

# Family Group Record for Thomas Bell

<b>Husband</b>	<b>Thomas Bell</b> [KLFD-C31]																							
AKA	Tom Bell																							
Born	Nov 1863	, , , Canada																						
Died	7 Jan 1940	Kissimmee, Osceola, Florida, USA																						
Buried	11 Jan 1940	Mount Peace Cemetery, Osceola, Florida, United States <sup>1</sup>																						
Father	Donald Peter Bell [KLFD-CYK] (1818-1877)																							
Mother	Elizabeth Sausom Webb [KLFD-71P] (1823-1908) <sup>2</sup>																							
Marriage																								
<b>Events</b>																								
1.	He worked as a Rancher in Lusk, Niobrara, Wyoming, United States.																							
2.	He has conflicting birth information of 20 Nov 1862 and Portneuf, Quebec, Canada. <sup>1</sup>																							
3.	Cattle Roundup: Roundup 15, Cheyenne River and all its tributaries west of Hot Springs, So. Dakota, in 1884, in , , Wyoming. Included Tom Bell Cattle Co, Range, Lance Creek, 15,000 cattle.																							
4.	Ranch: in Node, Niobrara, Wyoming.																							
5.	<p>He appeared on the census in 1910 in Lusk, Converse, Wyoming. Thomas Bell, Age 36, Born Nov 1863 in Canada            Home in 1900: Lusk, Converse, Wyoming            Race: White            Gender: Male            Immigration Year: 18?8 [Not readable on microfilm]            Relation to Head of House: Head            Marital Status: Married            Spouse's Name: Cora Bell            Marriage Year: 1893            Years Married: 7            Father's Birthplace: Scotland            Mother's Birthplace: England            Occupation: View on Image            Household Members:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name</th> <th>Age</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Thomas Bell</td> <td>36</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cyril Bell</td> <td>28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Levine E Bell</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thomas L Bell</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Laicl C Bell</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bula Martan</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>George Leagen</td> <td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Minnie Scutt</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Edward Tames</td> <td>26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Edwin Wilkinson</td> <td>10</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Source Citation            Year: 1900; Census Place: Lusk, Converse, Wyoming; Roll: 1826; Page: 4A;            Enumeration District: 0019; FHL microfilm: 1241826            Source Information            Ancestry.com. 1900 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA</p>	Name	Age	Thomas Bell	36	Cyril Bell	28	Levine E Bell	5	Thomas L Bell	3	Laicl C Bell	2	Bula Martan	20	George Leagen	24	Minnie Scutt	25	Edward Tames	26	Edwin Wilkinson	10	
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6.	<p>He appeared on the census in 1910 in Lusk, Converse, Wyoming. Thomas Bell, Age 47, Born abt 1863 in Canada [Canada English]            Home in 1910: Lusk, Converse, Wyoming            Race: White            Gender: Male</p>																							

# Family Group Record for Thomas Bell

Immigration Year: 1867  
Relation to Head of House: Head  
Marital Status: Married  
Spouse's Name: Cora L Bell  
Father's Birthplace: Scotland  
Mother's Birthplace: England  
Native Tongue: English  
Occupation: Stockman  
Industry: Cattle & Horses  
Employer, Employee or Other: Own Account  
Home Owned or Rented: Own  
Home Free or Mortgaged: Mortgaged  
Farm or House: Farm  
Naturalization Status: Naturalized  
Able to Read: Yes  
Able to Write: Yes  
Years Married: 17  
Neighbors: View others on page

Household Members:

Name	Age
Thomas Bell	47
Cora L Bell	35
Everett Bell	15
Floyd Bell	11
Maxwell Bell	8
Irene Bell	7

Source Citation

Year: 1910; Census Place: Lusk, Converse, Wyoming; Roll: T624\_1746; Page: 4B;  
Enumeration District: 0041; FHL microfilm: 1375759

Source Information

Ancestry.com. 1910 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA

7. He appeared on the census in 1920 in Lusk, Niobrara, Wyoming, United States.

Thomas Bell, Age 56, Born abt 1864 in Canada

Home in 1920: Lusk, Niobrara, Wyoming

Race: White

Gender: Male

Immigration Year: 1868

Relation to Head of House: Head

Marital Status: Married

Spouse's Name: Cora L Bell

Father's Birthplace: Scotland

Mother's Birthplace: England

Native Tongue: English

Occupation: manager

Industry: stockranch

Employment Field: Wage or Salary

Home Free or Mortgaged: Free

Neighbors: View others on page

Household Members:

Name	Age
Thomas Bell	56
Cora L Bell	43
Lionel E Bell	25
Floyd C Bell	22
Maxwell K Bell	19

# Family Group Record for Thomas Bell

Cora Irene Bell 18

Source Citation

Year: 1920; Census Place: Lusk, Niobrara, Wyoming; Roll: T625\_2028; Page: 22A; Enumeration District: 86; Image: 368

Source Information

Ancestry.com. 1920 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA

8. His obituary was published on 11 Jan 1940 in Lusk, Niobrara, Wyoming, United States. Thomas "Tom" Bell  
(1864 - January 7, 1940)

The Lusk Herald  
January 11, 1940

Tom Bell, Pioneer Eastern Wyoming Cattleman And Oilman, Passes In Florida

Word was received in Lusk on Monday, January 7, of the death of Tom Bell, who passed away suddenly at his home in Kissimmee, Florida. Bell was one of the pioneer citizens of Wyoming. He was born in Canada in 1864 and first came to this country in the latter 70's. Settling here he worked several years for James Shaw on Platte River near Orin establishing himself in the cattle business and after the turn of the century built up one of the major cattle outfits of eastern Wyoming. He resided in this state for almost fifty years before retiring to move to Florida.

On December 7, 1892 he was united in marriage to Miss Cora Root, daughter of a pioneer family of eastern Wyoming. Five children were born to bless this union, his wife and two children, a son, Lionel, and a daughter, Miss Irene, together with the widow survive his passing. Three sons preceded their father in death. Tom, Jr., Floyd and Max.

Tom Bell was one of the pioneers in the Lance Creek oil field. During the early days of the field he was instrumental in organizing the Buck Creek Oil company and later the Tom Bell Royalty company, both of which at one time controlled thousands of acres in the field. late in 1917 the Ohio Oil company brought in the discovery well in the Lance Creek field, a gusher adjoining Bell's ranch. In the spring of 1918 Bell organized the Buck Creek Oil company to explore his own vast holdings. Almost overnight the oil boom grew and Buck Creek stock, although \$1 at par rose to as high as \$11 a share. Tom Bell Royalty soared to \$2.50 a share. At that time it was reported that Bell refused \$3,000,000 for his interest in this field. Then almost as suddenly as it grew, the boom subsided and oil production dwindled away. Major companies withdrew from the field and for a time it seemed the field would prove a dud.

Mr. Bell at one time served as mayor of Lusk, being elected to that office in 1909 and serving until 1912. Twelve years ago he disposed of most of his interests and retired from active business life, moving to Florida.

In 1936 a new and more prolific sand was discovered at deeper levels in the Lance Creek field, which has again brought increased activity to the field and gained it a place as the greatest producing field in the Rocky Mountain area. During the boom days Bell was interested in the building up of Lusk and several of the present day business structures were backed by him financially.

Tom Bell was one of the most picturesque and interesting pioneers of this

# Family Group Record for Thomas Bell

state. Coming to Wyoming he settled down and established one of the finest cattle herds in the west. His brand, the Car Link is one of the best known in the West. A resident of this community for almost fifty years he was well and favorably known to thousands of older residents of the state.

In 1927, after retiring from active business, Mr. and Mrs. Bell and the family moved to Kissimmee, near St. Cloud, Florida. His death came suddenly on Monday, being attributed to heart trouble. Directors of the Buck Creek Oil company were in session at Lusk when first word of his passing was received here.

No word of funeral arrangements had been received here at the time the Herald went to press.

<b>Wife</b>	<b>Cora Louise Root [L219-WP7]</b>	
Born	Apr 1873	Brattleboro, Windham, Vermont, United States
Died	9 Oct 1946	Lusk, Niobrara, Wyoming, United States
Buried		
Father	Benjamin Root [L4V9-ZRV] (1842- )	
Mother	Sarah [L7JZ-58Q] (1842-1929)	

**Events**

1. Alt Birth: 5 Apr 1874, Brattleboro, Windham, Vermont, United States. From her obit. Census said Apr 1873.
2. She had a residence in 1880 in Highland, Guthrie, Iowa, United States.<sup>3</sup>
3. She had a residence in 1910 in Lusk, , Wyoming.<sup>3</sup>
4. Her obituary was published on 10 Oct 1946 in Lusk, Niobrara, Wyoming, United States. <http://www.niobrara.library.org/obituaries/index.php?id=6719>

Cora Louise (Root) Bell

(April 5, 1874 - October 9, 1946)

The Lusk Herald  
October 10, 1946

Mrs. Cora Bell, Pioneer Resident, Dies Wednesday

Mrs. Cora Bell, 72, pioneer resident, and widow of the late Tom Bell, passed away at the Lusk Hospital Wednesday afternoon, October 9, at about 3:00 o'clock p.m., having entered the hospital a few weeks previously after having suffered a severe heart attack.

Mrs. Bell is a pioneer resident of this community and a sister of Fred and Arthur Root of Lusk. Her daughter, Mrs. Irene Franchini of Tranquility, California, and her son, Lionel Bell and wife of St. Cloud, Florida, have been in Lusk for some time so they could be near their mother, whom they knew to be critically ill.

Funeral arrangements have not been made as The Herald goes to press this (Wednesday) evening, but a complete obituary will be published next week.

# Family Group Record for Thomas Bell

The Lusk Herald  
October 17, 1946  
Last Rites Held for Mrs. Bell

The last rites for Mrs. Cora R. Bell, who has been a resident of this community for nearly sixty years were held from the Peet Chapel on Friday afternoon, at 2:30 o'clock.

The Rev. Ezra Duncan, pastor of the Baptist Church of Lusk, officiated at the service, and Miss Anita Vargason and Miss Phyllis Johns sang "Old Rugged Cross," "In the Garden" and "The Way Leads Home," with Mrs. J. P. Watson as accompanist.

The casket bearers were Ed Schroefel, Charles E. Scace, Henry Petz, Thomas O. Miller, Roy ZumBrunnen and Albert Olinger.

Interment was made in the Lusk Cemetery.

Cora Louise Root Bell was born in Brattleboro, Vermont, April 5, 1874. With her parents, brother Fred and younger sister, Lena, the family moved to Iowa in 1878, and here another brother, Arthur, was born.

The family moved to Nebraska in 1885, where they lived for a couple of years, then in 1887 they came to Wyoming, making the trip in a covered wagon, and settled on land north of Lusk, which is now known as the McConaughey ranch.

December, 1891, Cora Root was married to Thomas Bell, and five children were born to them - Lionel, Thomas, Floyd, Maxwell and Irene. Soon after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Bell located some ten miles northeast of Lusk on what was known as the Node ranch, but moved into Lusk when the children became of school age.

Three of the sons met tragic death. Thomas was killed at the age of 9 years by being thrown from a Shetland pony; Maxwell was killed in a car accident on the highway between Harrison and Van Tassell, and Floyd died from the effects of a tarantula bite while in Florida.

## Mr. Bell died in Florida in 1940.

Mrs. Bell has made Lusk her home since coming here as a child with the exception of several winters which she spent in Florida or California. She spent this summer in Lusk and had visited relatives in Casper and Douglas shortly before she suffered a heart attack here about a month ago at the home of her brother, Fred Root.

Death came to her at the Lusk Hospital Wednesday afternoon, October 9, 1946, at about three o'clock.

Her son, Lionel Bell, and wife of St. Cloud, Florida, and her daughter, Mrs. Irene Franchini of Tranquility, Calif., had been in Lusk about two weeks prior to her death. Other survivors are her two brothers, Fred and Arthur Root of Lusk.

Out-of-town friends and relatives here for the funeral services were Mr. and Mrs. Fred K. Root of Shoshoni, Mr. and Mrs. H. Stark of Powell, Mr. and Mrs. Vern McNare of Douglas, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Spracklen of Casper, Mrs. Elmer Hardy and daughter Ruth of Douglas and Mr. and Mrs. E. Stone of Inglewood, Calif.

# Family Group Record for Thomas Bell

Children		
<b>1</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Lionel Everett Bell</b> [K2Q6-TH1]
Born	8 Sep 1894	Lusk, Converse, Wyoming
Died	8 Dec 1963	Kissimmee, Osceola, Florida, United States <sup>4</sup>
Buried	11 Dec 1963	Osceola Memory Gardens, Osceola, Florida, United States <sup>4</sup>
Spouse		
Events		
1. He had a residence in 1910 in Lusk, , Wyoming. <sup>4</sup>		
<b>2</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Floyd C. Bell</b> [K2Q6-R52] <sup>1</sup>
Born	21 Sep 1899	Wyoming, United States <sup>1</sup>
Died	13 Jan 1924	St. Cloud, Osceola, Florida, United States <sup>1</sup>
Buried	15 Jan 1924	Mount Peace Cemetery, Osceola, Florida, United States <sup>1</sup>
Spouse		
<b>3</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Maxwell Bell</b> [LKT4-3JK] <sup>1</sup>
Born	1902	Wyoming <sup>1</sup>
Died		
Buried		
Spouse		
<b>4</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Irene Bell</b> [LKT4-3VJ] <sup>1</sup>
Born	1903	Wyoming <sup>1</sup>
Died		
Buried		
Spouse		
General Notes: Husband - Thomas Bell		
<p><a href="http://www.niobraraountylibrary.org/history/?id=39">http://www.niobraraountylibrary.org/history/?id=39</a></p> <p>Node, Wyoming</p> <p>Last updated: December 31, 2015</p> <p>Niobrara Historical Brevity July 1, 1986</p> <p>From "Niobrara Historical Brevity" published by the Niobrara Historical Society, in observance of the Lusk Centennial 1886-1986</p> <p>Node, Wyoming is located nine miles east of Lusk on Highway 20. When Node first became a town is somewhat of a question. July 1919 was the date of the first post office. The first postmaster was Peter Hansen, his homestead house being his place of business. The post office was later moved to the C. C. DeHoff store. Mr. DeHoff became the postmaster in 1913 and remained until 1922.</p> <p>Several stores came into being to service the homesteaders and the <b><u>Tom Bell ranch. The Bell Ranch was probably the largest ranch around at that time. The brand which was a knot was where the name Node (which meant knot) came from.</u></b></p> <p>Around 1915 there were several stores including the DeHoff grocery, Burnaugh grocery, the Stuart Lumber Company, a café and a pool hall, the Lutheran Church which is now the Lutheran Church of Lusk, the Congregational Church which is now the building that was the Node school house for many years. It is still used for a community building and for Sunday school. A. A. McCoy bought the store and became postmaster in 1922 and was there until 1945. At that time it was taken over by Mr.</p>		

# Family Group Record for Thomas Bell

General Notes: Husband - Thomas Bell (cont.)

and Mrs. Joseph Schulte. The post office and store changed hands again to Pete and Mary German in 1956. Mary is still postmaster in 1986.

In 1915 a tornado came through Node and killed a child and injured another one.

At the time that Carl Bruch came in 1910, there was even a bar in the town of Node. As to the population - there were around 50 people.

Carl Bruch tells of unloading a new tractor that was shipped in on the railroad. This was in 1918. A lot of building material and oilfield equipment was hauled in at this time because of the Lance Creek oil boom.

There was a railroad storage at Node for coal, salt and feed. Also a good sized stock yard and a chute for loading livestock.

The Node Cemetery is located about a mile south of Node on land given by Herbert Sabin.

In 1986 Node has a population of three.

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<http://www.niobrara.library.org/history/?id=15>

Last updated: May 1, 2013

Library Costlow Collection  
May 24, 1956

FRANK LUSK FOUNDED 3 WYOMING TOWNS  
By Ralph Olinger

Early Livestock Man, Railroader

The history of Frank S. Lusk in his association with Wyoming has to do with the livestock and railway industries. He started one of the first cattle ranches in Niobrara County, and, as the lone Wyoming resident stockholder of the Wyoming Central railroad, was the founder of three of Wyoming's prosperous county seat towns...

The node ranch was sold in 1894 to Tom Bell. This apparently ended the operation of the Western Live Stock Company, this being the name of the outfit operated by Frank S. Lusk and his associates; also the use of the Node brand, as Tom Bell's brand was the car link...

The first plat of the Town of Lusk was recorded in July, 1886, consisting of Blocks 1 to 13 inclusive; from that date there were six more plats filed for blocks and lots, the final two being in 1918 and 1919 when Lusk was experiencing its greatest boom days, and the Lance Creek oil field was starting to develop. About the year 1910, Frank Lusk sold his interest in the town site of Lusk to Messrs. Tom Bell, L.J. Lohlein and Harry C. Snyder and his investments in eastern Wyoming came to an end. The railroad had had an agreement with Lusk and the others who followed him, on a fifty-fifty ownership, and the town site properties were in the name of the Pioneer Townsite Company. Sales of lots were made by an agent for the Pioneer Townsite Co. on a commission basis. During the big Lusk boom, every lot platted in 57 Blocks was sold, mostly on contract, and many lapsed when the boom subsided.

# Family Group Record for Thomas Bell

General Notes: Husband - Thomas Bell (cont.)

Finally the Townsite Company sold all unsold lots and parts of outlots to the Town of Lusk November 17, 1945 for a few hundred dollars...

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<http://www.niobrara.library.org/history/?id=142>

Roundup of 1884, by Addison A. Spaugh

Last updated: January 22, 2015

Lusk Free Lance  
May 17, 1934

Addison A. Spaugh Looks Back Half a Century to Day He Started on Famous OW Roundup of 1884; Was Foreman

Half a century is a long time to anyone -- more years than many live, but for A. A. Spaugh, prominent pioneer stockman of this county, it marks merely a part of his life spent in Wyoming, during which he has experienced many things we read about in books. Fifty years ago Tuesday, Mr. Spaugh, then a man of less than thirty years, started out from Hat Creek station as foreman of one of the great roundups of 1884, any one of which has made history for this state.

The particular roundup in which Mr. Spaugh "bossed," and was assisted by his brother, Curtis Spaugh, lasted for six weeks, and covered the vast territory m which the Cheyenne River and its tributaries flow, west of the Black Hills.

Roundups were roundups in those days. There were no fences or gates to worry about, and the range was there for those who arrived first. Before that, roundup, which is known as Number 15 in the records of 1884 Roundups, was completed, a total of 200 men and 2,000 saddle horses had figured in the gathering of more than 400,000 head of cattle. It was one of the largest of the spring gather-ups in the state. It started May 15th at the head of Sage Creek, coursed thence to the OW ranch, down to Old Woman creek to mouth; thence up Lance creek to head; thence to head of Harney creek, down Harney creek to mouth, working Twenty Mile; thence across to Walker creek; working to Beaver Dam on Lightning creek; thence to Cow creek; thence down Snyder creek to mouth; thence up Lodge Pole to head thence down Black Thunder to Cheyenne river; thence up Cheyenne River to mouth of Antelope and tributaries to head; finally working Dry creek, Box creek and head of Lightning creek.

There were others on that roundup, who since helped to make history for the state and who rose to fame in later years. Many have died but Mr. Spaugh in relating the anniversary occasion, named such men as the late U. S. Senator John B. Kendrick, Billy Irvine, Lee Moore, J. W. Hammond, deceased; and Mark Beathem, Tom Bell and Harry Crane, who still survive, as having worked with him on this roundup.

Mr. Spaugh came to Wyoming in August, 1875, worked as a ranch hand and cowboy through the years preceding and including 1884. The following year he started in the cattle business for himself, and has since that time been continuously engaged in the stock-raising industry.

He was foreman of the famous OW ranch at the time it was owned by A.R. Converse. The late Senator Kendrick followed him as foreman of the OW outfit.

So interesting was Mr. Spaughs information on this phase of Wyoming's early history, that we persuaded him to write an article relating some of the details of the 1884



# Family Group Record for Thomas Bell

General Notes: Husband - Thomas Bell (cont.)

roundup, which he has been so kind as to do. The article will be found in another column of this issue.

THE FAMOUS OW ROUNDUP OF 1884

By A. A. Spaugh, Foreman of Roundup No. 15

Editor's Note: - The following letter, written by Addison A. Spaugh pioneer rancher and stockman of this county, tells of many of the interesting incidents which took place during and preceding the famous OW Roundup of 1884. This information, authoritatively given by Mr. Spaugh, who was foreman of the spring roundup that year, will, we are certain, be thoroughly enjoyed by our readers and we take greatest pleasure in offering it in these columns. Tuesday marked the 50th anniversary of the date when that famous roundup began.

Manville, Wyoming  
May 14, 1934  
Mr. Arthur Vogel, Editor  
Lusk Free Lance  
Lusk, Wyoming

Dear Mr. Vogel: -

Pursuant to our talk yesterday, I am writing you some pioneer history leading up to the famous OW Roundup of 1884.

In the summer of 1879, John Kendrick drove a herd of cattle from Texas up the Chisholm Trail for C. W. Wulfgen and turned them loose in the late summer just west of the old Madden ranch, a stage station on the Cheyenne and Black Hills Trail, on what was then known as the west prong of Running Water, later on taking the name of Quinn Creek, and on another creek north called Duck Creek. During the winter the cattle drifted over on the head of Old Woman Creek.

In the spring of 1880, they gathered the cattle and drove them down onto Lower Lance Creek, near where the old Warren postoffice was located later on, and built the ULA ranch, and located there permanently.

In the summer of 1880, while on a roundup where the town of Wheatland is now located, I was introduced to Mr. H. S. Manville and James S. Peck by A. H. Swan, the owner of the Swan Land & Title Company, who had contracted a herd of 2,000 Oregon cattle to be delivered to Manville & Peck on the Laramie Plains in August of 1880. They wanted to hire a man to receive the cattle after having looked up and located a range for them. I was working for John Sparks at the time from his ranch at Pine Bluffs. After the roundup was over, I joined Mr. Manville in Cheyenne for the purpose of looking up a location for his cattle. We bought a team of horses and a buggy in Cheyenne and started north.

Manville & Peck were much impressed with the land and ranch in Cheyenne Pass 30 miles northwest of Cheyenne which was offered for sale, but I argued with them that if they were looking for a summer resort, that would be a fine place, but if they wanted to build up a cattle ranch, we should go some place north of the North Platte River. We went from Cheyenne to Ft. Laramie and from there to Ft. Robinson to look over the White River country and from there to Hat Creek station on the Cheyenne & Black Hills stage line, looking over the country en route.

We met a man at Hat Creek by the name of O. C. Wade, who had a mule train and also

# Family Group Record for Thomas Bell

General Notes: Husband - Thomas Bell (cont.)

an ox train freighting on the Cheyenne-Black Hills Trail. He also had a ranch and 1,200 head of cattle 8 miles west of Hat Creek on the Old Woman Creek. There was nothing to the ranch but a squatter's right, as the country had not at that time been surveyed, a dug-out, a small stable, a corral and a small tract of land fenced in for a meadow. But he did have 1,200 head of fine cattle on the ranch. He wanted to sell the cattle and ranch, and we were not long in making a trade with him, since people bought cattle in those days by book account, taking the man's word for what he had. Mr. Manville thought that was like buying a school of fish in the sea, but the trade went through.

We looked the cattle over for a day or so, as best we could, as there was no other cattle on the range at that time, and saw that they were all well branded with an OW on the left side. Wade also had a few saddle horses which we bought. We left a man in charge of the ranch and cattle and Mr. Manville and I returned to Cheyenne to make (preparations) to receive the Oregon cattle on the Laramie Plains from Mr. Swan. I bought some saddle horses and rigged up a camp wagon in Cheyenne and pulled out for the Laramie Plains where we received the cattle and drove them down across the mountains, just east of Laramie Peak, across the Platte River at the mouth of Muddy.

It was on this trip up the Muddy that I discovered the Spanish Diggings. Thinking I had discovered a Spanish gold mine, I reported the fact to Mr. Manville and he reported it to Adams and Glover, two drug store men in Cheyenne, who had two men mining in the Hartville country by the name of Locke & Stein and who afterwards made some exploration of the Diggings, I will write more about the Spanish Diggings later on.

We arrived safely at the OW ranch with the cattle. It was on the fall roundup of 1880 in the Lance Creek country that I first met John Kendrick. After the roundup was over, I hired a woodsman, whose name I cannot remember now, and a man to help him, and set them to work to build a house of logs and a barn and prepare for winter, for we had already put up what hay there was in the meadow and stacked it in the corral near where the barn was to be built.

That winter we organized what was called The Converse Cattle Co. in Cheyenne with a capital stock of one million dollars. W. C. Irvine who owned the JY herd on the north side of the North Platte River consisting of about 5,000 head of cattle, where the railroad station of Irvine is now located, went in with us, and was made vice-president of the company. A. R. Converse, president of the First National Bank of Cheyenne, Wyoming Territory, also joined us and was made president of the company. Mr. H. S. Manville was made general manager, Mr. James S. Jeck, secretary and Treasurer and I was made the range manager.

During that winter of 1880 and 1881, I succeeded in getting a very good ranch built up: a three room log house, a store house for storing provisions, which was very necessary in those days when we bought our supplies in large quantities, a good log barn that would hold twenty horses, wagon shed, blacksmith shop, which was also very necessary on a well equipped ranch in those days.

In the spring of '82 and before the spring roundup started, we bought the Horse Shoe Bar herd on the head of Lance Creek from a man by the name of Andy Carr. Later on, we bought the V5 ranch on Lance Creek from a man by the name of Harkness, where the Lance Creek oil field is now located. Still later we bought the U Bar L ranch on Lance Creek, ten miles below the V5, and a little later bought the ULA ranch from Kendrick & Wulfgen which was located in Lower Lance Creek. These outfits consisted of about 3,000 head of cattle to each outfit, but no land was purchased with these ranches as at that time the land had not been surveyed, and we could get only a

# Family Group Record for Thomas Bell

General Notes: Husband - Thomas Bell (cont.)

squatter's right with each ranch.

Following the sale of the ULA ranch to the OW outfit, Kendrick took an interest in the 77 ranch on Wyatt Creek, a tributary to Lance Creek, with T. B. Hord, and did much improving and building at the 77 ranch which still stands out as his handiwork in ranch building today.

It will be fifty years ago tomorrow, May 15th, 1934, that Kendrick met me and many others at the OW ranch for the famous OW Roundup of '84. We made the first roundup that morning at Hat Creek station on the Cheyenne-Black Hills stage line. There were about 20 different cattle outfits represented by nearly 200 men with 2,000 horses. Among them were:

**Tom Bell Cattle Co, Range, Lance Creek, 15,000 cattle.**

Boyd Bros. OU, Range, Cheyenne River, 10,000 cattle.  
J.M. Carey & Bro., CY, Range, Platte River, 60,000 cattle.  
Carlisle Cattle Co, COD, Range, Powder River, 10,000 cattle.  
Concord Cattle Co., COD, Range, Powder River, 10,000 cattle.  
C. F. Coffee, 010 Bar, Range, Hat Creek Basin, 10,000 cattle.  
M.O. Connors, MC, Range, Powder River, 8,000 cattle.  
Converse Cattle Co., OW, Range, Lance Creek, 40,000 cattle.  
Dater Bro. & Co., O Bar O, Range, Cheyenne River, 15,000 cattle.  
Davis & Robins, Spectacle Brand, Powder River, 9,000 cattle.  
J. H. Ford, A. Range, Cheyenne River, 12,000 cattle.  
Plunket Cattle Co., EK, Range, Powder River, 15,000 cattle.  
Dr. E. B. Graham, 04, Range, Running Water, 8,000 cattle.  
Hammond Cattle Co., 4W, Range, Cheyenne River, 9,000 cattle.  
Mike Henry, 88, Range, Cheyenne River, 8,000 cattle.  
T. B. Hord, 77, Range, Lance Creek, 7,000 cattle.  
Geo. Keeline & Sons, Hog Eye Brand, Platte River, 15,000 cattle.  
Ogallala Cattle Co., Keystone Brand, Cheyenne River, 60,000 cattle.  
Union Cattle Co., Bridle Bit, Range, Cheyenne River, 50,000 cattle.  
Suffolk Cattle Co., AU7, Range, Cheyenne River, 25,000 cattle.  
Circle Bar Outfit, Range, Indian Creek, 30,000 cattle.  
Bar T. outfit, Range, Indian Creek, E. W. Whitcomb, 15,000 cattle.  
Major Wolcott, VR, Range, Platte River, 15,000 cattle.

This roundup is listed on the roundup bill of 1884 as number 15, and it worked the Cheyenne River and all its tributaries west of Hot Springs, So. Dakota. It rounded up and worked 400,000 cattle in six weeks. I was the foreman of this roundup, and C. E. Spough was the assistant foreman to the mouth of Black Thunder on the Cheyenne River and J. B Moore was the assistant foreman.

What Happened after the Roundup

The Cheyenne River Ranges and its tributaries became badly overstocked. In the winter of 1885, I sold out my interest in the OW outfit and started the ranch that I now own at the head of Running Water and Lance Creek. W. O. Irvine, the vice president of the Converse Cattle Co., took over the range management of the OW outfit. A year later, he accepted the management of the Ogallala Land & Cattle Co., and the OW outfit. This was about 1886 and 1887, and he moved the outfit to Hanging Woman in northern Wyoming where he operated a cattle ranch up to the time of his death.

What happened to A. A. Spough, the foreman of the Roundup of '84, will be related in a book entitled, 'Fifty-Seven Years in the Shadows of the Rockies,' which means all

# Family Group Record for Thomas Bell

General Notes: Husband - Thomas Bell (cont.)

the way from Old Mexico to Canada.

Yours Truly,

A. A. Spaugh  
Addison A. Spaugh

P.S. - I have a photograph taken ten years ago of the survivors of the Roundup of '84. Among them were Senator Kendrick, Tom Bell, Lee Moore, Mark Beatham, Billy Irvine, C. L. Talbot, Harry Crain, J. W. Hammond, A. A. Spaugh. Four from this group have since passed away. Among those in this community who were here during the roundup of '84 are Edward M. Arnold, Lee Miller, Frank Decastro, Harry Card and Jack Blackwell.

Photos from Fred A. Rosenstock, Denver; published in When Grass Was King: Contribution to the Western Range Cattle Industry Study, Colorado Press, 1956

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<http://www.wyomingtalesandtrails.com/jayem.html>

Lusk Photos  
From Wyoming Tales and Trails

About twelve miles west of Van Tassell and eight miles east of Lusk is Node. The false-fronted building to the left of center with the barn behind it is the DeHoff & Son store owned by Clarence C. DeHoff. The store sold dry goods, groceries, dry-goods and farming implements. The store also housed the post office of which DeHoff was the postmaster. In the distance is the Lutheran Church.

Node derived its name from the Node Ranch founded prior to 1880. "Node" referred to a brand held by the ranch in the shape of a knot or node. The ranch was at one time owned by the Western Live Stock Company in which Frank Lusk held an interest. The ranch was sometimes referred to as the "Flying E."

In 1894, the Node Ranch was sold to Thomas Bell who operated as the Tom Bell Cattle Co. Tom Bell was originally from Portneuf, Quebec. His family moved to Richland, Nebraska in 1867 when Tom was four years of age. His father died in 1877 and his mother remarried. Bell came to Wyoming on his own at 15 and was employed by Swan and later by Charles F. Hecht as a range rider. For Hecht, he rode line along Young Woman and Lightening Creeks. On occasion he shared a dugout line cabin with a cowboy working for the OW, John Kendrick. Kendrick later became governor and a United States Senator. Bell would also share the dugout with the horses, the horses being separated by a canvas wall.

After he purchased the ranch, Bell discontinued use of the Node brand. Instead Bell used a "carlink" brand. Bell ran principally a hereford-short horn mix. Bell served as the first chairman of the Board of County Commissioners upon the formation of Niobrara County. The town, however, retained the Node name. Bell ultimately retired to Florida.

The post office was not established until 1910 when Peter Hansen was designated as postmaster. He maintained the office at his homestead. The post office was later moved to the DeHoff Store.

with an influx of homesteaders attracted by the promise of dryfarming, in January

# Family Group Record for Thomas Bell

## General Notes: Husband - Thomas Bell (cont.)

1914 a second store was established by Peter Hansen and John Ohlsen. The DeHoff Store was previously advertised as the "The Node Store." From January to the end of May, 1914 Hansen and Ohlsen advertised on lower right page 4 of the Van Tassell Pioneer and the Lusk Herald as "Node's New Store." for the five months each of the Hansen and Ohlsen ads were matched center bottom page 4 with a corresponding ad for DeHuff's Node Store. In August Burnaugh's Cash Store appeared and then disappeared from the advertising columns. DeHuff then reverted to his two line mentions under Node news. But Node was already beginning to fade. In 1915, a tornado blew the railroad section house off its foundations, flooded stores in the business section, and scattered Ohlsen's house across the prairie. In 1916, the DeHuff store was sold and subsequently sold to I. M. Jones who had a store in Van Tassell.

In 1914, the Reverend Annette B. Gray, Assistant Superintendent for the Congregational Churches in Wyoming and a correspondent for the American Missionary Magazine wrote:

TRAVELING west from the Nebraska border on the Northwestern railway in Wyoming, one comes first to the little new village of Van Tassell with its pretty church. The train pushes on over the great undulating plains, where great ranches are being cut up into smaller holdings for dry-farming. New families are coming in to occupy the scattered homes of which you get a glimpse on the horizon. They are from Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois and other states farther east. Presently the whistle blows for Node. There is only a nucleus of a few houses as yet. The place claims only a hundred and forty people within three miles. But they are mostly Americans, engaged in farming and stock raising. The bounds of the parish are much wider than this, and some of the members of our little church organized a year ago live five or ten miles away.

The Reverend Gray continued:

Had you been in Node a year ago, you would have seen no church there. But the people felt that they must have a place of worship, and a generous man gave a lot near the station on which to build. The people took hold of the task with great enthusiasm and self-sacrifice, and pushed the work through the winter so that on April 5th, 1914, they had the feast of dedication, with Superintendent and Mrs. Gray to share in the services with the pastor, Rev. George Dalzell. The picture shows what a fine lot of people our frontier churches can gather. This is the only English-speaking church in the community, one other church being a German Lutheran. American Missionary, "What They Did in Node, Wyoming", vol. 68, p. 484 (1914)

The comment by the Reverend Mrs. Gray about the train whistle for Node was appropriate, it probably never amounted to much more than a whistle stop as indicated by the size of the railroad station.

With the decline of Dry Farming, Node had declined to a population of 25 by the late 1930's. By the late 1980's the town had declined to a population of three. The Post office officially closed at the end of business, October 8, 1991.

Jay Em south of Lusk, traces its beginnings to about 1869, when James Moore started the J M along Rawhide Creek about two miles north of the present town of Jay Em. Moore in conjunction with Charles Moore owned ranches on the North Platte at Cedar Creek, Nebraska, and on the South Platte near present day Stirling, Colorado. During the short life of the Pony Express, Jim Moore was a rider between Midway and Julesburg. The division from Mud Springs to Julesburg was sometimes referred to as the "Jules Stretch" after the line's superintendent Jules Beni. Beni, as discussed with regard to the Overland Stage, died at the hands of Jack Slade. On June 8, 1860, Moore made his epic 280-mile round trip from Midway to Julesburg and back in 14

# Family Group Record for Thomas Bell

General Notes: Husband - Thomas Bell (cont.)

hours and 46 minutes, changing mounts at Julesbvrge, Thirty-Mile Ridge, Mud Springs and ending at Midway. Moore averaged over 18 miles per hour. The ride was described by Col. Henry Inman and Col. Cody in their 1898 The Great Sale Lake Trail:

James Moore, the first post-trader at Sidney, Nebraska, made a ride which may well lay claim to be one of the most remarkable on record. He was at Midway Station, in Western Nebraska, on June 8, 1860, when a very important government despatch [sic] for the Pacific coast arrived. Mounting his pony, he sped on to Julesburg, one hundred and forty miles away, and he got every inch of speed out of his mounts. At Julesburg he met another important government despatch for Washington. The rider who should have carried the despatch east had been killed the day before. After a rest of only seven minutes and without eating a meal, Moore started for Midway, and he made the round trip, two hundred and eighty miles, in fourteen hours and forty-six minutes. The west-bound despatch reached Sacramento from St. Joseph in eight days, nine hours, and forty minutes.

Moore sold the ranch to Van Tassell. Later, after Moore's death, Van Tassell married Moore's widow. The Town of Jay Em, twenty-three miles south of Lusk in Goshen County, was founded by Lake C. Harris (1889-1983) about 1905. The town was named after Jim Moore's J M Ranch. Harris claimed a homestead in 1912. At one time, the little town had a post office, grocery store, hardware, garage, and the Farmer's State Bank of Jay Em which opened in 1920 and sold out in 1945. The bank was one of the few that did not close during President Franklin Roosevelt's bank moratorium. (The bank did not get the word.) Shoults Garage in the photo was operated by James Alan Shoults (1891-1973) between 1928 and 1945. A blacksmith shop was behind the garage. Shoults sold out to Wolfe's Repair. The barns in the distance housed the hardware and grocery.

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<http://www.wyomingtalesandtrails.com/lusk.html>

...Niobrara County, of which Lusk is the county seat, was formed in 1911 out of the eastern portion of Converse County, which, in turn, had been formed out of portions of Albany and Laramie Counties in 1888. Upon the formation of Converse County. Lusk and Manville both vied with Douglas to be the County seat of Converse County. Although Douglas won, the editor of the Budget in Douglas complained, after the election, of Lusk's and Manville's zeal to become county seat, contending that Lusk had permitted children, canary birds and poodle dogs to vote, and that of the 226 votes for Manville, 200 were fraudulent.

In 1911, there was equal bitterness over whether Niobrara County should be split off from Converse County. Those around Manville and Keeline were generally against formation, although, in Manville, Addison Spaugh supported the new county. The prime movers behind the formation of the new county were H. C. Snyder, **Thomas Bell**, Russell Thorpe, and George Voorhees. Adamantly opposed were the editor of the Manville Register and former legislator Nat Baker, indeed, to such an extent that Baker threatened Snyder with a shootout...

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<http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=jandnmom&id=I04209>

J&N Blagg's Roots

...I broke bronks to ride, and also work horses, as a way of earning spending money. My brother Al and I picked up potatoes for Pete Davin of Manville, Wyoming in the

# Family Group Record for Thomas Bell

## General Notes: Husband - Thomas Bell (cont.)

year 1894 for 50 cents a day, and I also worked for Tom Bell at Node, Wyoming putting up hay. He had 5 wagons with 2 men on each wagon. We hauled it in and stacked it. I remember Bunt Alter and Len Christian worked together. I worked with Frank Hanson, who was Dan Hanson's father. We were paid \$1.00 per day and board. We worked long hours. One Saturday there were 5 of us who got on our horses to ride to Lusk. When we started home, we went to the livery stable to get our horses. I was riding a pretty spooky horse, and it started bucking and threw me off into the middle of the street. I sent word with the boys that I would be down as soon as I was able to pitch hay. On the third day, Tom came to town with the cook, who had quit. He asked me if I would go out to do the cooking, which I did.

In the year of 1913, I took up a homestead and moved to this location. It was situated about 8 miles northeast of Jay Em, Wyoming. I went into the horse business and accumulated around 700 head. At one time, Charlie Lewis, who had a horse ranch on the edge of Nebraska, and myself owned practically all of the horses in that part of the country--from VanTassell to Torrington, Wyoming...

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<http://person.ancestry.com/tree/54216110/person/26075836451/facts>

Thomas Bell  
1863'96  
BIRTH NOV 1863 • Canada  
DEATH Unknown

### Facts

Age 0 '97 Birth Nov 1863 • Canada  
Age 4 '97 Arrival 1867

Age 30 '97 Birth of Son Lionel Everett Bell(1894'961963), 8 Sep 1894 • Lusk, Niobrara, Wyoming, USA

Age 32 '97 Birth of Son Thomas L. Bell(1896'961905), Jun 1896 • Lusk, Niobrara, Wyoming, USA

Age 33 '97 Birth of Son Floyd Cecil Bell(1897'96), 21 Sep 1897 • Lusk, Niobrara, Wyoming, USA

Age 36 '97 Birth of Son Maxwell Keith Bell(1900'961931), 15 Jul 1900 • Lusk, Niobrara, Wyoming, USA

Age 37 '97 Residence 1900 • Lusk, Niobrara, Wyoming, USA

Age 37 '97 Birth of Daughter Cora Irene Bell(1901'961980), 3 Sep 1901 • Lusk, Niobrara, Wyoming, USA

Age 41 '97 Death of Son Thomas L. Bell(1896'961905), 14 Jun 1905 • Lusk, Niobrara, Wyoming, USA

Age 47 '97 Residence, 1910 • Lusk, Niobrara, Wyoming, USA

Age 57 '97 Residence, 1920 • Lusk, Niobrara, Wyoming, USA

Age 67 '97 Death of Son Maxwell Keith Bell(1900'961931), 13 Jun 1931 • Lusk, Niobrara, Wyoming, USA

# Family Group Record for Thomas Bell

General Notes: Husband - Thomas Bell (cont.)

Age 82 '97 Death of Wife Cora Louise Root(1875'961946), 9 Oct 1946 • Lusk, Niobrara, Wyoming, USA

Age 100 '97 Death of Son Lionel Everett Bell(1894'961963), 8 Dec 1963 • Orange County, Florida, USA

Age 116 '97 Death of Daughter Cora Irene Bell(1901'961980), 18 Jul 1980 • Fresno, Fresno, California, USA

Family:

Parents

Spouse & Children

Cora Louise Root 1875'961946

Lionel Everett Bell 1894'961963

Thomas L. Bell 1896'961905

Floyd Cecil Bell 1897'96

Maxwell Keith Bell 1900'961931

Cora Irene Bell 1901'961980

Sources

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1900 United States Federal Census

1910 United States Federal Census

1920 United States Federal Census

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# Source Citations

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2. Priscilla Bell Landers, her records.
3. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, "FamilySearch," database, *FamilySearch* (<http://new.familysearch.org> : accessed 7 May 2016), entry for Cora Louise Root, person ID L219-WP7.
4. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, "FamilySearch," database, *FamilySearch* (<http://new.familysearch.org> : accessed 7 May 2016), entry for Lionel Everett Bell, person ID K2Q6-TH1.