

Obituary for Frank Hamilton Pettit, unknown source, provided by Ancestry user.

#### FRANK H. PETTIT CALLED SUDDENLY LAST FRIDAY

Frank H. Pettit, well known pioneer of the Big Timber section passed away suddenly last Friday following a short but most severe illness from heart trouble, induced by a recent illness from influenza. Mr. Pettit appeared to be considerable improved the morning of his death and was up and around the house. The end came after he had climbed the stairs to the second floor, the heart apparently being overcome by this added physical exertion. The funeral services were conducted from the home Saturday by Rev. Frank Woodward and interment was in the Benkelman cemetery. Although Mr. Pettit was of an exceptionally modest disposition with a tendency to keep in the back ground as much as possible, nevertheless he will be greatly missed in the Big Timber section for he was among its most outstanding citizens in many ways. He came to that community in its early history at a time when discontent and discouragements were rampant over the West, best known to the pioneer as the "drouth period". It came close on the heels of the severe reverses in pioneer life caused by the grasshopper scourge. Mr. Pettit, with his youngest brother E. L. Pettit, who had associated themselves together in a partnership which endured during the remainder of his life, began his ranching operations in growing cattle and horses. He was a lover of good horses and this line attracted his attention to the

greatest extent. The brothers entered the business on a big scale their herd of horses sometimes running into the hundreds. They went to the eastern markets and there brought the finest breeding stock to be found and it was their efforts to a remarkable degree that raised the horse standard from the broncho stage to pure bred animals in this section of the West. There was a time in this county's history when many farmers depended on the Pettit ranch for the extra teams that were needed each season and when either Frank or Earnest Pettit recommended a team or group of teams to a prospective purchaser, that recommendation meant more than a guarantee for a guarantee can sometimes be twisted to mean other things. Not so with the word of the Pettit boys--it meant two things --truth and satisfaction and in all of those years of dealing in a big way with the general public was there an exception to the rule. And what was true of them in their horse growing and marketing operations was likewise true of them in all of their dealings. After the motor replaced the horse to a great extent the Pettit boys devoted a greater part of their time to cattle growing and farming. They were known as not alone among the heaviest land owners of the Big Timber section but of this end of the state as well. Mr. Pettit lived on the land at the head of Big Timber and personally directed the management of their holdings there while Earnest lives three miles south of town and looks after their holdings here. During all of the years of his connection in the business and community life of this section he has been active. For a time the

deceased lived in Benkelman and during that time was elected and served on the village council and in other important posts in village affairs. He was a man of more than ordinary force and character with a clear vision, capable of meeting the problems of life and dealing with them with courage and justice, but sympathetic and patient with those less fortunate in mental, moral and intellectual power. he was honest with himself, honest with those with whom he was associated, honest with his community, honest in his purposes and honest in his accomplishments. He had faith in everybody--everything. If he ever found himself mistaken in his estimates of others he kept these to himself for he was a man who never complained nor did he ever falter in the problems or duties that life brought to him. On the other hand he met the challenge uncomplaining and did his best. Other men have attracted a far greater degree of attention than did Mr. Pettit bur few men met the trials and tribulations of life with greater fortitude. Frank H. Pettit Sr. was born April 10, 1860 in Wyoming, Stark County, Illinois and departed this life Friday morning, November 30, 1928, aged 68 years, 7 months, and 24 days. He lived here until 1876 when he moved with his parents to Bureau county Illinois. He came to Washington county, Nebraska in 1880 where he resided until 1893 when he moved to Cheyenne county, Kansas, where he lived until his death, with the exception of a few years in Benkelman, Nebraska. He never married but lived with his Aunt, Anna C. Pettit, until her death. Then his nieces, Maude and Dorothy kept house for him until his death. His entire life

has been devoted to farming and stock, raising which has been very successful. About one month ago he took sick with influenza, which later affected his heart until the final call came when he collapsed and never regained consciousness, dying a few moments later. He leaves to mourn his loss, his stepmother, Caroline T. Pettit, five brothers, Henry of Cheyenne county, Kansas, Will, Edina, Missouri, Sylvester, Kennard, Nebraska; Earnest and Marvin of Cheyenne county, Kansas; two sisters, Gertrude Johnson, Bird City, Kansas and Anna B. Matteson of Benkelman, Nebraska and a host of other relatives and friends. His father, mother, three brothers, and two sisters having preceded him. He was of a kind and considerate disposition having the thought of others in his mind and will be very much missed in the neighborhood.