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It never ceases to amaze me the family connections one cemetery can have, especially when I'm not looking for them. I thought I would tackle the Wine family. I started with the original pioneer power couple, Joseph Raymond Wine and Mary Moore Wine who came out here in 1889 from Missouri. Little did I know, Mary's brothers would follow her, and one of them, James, is in a grave nearby. Joseph and Mary had three kids, Charles Cecil, Henrietta, and of course, Joseph Raymond Jr. Charles Cecil, aka 'Cecil', married Viola Clark. Viola's parents, Christina 'Dena' and Thomas Henry Clark are buried at Centerville too. Are your eyes crossing yet? I can already see this family is going to need several parts like the whole Willcox/Raymond family I wrote about earlier.

Because I'm the boss of writing these things, I'm going to pick Henrietta talk about first. She was born in Philadelphia, Missouri on March 26, 1880 and moved with her family to Townsend when she was 9. She and her 2 brothers attended the schools here and in Helena. She briefly taught school at Diamond City. She married Charles DeWalt in 1901. They moved to Kansas where son Clarence was born. They lived there until Charles died in 1914. That's when her life got busy, raising a son and working. She somehow found time and money to study journalism in Missouri, presumably at the University of Missouri, before moving back to Townsend and working in the clerk and recorder office.

She put her journalism studies to good use. She moved back to Kansas and worked for the Independent, a Kansas City society magazine. She then moves to San Francisco, where she worked as an advertising manager for a printing firm. She moved back to Kansas City where she stayed for 10 years writing for the paper in a society column called, 'Henrietta'. I'm going to have to subscribe to Newspapers.com and look for some of her articles.

When her mother, Mary, became ill, she moved back to Montana. She worked for a radio station in Helena for a while and then conducted a tourist bureau for the Helena Chamber of Commerce. During World War II, she worked for the Bureau of Internal Revenue and later for the Secretary of State office until she retired. She died at the age of 81 in Helena.

I admit I feel like a slacker after reading her obituary.

Because I always wonder what happened to the kids of these families who move away and live with their widowed mothers, I chased down Clarence. The one photo I saw of him in his younger days showed him to be quite handsome. You'll be happy to know he also moved to Montana from Kansas City and became a photographer in Helena. He would come to Townsend to take family photos periodically. He lived to the ripe old age of 91 and is buried at Sunset Gardens in Helena. He served in the Army in WWII and married twice.

Next time, I will talk about the pioneer Wine family, Joseph and Mary. Since we are getting close to Christmas, it seems fitting.

It’s the middle of November and I can’t believe I’m still able to get some things done out at the cemetery. This past week or so, I’ve actually finished a few of the projects I started months ago proving that miracles can happen. Happy Thanksgiving!!