

Ralph Waggoner Biographical Sketch

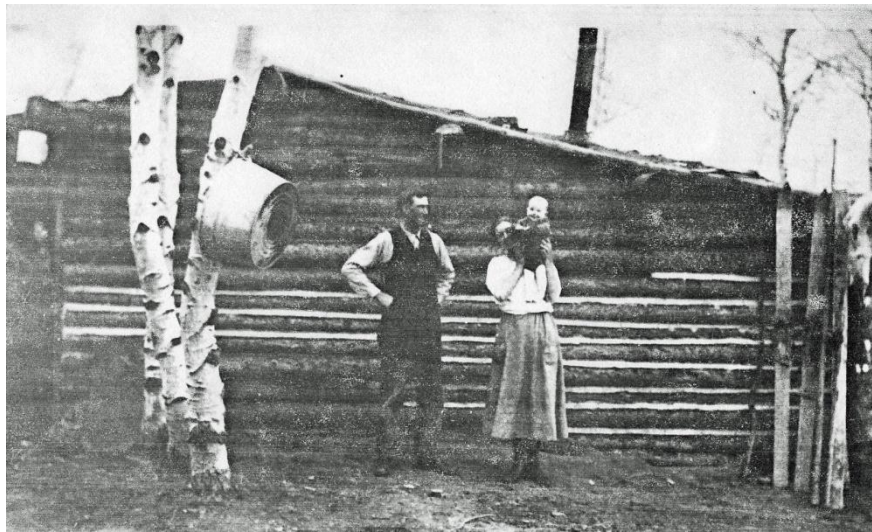
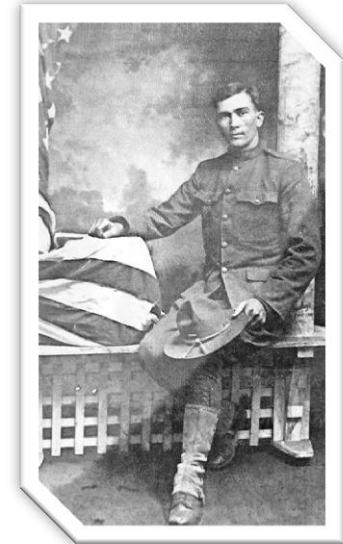
Ralph Waggoner was born near Windom, McPherson County, Kansas on November 21, 1894. He was the oldest of the 13 children of John Franklin and Rosa Delaphine Waggoner¹.

He was raised on a farm near Lions, Kansas. He graduated from High School and soon thereafter he joined the service.

As a member of the U.S. Army he fought in World War I. He was stationed in France, first on the front lines and then he was assigned to a Hospital Troop Transport for the rest of the war transporting wounded soldiers from the battle front to the hospital in Paris. He was mustered out of the Army in Denver.

After the war he homesteaded in Jackson County, Colorado near Walden. There he met Sylvia Edith Smith and they were married in Walden on June 27, 1920. He was 26 years old and she was 7 years younger than him. They had 8 children², of which 6 lived to adulthood.

When Ralph and Sylvia were first married they lived on the homestead in Jackson County, Colorado. Winifred, Johnny and Russell were born there. In the late '20s they moved to rural Unitah County, Utah,



Ralph Waggoner and Sylvia *Smith* Waggoner with 9 month old daughter, Della Winifred. This picture was taken at their homestead in Jackson County, Colorado early in 1922.

where they lived until 1936. Ralph had a truck farm and did a lot of hunting and trapping for the government. Richard, Emma, Frank and Robert were born at Jensen. While in Utah in April 1931, their second child Johnny³ died of Scarlett Fever. He was buried in Jensen cemetery.

They then moved to Steamboat Springs, Colorado, where he worked in sales for a number of companies

including ranch equipment companies for the rest of his career. He called on ranches all over that area of Colorado. Amy was born in Steamboat Springs in 1938. She died in 1940 from Childhood Leukemia and was buried in the Jensen Cemetery with her brother John.

Ralph passed away June 11, 1966 in the Veterans Hospital in Grand Junction, Colorado. He was preceded in death by his parents and two sisters, Edna and Hazel, and two brothers, Roy and Virgil. He is buried in the Steamboat



¹ For a discussion on the names of Della *Smith* Waggoner [click here](#).

² Della Winifred (1921), John Ralph (1923), Russell Sherman (1925), Richard Denver (1929), Emma Louise (1930), Franklin Valentine (1933), Robert Frost (1935) and Amy Elaine² (1938).

³ John Ralph lived to be 8 years old and died in Jensen, Utah. His youngest sister, Amy Elaine, was born in 1938 after they moved to Steamboat Springs, CO. She died at 2 years of age and was buried with her brother in Jensen Cemetery, Jensen, Uintah County, Utah.

The headstone text reads:

Waggoner
Amy Elaine
1938 - 1940
John R.
1923 - 1931

