

# Rita Marie O'bryan Family History

## Introduction

This is merely a cursory introduction to our central character, whose fully developed biography will be entrusted to more worthy and intimate friends and relations. Rita Marie Obryan is the eldest daughter of Bettie Gore Hampson and Harvey Edward Obryan, born 16Jul1943 in Los Angeles County, California. At the time of Rita's birth her parents were residing at 612 Orange Grove Avenue in Glendale, where Harvey was employed with Lockheed Aircraft Corp in nearby Burbank. Harvey registered for the World War II draft from his Glendale address on 16Feb1942 in which he described himself born on 10Dec1921 at Wood, South Dakota, single, 59.5 inches tall, 156 pounds, blue eyes, black hair, and of dark complexion. He identified his father, Boyd Marcellus Obryan, of Wood South Dakota as his nearest relation. On 22Jun1942 the marriage of Harvey Edward Obryan and Betty Gore Hampson was recorded,



Figure 2 - 612 Orange Grove Avenue, Glendale CA



Figure 1 - Rita Obryan,  
at age 16

probably in Los Angeles County. On 15Oct1942 Harvey joined the US Navy Reserve in which he served until his discharge on 27Oct1945 with the rank of AM1 (Aviation Structural Mechanic, Petty Officer 1st Class).

Sometime prior to 1954 the Obryan family had relocated to northern California, as the birth of Rita's younger sister, Janet Marie Obryan, was recorded in Contra Costa County on 21May1954. By 1959 the family had relocated to Sacramento County where Rita was attending El Camino High School as a sophomore. In 1961 the family was living at 5408 Halsted Drive in Carmichael, an eastern suburb of Sacramento, when the burial record was entered for Rita's beloved sister, Janet Marie, who passed away at Eldridge California on 21Oct1961. Janet was interred at the Golden Gate National Cemetery in San Francisco on 26Oct1961.

While attending El Camino HS Rita met her future husband, James Sarro, who was one school-year ahead of Rita. Jim and Rita married on 6Apr196\_ in Sacramento, where by 1970 they had settled into Rita's family home on Halsted Avenue. We will now leave the story of Jim and Rita's life together in other, more capable hands, and turn our attention to the history of the Rita Obryan Family.

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## South Dakota

Like many genealogical constructs, this work will be laid out in an ascending chronology from the present generation to the most distant known past generations, but organized by the principal geographic locales in which the preceding generations established a presence. Occasionally, when happenstance warrants, we will embark on an excursus into sub-geographic regions (i.e., Pennsylvania) to explore allied ancestral branches. In anticipation of the reader's curiosity, this story of the Rita Obryan family migration path regresses from South Dakota to Missouri, thence to Kentucky and Virginia, until finally arriving in Lord Baltimore's Maryland in the 17th century, where the first Obryan immigrants likely arrived as Catholic exiles from either Ireland or England.

We pick up the trail of Rita's family on the wind-swept and sparsely populated south central plains of South Dakota in the first half of the 20th century. Rita's strand of the Obryan family settled in Mellette County around 1912, whereas her mother's Hampson strand settled in adjacent Tripp County as early as 1910. Prior to 1907 Mellette and Tripp Counties had been part of the Rosebud Sioux Reservation. Prior to that time European settlers on these reservation lands had been virtually nonexistent. Only a very few trading outposts had been established, and virtually no white settlers had been allowed to take possession of or improve lands in the Rosebud. Roads into the territory did not exist. In fact, an official government survey of the territory was yet to be accomplished. Following is a history of this part of South Dakota which was written by Dennis Lyon, one of the first homesteaders to arrive in that region:

"Sometime just previous to 1904, a great agitation was set in motion to make a treaty with the Rosebud Sioux to purchase the eastern portion of the Rosebud Reservation [Gregory County] from them and open it for white settlement under the Homestead Laws, which were that the homesteader be required to pay to the government the purchase price, that to be in turn paid to the tribe and in addition to that amount the cost of administration was added. The Indians were to receive 160 acres each, which was known as the South Dakota Prairie allotment. At that time there were no rural delivery routes and consequently few daily papers but many weeklies. The papers all carried black headlines on the news from Washington regarding the question [homesteading the Rosebud]. The economic theory advanced by western Congressmen was the necessity of increasing the citizen population of Western states and development of agricultural resources. It was argued that the increasing population of the world necessitates the development of all the Agricultural Resources. The argument advanced against it was that the Indian was being robbed of his heritage by the white man and so the battle waged until congress finally passed the bill ratifying the treaty, which gave each Indian of one eighth blood, 160 acres and proceeded to open what is now Gregory County South Dakota to white settlement. The Bill was signed with a great deal of ceremony. Each western congressman wearing a Rosebud in the lapel of his coat and President McKinley signing with a pen holder made out of the stalk of a rosebud with a small rosebud carved on its end. There were so many anxious to settle in the new country that it was decided to draw lots for the 160 acre homesteads. The settlement was finally accomplished and proved successful [in Gregory County]. All was well until about 1907 when a new urge was felt to open more of the Rosebud. Due to the fact that the settlement of the eastern portion had proven so successful less opposition was met by the new bill and it was passed. [This proposed new homesteading territory included most of Mellette and Tripp Counties]...

In the fall of 1908 I [Dennis Lyons] went to Chamberlain S. D. on an excursion train from Chicago, to register for the drawing of lots for choice. In this arrangement of lottery the names of all who had registered were placed in a container and two little girls drew the first names. The first 3000 choices were to cost \$6 per acre, the next \$4.50 and the rest \$2.50. They had to use their choice in rotation beginning at number one. The first choice was filed by a lady named Mae Keiser, at the land office in Gregory S. D. on the morning

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of April 1st, 1909. The filing continued until Oct. 1st at midnight, when all land not filed on by choice was thrown open to Squatters Rights...

Now before the settlers came there were little Inland trading posts, usually only a store with a Post Office scattered over the reservation. Two of these were in the line of the proposed railroad. One, Colome, was on the Indian allotment belonging to a quarter breed Indian by the name of Colombe, This was the first one to the west from Dallas and the only one that survived. The next to the west was Lamro, on the allotment of another quarter breed Indian by the name of Oliver Lameraux. This little town seemed to be in the direct line of the new railroad so a great deal of speculation took place there. It was situated on the bank of Dog Ear Creek and had a water supply which was of much Importance at that time as water was hard to get in the northern part of the county. It also was the County Seat. The town was platted and lots sold. A courthouse and school and many business buildings were built up in the summer of 1909. All was booming until about Oct. 1st, 1909, when a crew of surveyors was discovered surveying and plotting a townsite one and one-half miles north east of the town. The land which they were working on was the allotment of Harriet De Chaim Biggins, the wife of a white man.

On investigation it was found that the land had been bought by the Western Townsite. The people of Lamro claimed that the new townsite was a fraud and to sell town lots. The new townsite people claimed it was too costly for the railroad to build a road bed across the low land surrounding the town of Lamro. The Lamro people claimed the new town could not get water and refused to sell them any. So the fight went on until the railroad survey finally swung north and headed towards the new town. The new town was the winner, and was named Winner, S.D. Still the people of Lamro held out until the election in the fall of 1910 when the county seat was voted to Winner. That night was one to be remembered. The people of Winner took teams and wagons to Lamro to get the records from the old court house there. The Lamro people resisted them and there was much free for all fighting but the Winner people finally succeeded though not in the orderly way they should. The books were fought for piece by piece and those not entirely destroyed were thrown into the wagons as so much hay might have been and men jumped on top to fight the others off. The books were such a mixed up mess that they were never fully separated and finally were burned in a fire which destroyed the temporary court house. When the old town lost the county seat the people gave up and there was a great rush of moving buildings to Winner. As many as four or five Steam tractors hauling buildings could be seen at a time. In the summer of 1910 the railroad built its road to Winner from Dallas, and on July 4, 1911 the first passenger train came into the new town. On that day was celebrated the first Independence Day in Winner. Homesteaders and Indians were there by the thousands that day. Teams were tied to wagons out of town as far as one quarter of a mile in all directions, there being no room closer in. Everything imaginable in the way of western entertainment was furnished free. A free movie was given in the street by stretching a canvas between two poles. There were no sidewalks, no cross walks, and no drinking fountains, but wood barrels were set on street corners and filled from a water tank hauled around on a wagon...

On July 5th there were still many people camped around town. The summer of 1911 proved to be very dry and very little crop matured. Many of the settlers had paid high prices for flaxseed and sowed it on new breaking but it was mostly a failure. But still the faith held and everyone said next year would be the year after the dry year. In the fall of 1911 the first eighteen months of residence began to expire and many made their proof and got Government patents to their land. [Rita's grandfather, Robert John Hampson may have been one such filer, as he received his patent near Ideal on 1Mar1911.] Nearly all had to get loans on their land to pay the Government fee of \$6, 4.50 and \$2.50 and in addition got more, some to improve their land, others to buy stock and equipment. The sad thing is that most of these loans have continued to increase until they have taken all of the owner's equity. The summer passed and winter came, and the spirits of the people were filled with more content. Homes were becoming more comfortable. Livestock was beginning to increase. The people had some poultry, butter and eggs to sell. The most essential of all, new babies began to arrive, the first being Miss Raymalee Adams, Miss Marie Larsen, Francis Sharkey, James Lyons [Dennis Lyons' son] and Helen Storms. This was encouraging but many new problems presented themselves. Many of the young mothers went back to their old homes to spend the winter months. Those who stayed were subjects of much solicitude. For instance when Helen Storms was born her folks had no cows giving fresh milk and I got the honor of furnishing a cow to provide the milk. During this winter many literary societies were formed, including singing, debating, public speaking and etc. It must be



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remembered at this time there were no libraries or other reference books in the country and everyone had to help the debating teams with what knowledge they had at hand. Here again I recall Mrs. Moffett who taught one of the schools. One widow woman had a very accomplished daughter who taught one of the schools. Her name was Miss Mary Hodges and she coached home talent plays. As a whole it was one of the most pleasant winters I ever spent. Homesickness began to disappear. Schools were well established. Church organizations held services. Roads were made passable by bridges and markets established with fair prices."<sup>1</sup>



Figure 3 - Early Homesteaders on South Dakota Plains,

The foregoing provides a rather lengthy, but edifying insight into the manner in which homesteading first commenced in Mellette and Tripp Counties, as well as providing the reader with a glimpse into the primitive and hostile environment encountered by these early settlers on the Rosebud. Figure 3 shows the home of an early claimholder in western South Dakota.

The earliest record found of a Rita Obryan ancestor was that of her grandfather, Robert James Hampson III, who was recorded in the 1910 census living as a 27-year old bachelor farmer at Ideal, Tripp County. In that record he identified himself and his parents as having been born in Pennsylvania. In Dennis Lyons' writings on the history of the Rosebud he described the early homesteaders as having come from far and wide. A review of the near neighbors of Robert Hampson at Ideal in 1910 does display a wide assortment of humanity with origins all across mid- and eastern-America, intermixed with relatively large numbers of Europeans, mostly from Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Germany, Bohemia, Ireland and Scotland. Figure 4 provides a map of south central South Dakota with an inset of the Mellette and Tripp County area. Note the relatively close proximity of the townships of Ideal, Wood and

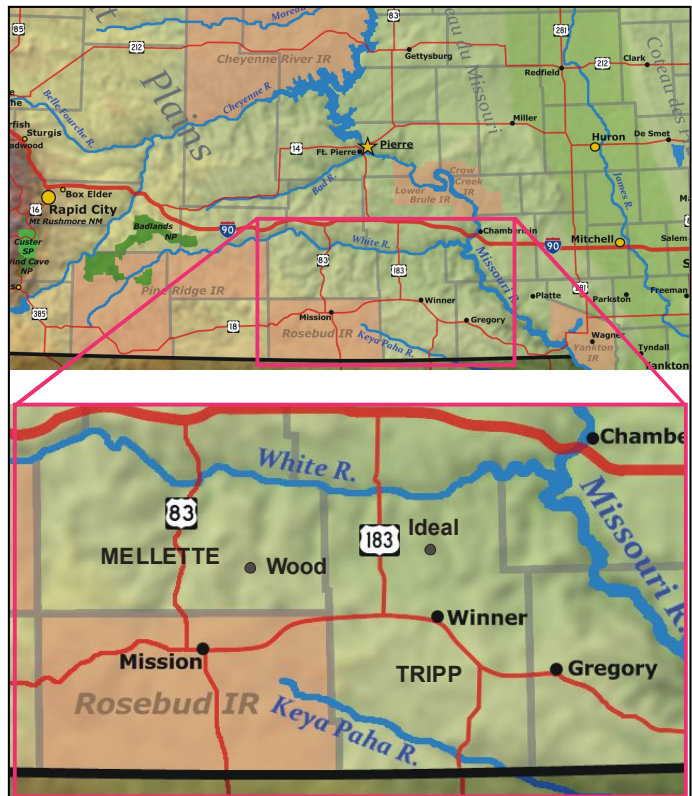


Figure 4 - Mellette-Tripp County Map

<sup>1</sup> The Pioneer of the Rosebud: History of Tripp County, SD, Dennis Lyons, 1933  
([http://williammarylyons.com/yahoo\\_site\\_admin/assets/docs/Pioneer\\_of\\_the\\_Rosebudrev2pdf.4762027.pdf](http://williammarylyons.com/yahoo_site_admin/assets/docs/Pioneer_of_the_Rosebudrev2pdf.4762027.pdf))

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Winner, as they were the principal places of residence of Rita's Obryan and Hampson parents and grandparents in the early 1900's. We will now explore Rita's Obryan and Hampson branches in South Dakota separately:

### *Robert John Hampson:*

Since Robert John Hampson was already in residence at Ideal in the Spring of 1910, it stands to reason that he very likely was among some of the first homesteaders in that area, who began arriving in waves in 1909. The earliest record found for Robert John Hampson in South Dakota is the 1910 census record summarized in Figure 5. In this record Robert Hampson reported himself being 27 years old, single, born in Pennsylvania, farmer, working on his own account, and in possession of his own land, free of mortgage. It might be presumed that the land in his possession was the 160 acre tract for which he received a patent on 1Mar1911. In the patent record this tract is described as the northeast quarter of Section 32, Township 101N, Range 76W, 5th Principle Meridian, Arkansas Baseline. The author has plotted the location of this tract on an aerial photo contained in Figure 6.

Name:	Robert J Hampson [Robert Jr Hampson]
Age in 1910:	27
Birth Year:	abt 1883
Birthplace:	Pennsylvania
Home in 1910:	Ideal, Tripp, South Dakota
Race:	White
Gender:	Male
Relation to Head of House:	Head
Marital status:	Single
Father's Birthplace:	Pennsylvania
Mother's Birthplace:	Pennsylvania
Native Tongue:	English
Occupation:	Farmer
Industry:	Farm
Employer, Employee or Other:	Own Account
Home Owned or Rented:	Own
Home Free or Mortgaged:	Free
Farm or House:	Farm
Able to Read:	Yes
Able to Write:	Yes
Neighbors:	<a href="#">View others on page</a>
Household Members:	
	<b>Name</b> <b>Age</b>
	Robert J Hampson 27

Figure 5 - 1910 Census: Robert James Hampson III

As can be seen on this aerial map the Robert Hampson patent was located about three miles southwest of the community of Ideal. The tract was located within Ideal Township along the west side of 311th Avenue. Figure 6 also shows the location of the Edwards Brown patent in the SW Quarter of Section 29. Edwards Brown's son, Dement Brown married Robert John Hampson's younger sister, Margaret Rebecca Hampson at Ideal in 1917. Figure 7 contains an enlarged image of the Hampson patent showing the full site. As evidenced in Figure 7, the tract appears to have been fairly well developed for agricultural use, although there is no apparent site of a dwelling or other buildings. There is good reason to believe that Robert Hampson did build a home on this tract not long after his taking possession and that he and his family resided on this tract until sometime after 1945. Construction of a dwelling place and permanent occupancy were two of the principal conditions established for receiving a homestead patent.



Figure 6 - Hampson Tract Aerial Location Map



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The absolute earliest record found of Robert John Hampson was in the 1900 census record when he was recorded living in his parents household at Tarkio, Atchison County Missouri summarized in Figure 8. Tarkio is situated about 15 miles east of the Missouri River and about 80 miles downstream from Omaha Nebraska. In that census record Robert J[ohn]. was described as 17 years old, born Mar1883 in Pennsylvania, at school for the previous six months, and able to read and write. His parents reported having been married for 18 years, and having had seven children, six of which were still alive. All six of those children were still living in the household, with Robert John being the eldest.



Figure 7 - Hampson Tract Aerial Site Map

Robert John was born at Rose Point, Lawrence County, Pennsylvania on 11Mar1883, eldest child of Robert James Hampson II and Margaret Brown. Robert John's family continued to live at Rose Point until after 1886 where his sisters, Elizabeth and Mary were born, but by 1891 the family had moved to Rushville, Sheridan County Nebraska, where his brother, Frank Floyd Hampson was born. The family continued to live at Rushville until after Oct1894 when another sibling, Margaret Rebecca Hampson was born. By Aug1897 the family is believed to have moved to Nelson, British Columbia, where another sister, Agnes Janet Hampson was born. By Jun1900 the family had moved to Tarkio Township, Atchison County Missouri, where they were captured in the 1900 census as illustrated in Figure 8.

In 1880 Robert John's father, Robert James Hampton II, was recorded living in his mother and step-father's household at Worth, Butler County PA, aged 19 and a student. Being reported as a student at the age of 19 suggests that Robert James II may have been afforded an education beyond the 12th grade. He had been left a small legacy in his father's Will, consisting of land and bank shares, which may account for his ability to attend college coursework. Yet, in the 1900 census at Tarkio MO Robert James II was reported working as a farmer on rented lands. In the 1910 census Robert James II was still living at Tarkio and reported working as a manager, farming, and employer. By 1920 Robert James II had moved with his wife and youngest daughter, Esther, to Ideal Township, Tripp County, South Dakota, where he continued to reside until his death at Ideal in 1947. In the 1940 census Robert James was widowed,

Name:	Robert J Hampson																				
Age:	39																				
Birth Date:	May 1861																				
Birthplace:	Pennsylvania																				
Home in 1900:	Tarkio, Atchison, Missouri																				
House Number:	6/10																				
Sheet Number:	9																				
Number of Dwelling in Order of Visitation:	136																				
Family Number:	135																				
Race:	White																				
Gender:	Male																				
Relation to Head of House:	Head																				
Marital status:	Married																				
Spouse's name:	Morgoret B Hampson																				
Marriage Year:	1882																				
Father's Birthplace:	Pennsylvania																				
Mother's Birthplace:	Pennsylvania																				
Occupation:	Farmer																				
Months Not Employed:	0																				
Can Read:	Yes																				
Can Write:	Yes																				
Can Speak English:	Yes																				
House Owned or Rented:	R																				
Home Free or Mortgaged:	F																				
Farm or House:	H																				
Neighbors:	<a href="#">View others on page</a>																				
Household Members:																					
	<table><thead><tr><th>Name</th><th>Age</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Robert J Hampson</td><td>39</td></tr><tr><td>Morgoret B Hampson</td><td>32</td></tr><tr><td>Robert J Hampson</td><td>17</td></tr><tr><td>Elizabeth Hampson</td><td>15</td></tr><tr><td>Mary Hampson</td><td>13</td></tr><tr><td>Frank Hampson</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>Margaret R Hampson</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>Agnes Hampson</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>Abscander Sherill</td><td>21</td></tr></tbody></table>	Name	Age	Robert J Hampson	39	Morgoret B Hampson	32	Robert J Hampson	17	Elizabeth Hampson	15	Mary Hampson	13	Frank Hampson	8	Margaret R Hampson	5	Agnes Hampson	2	Abscander Sherill	21
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Figure 8 - 1900 Census Robert J Hampson Family

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living with his granddaughter, and reported having completed the 12th grade.

So, during his youth, Robert John Hampson lived a somewhat migratory existence with his family as they moved from Rose Point PA to Rushville NE in about 1888/9, thence briefly to Nelson British Columbia around 1895/6, and finally to Tarkio MO about 1898/9, before moving to and settling on the prairie in Tripp County SD in about 1909. Even though Robert John Hampson was in South Dakota for the Jun1910 census and again on 1Mar1911 when he received his patent near Ideal, he appears to have traveled back to Tarkio Missouri sometime in 1911 when he presumably married Bess Jane Gore. No record was found for the marriage between Robert John Hampson and Bess Jane Gore, but presumably they were married at Tarkio sometime between the Jun1900 census (when Bess was reported as a spinster living in her parent's household at Tarkio) and 15Jan1912 (when their first child, Marian Esther Hampson was born at Tarkio).

In the 1910 census the Tarkio township was subdivided into three precincts: Ward 1, Ward 2, and District 28. All of Tarkio was reported to contain 2,837 residents. The Hampson and Gore families resided in District 28, which contained a total of about 990 residents. The Gore family was recorded on page 1 of 20, whereas the Hampson family was recorded on page 4 of 20. These recordings suggest a fairly close geographic proximity between the Gore and Hampson households in Tarkio, probably within 2 to 3 miles of each other.

It is possible that Robert John Hampson and Bess Jane Gore could have attended the same school(s) at Tarkio, as they were of the same age, but Robert John Hampson may have already completed his education by the time his family moved to Tarkio around 1898-1900; as he would have been 17 years old in 1900. On the other hand, Bess's family had resided in Tarkio from about 1874 onward. Bess's eldest brother, James Franklin Gore, attended Tarkio College, where he graduated at age 26 in 1798. Figure 9 provides a rendering of Tarkio College, as it appeared around 1910. Bess was 10 years younger than James Franklin. Since she was reported teaching school at Tarkio in 1910, she may have followed her brother's example and also attended Tarkio College. The oldest yearbook from



Figure 9 - Tarkio College, Circa 1910



Figure 10 - Tarkio United Presbyterian Church, Circa 1910

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Tarkio College available online is from 1906; a review of which failed to return any alumnus named Gore. It is possible that Bess could have obtained her teaching credential after attending Tarkio College.

It is worth noting that Tarkio College was founded in 1883 by the United Presbyterian Church. Figure 10 contains a rendering of the Tarkio United Presbyterian Church as it may have appeared in 1910. There is good reason to believe that both the Gore and Hampson families were members of the Tarkio United Presbyterian Church, and it seems probable that it was through that affiliation that Robert John Hampson and Bess Jane Gore would have become acquainted.

The Chicago and Northwestern Railroad was completed from Bonesteel to Dallas South Dakota in 1907. The rails were extended from Dallas to Colome in 1910 and from Colome to Winner in 1911. It seems highly probable that Robert John Hampson rode the train from Tarkio to Gregory or Dallas SD sometime in 1909 to file his homestead application. By the time he moved his wife and child to Ideal, the family would have been able to ride the train all the way to Winner, from whence they would travel overland the 15 miles to Ideal. It is known with some certainty that Robert John's family was living on their homestead near Ideal on 22Jan1915 when their second child, Margaret Elizabeth was born.

When Robert John Hampton settled his family on their Ideal SD homestead they were soon joined by a neighbor on the homestead abutting their northwest corner. On 21Jan1913 Edwards Brown was granted a patent for the southwest quarter of Section 29, T101N, R76W. Edwards Brown had only recently moved his family from Springfield IL, undoubtedly being drawn to the area by the same public announcement of congressional approval to further open lands in the Rosebud that had appeared on the front pages of virtually every newspaper in the nation. In fact, the Edwards Brown family were already residing at Ideal in Jun1910 when the census was compiled. The youngest member of the Brown household was a newborn son named Edwards [Jr.], only two months old and born in Illinois. From this biographical data for Edwards Brown Jr. it can be deduced that Mrs. Brown and her younger children probably had not arrived in Ideal until about May1910, and that she probably traveled on the train from Springfield IL to Colome SD with her children, including a one-month old son.

Although no record was found to support the fact, it seems possible that Robert John Hampson's parents and some younger siblings moved to Ideal around 1915 and lived on the Hampson homestead. This probable event is supported by the fact that Robert John Hampson's sister, Margaret Rebecca Hampson, married Dement Brown at Ideal on 14Jan1917. This migration is further supported by the fact that Robert James II, his wife, Margaret Belle Brown, and youngest daughter, Esther Hampson, were recorded in the 1920 census living at Ideal. Also in the Robert James II household at Ideal in 1920 were four granddaughters: Margaret, Flora, Bernice and Pauline Christian, children of Robert and Margaret's deceased daughter, Mary Hampson-Christian, who had died in St. Joseph Missouri in 1916. Finally, we have the evidence of Robert James II's son, Franklin Floyd Hampson, who married Bertha M. Schwitters on 18Oct1816 at Ideal.

So, when Robert John Hampson moved his family from Tarkio MO to their new homestead near Ideal SD, they were not exactly isolated. Within a couple of years Robert's parents and several



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siblings had also relocated to Ideal, possibly settling on the same homestead. In fact, patents in Tripp County in the immediate vicinity of Ideal were in high demand, and virtually every section within a five mile radius around Robert Hampson's homestead had been substantially claimed by new arrivals. To illustrate the speed and thoroughness by which this land was occupied the author has compiled a table (Appendix 1) containing a listing of all of the patents issued on each of the sections adjoining Section 32 prior to 1915. As demonstrated in Appendix 1 there were a total of 53 patents issued (including Robert Hampson's) within a two-mile radius of his homestead. Twenty-one of these patents were issued in 1909, twenty-two were issued in 1911, and the remaining ten were issued over the following three years. By the time the Robert Hampson family arrived around 1912 they very likely could see a flurry of industry around their new homestead as houses were being erected, fields cleared for cultivation, 1st and 2nd year crops were already in the ground, boundary fences were installed to delineate property lines and to contain livestock, access roads were beginning laid out, wells dug, barns and corrals erected. When Robert John Hampson and Dement Brown filed their draft registrations in 1917 a rural mail service had already been established from a post office at Witten.

Tripp County was organized in 1909. A competition for the county's seat broke out almost immediately. Believing he knew the future alignment planned for the railroad extension from Dallas, in 1907 Oliver Lamoureaux filed for a cluster of patents arrayed along the banks of Dog Ear Creek on Sections 30 and 31 totaling 480 acres as illustrated in Figure 11. It was Oliver's belief that his site would be chosen for the future seat of Tripp County government. In anticipation of such designation, Oliver arranged to have a town-site surveyed and lots laid out, many of which were sold and construction began on a courthouse, school and other proposed residential and commercial buildings. To Lamoureaux's surprise, in the Spring of 1909 Harriet Ducharme Biggins had taken out a patent on the whole of Section 20, all 640 acres, 1.5 miles northeast of "Lamro" and made her own arrangements to have her tract surveyed for a future town-site. In the face of multiple competing proposals for the future county seat an election was held in the Fall of 1910 in which the Biggins site was the peoples choice for the new county seat of Tripp County. The popular choice was quickly dubbed "Winner", a name which had as much traction as the large steam tractors used to transport the Lamro buildings to their new home in Winner. Figure 12

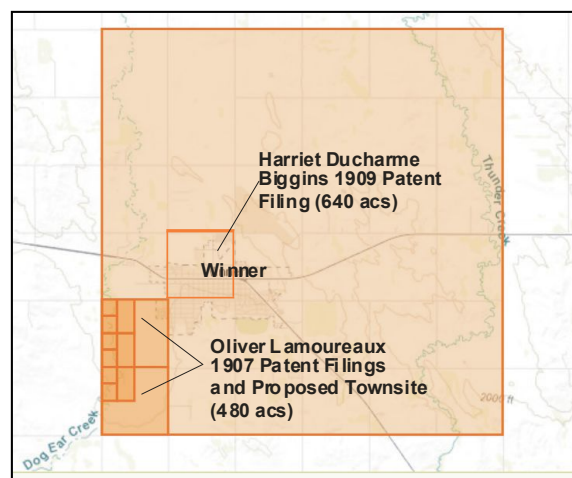


Figure 11 - Tripp County County Seat Filings 1907 to 1909.



Figure 12 - Lamro Courthouse Relocation, 1909.

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contains a photo of the ill-fated Lamro courthouse being towed to Winner. Schools, churches, retail businesses, all the usual accoutrements of civilized society began to spring up in Winner.

By the 1920 census three more children had been added to the Robert John Hampson family is summarized in Figure 13: Margaret Elizabeth 5, Robert Ann 3, and Bess [aka Betty] 1, all born at Ideal. The 1920 census of Ideal Township was compiled over a seven day period between 22 and 28Jan (middle of winter). There were a total of 45 households enumerated, containing a total of 260 inhabitants. Robert John Hampson's household was recorded on page 2 of 6, whereas Robert James Hampson Sr. [II] and Frank Floyd Hampson households were recorded on page 4 of 6. This separation in the census record, and the reporting of separate households, suggests that all three families were living at separate sites within the township. Although no other patents were located for a Hampson in the Ideal area, it must be assumed that they had acquired land separately from Robert John Hampson's patent, or that they were renting land from others.

An elementary school had been established at Ideal very early on, as described in the following excerpt:

"Ideal's first school was built in the winter of 1909 and started in the spring of 1910. The first teacher was A. B. Chain followed in the second term by Mary Dooley. Mary rode a horse from her claim in Lone Tree township to teach a 3 month term. Other teachers were: Jessie Horn Patrick, Mattie Leat, Laura Holly, Francis McElhaney, Clara Volz, Nellie Beardsley Hazzard, **Madge Hampson Brown**, Maude Henderson, and Raymond Watson, Superintendent. In 1918, the district was consolidated and a new school was built in 1920. The first graduating class was in 1923 with 9 graduates. High school was held until 1944. Grade school continues with a large enrollment of Native American children from the Ideal Indian community. The pupils were transported from 1920-1942 in horse drawn buses. The barns which housed these horses have been sold and removed, and the Ideal Hall stands on the site. The old school building was remodeled and used as apartments for teachers. The building was later sold to the DeJong brothers and moved to their ranch on the White River by the Kennebec bridge."<sup>2</sup>

From the foregoing history of early schools in Ideal it would appear that the Hampson children would have had an opportunity to receive an education at least through elementary grades, and possibly all the way through high school. It is interesting to note that Robert John Hampson's younger sister, Margaret, wife of Dement Brown, was one of the teachers. It is possible that Robert's daughters received part of their education at the hands (and mouth) of their Aunt Margaret. In fact, in the 1926 student register from Ideal School District No. 10 are found records of all four of Robert Hampson's daughter as illustrated in Figure 14. Also shown in the register were two 1st cousins: Mary Jane Hampson, daughter of Frank Floyd Hampson, and Mary Elizabeth Brown, daughter of Dement and Margaret (Hampson) Brown, as well as the Dement Brown's younger siblings: Gertrude and Edwards Jr.. In 1926 there were a total of 91 pupils in the District, 47 boys and 44 girls.

Name:	Robert J Hampson Jr.														
Age:	36														
Birth Year:	abt 1884														
Birthplace:	Pennsylvania														
Home in 1920:	Ideal, Tripp, South Dakota														
House Number:	Farm														
Residence Date:	1920														
Race:	White														
Gender:	Male														
Relation to Head of House:	Head														
Marital status:	Married														
Spouse's name:	Bess J Hampson														
Father's Birthplace:	Pennsylvania														
Mother's Birthplace:	Pennsylvania														
Native Tongue:	American														
Able to Speak English:	Yes														
Occupation:	Farmer														
Industry:	Gen														
Employment Field:	Own Account														
Able to Read:	Yes														
Able to Write:	Yes														
Neighbors:	View others on page														
Household Members:															
	<table><thead><tr><th>Name</th><th>Age</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Robert J Hampson</td><td>36</td></tr><tr><td>Bess J Hampson</td><td>36</td></tr><tr><td>Maryann Hampson</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>Margaret Hampson</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>Roberta Hampson</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>Bess Hampson</td><td>1</td></tr></tbody></table>	Name	Age	Robert J Hampson	36	Bess J Hampson	36	Maryann Hampson	8	Margaret Hampson	5	Roberta Hampson	3	Bess Hampson	1
Name	Age														
Robert J Hampson	36														
Bess J Hampson	36														
Maryann Hampson	8														
Margaret Hampson	5														
Roberta Hampson	3														
Bess Hampson	1														

Figure 13 - Robert Hampson Household 1920

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.winner.k12.sd.us/page/3254>, accessed 31May2019.

## Rita Marie O'bryan Family History

Figure 15 contains the school register from 1927. Again, this register contains the records of all four of Robert Hampson's children and two children of his brother, Frank Hampson. Only one page of the register for 1927 exists, but probably continued to contain the names of the Brown family children, as well as the Christian grandchildren residing with Robert James Hampson II. There were a total of 94 pupils recorded in 1927.

25	Hobbs, Ethel	8	7		
26	Hampson, Marion	13	7	Hampson, R. J. Jr.	
27	Hampson, Margaret	12	7	"	"
28	Hampson, Roberta	9	7	"	"
29	Hampson, Betty	8	7	"	"
30	Hampson, Mary Jane	7	7	Hampson, Frank	
31	Hawk, P. V. 5th	12	7	Hawk, Betty, Birdville	
32	Hawk, P. V. Laura	14	7	"	"
33	Hawk, P. V. Timmie	9	7	"	"
34	Hawk, Eagle, Ross	16	M	Hawk, Eagle, John	
35	Jensen, Marie	13	7	Jorgensen, M. F.	

Figure 14 - Ideal School District No. 10  
1926 Student Register

By 1930 there were a total of 90 student in the Ideal Register. Marian Hampson was no longer being reported as a pupil, as she had married Charles R. Mitchell of Niobrara Nebraska on 4May1929 in Tripp County, recorded at Winner. In 1930, Marian was living in the household of her mother-in-law and stepfather-in-law, Ona and Pearl Thierolf in Raymond Township, Knox County Nebraska, along with her husband and four-month old daughter, Juanita Mitchell. The following Hampson and close kinfol were recorded as pupils in Ideal in 1930:

25	Hobbs, Ethel	9	7		
26	Hampson, Marion	14	7	R. J. Hampson	"
27	Hampson, Margaret	13	7	"	"
28	Hampson, Roberta	10	7	"	"
29	Hampson, Betty	9	7	"	"
30	Hampson, Eunice	6	7	"	"
31	Hampson, Mary Jane	8	7	Frank, Hampson	"
32	Hampson, Lily Grace	7	7	"	"

Figure 15 - Ideal School District No. 10  
1927 Student Register

- Mary E. Brown, age 10, dau. of Margaret Hampson and Dement Brown,
- Robert Brown, age 8, son of Margaret Hampson and Dement Brown
- Dement Brown Jr., age 6, son of Margaret Hampson and Dement Brown,
- Bernice Christian, age 19, dau. of Mary Hampson and George Thomas Christian
- Pauline Christian, age 16, dau. of Mary Hampson and George Thomas Christian
- Margaret Hampson, age 15, dau. of Robert John Hampson
- Roberta Hampson, age 12, dau. of Robert John Hampson
- Betty Hampson, age 10, dau. of Robert John Hampson.
- Eunice Hampson, age 9, dau, of Robert John Hampson
- Mary Jane Hampson, age 11, dau. of Frank Hampson,
- Lily Grace Hampson, age 9, dau. of Frank Hampson,
- Kathleen Hampson, age 7, dau. of Frank Hampson,
- Matilda Hampson, age 6, dau, of Frank Hampson

The Ideal school registers for 1931 and 1932 continued to record the same group of Hampson kinsmen, except that in 1932 Marian Hampson Mitchell, age 20, was recorded back in school, and living in her father's household. By 1940 Marian Mitchell was recorded in the census living with her husband and three daughters at Ideal in the household of Delbert Nelson, who may have been a kinsman of Charles Mitchell. Marian was reported to have completed three years of high school, so presumably she had completed some high school before her marriage in 1929, and continued her high school education on her return to Ideal in 1932. The 1933 and 1934 Ideal school registers continued to report essentially the same Hampson kinsmen as the previous years, except that Marion Mitchell was no longer listed. Marian had her second daughter in 1933, so presumably that would have interfered with her school work.



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In 1935 and 1936 there were still school records for the children of Dement Brown and Frank Hampson (including the addition of Frank's young son, Robert) in Ideal, but the children of Robert John Hampson were not listed, possibly indicating that the family had moved into a different school district. A thorough search of the Tripp County School records available online at [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) did not provide any further school records for the children of Robert John Hampson. However, it should be noted that these school records on Ancestry are not indexed, thus requiring a visual inspection of the microfilmed records. Also, note that the ordering of the microfiche is somewhat jumbled, so it is possible that the author may have simply missed locating the records for the Robert Hampson children after 1935.

Development of the typical social and cultural elements of the period were established at Ideal from its earliest settlement. For example, postal service was provided as described in the following excerpt:

"In 1909, a post office was established with Sigrid Bondesson named postmaster. The office was in here home. In 1910, the second postmaster was appointed, Florence Patrick (Mrs. Ray Snow). The building she used was moved from Dallas. Soon a store added and became a gathering place for many persons. Robert Patrick was named postmaster followed by H. P. (Pat) Dixon which moved the building to his homestead. He too kept the store in conjunction with the post office. Florence Anderson was appointed in 1919. Her father, Ed Anderson, erected a new building on his farm. Another store was added. Florence served as postmaster for 38 years, the her sister, Mrs. George Beardsley was appointed in 1957. The post office was moved again. This time across the road to the Beardsley farm. Lottie died in 1967. Genevieve Frank was appointed acting postmaster and moved the post office to the corner of the Ed Anderson place."<sup>3</sup>

One of the first churches to be established at Ideal was the Ideal Presbyterian Church, described in the following historical excerpt:

"The Ideal Presbyterian Church was organized in 1910 and services held in the school house until March, 1949, and were organized by W. W. Lenker, S. A. Pinkerton, K. D. Curry, Floyd Morgan, and K. Nedenna. Rev. D. D. Cullen of Dallas and Rev. S. B. Cook had charge of the organization ceremonies. Rev. Albert Kuhn bought the Westminster Church from the Charles McEachran farm near Hamill in 1945 and was moved land donated by Ed Habeger. The church was built originally in Dallas. A basement was dug and much remodeling was done. It was dedicated in September 1949. Terry Lenker was the first person baptized in the church on June 12, 1949. Dorothy Frescoln and Lowell Vanneman was the first to be married on March 19, 1949. In 1980 the congregation voted to enter a shared ministry with the Christian Church of Winner. The Ideal congregation has always had an active and devoted Ladies Aid to help promote the projects of the church. The Timble Club was the first women's group organized in 1910 with 13 members. Shortly after it became the Ideal Ladies Aid. Membership grew through the years so that the farm homes where they met were bulging."<sup>4</sup>

Although not mentioned among the founders of the Ideal Presbyterian Church, it seems almost certain that the Hampsons would have been active participants throughout most of their lives at Ideal. As already discussed briefly hereinbefore, it seems highly probable that it was through their common affiliation with the United Presbyterian Church at Tarkio that Robert John Hampson and Bess Jane Gore would have first become acquainted.

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

## Rita Marie O'bryan Family History

The 1940 census record for the Robert J. Hampson family was recorded at Star Valley, Tripp County as summarized in Figure 16. In this record Robert's occupation was identified as farming on land which he rented at \$25 per month. In addition to his wife, Bess Jane (Gore), there were two daughters: Margaret, aged 25, and Betty, aged 21 still living at home. Robert was reported to have completed one year of college, as had each of his daughters. Bess Jane Gore Hampson was reported to have completed two years of high school. The youngest daughter, Betty Gore Hampson (Rita Obryan's mother) was reported working as a school teacher in a public school. From the location of this census record, and given the children's disappearance from the Ideal School registers after 1934, it seems likely that Robert John Hampson had moved his family approximately five miles due north of Ideal into the Star Valley Township around 1935. This relocation in 1934/5 is supported by the 1935 State census, in which the Hampson family was recorded living in Star Valley, with Ideal as their post office. Star Valley Township is essentially the same size (36 square miles), geographically, as Ideal Township, yet it was much more sparsely populated. In the 1940 census there were a total of 13 households and 61 persons recorded in Star Valley compared to 46 households and 192 persons in Ideal.

Figure 17 contains an aerial map showing the boundaries of Ideal and Star Valley Townships. The author was unable to locate any record that would establish the Hampson family's location within Star Valley with any degree of specificity. However, their approximate location can be inferred by their presumed near neighbors: Elof Lantz, Leonard Komer, William Schultz and Leon Calhoun, all of whom had taken out patents in Star Valley in the 1910's, and who appeared in the 1940 census record in relatively close proximity to the Robert J. Hampson household. The Komer, Schultz and Calhoun tracts were all situated in the lower, central part of the township, so it is reasonable to assume that Robert Hampson's family was also situated somewhere in the lower, central part, probably within Sections 27, 28, 33 or 34 in the area shown in Figure 18.

By 1935 all four of Robert J. Hampson's daughters, who were still living at home, would have been of high school age or beyond. Margaret would have been 20 years old in 1935 and presumably old enough to have attended her first year of college. There was no high school located within Star Valley Township at that time, so it must be assumed that Robert's children, who were still of school age, were sent to school somewhere outside the township. The nearest choice would have been Ideal High School, but there is no record of them at Ideal. The next nearest option probably would have been to Winner High School, but no record of them could be found in Winner, either. Moreover, the fact that his daughters, Margaret and Betty were both reported to have completed one year of college suggests that they may have been sent away from

Name:	Robert J Thompson [Robert J Hampson]										
Age:	57										
Estimated birth year:	abt 1883										
Gender:	Male										
Race:	White										
Birthplace:	Pennsylvania										
Marital status:	Married										
Relation to Head of House:	Head										
Home in 1940:	Star Valley, Tripp, South Dakota										
Map of Home in 1940:	<a href="#">View Map</a>										
Farm:	YES										
Inferred Residence in 1935:	Star Valley, Tripp, South Dakota										
Residence in 1935:	Same House										
Resident on farm in 1935:	Yes										
Sheet Number:	1A										
Number of Household in Order of Visitation:	2										
Occupation:	Farming										
House Owned or Rented:	Rented										
Value of Home or Monthly Rental if Rented:	25										
Attended School or College:	No										
Highest Grade Completed:	College, 1st year										
Hours Worked Week Prior to Census:	48										
Class of Worker:	Working on own account										
Weeks Worked in 1939:	52										
Income:	0										
Income Other Sources:	Yes										
Neighbors:	<a href="#">View others on page</a>										
Household Members:	<table><thead><tr><th>Name</th><th>Age</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Robert J Thompson</td><td>57</td></tr><tr><td>Bess J Thompson</td><td>57</td></tr><tr><td>Margaret Thompson</td><td>25</td></tr><tr><td>Betty B Thompson</td><td>21</td></tr></tbody></table>	Name	Age	Robert J Thompson	57	Bess J Thompson	57	Margaret Thompson	25	Betty B Thompson	21
Name	Age										
Robert J Thompson	57										
Bess J Thompson	57										
Margaret Thompson	25										
Betty B Thompson	21										

Figure 16 - Robert J. Hampson Household 1940 Census

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Tripp County for their post-secondary education. Such schooling would likely require that they were boarded away from home, at considerable expense to the family. Since both the Hampsons and Gores still had family elements living in the vicinity of Tarkio Missouri, it seems possible that Robert's daughters may have lived with near relations in that city while attending college.

For anyone interested in discovering a more in-depth view of life in the Star Valley Township during the 1920's and 1930's, they could find no better resource than the memoirs of Dorothy Boreson Ackermann entitled *Surviving Together: A Memoir of Tripp County in the 1920s and 1930s*.<sup>5</sup> Born of Scandinavian immigrant parents, in 1922 Dorothy's family moved (when she was but three years old) from Mitchell South Dakota, where her father, Charles Boreson, had been a member of the State legislature, to their remote holdings in northwestern Star Valley Township along the banks of Dog Ear Creek. Dorothy continued to live on the Boreson ranch in Star Valley until after graduating from Winner High School in 1937. A few of Dorothy's memories of her childhood in Star Valley have been excerpted below:

"In the spring of 1922, my father, mother, brother Donald, and I formally moved to our remote and modest ranch abutting Dog Ear Creek and the White River in Tripp County, South Dakota. Our older sister June remained in Mitchell to finish her sophomore and junior years of high school."

"Every penny was saved and reinvested in cattle or in buying Indian land when it came up for sale; Indian land was available for five dollars an acre during the mid-1920's. We lived on the money made from selling eggs and cream..."

"She (Dorothy's mother) had no telephone, no running water, no central heat or furnace. She had a wood-burning space heater for heat, a wood-burning Monarch range for cooking, kerosene lamps, and no household assistance. With her high school-aged daughter away from home, she had an eight-year-old and a two-year-old to direct. She also had a crippled husband and an aged father-in-law to care for. Her life consisted of cooking, baking, reading, and washing clothes without the aid of an automatic machine. Her new life was to make a home for her family and for the hired men who were engaged to run the ranch. These men were guaranteed a minimum wage, food, shelter, overalls, and smoking tobacco. I can still visualize the "Bull Durham"

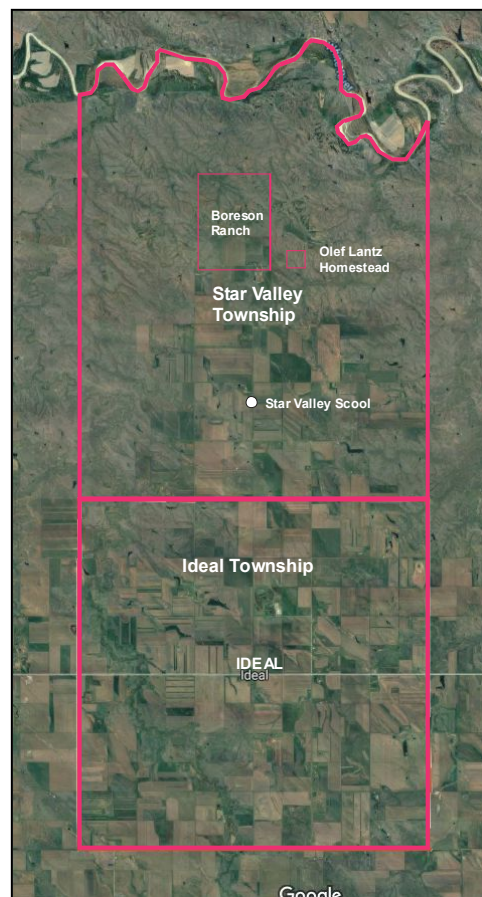


Figure 17 - Ideal and Star Valley Townships Aerial Map



Figure 18 - Lower-Central Star Valley Township Aerial Map

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.sdhspress.com/journal/south-dakota-history-38-3/surviving-together-a-memoir-of-tripp-county-in-the-1920s-and-1930s/vol-38-no-3-surviving-together.pdf>, accessed 2Jun2019.



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tags hanging from their shirt pockets. Our ranch was popular among the hired men because of this security, good food, and family atmosphere. The nearest white neighbor [Lantz] lived three miles away as the crow flies, and the most frequent callers were American Indians who lived on the White Lark Bottom. I have no idea how many cattle Dad had at this time. Donald tells of transferring the "feeder-lot cattle" from Ethan in Davison County to the ranch (a distance of approximately 125 miles). Along the way, they encountered a severe snowstorm. Many cattle died from exposure, in fact, some actually died standing up. Dad must have saved some, however, because a note in the Winner Advocate indicated that he sent eight carloads to Sioux City and eight carloads to Omaha. This feat was quite impressive because it entailed a cattle drive to Presho or Winner, a distance of twenty-five to thirty miles, for loading on the train. Arrangements had to be made along the way for feed and water."

"Mondays were washdays. Often Buck Antelope would walk up from the creek and work the old wooden, hand-driven washing machine in return for the pancakes left over from breakfast."

~1927 - "We met a Model T touring car driven by Willy Eagle Hawk. Another Indian man sat in front, with two women in the back seat. The engine was steaming hot, and immediately the mules took off. I jumped, the wagon turned over, and Donald was pinned underneath. One of the men ran off after the mules. Donald was put in the front seat of the Model T, and I was positioned between the two women. I was terribly frightened, because Don's arm was broken and the bone was protruding. Willy Eagle Hawk took us home, and Dad took Donald to Winner to have his arm set. Don tells that Dad said, "Is there anything I can do for you?" When Don replied, "I'd love an ice cream cone," a tear rolled down Dad's cheek. Dad didn't have a nickel for a cone."

"Mother made a wonderful head cheese from the hog's head. The process involved cooking and grinding certain parts of the head, adding a variety of seasonings, vinegar, and salt, and then molding it all in a cheesecloth-like bag. It was very rich but delicious."

"Now, I must tell you about our home and living conditions. The house was a clapboard structure, the downstairs consisting of a living room, two bedrooms, and a large kitchen with a lean-to attachment used as a room for washing our faces and hands. The kitchen had an adjoining pantry. There was a screened-in front porch that faced the kitchen, living room, and one bedroom. The living room had a wood-burning stove for heat. We had no heat in the bedrooms. The furniture in the living room consisted of Dad's leather platform rocker, two or three rocking chairs, and Dad's rolltop desk with a swivel chair. The bedrooms were just large enough for a double bed and dresser. The closet in Mother and Dad's bedroom was built by boarding off a corner. The other bedroom had a somewhat larger closet, and it had a divider at the top. This space is where old photographs and the artificial Christmas tree were stored. At one time, I can recall sleeping on a canvas cot in Mother and Dad's room. There was barely room to walk between the cot and their bed. I suppose this was while Grandpa Boreson lived with us. Donald and the hired men slept upstairs. Bedrooms were situated directly above the living room and the two downstairs bedrooms. The basement was small, with wooden beams and a dirt floor. There was no basement beneath the kitchen and washroom. The only heat in the kitchen came from the trustworthy Monarch range. At the end of the range was a water reservoir. Next to the reservoir was the wood and cob box. In the living room, we had two rugs—one for winter and one for summer. When we no longer needed heat, the stove was moved out. The wool rug was put on the clothesline, and we would beat the dust out of the carpet. I suppose this practice is where spring and fall housecleaning came from. In the fall, we would roll up the carpet and put down a linoleum-type rug, and the stove would go back in. There was no way you could keep a wool carpet nice while carrying wood in and ashes out. The only furniture in the kitchen was a large rectangular table, the Monarch stove, and a cupboard for dishes. The pantry was off the kitchen and had a limited amount of work and storage space. In the spare room upstairs, we had a large, hinged, ten-foot wooden box lined with metal where we stored at least a six-month supply of flour. In the summer, we used a portable kerosene stove with three burners that we kept in the washroom off the kitchen. Using this stove kept the house cooler than heating up the Monarch stove in the kitchen..."

"Four artesian wells provided water for our livestock. We had one on the home place, one at the camp place, and one each in the east and west pastures."

"In the first years, we had no icebox. In summer, we would tie a rope to the handle of a cooler and lower it into the cistern to keep the food cool. Some items were kept cool on the dirt floor in the cellar. It was probably in the late 1920s that we actually had an icehouse. Ours was a cavelike hole, lined with straw and situated on a hill on the east side of the house. The ice would be harvested from Lantz's stock dam when the ice was at its thickest. The men would saw blocks, pull them out, and load them on a hayrack type of sled

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to pull to the ranch. They would pack each ice chunk in straw, layer it with straw, and then cover all of the layers with more straw to provide insulation."

"Our traditional (July 4th) dinner was fried chicken from the spring brood, boiled new potatoes served with cream sauce, and fresh green peas from the garden. The dessert was ice cream. Everyone took turns turning the handle of the freezer. Crushed ice mixed with plenty of salt created enough cold to freeze the cream mixture."

"Our one-room schoolhouse, the West Star Valley School, held a special place in the lives of the entire community. In addition to school, it served as a city hall. In 1924, a Sunday School was organized there for children and adults."

"The West Star Valley School was also the meeting place for the annual community Thanksgiving dinner. Every family participated. Some years, we had goose and turkey, and one year my dad donated an elk that he had shot in the Black Hills."

"For a short period, once Don started high school in Ideal, he drove a truck, and I would ride as far as my school. I would remain there until he could pick me up on his way home. This arrangement did not last long. Don's drive was eleven miles one way. After the older kids went on to high school, there were only five children left at our one-room school: Rex and Merle Calhoon, Lois Chamberlain, Ruth Lantz, and myself. On my five-mile ride to school, I picked up Ruth, and we rode double for a mile and a half."

"My attire for school was a boy's denim shirt and overalls. In the wintertime, long underwear was a must. The other kids in school did not have to wear long underwear far into the spring. I can remember rolling mine up to above my knees before I got to school and then rolling it down before I got home."

"In 1925, many people in Star Valley Township purchased their first radios. We bought our Atwater Kent as a Christmas gift for the entire family."

"During these latter years of the 1920s, the Boreson ranch had grown in size. We had purchased several quarters of Indian land. The land was broken and planted to grains, corn, and ensilage products."

Early 1930's - "The stock market had collapsed, prices were at rock bottom, and people had no money because the banks had closed permanently. Our family would have survived this catastrophe had it not been for the severe drought, followed by the dust storms and then the grasshoppers."

"I believe Donald attended Ideal High School for two years. Even though we were at the beginning of the depression, the folks believed in education, so it was decided that Donald should apply for admittance to the State Agricultural College in Brookings. He was accepted"

"In November 1931, Leon Calhoon, Bill Lantz, and Pete Dubray drove the cattle to Okreek for winter feeding. Leon Calhoon stayed with them for the winter, and the following May, he and Donald drove the Boreson cattle back."

"That same summer (1933), I took the high-school examinations at the Ideal High School. The Calhoon boys and I received our eighth-grade diplomas in Winner. During this time, the dust storms were raging. Dust would seep into the house. Every day there would be a heavy coating of dust everywhere. We would take a cloth and a dustpan and push the dust off the window sills and into the pan. Farm machinery was buried in dirt, much like a snowbank, except that it was valuable topsoil."

"After that first year (at Ideal High School), my parents decided I should finish high school in Winner, some twenty-five miles from the ranch... Ruth Lantz was just starting high school, so our two families shared the task of picking us up on Friday and returning us to Winner on Monday morning."

"These were fierce years. Autumn never looked good. How would we ever feed the cattle? No one could buy hay under any circumstances. The grasshoppers had eaten everything."

While the foregoing excerpts related by Dorothy were about her memories of life on the Boreson Ranch, this could just as easily have been describing much the life experiences of Betty Hampson, who was the same age as Dorothy, and living their high school years just a few miles apart in Star Valley between 1935 and 1941. In fact, it is possible that Betty Gore Hampson was actually teaching at the West Star Valley School in 1939/40, the same school where Dorothy Boreson received her entire elementary school education. The Hampson family would have shared the same economic and climatic hardships as the Boreson's. Whether Betty Hampson and Dorothy Boreson ever met is not know, but highly probable, given the close geographic proximity of their families. The Lantz and Calhoun families that get frequent mention in Dorothy's memoir were close neighbors of the Hampson family in Star Valley.