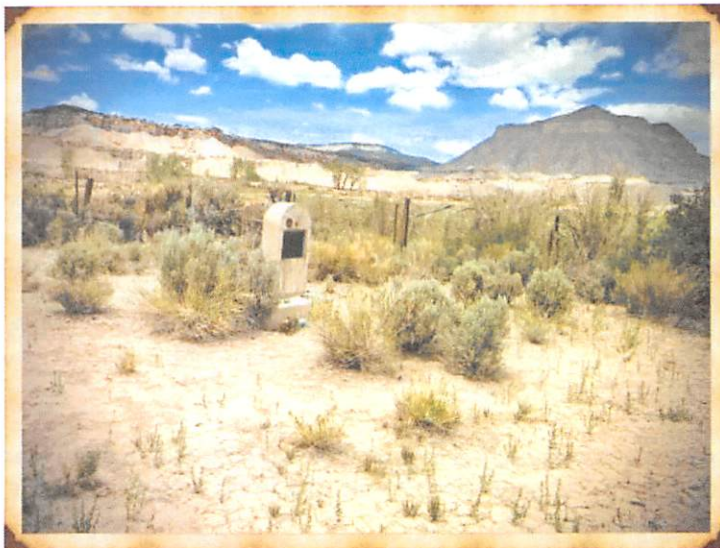


## MUDDY CREEK CEMETERY

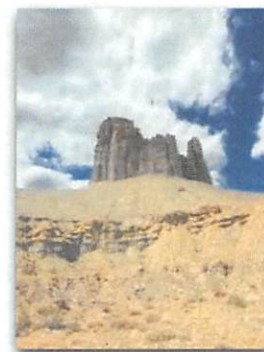
This saga started when I had been given some histories from my friend Della Cox to enter into Family Search and the Emery County Archives and was trying to find Sophia DeGraw's maiden name.

During Memorial weekend my sister Karen and I had a visit from our cousins John and Kevin Jensen and were together for the first time in decades. They told us of an unidentified cemetery they had found in the desert somewhere. They showed us a photo of a rock formation nearby that looked like a temple. That piqued my interest! *Every person deserves to be remembered!* I had to learn more about this obscure cemetery and who was buried there.



After everyone left, I returned to my search for Sophia DeGraw. There it was on one of the profile pages, the monument at the Muddy Creek Cemetery, with her name and twelve others who were buried there! That got my attention. I had to find this cemetery! But how? After several phone calls, I was able to determine it is located north of Emery.

During a visit with Kathaleen and Vernell Rowley, I mentioned the histories of some of those buried in the Muddy Creek Cemetery and my desire to locate it. You can imagine my surprise when Vernell exclaimed, "I have been to that cemetery and know where it is. Do you want me to take you there?" I couldn't respond fast enough and off we went.



The old timers called the rock formation "Minchey Temple" where Pleasant Minchey and Sophia Dutton Degraw are buried in the Muddy Creek Cemetery close by.

Elizabeth Hanson, Reporter for the Emery County Progress in her article on June 6, 1989, writes, "Minchey Temple stood in grandeur eons ago and served as a landmark for pioneers settling in Muddy Creek."

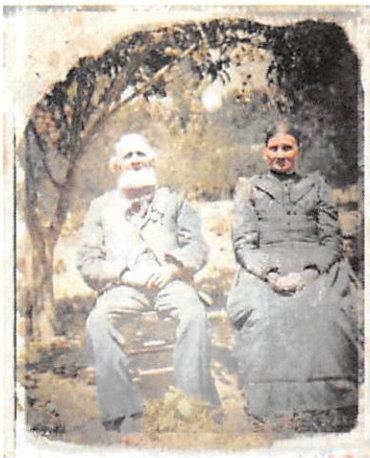
A rugged fence, with weeds and bushes covering the ground, surrounds a monument with a marker listing those buried within. The monument was erected prior to 1950. It was hauntingly sad to me that there were just names. Whom were these people buried in such a remote and little-known cemetery? I have explored the deep feelings I have held about the cemetery and imagined a new fence and a kiosk with at least a little history of the individuals.

How little did I know an opportunity to give proper acknowledgment and honor to the families and those buried in this little cemetery would be given to me when asked to write the blog for the Emery County Archives. The blog will be more far-reaching than a kiosk, which would be seen by such a few.

The little infant twins who were the first ones buried there, and the loss their parents felt when they buried another daughter a few years later. A twenty-eight-year-old mother buried her daughter five years before her death. Not to say the patriarch of the family who struggled to create a village where settlers could call home. Without someone before me writing their histories, I would not have been able to bring to life the stories of those buried.

After I had researched the names on the marker, a story started to unfold, and the main characters emerged, Pleasant Minchey, along with his wife, Emeline DeGraw, daughter of Sophia Dutton DeGraw.

**Pleasant Minchey**, born February 29, 1820, in Tennessee was the youngest in a family of eleven. He was twenty-eight when he met and married his first wife, seventeen-year-old Margaret Johnston. They moved to Nauvoo where their daughter Frances Paralee was born and died in 1849. Another baby girl Hannah Frances died an infant in 1850, and his wife Margaret died two days later. His loss was tremendous, and his heart was broken.



He had to move on. Pleasant married Emeline DeGraw on March 4, 1851, at her parent's home in Kanessville, Iowa. Emeline was expecting a baby as they trekked with her parents, Sophia and Jacob DeGraw, in the Captain Robert Wimmer Company. They arrived in the Salt Lake Valley on September 15, 1852.

They settled in Fountain Green, Utah with Indians being very unfriendly. Pleasant served as a Minute Man during the trouble. He worked in the timber getting out logs and lumber for dwellings and public houses.

Four of their children were born during the years they lived in Santaquin, from 1863 until 1871. This was only one of several other places they lived.

The family moved to Orderville where Pleasant burned charcoal to be used by the blacksmiths, and he also engaged in farming and stock raising. By this time they had twelve children, where Emeline had a great deal of work to do incident to a pioneer home. From Orderville, they moved to Muddy Creek in 1885 where he helped build ditches to take the water out on the thirsty land and began farming and raising cattle once more.

Pleasant's granddaughter, Alma Knight, writes, "Grandfather was the gardener of the family and the beekeeper, choosing to leave the wood hauling and heavier farm work to his stalwart sons. His Indian corn, pole beans, squash, and so on were of the highest quality and abundant in yield. His bees also produced honey in abundance and of fine flavor. Here's something that would be difficult to convince the modern beekeeper of, Grandfather never wore any protective garb against their stings while working his bees, even though he practiced "robbing" them and separated wax from honey by the melting process, an action very antagonizing to the little busy fellows. Here again, is one of Grandfather's peculiarities. The

only vile word he was known to utter was 'damn it' and that's when a bee's stinger would hit a tender spot in his anatomy. No word of profanity escaped his lips."

Pleasant lived on the Muddy until his death on March 6, 1900, and was buried in the little cemetery he had created, to bury four of his grandchildren. Pleasant suffered from a urinary disorder and was finally confined to his bed. Alma Knight recalls, "...The end came on the evening of March 6th [1900]. As I recall, Uncle George Petty, an old-time carpenter and a good one, built the casket. Clothed in the temple robes, Grandfather's face expressed explicit joy when he was placed in the casket, spirit of peace dispelled the gloom which had hovered the frontier village during the days of suffering."

Emeline drifted around living with married children until she died in Cleveland, Utah, on July 11, 1912.

His daughter, Mrs. Juliaette Colby Nickerson Sherman wrote, "...Their lives are one great example of the precious Pioneer spirit always ready to face the tasks before them, always ready to push to the new frontier to establish and maintain that precious spark of freedom, always ready to serve God who was calling them and giving his untold blessing of a heritage in his kingdom."

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As previously stated, Pleasant Minchey was not the first to be buried in the Muddy Creek Cemetery. He found a final resting place for his infant twin granddaughters, **Emiline and Eveline Knight**, who was buried there in 1886. They were the children of his daughter Clarissa Frances Minchey and her husband Jedediah Knight.



*Jedediah and Clarissa Knight*

Their father, Jedediah wrote, "On Thursday, April 29, 1886, Clarissa gave birth to twin girls we named Emeline and Eveline. They passed away the same day of their birth. We buried them in the cemetery on the creek."

Essie, their daughter wrote: "Mother was 20 years old and this was a heartbreaking experience for her, but she consoled herself with the knowledge that she had given those two spirits an earthly body whereby they could progress eternally. Time passed on and more children came to bless the home."

Frances Janette and Alma were born in 1883 and 1885 before the twins. Children born after the twins are: Ida Olive, Isabella, Nathan Kinsman, Richard Franklin, and Lethia.

The Knights suffered another loss upon the death of **Lethia**. Jedediah wrote: "Little Lethie was born on Friday, August 19, 1898. She was blessed and named by Elder Alonzo Brinkerhoff. When she was two years old, she got whooping cough. She was a very sick little child and on Wednesday, September 12, 1900, she passed away. Her little body was cared for by kind neighbors and laid in a little casket. Clarissa, I, and our children along with friends and loved ones followed her to her grave.

"We had learned to love her dearly during the little time she had been with us. Clarissa was brave but I noticed as she planned her work, tears fell like rain and when she saw me coming she brushed them away and met me with a smile and a sigh. Then on Saturday, December 22, 1900, our little Permelia was born downstairs in the dugout. She was a little blue-eyed darling and such a comfort to her lonesome heartsick Mother."

We see that Pleasant Minchey had found a place underneath a large rock formation that looked like a temple, to begin a graveyard for what has become at this point three of his grandchildren. It would appear

others settling on the Muddy had lost loved ones and were buried elsewhere. This small settlement had become home for Pleasant, and he wanted his family to be buried there.

Essie Knight, the eleventh child of Jedediah and Clarissa was born in 1903 in their Muddy Creek cabin. After moving to Cleveland, Utah their last two sons, LeVoy and Clifford, were born.



*Jedediah and Clarissa's home in Cleveland 1914*

In 1908 Jedediah bought three hundred stands of bees and went into the bee business, which proved to be a successful enterprise. It took a lot of time, work, and expense to get the necessary equipment to start.

Since 1884 Jedediah had lived in Emery County except for a few years. He was a deputy sheriff in the early days of Emery County.

Jedediah Knight who was born April 7, 1860, in Fillmore, Utah, and died March 27, 1940, in Aurora, Utah at age 79 is buried in the Crescent Cemetery, Sandy, Utah.



*Jedediah and Clarissa's cabin on the Muddy*

Clarissa Frances Minchey was born January 4, 1866, in Santaquin, Utah, died November 14, 1931, and is buried alongside her husband in Sandy, Utah. Clarissa is the daughter of Pleasant Minchey who is buried in the Muddy Creek Cemetery with her three daughters.

Jedediah had written lovingly about his wife, "At the fall roundup at Cedar Springs in 1881, I tasted Cider for the first time. I went to Long Valley to see Clarissa. She was a real little lady of fifteen years old. I loved her and she loved me. I remember well the day I asked her father if I could marry her. He gave his consent and on the 7th of December 1881 we were married by Elder R. J. Cutler."

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*Elizabeth Ann and Jacob Minchey*

Jacob Minchey and Henry Orson Davis were friends living on the Muddy. This story is told by their granddaughter, Venice O. Cramer. "Grandpa Davis had married a second time, Marie Ivy and she was so mean to his two little girls and the oldest one got married and Grandma was left. Marie Ivy had put Grandma's hands in hot water one time and held them there until they all blistered. One day Grandpa Minchey [Jacob] went to visit Orson Davis and when he got to the door and knocked, he heard somebody crying inside. And it was Grandma. Marie Ivy had tied her on the wall on a nail by her long braids and Grandpa Minchey took her down and said that he couldn't stand to see her abused like that anymore if she would marry him he'd make a home for her. She had long black hair and she was only twelve and a half years old at the time. They lived over on the Muddy. Elizabeth Ann was her name."

Jacob Minchey and Elizabeth Ann Davis were married in 1886. Their baby **Sophia Minchey** died at birth on May 4, 1888, and is listed as one buried in the small cemetery. The Minchey's had seven children having lost two after birth, Sophia and a son Pleasant Orson. The living children attended school and church in Muddy Creek.

Elizabeth became ill and was taken to Loa, Wayne County, in a wagon for medical help, and being a religious person wanted to see the Patriarch there. He said the disease was too far advanced and that he couldn't do anything for her. She died that night.

Granddaughter, Venice O. Cramer continues: "When she found out he couldn't do anything, she started to plead with Grandpa to take her to the temple. But they didn't make it there. Grandpa told her that if the Bishop would give them a Recommend to go to the temple he'd take her. She died that night. They had to bury her in Loa because they had gone to Loa in a wagon and couldn't bring her back to the Muddy."

She died September 16, 1903, at the age of 29, and was buried in Loa, leaving the older children to help Jacob raise the younger ones back on the Muddy.

When relatives went to the cemetery years later to place a stone on Elizabeth's grave, the caretaker didn't know where the grave was. He told them to leave the stone they had brought so that people would know she was buried there. It is just like the stone on Jacob Minchey's grave in Cleveland. Jacob had moved to Cleveland where he died of pneumonia on February 7, 1915, at the age of 63.

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Pleasant is burying yet another grandchild, **Pleasant Ransford Colby** who died an infant on August 18, 1888. He was the firstborn of his daughter Juliaette and Abraham Colby. It wasn't until December 20, 1902, that another infant daughter **Julia Priscilla Colby** would be buried in what is now becoming a family plot.

Abraham Thomas Colby died February 13, 1919, as one of five flu deaths in Altonah. Having been born in Fillmore in 1857, he lived to be just sixty-two years old.



*Roy and Juliaette*

Juliaette was born in Santaquin in 1871. She died in 1963 in Salt Lake City and is buried in Huntington. It has been said there is no greater loss than losing a child. At the age of eighty-two, this brave pioneer outlived twelve of her thirteen children and her four husbands. Six of their thirteen children died in infancy.

Juliaette married Lyman Royal "Roy" Sherman in 1927. They were married twenty-five years before he died in 1952.



*Juliaette and Abraham*

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John Jared Dalton, born in 1859 in Salt Lake City, and his wife Sarah Jane Merrick, Born 1868 in Pleasant Grove, Utah were the parents of three lovely children; Mary Malissa, John Alma, and Sarah Jane. A week after the birth of baby Sarah Jane, her mother died of complications following childbirth on May 27, 1887, leaving a newborn and two other children without a mother.

The following year John then married Sarah Jane's sister, Melissa Ann Merrick, who would help raise the children. Their baby, Myrtle Annis Dalton, was born that same year. Their marriage lasted only four years.

Pleasant and Emeline Minchey were happy to see their son Moroni wed to now divorced Melissa in 1894. Their happiness was short-lived when Melissa's daughter **Myrtle Annis Dalton** died at the age of seven in 1895. It was just a few years later when Moroni lost his wife **Milissa Ann Merrick**, who died July 7, 1899, at the age of twenty-eight. She was buried near her daughter Myrtle in the Muddy Creek Cemetery. Milissa (Malissa) Ann Merrick was born July 25, 1872, in Mount Pleasant, Utah.

In 1900 Moroni moved to Ferron from the Muddy after losing his wife and step-daughter. He may have traveled around a bit, living in Bland, Sandoval, New Mexico in 1910. Moroni Minchey was born August 19, 1863, in Fountain Green, Utah, and died January 28, 1942, in Huntington, Utah.

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We now come to another adult buried in the Muddy Creek Cemetery, **Sophia Dutton DeGraw**, Pleasant Minchey's mother-in-law.

Sophia Dutton was born August 26, 1814, in Windsor, Vermont in the general vicinity where the Joseph Smith Sr. family lived. Some family accounts state that the families knew each other and the children played together. It is true that Sophia Dutton and Lucy Mack Smith have a shared ancestor on the Dutton line and were 3rd or 4th cousins.



*Sophia Dutton, Jacob DeGraw, and possibly their oldest daughter, Emeline*

Her husband, Jacob DeGraw was born July 15, 1811, in Mendon, New York. When Jacob was a boy of six or eight, he had what they called "the itch." One day while crossing a stream on a log, his feet slipped and he fell in the water up to his knees. He was taking medicine and was told not to get in the water. When he did the family thought that caused his legs to stop growing. He had to use crutches for the rest of his life.

People understood so little about the disease and tried to explain things according to their understanding. They thought the cold water caused the illness. He probably had poliomyelitis.

Sophia and Jacob DeGraw were married in August 1833 in Genesee County, New York. Sophia is to be admired as she married Jacob with full knowledge of his disabilities. One can only imagine her deep love for him and only envision the magnitude of his spirit. He was a tailor by trade. He did all of the sewing for the family and even made suits for Brigham Young and others. He sat at a table when he was working which was the custom of the trade at the time. They had ten children, seven daughters, and three sons: Emeline, Clarissa, Eugene LaFayette, Martha Jane, Moroni, Mary, Elizabeth Rebecca, Jacob, Juliaette, and Ellen Sophia.

Six of their ten children were born before Jacob and his family started west in 1852 in a company led by Captain Robert Wimmer. The company had 130 wagons (probably freight wagons), with 230 people, and arrived in the Salt Lake Valley on September 15, 1852.

They started from the Missouri River with their handcart, the clothes on their backs, a little flour, not much else, and no unnecessaries. Since Jacob was not able to walk, he rode and Sophia pulled and pushed the handcart across the plains with the help of her children.

Their daughter Emeline was then eighteen years old, married to Pleasant Minchey, and expecting a baby. They had their handcart. The ages of their children range from sixteen to six months: Clarissa, Eugene, Moroni, Elizabeth, Jacob Jr., and Juliaette. Sophia had said that at times, moving the handcart was very difficult and when she felt she no longer had the strength to move it, it seemed to move by itself. No doubt, helped along by unseen angels of mercy.

The family settled in Lehi, where their last baby Ellen Sophia was born on September 5, 1855. Four months after her birth, Jacob died on January 5, 1856, at age 45.

After her beloved husband passed away, life for Sophia was very difficult, left alone to rear her remaining seven children. It has been said that she was a real lady, being taught proper manners in her youth, and passing that quality on to her children. Whenever possible, there was a white tablecloth on her table.

Sophia lived with her oldest daughter, Emeline, and husband Pleasant Minchey and their family for a while, in Emery, Utah. She did washing for other people, receiving only one milk pan full of flour for a full day of work. Sophia was always happy and always looking on the bright side of life. She was energetic and always had a witty joke to tell and everyone loved her.

Sophia was 43 when she married an older man, William Willis Boren December 19, 1856, in Provo, Utah. At age 46 she gave birth to her eleventh and last child, Willis.

Sophia died November 17, 1902, in Emery and was buried in the Muddy Creek Cemetery.

Jacob and Sophia Dutton DeGraw were always such wonderful examples of love and dedication to all who knew them, and their great sacrifices are a tribute to them both forever.

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James Franklin Foot and his wife Emaline Sophia Minchey, both being born in 1859, came to settle on the Muddy in 1882. They came by ox team bringing with them their three boys; Charles Franklin, Jacob Dutton, and Ammon.

Already living on the Muddy were members of Emaline's family, her parents Pleasant and Emeline Minchey, her brothers and sisters Jacob, William, Moroni, Benjamin, Calvin, Franklin, Clarissa, and her husband Jedediah Knight, and Julia, who was soon to marry Abraham Colby.



Johanna Halverson and Charles Franklin Foote

Charles Franklin born in 1877 would have been only five years old when the family moved to the Muddy where he grew up. He married Johannah Boletta Halverson in Castle Dale in 1905. Their baby boy **Eldon Foote** was born March 17, 1906, to die only six days later, and was buried in the Muddy Creek Cemetery with his great-grandfather, Pleasant Minchey.

Johannah Boletta Halverson was born in Ferron March 24, 1888. She died at the age of forty-six on December 8, 1934, in Upalco, Duchesne County.

Charles Franklin Foote was born December 1, 1877, in Hillsdale, Utah, and died March 28, 1953, in Price, Utah at the age of seventy-six. He is buried in Upalco with his wife Johannah.

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My research was finally wrapping up, and I was trying to summarize a list of those buried. I still had not found E. P. Cardavoy, another name on the maker. One more try, one more website, I began following a trail. I would never be able to express the feeling that came over me when I opened up a page and it read "place of burial: Muddy Creek Cemetery!"

Two baby boys died in infancy; Joseph E. Cordova, born and died in Muddy Creek in 1896, and E. Lee Cordova in 1897. These are the two children whose names were not on the headstone. *Every person deserves to be remembered!* This moment for me will not be forgotten. It was so important to me.



The babies' mother, Emmer Christina West, born on January 5, 1880, in Panguitch, Utah, died December 1, 1940, in Price, Utah. Her husband Epimenio Cordova was born on March 24, 1860, in Cuba, Sandoval, New Mexico. He died on April 16, 1946, in Salina, Utah. Emmer was only fifteen when they married on July 27, 1895, with an age difference of twenty years. This couple had left the Muddy by 1900 and went on to have nine other children



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What a journey it has been in discovering the stories and the histories of the families who buried loved ones in the historic Muddy Creek Cemetery. I have come to find out that they are all related. I had missed the full meaning on the marker *Pleasant Minchey 1820-1900. Pioneer of this area, and heirs of the Minchey line.*

As I was finalizing this blog, a turn of events brought it full circle. I was able to connect with a family member that knew of the monument, Carolyn Carlow, a great-granddaughter of Pleasant Minchey. Finally, I knew this small little cemetery was held in reverence and those buried there honored. I am grateful to Carolyn for this contribution.

*In 1965 members of the Franklin Minchey Family met at the Muddy Creek to fence the monument and clear the sagebrush surrounding it. I was in attendance along with my mother Elda Minchey Carlow, my aunts and uncles, Verda and Wilford Broderick, Lorin and Ruby Minchey, and Orvil and Maxine Minchey, with most of their children and grandchildren.*

*This was a great occasion with my nieces and nephews remembering the experience of not only cleaning the area but also climbing to the top of the Minchey Temple and going on over the side of the temple rock to see where our great-grandfather Jacob DeGraw's mill had been.*

*My mother was born on the Muddy and remembers well the Indians coming to her parent's home for food.*

*Our family has a motto of LOVE which stands for each of the children Loren, Orvil, Verda, and Elda. We would gather each year to reconnect with one another, and most times that would include a trip up to the Muddy which is a sacred area for our family.*



*In talking just last week with a great cousin, Doug Barrett (son of Crystal Broderick Barrett), he stated that his grandfather, Wilford Broderick, mixed the cement and made the monument and placed a handwritten page with names of those buried on the Muddy into the monument. Sometime before 1950 he purchased or at least requested a plaque with names of those buried there as it stands now,*

*Thanks, Joyce for the opportunity of these memories, Carolyn Carlow*

It is with gratitude I acknowledge the family members who posted histories and photos, which have now become tools for history buffs like myself, to bring to life the stories of these courageous and hardworking pioneers, facing unbearable loss and hardships as settlers. Our pioneer heritage is to be held in high regard as we now live in this beautiful valley they developed.

Pleasant Minchey - A grand old man, small of stature, slightly stooped, a long badger-grey beard brilliant eyes whose twinkle was heartwarming, honest to a farthing, generous, personification of the celebrated "Southern Hospitality". A wise counselor, a kind husband, a tolerant parent.

I would like to dedicate this post to the Minchey family and hope in some small way I have brought light to the Muddy Creek Cemetery and the pioneer families associated with it.

by Joyce Jensen Miya

#### Muddy Creek Cemetery List

		Jacob DeGraw 1811-1856		
		<b>Sophia Dutton DeGraw 1814-1902</b>		
		Emeline Sophia DeGraw		
		<b>Pleasant Minchey 1820-1900</b>		
Jacob Minchey 1852-1915	Charles Franklin 1877-1953	2) Moroni Minchey 1863-1942	Jedediah Knight 1860-1940	Abraham Colby 1857-1919
Elizabeth Ann Davis 1874-1903	Johannah Boletta Halverson 1888-1934	<b>Melissa Ann Merrick 1872-1899</b>	Clarissa Frances Minchey 1866-1931	Juliaette Minchey 1871-1963
<b>Pleasant Orsen Minchey 1888-1888</b>	Eldon Foote 1906-1906	1) John J Dalton 1859-1939	Eveline Knight 1886-1886	<b>Pleasant Ransford Colby 1888-1888</b>
<b>Sophia Minchey 1888-1888</b>		<b>Myrtle Annis Dalton 1888-1895</b>	<b>Emeine Knight 1886-1886-</b> <b>Letha Knight 1898-1900</b>	<b>Julia Priscilla Colby 1902-1902</b>
Epimerio Cordova 1860-1946				
Emmer Christina West 1880-1940				
<b>Joseph E. Cordova 1896-1896</b>				
<b>E. Lee Cordova 1897-1897</b>				