

**Biography of**  
**Frank Stewart Rice**

**Sept 25, 1862**  
**July 3, 1924**



**Frank Rice abt 1920**

*By*  
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## **Forward**

This biography of Frank S. Rice was undertaken by his great grandson as a project to learn more about a man who little was known by present day family. I have gathered an oral history from family members and drawn from letters that he sent to his only daughter beginning in 1915. The balance of the research was done on a visit to Idaho in September 2004 and by combing the issues of the Idaho County Free Press published in Grangeville, Idaho. These were on microfilm obtained on interlibrary loan from the Idaho State Historical Library and Archives in Boise. I began with issues starting in 1895 ending in 1921. Additional research utilized the US Census records. Photographs from the early 1900's were obtained from the Idaho County Historical Society website.

I also wish to acknowledge the help and encouragement of Don and Esther Morrow of Harpster, Idaho. I met them on my trip to Idaho in September 2004. They were to discover some important materials and gave me direction as to where I would find more. Their suggestions have proved invaluable.

Frank S. Rice was a man who led a colorful life and one who married at a young age. Shortly after this marriage, he abandoned his young wife and young daughter not to be heard from for many years. In no way, can I or other family members condone or forgive him for his actions even these many years later. However, this work hopefully will give all a closer insight to this man, his life and what caused him to abandon his young family.

**Lew Matson**

## Early Years in Michigan and Ohio

**F**rank Stewart Rice was born September 25, 1862 on a farm near Camden, Hillsdale County Michigan. He was the first of four children born to John and Nancy Rice. His great-grandfather Robert Stewart was a patriot who fought in the American Revolutionary War.

At the time of his birth, Abraham Lincoln was president of the United States and the Civil War was getting underway.

He grew up on his father's farm and, as any other lad in similar circumstances, learned the art of farming. To give the reader a perspective on the times he grew up, General Custer was killed in the Battle of Little Big Horn when Frank was 14 years old. Nothing is known of his formal education. As was at the time, he may have received but eight years of schooling.

I believe that the stories about the West and the opportunities for riches there, had a big influence on his way of thinking and his dreams of the future. Apparently farming was not what he wanted to do. The thought of following a horse and plow was not what excited him.

He met, courted and at the age of 18 years, married Suzette Burke from Williams County Ohio on Jan 9, 1880. The following year they had a daughter Lela Rozella Rice born Jan 16, 1881.

Oral family history states that young Frank wanted to go "Out West" and pursue opportunities there. The young wife was very reluctant to leave family and take a very young daughter to the wild west frontier. Living conditions were much harsher there at that time and there was much lawlessness. To give the reader an idea of the era, Billy the Kid was killed in New Mexico Territory in July 1881. Suzette insisted that she would not leave. This obviously led to many disagreements between the two of them. Sometime during 1882 or 1883, Frank decided that he would follow his dreams and left to go West. What the parting was, one can only speculate. Did they have words and he mounted a horse or did he leave at dawn on a day while all were sleeping?

In his letter, dated July 28<sup>th</sup> 1915, he states "what was the matter the day I left there, of course you know." Further research has disclosed nothing other than he just wanted to "go west." Were there other family problems or reasons related with a young marriage, one can only speculate.

## Early Years in the West

*“THERE’S no sense in going further — it’s the edge of cultivation,”  
So they said, and I believed it — broke my land and sowed my crop—  
Built my barns and strung my fences in the little border station  
Tucked away below the foothills where the trails run out and stop.*

*Till a voice, as bad as Conscience, rang interminable changes  
On one everlasting Whisper day and night repeated—so:  
“Something hidden. Go and find it. Go and look behind the  
Ranges----  
“Something lost behind the Ranges. Lost and waiting for you. Go!”*

*So I went, worn out of patience; never told my nearest neighbors—  
Stole away with pack and ponies—left ‘em drinking in the town;  
**THE EXPLORER by Rudyard Kipling 1898***

From the time that he left his wife until about 1897, little is known about his travels. From a newspaper article that he cut out and sent to his daughter about 1920, it indicates three towns in Arizona where he lived and worked in the copper mines. They were Globe, Clifton and Morenci.



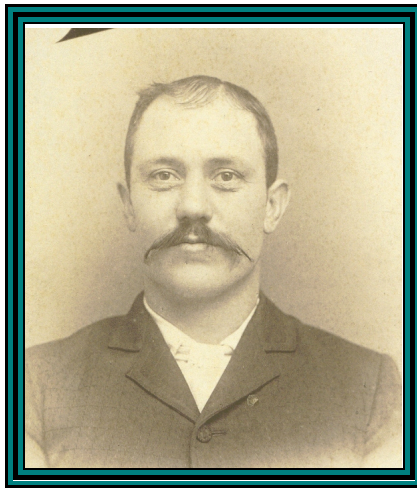
**Frank Rice Abt 1885**

that worry you.”

One can only speculate how he traveled, where he traveled until he reached the Arizona Territory. One wonders how soon he forgot about the abandoned family and began to enjoy the life of a single young man. As was custom of young single miners or cowboys, come payday he was probably off to town to find the nearest saloon and seek out the ladies of the night.

In a letter to his daughter dated June 18<sup>th</sup> 1916, he apparently is answering a question posed to him by her, as to if there were other heirs scattered throughout the west. He answered by saying, “I do not know whether they were all thrown into the sewer or not, but evidently they would have a very hard time to prove any relationship at this time, for I have been in Idaho County nineteen years and I am sure there is none known of here, so do not let

I'm quite sure from comments in his later letters, he came to regret his earlier life style. In his later years, he appears to have come to the realization that he had no "blood" family living in Idaho and was doing his best to get some family to move there.



**Frank Rice abt 1900**

What the cause was that brought him to Idaho, again, one can only speculate. Certainly the gold mines in central Idaho were more lucrative than the copper mines in Arizona. Possibly he was ready for a change of scenery.

He arrived in Central Idaho about 1897. The following year the United States was at war with Spain. Idaho had many young men serving in the war who were stationed in the Philippines. The local paper, *Idaho County Free Press*, has many articles regarding their service.

Where he located in Idaho County is unknown. Searching the 1900 US Census reports, I have been unable to locate him. However, an item in the Idaho County Free Press "Dixie Doings" section dated April 25<sup>th</sup> 1900 states, "F. S. Rice is back from a sojourn at Concord, and will push development work on his Dixie Properties."

## **His Marriage to Josephine Vaughan**

One of the big mysteries to his Indiana family was his "Idaho Family." Oral history stated that he had married and had three daughters, two of which were "Old Maid School Teachers." The other had married and had two children. A boy and girl both of which married and had families of their own. These families in the 1980's were located in California and Washington.

A number of years ago, a Blanch Shaw, who is thought to be a Idaho family granddaughter, began correspondence with the Indiana family. This went on for a number of years and in 1984 I had the opportunity to take my mother to meet Blanch. They had a very nice visit and since I was not into the Genealogy mode, paid little attention to the conversations. I have since attempted to contact Blanch's daughter, but am unable to locate her. Hopefully, she would be able to fill in more details of this other family.

I was able to locate the marriage license at the Idaho County Recorders Office issued to Frank “Frew” Rice and Josephine Vaughan issued on March 1<sup>st</sup>

1901. The license was issued at the courthouse in Grangeville and the marriage performed by Justice of Peace Thomas Bollman in Dixie on March 6<sup>th</sup> 1901. It should be noted here that Frew was apparently a nick name. Frew was the given name of his uncle, Frew Stewart.



**Dixie main street 2004**

In September of 1901, President McKinley was assassinated.

My research has failed to find if he ever filed for a divorce from Suzette, if he did not, he was guilty of bigamy in a legal sense. It is interesting to note that on the 1910 Census, he listed his birth place as Edinburgh Scotland and it was so noted in a political biographical sketch. Was this an attempt to hide his early life? I believe that it was considering the circumstances of his earlier marriage. However, his death certificate does list Michigan as his birth place.



**Dixie main street 1909**

### Loses Legs

The oral history that has been passed down, told he had lost both legs in a logging accident. But nothing more was known.



**Road to Elk City in Winter**

With the help of Don Morrow, his research located a newspaper article in the Idaho County Free Press dated Feb 19<sup>th</sup> 1903, stating that he had both legs crushed by a log while installing heavy mining equipment at the Hogan Brothers Mine. The mine is

located in Orogrande near Dixie. The article states he is married and about 45 years old. The article goes on to say that Dr. Samuel Bibby was summoned from Grangeville to travel to Orogrande to attend to Frank. The amazing thing about this is the fact that in those days and that time of year, it was close to two days travel. Frank had to wait for the doctor to arrive for treatment.

Another article about Dr Bibby relates about the time he had to travel to a mining camp to amputate a mans legs. When he arrived and after examining the patient, asked for a water glass of whisky. It was apparently thought to be for the patient, but instead the good doctor drank it straight down and proceeded to amputate the mans legs.

As a result of his accident, I had wondered how he was able to support himself and his new family. The Idaho County Free Press had an article dated Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> 1903 that stated he was brought to Grangeville on Saturday before and was a patient at the Geary Hospital. He was gradually recovering from his injuries and getting around in a wheel chair.

Then in an article in the Idaho County Free Press dated April 12<sup>th</sup>, 1904, Frank S. Rice was fitting up a cigar store. And then on May 5<sup>th</sup> 1904 he had opened his cigar store and was enjoying a good business. It stated that “Mr Rice carries a line of imported and domestic cigars second to none in the city and lovers of a good smoke will not forget the place”.

### Step Children

Because of his and Josephine’s ages at the time of their marriage, I doubt very seriously if they had any children of their own. Subsequent research has shown this to be so. He was 39 years of age and she was 40 years old.

This increases the mystery of the Idaho family. Further research discovered that Josephine was married previously and was either divorced or widowed. However, early research revealed she had only sons and no daughters.

The first son was noted in an article in the Idaho County Free Press Aug 22<sup>nd</sup> 1907 as a Clinton Vaughn, the 20 year old step-son of County Treasurer Frank S. Rice, being seriously injured in a runaway accident with a team of horses and wagon. It went on to say that Clinton was farming on the Camas Prairie with his brothers. This was a rather lengthy article describing the accident and the extent of his injuries.

The US Census for 1910 lists only heads of household in the index. However, when one goes to the actual page of the individual in the census tabulation, other members of the household are listed. In Franks case, Josephine

was listed as his wife and Harvey L. Vaughn, age 15 was listed as a stepson.

The next reference to any sons was an article taken from the Idaho County Free Press dated June 28<sup>th</sup> 1917. It stated that Frank Vaughn had died at the Ft Douglas Military Hospital in Utah. The cause of death was "Rheumatism of the heart"; I would imagine that he had rheumatic fever as a child. He was a member of Company E, 2<sup>nd</sup> Inf., National Guard of Idaho. It gave his birth place as San Luis Obispo, California on March 6<sup>th</sup> 1884. It went on to list his brothers as Harvey Vaughn, also a member of Company E, Allison Vaughn and Clinton Vaughn.

The funeral for Frank Vaughn was large one. He was the first Grangeville boy to die during the early stages of WWI. An article on the front page of the Idaho County Free Press dated July 5<sup>th</sup> 1917 states that the funeral was held in the Odd Fellows hall. It was attended by nearly a 1000 people. Since the hall could only hold 750 people, many stood outside. It was a military funeral with members of Company E doing the honors. The burial was in the local cemetery with a large number of those attending the services also at the interment.

The next surprise came when the article listed as a sister, Mrs. W.O. Anson of Grangeville. Was she the daughter that was the mother of Blanch Shaw? The article also stated that Frank Vaughn was the son of Mrs. Frank S. Rice. Nothing was mentioned about Frank Rice. It has been established from his letters to his daughter that the marriage had soured and apparently he and Josephine were not living together. From his letters, he indicated that they had not been living together since about 1911.

I have been unable to establish what sort of relationship that Frank had with his stepsons or stepdaughter. Since Harvey was the youngest born in 1895 and the other sons were born in 1884, 1885, and 1886 all in California, it is possible that they were not a part of his household early in the marriage. The 1910 Census lists Clinton, Allison and Frank as living in Lake, Idaho and listed their occupations as farmers. Frank Vaughn's obituary states that he came to Idaho in 1898 when he was 14 years old. Why did Josephine move with her children from California, I have been unable to discover. Did her first husband bring his family here and then he died or they were divorced?

Franks marriage to Josephine came to an end when on Aug 14<sup>th</sup> 1919 the Idaho County Free Press reported that Mrs Josephine Rice had filed for divorce. She cited desertion and failure to provide for her for over a year. He had deserted her on or about Jan 5<sup>th</sup> 1908. She was asking the court to restore her name to Josephine Vaughan. The paper reported on Sept 25<sup>th</sup> 1919 that a divorce was granted to Josephine.



The US Census of 1920 lists Josephine living with her sons, Clinton and Harvey in Seattle, Washington. The sons occupations listed as laborers working in the shipyards. Josephine was head of household. Just above their listing was William O. Anson, Head of Household followed by Marie L. Anson, wife and Marie L age 16 and Melvin F age 14 as daughter and son. Apparently the entire family had moved to Seattle after the divorce. In checking the Ancestry.com World Family Tree, I find Melvin married and his father and mother listed in the same tree. However, his sister is not listed. So as of now, the connection to Blanch Shaw is still a mystery.

Sometime during 1914 or early 1915, Frank decided to return to Indiana and apparently “throw his hat back in the door”. This was the first that anyone there had heard from him since he left in 1882 or 1883. His reception was obviously very cool, but because of the time that had passed, was apparently reluctantly accepted by the family. It is from this point in time that he began correspondence with his daughter and much of this original correspondence is in the hands of family today. I must note here that he typed his letters and therefore are very legible.

## **His Political life**

Oral histories related to the fact that he had been County Treasurer for a number of years. It is quite easy to follow this career in the local paper the *Idaho County Free Press* located in Grangeville. It was shortly after he opened his cigar store in 1904 that the first mention of him being “named by acclamation” in the Republican party caucus as the Republican Party candidate for County Treasurer. This was reported in the Sept 15<sup>th</sup> 1904 issue of the *Idaho County Free Press*. It should also be noted here that the *Idaho County Free Press* is a Democratic paper supporting Democratic Party philosophies.

One can only wonder as to how he became associated with politics and in particular what was his background that qualified him to aspire to this particular office. As I have mentioned earlier, I believe that he had at most only eight years of schooling.

In an *Idaho County Free Press* article dated Nov 3rd 1910, it stated “Frank Van Deventer is the gentleman who for seven weeks was employed by Rice to teach him book-keeping so that he could handle the affairs of the treasurers office. The books are of the simplest kind and while Mr. Rice was not at all familiar with them at the time he went into office, he has found necessary but a few times to call upon Deputy Rambo of the auditor’s office to straighten out the tangles. George Adams also assisted Mr. Rice at other times”. This article was part of the pre-election



**Frank Rice with certificates of election 1913**

rhetoric from the Democratic paper. But it does point out that he was not particularly qualified for the office. But in spite of this, the first election was a clean sweep for the Republican Party. The Nov 24<sup>th</sup> 1904 edition of the Idaho County Free Press reports Frank S. Rice elected County Treasurer.



**Site of Frank Rice Home in Grangeville**

What ever became of his Cigar Store, I have been unable to discover. However, the Dec 8<sup>th</sup> 1904 issue of the Idaho County Free Press Real Estate Transfers lists "Oliver Cheley and wife to Frank S. Rice, lots 9 and 10 block C Sherwin's addition to Grangeville. Consideration \$450."

I was able to obtain a Declaration of Homestead from the County Recorders office filed by Josephine Rice. This was for the above property and dated May 16<sup>th</sup> 1913. Why she filed it and not Frank is a mystery. Was it

because they were not living together as he stated “I have not been living with a woman for over five years”, in his letter of June 18<sup>th</sup> 1916. This property is located at the northwest corner of “A” and W. North Street in Grangeville. A medical clinic occupies this lot today. He mentions sleeping in his lonely cot on the porch in his letter dated March 20<sup>th</sup> 1916.

Frank was re-elected the County Treasurer in 1906, 1908, 1910, 1912, and 1914. He was defeated for re-election in 1916, thus ending twelve consecutive years as County Treasurer. There are numerous articles mentioning him in the Idaho County Free Press during these years. In addition, as County Treasurer, his duties were changed by the state legislature in 1912 to including duties as Tax Collector. The County Commissioners had approved the hiring of additional deputies for the increased duties.

The Idaho County Free Press had a front page article in the July 25<sup>th</sup> 1918 issue reporting that the Republican Party was wanting him to run again for County Treasurer and not for the Auditor and Clerk office as he wanted. However, when it came time for the primaries, Frank had not filed for either. Thus his political career appeared to be over.

Since he was a public figure, events in his life earned a place in the paper. One such incident, reported by the Idaho County Free Press in the Jan 19<sup>th</sup> 1909 issue, stated that “Some unknown man entered the home of Treasurer Frank Rice Monday evening but did no damage outside of turning on the water and thus causing the pipes to freeze and burst”.

There is a photograph of Frank on the front page of the Idaho County Free Press, March 10<sup>th</sup> 1910, posing with his prized chickens. In December of that year he won first prize for his category. The other unusual thing about this photograph is that it appears to be the first photo published in the paper of an individual. A few issues previous, they had began printing photos of buildings, but no individuals.

It is apparent from the many mentions in the paper that he was a civic minded individual. This should be expected of one who was a local politician. The Idaho County Free Press issue of March 25<sup>th</sup> 1909 stated that “Frank Rice nominated for Third Ward Councilman on Citizen’s Ticket”. This was while he was also serving as County Treasurer. On April 1<sup>st</sup> 1909, the paper published “Frank Rice’s Campaign statement: Finance and Revenue, This is a question that needs thorough study before an intelligent answer can be made. Public Improvements, If the revenue permits I am in favor of sewer system and more macadamized streets by all means. Saloons, I do not consider this an issue at the present time. Water, I believe in municipal ownership of all public utilities first, last and all the time.”

One who becomes familiar with the history of Grangeville during the early 1900's will recognize the problems mentioned in his statement. First, the streets were dirt. Dusty in the summer and muddy during winter and rainy spells. The macadamized streets were an early form of asphalt. Automobiles had not arrived in Grangeville at this time, but would soon after. There was a problem with sanitation as all homes and businesses had outdoor privies. This was creating a problem as the town was growing. In addition, there were only board sidewalks. It is also interesting to note here that there was quite a movement underfoot to making the county a "dry" one. The state legislature would soon pass legislation making it possible for a county to vote for the outlawing of alcohol. The county later voted to be "dry".

Even as late as 1917, there were still board sidewalks. The Idaho County Free Press Aug 23<sup>rd</sup> 1917 reported that Frank S. Rice had returned from Moscow where he was a patient at the C.L. Gritman private hospital. He went there for treatment after falling and injuring himself when one of the crutches was thrust through the sidewalk. He was much improved and would resume his mining activities in a few days.

The Idaho County Free Press on April 8<sup>th</sup> 1909 reported that Frank Rice was elected 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Councilman. On May 6<sup>th</sup> 1909 he was appointed to serve on the Finance Committee and Water and Light Committee at the organizational meeting. The April 3<sup>rd</sup> 1913 paper reported that he did not run for re-election on the City Council.

He certainly appeared to be a man to get out and about in spite of his physical handicap. The Idaho County Free Press on August 28<sup>th</sup> 1913 reported "Frank Rice won the loaf of bread given away at the Quick Range demonstration held at Olson's last week, the weight of this enormous loaf being seventeen pounds and two ounces."

His popularity in garnering the votes was evidenced by the fairly large majorities in each election. He was popular with both Democratic and Republican voters. In the 1906 election he was unopposed for re-election. Only in the last election was he defeated and by a handy margin. It should be noted here that the Democratic party took nearly every county office that year.

## HIS MINING CAREER

**F**rank Rice's dream of getting rich in the West, was probably through mining the rich mineral wealth of the West. Why he gravitated to Arizona in the 1880's one can only speculate. The journey from Ohio

to Arizona Territory would probably fill a book in itself. Arizona Territory at the time was a pretty wild place.

His early years in Idaho indicate that he was involved in the mining industry. The previously mentioned newspaper article indicated that he had a mining interest in the Dixie area. The accident in which he lost his legs happened while installing heavy mining equipment at the Hogan Brothers mine in Orogrande.

His physical handicap certainly did not dim his interest in the mining industry. Idaho County was a active mining area and at the same time the Camas Prairie was an excellent farming and ranching area. As County Treasurer and Tax Collector, he had first hand knowledge of what was happening in both the agricultural and mining areas.

While holding political office, he began to invest in mining properties as well as Camas Prairie ranch lands. The Idaho County Free Press noted in its Sept 9<sup>th</sup> 1909 issue that: "Frank S. Rice and George W. Wilkin are the banner land buyers of the county for the past few months, having purchased three different tracts of Camas Prairie soil during the past week. The ranches purchased are W. D. Vincent 80 acres two miles north of town, the F. W. Finch 160 acres two and one half miles northwest of Fenn and the Craig L. Spencer 160 acres in the same locality. Messrs. Rice and Wilkin believe that Camas Prairie land offers exceptional opportunities to either the speculator or the farmer and concluded to get possession of some good ranches. The sales were made by L. M. Harris & Co."

Then in an article that appeared in Idaho County Free Press Oct 27<sup>th</sup> 1910 they reported in part: "Mr. Rice went in the office a man of very moderate means and today the records show he is paying half the taxes on 560 acres of Camas Prairie land, the entire taxes on 47 acres of patented mining ground, on 60 acres of other land, 3 lots with two houses in Grangeville and a house and lot in Elk City. Rice should be congratulated upon his thrift and ability to accumulate wealth and it should not be understood that this is in anyway a crime. However, it was through the votes of democrats as well as republicans and friends of those men who Mr. Rice at this time is making a vigorous campaign against, that he has been kept in office for six years. To say the least Mr. Rice is very inconsistent and unappreciative." It should be noted here that this article was part of a political statement by a Democratic paper prior to the election in 1910. However, it is apparent that Frank was investing well and increasing his net worth.

In a letter dated Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> 1916 to his daughter, he tells her that he has purchased two town lots deeded to Elmer and Alice Hagerty, who are his grandchildren. He would pay the taxes for them until such time they could move to Idaho. He had paid \$54 for the two lots. One was a corner lot and one a "inside"

lot. Just where these were located and how he eventually disposed of them is unknown at this time.

Sometime prior to 1915, he had purchased the Waverly Mine in Florence and the Miller Creek Placers close to the Waverly. I believe this is the 47 acres of patented mining ground listed in the Oct 1910 newspaper article. In his letter of July



**What remains of Florence 2004**

28<sup>th</sup> 1915 to his daughter, he states, “I have been out to the Placer Property, and the work so far this spring is averaging about \$7.50 per day per man, but I have had to turn it over to “partys” that while they are good miners are looking out for them selves first, so how much I will get out of it I do not know, and only time can tell.” His physical handicap made travel very difficult to these remote areas thus making it easy for miners to take advantage of him.

I have found no record of his actually reopening the Waverly Mine, since he always seemed to be looking for investors to develop his interests. He apparently would purchase options of various properties in hopes of getting the capital to develop the mine. It is interesting to note that during my visit to the area, people that I met stated that this was happening yet today. People would buy a mining property and would seek investors to “sink money into a hole in the ground”.

One such option was the John Fox Mine. The day after his option expired, another party took it up and went on to reopen the mine. They had hit a bonanza and it was yielding great amounts of gold. He lamented over this in a letter to his daughter.

The Unity mine in Warren was another one that he either owned or held an option on the property. During my visit to the area in September 2004, the Unity was being reopened for mining. Investors had been found and much work was underway. Indeed, there is still gold to be found and mined in Idaho County today.

It is apparent that his interest in the mining industry was not limited only to Idaho. The Idaho County Free Press had an article in the Dec 26<sup>th</sup> 1912 issue reporting “Frank Rice who has been down in California for the past several weeks, returned last week. He was looking over some mining property down there and from the samples of ore on exhibition at his office has something worth while.”



**300 Block Lewiston, ID 2004**

It is interesting to note while reviewing all issues of the Idaho County Free Press from 1895 to 1921, that there were time frames that mining interest would pick up and then seem to wane. It appears that as new mining techniques were developed that would show a profit, the activity would pick up.

After leaving office, he devoted his energies to his mining interests and moved to Lewiston

sometime around 1918. It was there that he formed the Rice Mining and Milling Company. He had an office at 302 Main St., in Lewiston. He was listed as President and Manager. Today this address is part of the YMCA and a parking lot. By June 1919, he was the President of the Union Copper Mining & Smelting Co. The address for this company was at 312 Main Street in Lewiston. The building there appears to be the original from that period. This appeared to be a better venture as his letters indicated that they had investors and were putting in new equipment and had hired a mining engineer from Arizona.

Frank had solicited help from family back east in selling stock. He had mailed shares to his daughter, granddaughter, sister and nieces. Extolling them to do well and offering a bonus to each for their efforts.

He apparently had a good “eastern” prospective investor in a Dr. Frank Fanning from Butler, Indiana. There was a great deal of correspondence regarding Dr. Fanning with his daughter. Whether Dr. Fanning did invest, current records do not indicate.

## **HIS REFLECTION ON HIS LIFE AND ABANDONED FAMILY**

I believe that after reading and re-reading his letters to his daughter, Frank had begun to realize that he was beginning to regret the actions of his youth. This was apparently reinforced by the worsening relations with Josephine. He had no blood family in Idaho. As I have stated earlier, I have been unable to determine what his relationship to his step-children was. Did they consider him “Dad” or was he just their stepfather Frank.

Sometime, as this part of his life was beginning to unfold, he made the

decision to return to Indiana and meet his family. In the early part of 1915 he made the trip back to Indiana. It is interesting to note that the published listing of warrants to be redeemed during January and February of 1915 were shown to be signed by his deputy instead of him. It is apparent that he was out of office when these were published. These warrants are published in the paper as they become due and are signed by the County Treasurer. These were published every few weeks.

In his letter dated July 28<sup>th</sup> 1915, he says of his grandchildren: "You do not know, nor never can fully understand, how them dear dear children came into my very life, yes changed it, and how now, never a day goes by but what I think of them as well as I do of you and John, and wonder if the fact that we are separated, is but one of the punishments, that comes to one in life, for some of there omissions, or commissions."

He goes on in this letter: "Now dear girlie I am going to close this, with a request to give each of them dear dear children a good hug and kiss, for me, and tell them that I think of them every day, and wish that I had them where I could Love them my self, for I have left the largest part of me, back there with them, at least to me it is the part that counts, for it is my love, and as long as they are all that I have to love I want them to humer an old outcast, and let him love them a great deal."

While it appeared that his daughter and his brother and sisters treated him coolly, his oldest granddaughter Flora Hagerty showed him more affection. My memories of my aunt Flora were of a very gracious and warm lady. I don't believe that she ever spoke ill of any one. I can see how she thought much of him. Frank cherished this affection and his letters reflected this love he had for her. She was probably the one family member that overlooked his transgression and accepted him as her grandfather.

It is apparent from his letters that his father never forgave him for what he had done. In his letter of June 18<sup>th</sup> 1916 he indicates that his father was in very poor health and not expected to live very long. He felt that his fathers will was leaving his estate to his brothers and sisters and any portion that was to be his was being willed to Lela, his daughter.

In this letter he acknowledges the fact that Lela's neighbors were spreading the rummer that "Frank had heirs in the West". Again, he stated that there were none that he knew of.

Through out his letters, there are references to what he was missing by not having his daughter and her family living close to him. Even though the distance was great and his reception cool, he apparently received more love from them than his estranged Idaho family.



## HIS FINAL DAYS

The US Census of 1920 listed Frank S. Stewart as living in Lewiston and he was a boarder. He apparently had not bought a home for himself or rented one. Whether this was out of convenience or a financial necessity, I have been unable to determine. His occupation was listed as mining man

Who his friends or associates were during his time in Lewiston, he never mentioned in his letters. I would assume that based on his life in Grangeville, he probably entertained a large number of people - especially mining folks.

He was diagnosed with cancer of the stomach and liver in late 1923. He died at the White Hospital in Lewiston on July 3<sup>rd</sup> 1924. He was buried in the Normal Hill Cemetery in Lewiston on July 5<sup>th</sup> 1924.

His obituary, published in the Lewiston paper, stated that his only survivor was Mrs. Lela Hagerty of Hamilton, Indiana. It went on to tell about his political career in Grangeville and his mining interests.

I was able to obtain a copy of his will from the district court records in Lewiston and in it he listed stocks and some cash deposits as assets to be distributed to his executor, daughter and granddaughter Flora. An interesting statement in the will stated that any other heirs that can prove to be the same had one year to present their claim. Apparently no one presented a claim. When the estate was settled, there was nothing forthcoming to his family.

In addition, I believe that his net worth was very little. I would imagine that medical care would have taken much of his liquid assets as well as burial expenses. The mining stocks listed in the will were probably of little value as well. According to funeral home records, he was buried in a simple wood coffin and no burial vault was used. Thus indicating a very inexpensive funeral and burial. His will stated that he wanted to be "buried with no flourish".

I believe that Frank Stewart Rice left this world a lonely man who had many regrets of how he had lived his earlier life. In his final days he was not attended to by family, the one thing that he so dearly wanted - to have blood relatives in Idaho. None had ever traveled to Idaho to visit him as he wished. Yet, he stated in earlier letters he had no regrets of his successes in his western life. I believe that if he had been able to live his life over, it would have been very different. Probably would have been a farmer in the east and having regrets all his life for not following a dream.

This past September 2004, I visited the cemetery and his grave. There was no marker on it and I'm quite sure that I was the first blood relative that had visited it since he died eighty years ago. When I returned home and contacted cousins, we all agreed that even he should have a marker on his grave site. This is being done.

**Biographers note:**

The spelling of Vaughan also appears as Vaughn on occasion in the newspaper articles. The correct spelling is Vaughan.

## **APPENDIX**