

Tape #1022

Interview with Rena Schofield, January 20, 1975, by Effie Amicarella.

EA: This tape is being taken on Mrs. Schofield. This is January 20, 1975, and the tape is on Mrs. Rena Schofield. Edna Schofield: Her full name is Rena Jane Schofield. EA: Would you tell us where you were born? RS: Well, I'll tell you, I was born about 19 miles north of Boulder, up in the canyon, in 1883. EA: How wonderful. RS: They called it Geer Canyon. My grandfather came out here in 1857 or '56 and located up there. He took it up, you know, the canyon. You go up this way and there's hills up this way and there is a great big canyon up there. He took that up and then he sent for his relation. And I was born up there. My father came from Michigan and my mother came from Iowa. And I was born in 1883. Judi: Did you have any brothers and sisters there? RS: Oh, yes, I had two brothers and, let's see, one...two....three....four... four...no, five sisters. EA: My, that's a big family. RS: Yes, there was a big family of us. Judi: What did you do up there? Was your father.....? RS: Well, my father worked in the mountains. He worked in the timber and around saw mills. That's what my great-grandfather done. They had saw mills. Edna S: Her great-grandfather on her maternal side of the family was Solomon Geer and Harmon Springsteel. Solomon Geer came to Boulder County in 1859 and Harmon Springsteel came in 1862. They were her great-grandfathers on her maternal side of the family. Judi: We also heard that one of your relatives was Johnny Appleseed. RS: Yes, that's on my father's side of the family. Judi: How was he related? RS: He was a cousin. Judi: Did you ever meet him? RS: No, no, we never did meet many of my father's folks. They came from Michigan and not very many of them ever came out here. Judi: Do you know any stories about him? RS: Just what you hear, just what you read in the papers, Edna S: You see, her grandfather on the Chapman side (which was Lafayette Chapman) and Johnny Appleseed's father were brothers. This would make them cousins.

EA: I'm going to read this fact sheet which was sent in September 21, 1974, to a Mrs. Edward Hanshee, 26 Manchester Street, Loumeister, Massachussets.

"Dear Mrs. Hanshee:

I am replying to your letter of August 12, 1974, to Rena Jane Schofield concerning the Chapman family. As Rena Schofield is quite elderly, she has asked me to reply for her. Although Rena is 92, her mind is still very good. In fact, she testified just recently in the reopening of an old road right-of-way on the land that was homesteaded by her family in Geer Canyon in Boulder County, Colorado.

Rena Jane Chapman Schofield was born in 1882 in Boulder County, Colorado, on May 23. Her father, Lafayette Chapman, was born in 1857 in Saginaw, Michigan, and came west in his early teens. His father was Dr. Thomas Chapman, a Doctor of Ministry, and his father was Hiram Chapman, brother of Johnny Appleaseed Chapman's father. There are three other surviving children of Lafayette Chapman: Effie Chapman Rooks of Boulder, Colorado, age 81; Anna Chapman <sup>Jusa</sup> ~~Jessa~~ of Denver, Colorado, age 88; Ida Chapman Corbin of Redondo Beach, Calif., age 90. Their father Lafayette Chapman also was a planter of trees throughout the west. A log book in which he kept his record of the dates of his plantings and graftings, temperatures and rainfall, crops and harvestings, etc. is in the possession of Rena Jane Cahpman Schofield.

Although Mother Schofield lives alone, she cannot travel far or I would have her in Loumeister for this 200 year celebration and recognition of Johnny Appleaseed's birthdate.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Glen Schofield, daughter-in-law

Judi: Maybe you can tell us a little of what it was like to live up in Geer Canyon. RS: Up in the canyon? Edna S: Did we make it clear that Geer Canyon is off of Left Hand Canyon? You go up Left Hand Canyon and then turn off into Geer Canyon. RS: Have you been up that way? EA: Yes, I have. RS: Did you see the little school house that they've built a lean-to on as you go up the canyon.....a little rock school house? Well, that's where I went to school. Judi: Was it a one room school house? RS: Yes, one room. We had three miles and a half to walk from where we lived down to the school out in the canyon. Edna S: Grandma, tell them how you got to school in the winter-time. RS: Well, we took and wrapped.....Papa took gunny-sacks and cut them up and we wrapped them around our feet, up around us, you know. Then when we would get to school, we'd take them off and hang them up and dry them. That was better than overshoes for us. Edna S: Didn't you used to tell us, too, you used to skate down the creek? R.S.: Yes, there was a ditch back of the school and we used to skate on that. When we were kids there at home we just entertained ourselves around home there. We usually had a horse or two and we'd go get the horses and ride them. We'd ride down to the Post Office. The Post Office was called Altona where the school was. There was a Post Office there and there was a family lived there and there was a blacksmith's shop close by. There wasn't many houses right there close by. I have a girl friend out south of Boulder that I went to school with and I call her every night and talk to her. EA: How wonderful. What is her name? RS: Her name is Baker now. Before she was married her name was Mauld. Lena is her first name, I don't remember the name of her first husband but her second marriage, her name is Baker. EA: And you still visit every night? RS: Every night I call her or she calls me, She isn't quite as old as I am, but I still call her and we visit every night. EA: Does she still live in her own home? RS: She lives with her daughter now.

She is awfully crippled. She has worked awfully hard and she has one awful bad hip and she has lost quite a little bit of her back bone, it has sunk down, and she is pretty near an invalid. She still gets up and around, but she has to go with a walker. EA: Did you two go to school together? RS: Yes, when we were little girls we went to school together. Judi: How long did you go to school? RS: Well, we went to school there until I was 16. Now when I was 16 we moved out of the canyon down to a farm near.....there was a blacksmith shop there. Edna S: Altona? RS: No, it wasn't Altona. I can't remember the name of the place, but there was a blacksmith shop there and we moved down to a farm there out of the canyon. It was just a small place, but we moved out there when I was 16. Edna S: Grandma, that was in the vicinity of Niwot, wasn't it? West of Niwot? RS: Well, it was west of Longmont. It was on the road where you go straight into Longmont. Niwot is on over that way a little further. Edna S: Well, I though since your ancestors are all buried there in the old Niwot Cemetery..... RS: Yes, that's where the burying place was. Edna S: You took me down this road and showed me the house where you used to live. RS: Yes, that's where Grandpa and Grandma Springsteel lived...yes, that road went into Niwot. Edna S: Oh, I see.

Man: This Geer Canyon, who was it named after? RS: It was named after my great-grandfather. Edna S: That was Solomon Geer and he came to Longmont to the Trading Post in 1859 and Hiram Springsteel came in 1862. That's her grandfathers on her maternal side.

Judi: Do you remember anything about the farm that you can tell us like the things you did? RS: Well, we didn't live too long on that farm. The folks lived there longer than I did. But after we moved down there on that farm we went to a little school that was back there on a back road. My father

still worked in the mountains. He worked up around the timber. You see, my father had asthma. My mother couldn't live in the mountains and my father couldn't live in the valley so he worked mostly in the mountains. He came home week-ends, you know, and he attended to the farming there on the place. Most of it was alfalfa, I think, that he had on that place. Judi: Did you raise your own animals? RS: Yes, we had our own stock. Judi: Were you the oldest in your family? RS: Yes, I was the oldest one. Judi: Did you have a lot of responsibility to take care of everything. RS: Well, quite a little bit, yes. I used to have to take the lead, you know, as the older one. My sister and I, we used to take the cart and horse and go to Boulder and back for mother. She'd make out her list and we'd take the cart and go to Boulder and get her stuff. It would take us all day to go to Boulder and back, you know, with a horse and cart. Judi: What was Boulder like then? RS: Boulder was just a handful of people then. There was a lumber yard where the court house is now. Oh, no, Boulder was just a little small place then. There wasn't much to it. Judi: Did you go there to shop? RS: Yes, we went there to shop. Judi: What was Lafayette like? RS: Well, Lafayette wasn't.....let me see, Lafayette .....when I came to Lafayette, it was just a small.....Lafayette was a mining town, a coal mining town. The first coal mine that was opened up was opened up in Louisville and then the next one opened up here in Lafayette. But there was a family here by the name of Miller, they owned a piece of ground here and they gave the town of Lafayette ground to build the town on. It was all east of the highway. The city should have been all east of the highway. That's where it started. Their name was Miller, Lafayette Miller was his name. So I don't suppose at that time that Lafayette amounted to very much, because there were only just a few houses here when I came here. Of course, they had stores and things like that here, but it wasn't all filled up like it is now. EA: How old were you when you married?

RS: I was about 18. Edna S: I've got it down here. She was married November 9, 1901. You came to Lafayette right then, didn't you, Grandma? RS: Yes, we came over here to Lafayette. My husband had a sister that lived here and we lived with them awhile and then we got a place of our own. The first place we lived in was the Day place. We lived in two rooms in the Day house the first time and then we moved from there over to the Terraces and we lived at the Terraces quite awhile and then we moved up here on the highway and we've been up here ever since. Our house used to set right where the Coors building is now

Judi: Where did you meet your husband? RS: Well, he was a farmer and we were farmers so we met out in the country. His folks were living on what they called the Coomber and Anson farm. They raised peas for the canning factory over in Longmont. There used to be a canning factory in Longmont. And they lived on one of the farms where they used to raise the peas for the canning factory.

Judi: Did you farm in Lafayette when you moved here? RS: No,

Judi: What did you do then? RS: Well, after we were married we came here to Lafayette to live. Edna S: What did Grandpa do, Grandma? RS: He was a farmer.

Edna S: Yeah, but after you came to Lafayette is what she wants to know about, Grandma. RS: Oh, he was a coal miner. Yes, he worked in the coal mines.

Edna S: Then tell them about the process of you getting a business in Lafayette, about the milk business. RS: Yes, when...we had three boys and when our boys got big enough, we set them up in business. They first started in moving, hauling coal, and they got into the hauling business. Edna S: The major thing was hauling milk from the farmers into the cheese factory here in Lafayette.

RS: Yes, there was a cheese factory here in Lafayette. Edna S: They were first known as Schofield & Sons, right, Dugan? Then later, when Dad retired they were known as Schofield Brothers. Then after they had been in the milk business and such, they went into the Coors Beer business....the sons went into the Coors

Beer business. RS: And then us old folks, we were retired, so we just lived along this street here. Edna S: Well, for 73 you have lived right here in the 400 and 500 block of west Baseline Road, haven't you? RS: Yes, I've lived here a long time.

Judi: Do you remember anything about your every day life that might be of interest to the people, about the school you went to or anything? RS: Well, I don't know. Edna S: About how far did you go in school, Grandma? RS: Well, I think the 8th or 9th grade was the highest grade that we went to in that school. But I think they had better schools then than they have now, because, you know, the teachers didn't have so many scholars as they have now. You know, now they have 30 or 40 scholars and they can't teach them so good as they used to. You see, out there they used to have all the different grades in one room, you know, and one teacher taught all of them. Judi: How many would there be in a room? RS: Well, I expect it was only about a dozen, you know, it was out in the country and there wasn't so many children like there is now. Judi: Did your brothers and sisters go to school there, also? RS: Yes. there were five of us went to school out there. And then my folks moved off the farm into Boulder so some of my brothers and sisters went to school in Boulder. Judi: Did you go to school all day or did you just go in the mornings? RS: No, we went all day to school. It would be pretty near dark when we lived in the canyon when we would start out for school and then when we'd go home, why, it would be pretty near dark by the time we got home. Up in the canyon we used to cut off on what we called the "cow path", you know, where the cattle had a trail that they followed to go down and get a drink, we would cut off on the cow path and that would make it a little bit shorter. That canyon is about deserted up there now, I think. There aren't many up there any more. There is one house up there yet that was

up there when we were there.

Judi: Do you see anybody else besides the one you mentioned that used to live up in the canyon? RS: Oh, yes, yes, there were several families lived up in that canyon. Edna S: No, was there anyone you know then, Grandma, that you still know today? Was that the question? RS: No, the only one that I know... ....there is a cousin that lives in Washington that lived up in there. That's the only one that I know who is living who lived up in there. Edns S: And Lena, RS: Yes. Judi: The families up there, did you get together a lot, like maybe over Christmas? RS: Well, not too much, because people had to walk in those days. You couldn't ride like you do now.

Judi: Do you remember any of your Christmases, the things that you did? RS: Oh, yes, we used to have our Christmas. We'd go out and get our Christmas tree, you know, and bring it in and we could go right out and cut one down on our own place, you know. We made paper things and popcorn and such and decorated our trees . We always had our Christmas. EA: What did you get for Christmas presents in those days? RS: Well, people didn't get so many Christmas presents in those days as they do now. If you got some little things, you thought you was doing all right. We had to make pretty near everything that we had, you know, in those days. They didn't have a lot of stuff like they do nowadays. Edna S: Did you get such things as dolls, Grandma? RS: Well, yes, there was some dolls, but not too many. You were real lucky if you got a doll. Yes, there was a few dolls, but they didn't have lots of stuff in those days like they do now.

EA: Did you ever have an allowance, like children do now? RS: No, no, the only money we ever spent was when mother gave us money and sent us to shop in Boulder. Edna S: How far was it to Boulder, Grandma, from where you lived? RS: Well, it was about 10 miles. We always went mostly in the cart. It would take nearly all day. Maybe it was more then 10 miles. Judi: How often did you go to Boulder. RS: Oh, I expect maybe once a month. Judi: Did

you grow a lot of the things you needed yourself? RS: Oh, yes, we had our garden place. Edna S: You had lots of fruit, too, didn't you, Grandma? RS: Well, yes, we used to have plenty of fruit. We used to go and pick gooseberries and different berries. There were along there where Lena lived, there was a family there by the name of Johnson and they had a lot of currant bushes and gooseberry bushes, you know, and all kinds of bushes and we used to go there and pick on the halves, you know. We used to go and stay all day and pick our berries there and then go home at night. We canned them and made jellies and jams and different things. EA: Do you remember what sugar was in those days? RS: No, I don't. I don't remember what the price of sugar was in those days. Edna S: You remember what you sold milk for, though, don't you? RS: Yes, we sold milk one time and butter and eggs. We sold 18 quarts of milk for a dollar and made money at it. Dugan: You're talking about after you came to Lafayette. RS: Yes. Dugan: Dad had a milk route from house to house, you know. Edna S: Tell them about your experience when you and Dugan was paddling milk. Grandma was driving the Model T Ford and you were peddling milk, walking, weren't you, Dugan, and a train hit them down Simpson Street. RS: Yes, backed into us. Edna S: Down on Simpson Street. RS: Yes, it was down where the Simpson Mine was. Edna S: That was back in the early days of her life in Lafayette.

EA: Did you ever see anything of the Ku Klux Klan when it was active here in Lafayette? RS: Oh, yes, I've seen them. Edna S: You remember the 1910 strike real well, too, don't you, Grandma? RS: Oh, yes, that was when they had that coal strike. Judi: What do you remember about it? RS: Well, it lasted a long time. Dugan: Well, I was just a kid then. RS: Yes, the boys were small and they used to go down to the,.....they called the Army in here, you know, and the boys used to go down and stay around the camp the biggest part of the time and eat. They thought that was awful nice, you know, to go down and

eat with the soldiers. Edna S: Tell them how you got clothes. I've heard you tell about that. Dugan: Yeah, they used to have used clothes at the Union Hall. They tore it down for the telephone office. They tried to get the miners to go there and get these clothes. At different times there would be regular gun battles. You could just hear the bullets whizzing, you know. Quite often we would just take all the groceries and what we had and go across the field, my dad's brother had a farm out there. He had a little small house on it and we would go out there. One time we were going out there.....there are two ditches out on the hill by Bokan's place, you know.....and we were going out there and there was a bunch of men pulling a machine gun down that ditch. They were having a terrible battle over at the Heckly-Hite Mine over at Louisville and these ditches went right over there to that mine and the union men were in the ditches over there shooting at the working miners and these working miners were going up that ditch with a machine gun. They saw us going out there, there were two or three men with all the women and children (RS: There were three families went, you know) and they turned around and went back. They never finished the trip.

Edna: Now, Grandma, you tell how you used to fix a lunch and walk out the road. Didn't you? You used to fix a lunch and walk the children up the road. RS: Oh, yes,, we used to go fishing. I used to take the neighbor kids and we'd go...there was, oh, I expect, pretty near a dozen kids and we used to go on fishing trips and go out to some of the lakes. We used to go and stay all day out there. We'd take our stuff along and cook it out there and we'd stay out there and fish all day at the lake. EA: Was that Printz Lake? RS: Yes, out at the Printz Lake and out at the Van Lake. Edna S: Grandma has always been a great humanitarian. RS: We used to do that quite often. Edna S: She took care of all the little kids in the neighbor who didn't have a mother. RS: We'd go all day and fish and have a good time.

Edna S: Grandma is a member of the Baptist Church here. Tell them how you helped build the Baptist Church, Grandma. RS: Well, my husband helped to

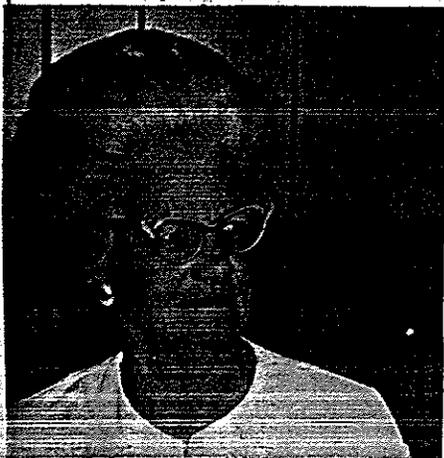
make the cement blocks that was in the church. The women folks done quilting and they put on all kinds of suppers and dinners to help to get the church started. EA: How long did it take you to get enough money to get the church built? RS: Well, they started it, you know, and kept building up on it. They had the basement first and then they built the top part on to it. And, of course, they've added quite a little bit on to it now to what it was then. All the ladies they all got together, you know, and helped to build the church. EA: You've seen a lot of ministers come and go, haven't you, in this length of time? RS: Oh, yes, a lot of them. Edna S: Where did you go to church before you had the church, Grandma? RS: Well, there was a building across from where Alderson's store was, you know. There was a building in there, it was called..... who built that building? Somebody built a building in there and they had a store down below and the church and Sunday School was upstairs in that building. EA: That's the one that later burned down? RS: Yes, it burned down. It was Franz' store and the man who worked in the Franz store, he lived in.....well, Edna's house wasn't there then, there was another house there and he lived in that house. Edna S: Awhile ago, Grandma, she mentioned the Ku Klux Klan. Yesterday when we were having dinner, you were reminiscing about this editor from the paper that hid himself to discover something about the Klan, don't you know. He hid in a closet up over the Rocky Mountain store and they caught him...he sneezed, or something. RS: Yes, the Klan was holding their meeting and this man, he was curious to see what they was doing, you know, and he went and hid in one of the closets.....he was editor of the Lafayette Leader.....and he hid in that closet and he sneezed and they heard him and they caught him, Edna S: And what did you say they did with him? RS: They took him out...way out here on the hills, took all of his clothes off him and make him walk home, EA: I was really surprised to find out there were women in the Ku Klux Klan. RS: Yeah,

I guess there was women in it. Oh, yes, there were women in it. EA: I always thought it was just men in it and here recently I found out that there were women in it, too. Gus Waneka was telling me about one time when one of the women's hoods came off and they saw her. That was the first time I knew there were any women involved in it. RS: They used to wear the hoods to cover their faces up so no one would know them, but I guess they don't cover their faces up any more like they used to.'

Edna S: Tell them about your grandfather when he outsmarted the Indians. RS: Oh, when he came out here to fight the Indians? My great-grandfather was a soldier and they sent him out here to fight the Indians.....this was before he brought his family out here. He was sent out here as a soldier to quiet the Indians and he was stationed at Fort Laramie, Wyoming. I think that's where the Indians were the worst was up there. And the Indians caught him and they had him captured for awhile and he had an awful good horse and he raced the Indians with his horse. Every time he would kind of hold his horse in and let the Indians beat him, you know, and each time they'd go a little bit further and further. So then one time he let his horse go, you know, and he beat the Indians and got away from them. He done that so they would go a little further every time, you know, then he finally let his horse go faster than the others, you know, and he got away from them. But he had a bad leg and he walked with a cain.and he never done any work after that. He was kind of disabled. But he was a soldier. Then he went back to Iowa and brought his family out here after that. Edna S: Was that your grandfather Geer or Springsteel? RS: Geer. The Springsteels, when they came they came on the train to Cheyenne and then they had to come down from Cheyenne in a wagon. Edna S: You see, Geer Canyon is named after her grandfather. RS: No, my great-grandfather,

Edna S: She has this box of old, old clippings and I'm making a scrapbook of things pertaining to this family. EA: That would be lovely to have.

## TOP LADY



Mrs. Edna Schofield VR PHOTO

## A Tip of the Hat

Here is a Top Auxiliary Lady to the dynamic VFW Post 1771—the Mile Hi Post—of Lafayette about whom people should know more and more about the truly beautiful work she and her Ladies do. It is exceptionally exemplary of what Auxiliary Ladies do and contribute at the Denver VA Hospital.

Mrs. Edna Schofield is the State Chairman of the Coffee Admission Program which was initiated in January of 1972 by the VFW and Auxiliary who are completely responsible for the funding and "manpowering" it.

What is the Coffee Admission Program? It is one of the very nice things that a veteran first encounters while waiting in the patients' lobby for admission to the hospital or while waiting for out-patient clinic appointments. It really is a

*Ladies Who Care . . . and Contribute!*

"Therapeutic Program" to which it is often referred. The Ladies of the Auxiliary to the VFW, dressed in pink uniforms (this reporter likes to call them "The Beautiful VFW Pink Ladies) serve fresh, steaming, aromatic coffee (or tea, if one prefers) from the urns to waiting patients in the lobby and serve from trays to the patients seated in the halls outside their appointed out-patient clinics.

Due to patient load and other probable delaying factors, waiting time is difficult to predict and sometimes becomes drawn out. A cup of coffee is more than a welcome lift, it is a tremendous boost to have a cheerful and smiling volunteer "VFW Pink Lady" serve you and realize that people do care about you and want to help you. This is beautiful. The truth of this beauty is that these volunteer Ladies *do* care!

For a year now, Edna Schofield has been the dynamo behind the program. She is responsible for staffing the program (the Denver VA Hospital Program has a staff of 45, all of whom are Ladies except for 3 men who help where and when needed); the purchasing of supplies, which, she says, becomes quite a chore since she must shop the wholesale houses from coffee to paper cups, sugar, cream, stir spoons and what not and seeing that they are on hand as needed. Now, she says, they may be able to obtain their supplies through the hospital.

How many cups of coffee is served during a given period in the Denver VA Hospital Coffee Admission Program? Grab your hats! Edna tells us the number

of cups served over a twenty-day period averages 5,970. From 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for twenty days (five days a week) the "Beautiful Pink Ladies" serve 5,970 cups of steaming, aromatic coffee to waiting veteran-patients through the Denver VA Hospital Coffee Admission Program!

Edna Schofield is president of the Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW, 1771, of Lafayette and a member of the VFW Auxiliary for fifteen years. Her husband died in 1946, leaving her a widow for 29 years now. With four brothers, all of whom having had served in the military with one taken prisoner on Corrigidor and victim of the mass execution there, and four sons, three of whom are veterans, she shares a deep empathy of veterans. Never an idle one, she has had her own business, and worked for the Elementary School of Lafayette of the Boulder Valley School System managing their lunch program. She said she "retired" four years ago and proudly volunteers her age of 69, but one would never believe this bouncy and interesting Lady to be of that age. She was asked what her hobby was. She looked perplexed. "Why, helping other people—being some kind of an humanitarian, I guess".

After sitting in the lobby enjoying her conversation and coffee and watching her pouring for veteran-patients, "humanitarian" is no longer just a word. It defines itself with an impact: it is a person, Mrs. Edna Schofield—the Lady who drives 33 miles one way to make sure waiting veteran-patients know that people care.

## Schofield Family

William Henry Schofield      7-29-1831

Mary Eliza Downey            2-15-1836

Both were born in Nova Scotia and married there 12-31-1857;  
moved to Massachusetts 5-1869;  
moved to Kansas 12-26-1879;  
moved to Nebraska 3-21-1880;  
then moved on to Colorado 1815-1881;  
came to Burlington Trading Post at Longmont.

A son Archibold Alponsa (who was Mary Shockey's father---  
she lives at 405 West Geneseo, Lafayette) came before his parents  
and had a cabin built three miles north of Lafayette on what is now  
Higway #287---just across railroad track on east side of road. Two  
cottonwood trees still stand where first cabin was built.

The Schofields had eleven children. Rena Jane Chapman Schofield  
married William Osborn Schofield, the eighth child born to the  
Schofields, in Boulder, Colorado, 11-9-01. They had three sons:  
Ralph J. in 1902, Lafayette W. in 1904, and Glen 1906-----only Lafayette  
(known as Dugan) survives, along with his mother who was born in  
Left Hand Canyon on the Geer Homestead, May 23, 1882.

Rena Jane Chapman Schofield has lived in Lafayette 73 years  
and in Boulder County all her life.

Solomon Geer    1859

Hiram Springsteel    1862