EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

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Introduction

Dear Educator,

Thank you for choosing to bring your students to the Living History Farm at the Museum of the Rockies (MOR), where our mission is to inspire visitors to explore the rich natural and cultural history of America's Northern Rocky Mountains. A visit to the Living History Farm is a great way to help your students experience life as a Montana homesteader.

Studies have shown that learning in museums is not limited to the time spent within their walls, but is heavily influenced by prior knowledge and experiences and continues long after the visit has ended. For these reasons, preparing your students for their museum visit and then extending their experience afterward will enhance the educational aspect of the field trip experience.

To aid you in linking this museum visit to your curriculum, the Museum of the Rockies' Education Department has created this guide. Inside, you will find information on the history of homesteading in Montana, the Living History Farm and the Tinsley family.

MOR is committed to providing the richest possible learning experience for your students and welcomes your questions and feedback. We look forward to seeing you at the Museum of the Rockies soon!

Sincerely,

Education Department
Museum of the Rockies

Section 1: Montana History and the Homesteading Period

Interpreting the Living History Farm requires a historical understanding of the homesteading era in the United States. In order to help your students piece together why homesteading was so important in the settlement of Montana, you may have to put the 19th century into context for them.

Putting the 19th Centrury in Context

It is important that as an interpreter you have a basic knowledge of major U.S. historical events of the 19th century. These events helped shape politics, people, and policies that affected Montana and the homesteading era in America. The following description of events is a cliff note version of history. Please spend some time with appropriate resources to develop a deeper knowledge about each of the major historical events.

Pre-European Contact

It is important to remember that America, prior to European contact, was the land of a great diversity of American Indian tribes. These various tribal groups had homelands established well before contact.

European settlement of America had devastating effects on American Indian tribes across the nation. European settlement on the eastern seaboard not only increased conflict between tribal groups but also between European and Indian groups as well. As Eastern Tribal groups were pressured westward by European's quest for land, a ripple effect occurred as Indian tribes began to be pushed onto the homelands of the tribes to their west.

Population Explosions

Between 1790 and 1800, it is estimated that the population in America rose by 30%. The largest contributor to this population growth was European immigrants. Historian William J. Bromwell estimated that from the early 1780's until 1819 250,000 immigrants came to the United States. The majority of those immigrants were from Scotland, Ireland, Germany, the British Isles, and Switzerland.

Enormous Land Gains

Since the inception of American independence, there had been political desires to increase the amount of land claimed as American soil. By 1803, Emperor Napoleon shifted military power back to European domination, and realized he would not have the resources to manage his military advancement on the land west of what would be the Louisiana Purchase. On April 30, 1803, The United States entered into an agreement with France and bought the 512 million acres of land, which doubled the size of land holdings for the U.S.

The acquisition of the Louisiana territory sparked the desire for westward exploration. In 1804 President Jefferson, excited to explore his new purchase all the way to the Pacific Ocean, sent Meriwether Lewis and William Clark with a company of 4 dozen men to explore the new purchase via the Mississippi, Missouri, Yellowstone, Snake and Columbia rivers. In the spring of 1804, the exploration group left St. Louis and arrived at the Pacific coast in 1805. Lewis and Clark returned to St. Louis in 1806 with elaborate records and documentation of the discoveries, geography, and Indian civilizations they observed along the way.

After the purchase of the Louisiana Territory, the United States government continued their desire for land acquisition. By 1853, the U.S. government had acquired all the land for what is now known as the contiguous United States. In 1867, the U.S. purchased Alaska from Russian and in 1898, Hawaii became part of the United States territory as well.

Image from: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:U.S._Territorial_Acquisitions.png

Shifting Political and Cultural Powers

With the dramatic changes to the ever-growing United States, political and cultural issues were boiling under the surface creating immense tension among the people living in the United States. As the U.S. continued to gain more land to the west, not only did conflicts continue to rise between Indians and whites but so too did the heated debate on slavery.

As more territorial acquisitions were made, politicians debated the spread of slavery out west. After much heated debate and controversy, the Compromise of 1850 was passed into law. This compromise had five components:

- California would be admitted as a free state
- The rest of the land acquired from Mexico territorial governments be formed without restrictions on slavery
- Texas will yield in its boundary dispute with New Mexico and the federal government will compensate New Mexico by taking over its public debt
- The slave trade, but not slavery itself, be abolished in the District of Columbia and
- New and more effective fugitive slave laws would be passed.

While this compromise may have avoided civil war for a decade, tensions continued to rise and the impending crisis was on the horizon. The nation was at a boiling point over slavery, economics, morals, and admittance of new territories as free or slave states. By April of 1861, the "irrepressible conflict" exploded. The Civil War had begun between the North and the South, the union and confederate armies.

Westward Expansion

With the unrelenting Civil War (1861-1865), the west became a place of escape for many individuals. Not only was there a lure of gold and silver in the west but it was also a place to retreat from the war. With the enormous land gains made by the United States between 1803-1853, there was a lot of land out west that held the promise of new life for many of the war-torn residents in the East.

http://www.nebraskahistory.org
Nebraska homesteaders – 1886. Photo by Solomon D. Butcher

On May 20, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed into law the Homestead Act of 1862. The act provided that citizens that have not taken up arms up against the U.S. could travel west and to stake claim on their own land. The provisions of the original Homestead Act of 1862 were as follows:

- Allowed citizens to claim 160 acres of surveyed government land (this included freed slaves and women).
- Citizen must "prove-up" claimed land by building a house, planting crops etc.
- Citizen had to stay on the land for 5 years.
- After 5 years and paying a small filing fee, the person owned the land.

The Homestead Act opened the floodgates to westward settlement including the settlement in Montana.

Homesteading and the Impact for Montana

Originally, the area that we now know as Montana was part of the Louisiana Purchase (1803). After exploration and settlement, the area of what would become Montana became part of the Dakota Territory in 1861 and in 1863, the territory boundaries shifted again. The area that we recognize as Montana was then part of the Idaho Territory.

Montana was a dynamic area during the transition from territory to state. Early on in the homesteading era, the Montana area was rich in the promises of gold. Three major gold strikes in Montana increase the influx of westward travelers and helped Montana establish itself as its own territory and eventually a state.

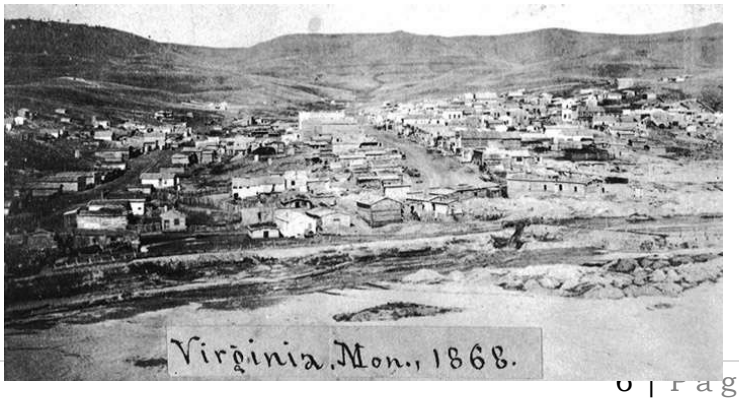
Grasshopper Creek Strike

In July of 1862, John White and William Eads struck gold along a small tributary of the Beaverhead River in southwest Montana. This strike was significant enough that by the end of the summer over 400 miners flocked to the area. The mining town of Bannack City (named after the Bannock Indians in the area) would soon spring up to accommodate the influx of people.

It is estimated that the Grasshopper Creek strike produced $5 million dollars in gold dust, which is worth $90 million dollars today, during the period in which it was mined.

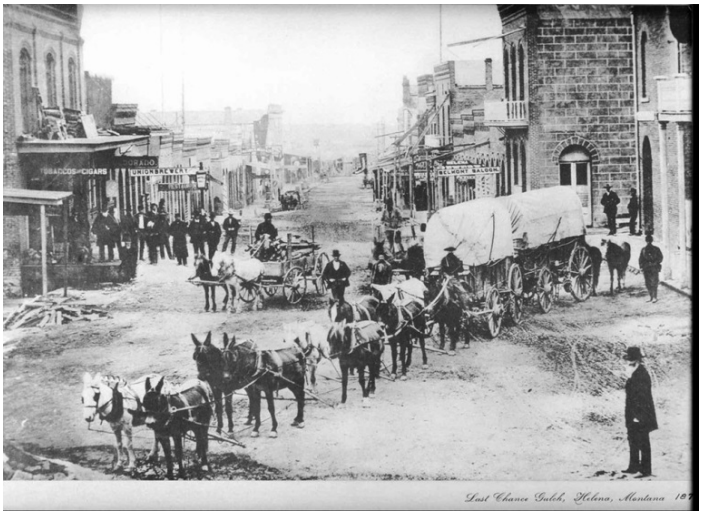
Alder Gulch Strike

In May of 1863, Bill Fairweather, while camping along a small stream in the Ruby River Valley, stuck gold when trying to pan enough gold



to buy tobacco. Fairweather's discovery turned out to be one of the most valuable strikes in Montana. In one day, Fairweather and his partners discovered $200 worth of gold (equivalent to $2900 today). Within a matter of months thousands of miners arrived to pan the 14-mile stretch of creek between what would become Virginia City and Nevada City. Estimates say that $30 million dollars of gold was mined from this area between 1863-1866.

Last Chance Gulch



Last Chance Gulch, Helena - 1870

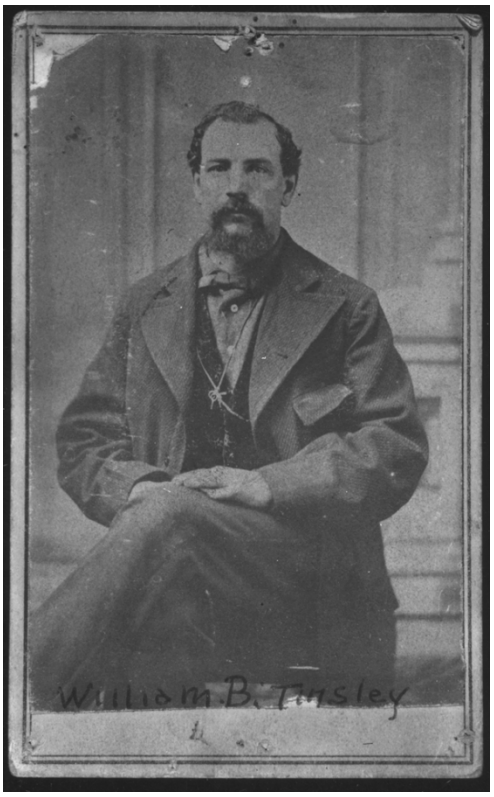
In 1864, four downtrodden miners picked up their gear from Alder Gulch and made their way to the Prickly Pear Valley to try their luck in striking gold. The Four Georgians, as they were called because of their mining methods, decided they would take one last chance in searching for gold. Their last ditch efforts finally paid off. What would soon be known to miners as Last Chance Gulch and the town established during the rush, Helena, produced $19 million dollars in gold.

Because of the Homesteading Act and the Montana
gold strikes, Montana's population was continuing to grow.
With the increase in population, a greater need for law and order was beginning to surface. During the period when Montana was part of the Idaho Territory, the closest governmental service was located in Lewistown Idaho. With the need for more governmental service including law enforcement, the people in Montana began to lobby to become their very own territory. In 1864, under the Organic Act, Montana became its own territory.
Bannack City was designated the territorial capital only briefly until Virginia City was named new territorial capital in 1865.

Montana's population grew from 39,000 in 1880 to 243,000 by 1900. With the population growth, came more pressure to achieve statehood. With the passage of the Enabling Act, Montana became a state on November 8, 1889

SECTION 2: Tinsley Family History

William Tinsley was born on August 1, 1836 to Bazzel and Mary (Henry) Tinsley in Hopkins County, Kentucky. Later his family settled in Grundy County, Missouri where William would spend most of his young life. Missouri, being a border state during the Civil War years (1861-1865), was a hot bed of civil unrest. Tinsley family history reports that John Tinsley, William's younger brother, joined the Union Army during the Civil War. During a midnight raid on William's older brother Joseph's farm, Joseph's barn was burned and as he raised a gun to shoot the raiders his wife Martha recognized one of the raiders as John Tinsley and stopped Joseph from firing his weapon.



Wm. Tinsley – 1865 – MOR Archives

With these types of attacks on their families, William and Joseph Tinsley were ready to leave Missouri. Both William, who was single at the time, and Joseph and Martha with their children wanted to head west in part to remove themselves from the Civil War unrest but also to take advantage of the Homestead Act of 1862.

In 1864, William, Joseph, Martha and family began a three-month journey along the Oregon Trail to Montana where they would arrive in Virginia City via the Landers Trail cutoff in August of 1864. William had scouted areas in Montana prior to 1864 and reported that there was good farmland available in what is now the Willow Creek area 6 miles south-west of current day Three Forks. William and Joseph staked their adjoining homestead claims around 1865 outside of current day Willow Creek.

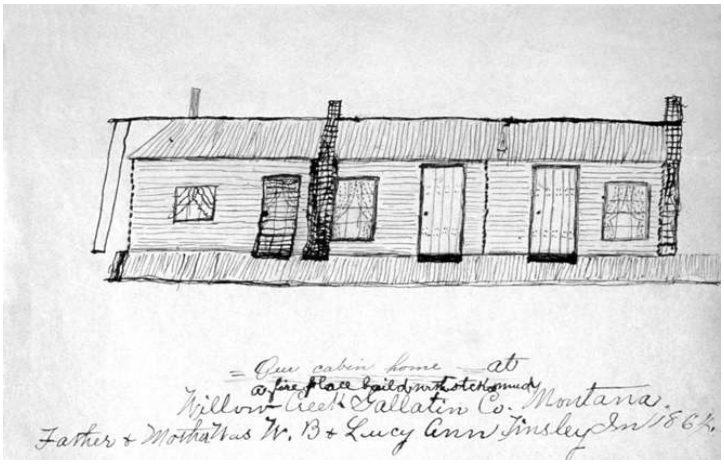
After staking his claim, William returned to Virginia City to work various job including working for the Wells Fargo Stage line. While working in Virginia City, he would meet and eventually marry Lucy Ann Nave.

Lucy Ann, youngest of eight children, was born on June 12, 1844 to Jake (James) and Lucinda Nave in Livingston County, Missouri. In May of 1863, the Nave family joined a wagon train in St. Louis, Missouri and traveled to Empire, Colorado where they stayed for the winter. In the spring of 1864, they began their trek north to Montana.

Lucy Ann (Nave) Tinsley (n.d.)

In order to help the family financially, Lucy Ann and two of her sisters settled in Virginia City as dressmakers. Coincidently, the dressmakers shop in Virginia City was located just across the street from the Wells Fargo office where William had taken a job.

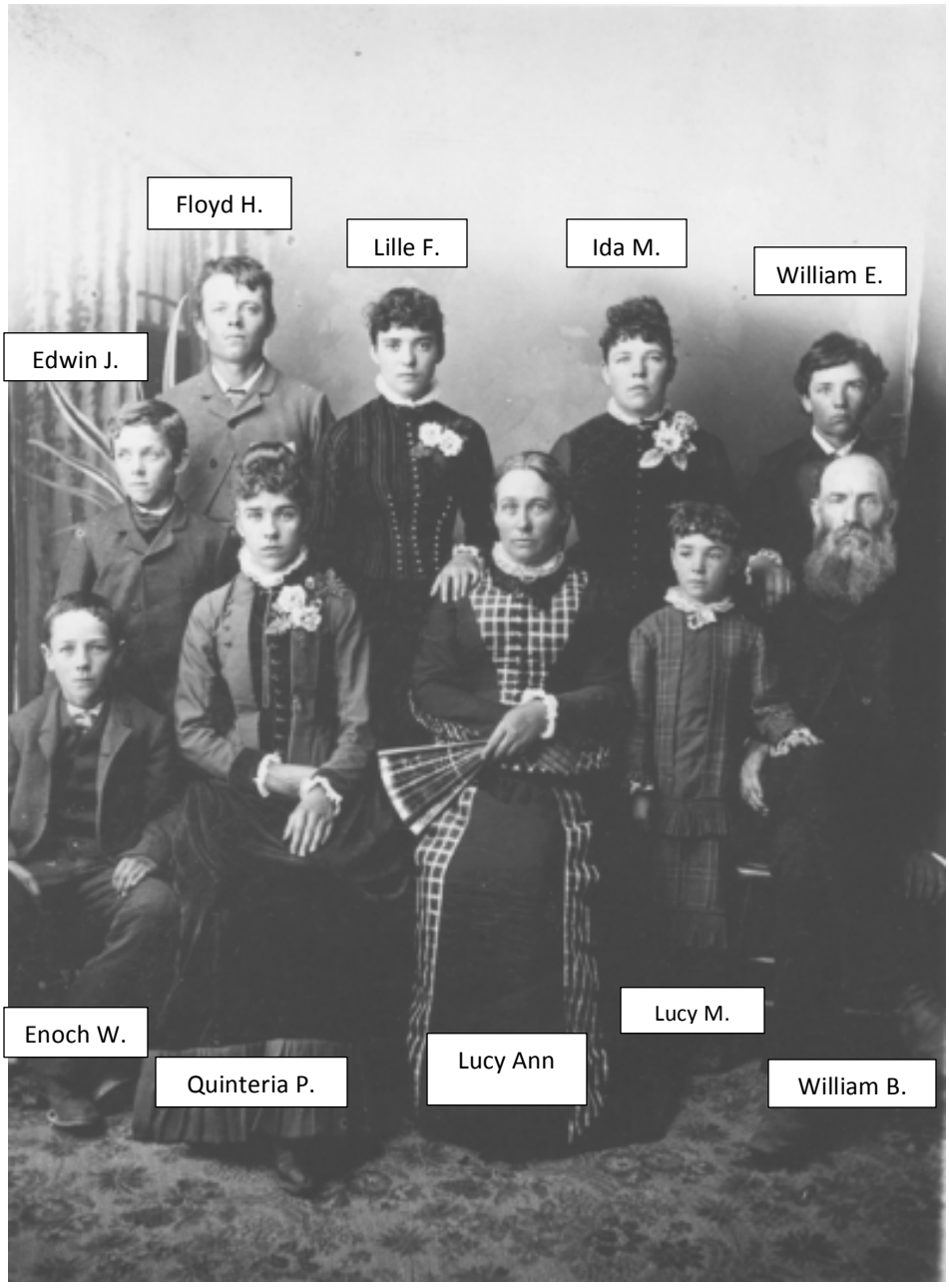
William and Lucy Ann were married on January 1, 1867 in Spring Creek, Montana. Spring Creek is four miles southwest of current day Toston.



Sketch of the Tinsley homestead cabin with additions. This sketch was done by one of the Tinsley children on an unknown date.

William and Lucy immediately settled on William's homestead claim in Willow Creek. They built their first one room cabin that measured 16 x 18 feet – or about the size of our blacksmith shop. In July of 1868, the newlyweds welcomed their first of eight children, Floyd H. Tinsley, into their family. After Floyd came Quinteria P. (b. 1870), Lillie F. (b.1871), Ida M. (b.1873), William E. (b. 1874), Enoch W. (b.1877), Edwin J. (b. 1878), and finally Lucy M. (b. 1881).

Tinsley Family Photo (ca. 1890)



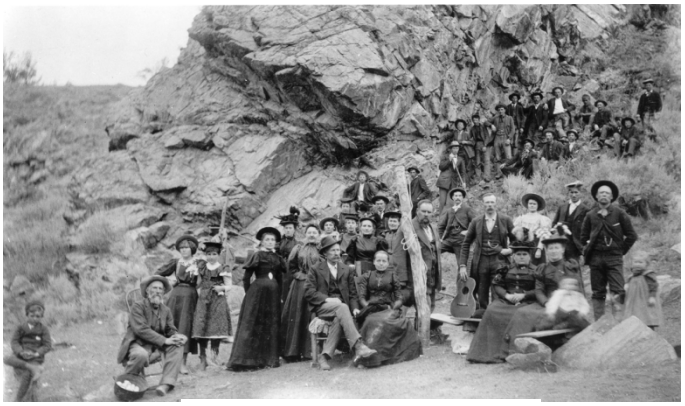
With their ever-growing family, William and Lucy decided to begin building a larger house to accommodate their family of ten. In 1888, the family started collecting the large timbers from a mill near the Mammoth area to start building their new home.

Some recorded family history claim that the two youngest Tinsley boys, Edward and Enoch, were responsible to make the two day round trip to Mammoth to collect the timber for the family. The two-story home was completed between late 1889 or early 1890.

Tinsley Home (n.d.)

William and Lucy would live out the rest of their lives in the home until their deaths. Lucy died May 3, 1912 and William died March 24, 1917. Both Lucy and William, and much of their family are buried together in the Willow Creek Cemetery where you can still locate each of their headstones.

The Tinsley family owned the house until 1920 when the Chan Cooper family purchased the house and the land of the original homestead claim. There are still a number of living Tinsley and Nave relatives in Gallatin County. Do not be surprised if you meet some of William and Lucy's distant relatives while you are volunteering at the farm. Please encourage those relative to write down any memories they have of their families in the guest book in the kitchen. The more historical information we can gather about the Tinsley and Nave families, the better chance we have to tell accurate stories.



Tinsley Group (ca. 1900)

Understanding the history and the stories of the Tinsley family is an important aspect to interpreting the exhibit to the visitors. However, it is critical to remember that the Living History Farm is a story about Montana and the homesteading era. We are able to use what we know about the Tinsley family as a vessel to interpret Montana's homesteading period.

There are many more sources available in the MOR Volunteer Library that focus on the Tinsley family specifically as well as the Montana homesteading era. While the information provided in this manual is a good start to understanding the general overview of both the 19th century as well as the Tinsley family, it is our responsibility as interpreters to seek more historical knowledge so that we can provide a well-rounded interpretation of our resource.

SECTION 3: Gardens of the Living History Farm

The Living History Farm Gardens are intended to give visitors an opportunity to see what seeds, garden products and grains that were available to homesteaders by 1905. Each garden has its own message and can tell a different story about Montana's agriculture past. The three gardens that volunteers help in maintaining at the Living History Farm are:

1. The Kitchen Garden
2. The Grains Garden
3. The Wildflower Garden & Dooryard Garden

Also, each year, MSU will plant experimental dry-land wheat in the large fields on the south side of the Living History Farm. The wheat may change from year to year so please check with the lead-interpreters or the farm manager to see what wheat MSU has plant that particular year.

The Kitchen Garden

This garden is the centerpiece of the Living History Farm's outdoor exhibits and is the largest garden on our property. This garden is representative of the type of fruits and vegetables a homesteader may have grown in their own gardens.

The LHF Kitchen Garden and Wildflower Gardens are considered "Heirloom Gardens." An heirloom plant is one that is propagated from seed and has been available for 50 years or more.

Each year, the products in the kitchen garden will vary depending on what seeds we have available to grow each spring. Interpreting the garden for our visitors will be similar from year to year despite what we have growing in the garden. Interpretation of the LHF gardens will be discussed later.

The Grains Garden (1880s-modern)

The grain garden, located on the south side of the kitchen garden, consists of spring-sown wheat that was available to farmers in Montana between 1880 and even modern grains.

Wildflower Garden

The main wildflower garden is located under the pine tree west of the kitchen garden. However, you will find many flower varieties along the boardwalk and surrounding the house. The flowers planted in the main wildflower garden are typical of those found throughout the Rocky Mountain region and many are native to Montana soil. Most of these flowers varieties were formally documented and named during the Lewis and Clark expedition.

Dooryard Gardens

The dooryard gardens are located just outside of the house within the picket fence. These gardens will have a variety of flowers, herbs, and vegetables as well as fruit trees.

Interpreting our Gardens

Interpreting the gardens for our visitors required each volunteer to have a base knowledge about each of the gardens so that they can all share a similar message with each visitor. Suggested interpretive themes for the gardens:

- Feeding a family during the homesteading era in Montana required an immense amount of effort.
- Hearty crop varieties supplied homesteaders with fresh produce throughout the summer and fall.

The basic interpretive stories of our gardens are as follows:

The Kitchen Garden

Oscar H. Will became one of the most influential seedmen in the late 19th century and early 20th century and was perhaps the greatest supplier of seeds west of the Mississippi. The varieties of plants that you will find in the kitchen garden would have been available through the Oscar Will Seed Company based in Bismarck, North Dakota.

Kitchen Garden

Oscar Will was born in 1855 in a small rural community of Pompey, New York. By the time he was 15, he had moved to Fayetteville, New York to live and work with his older brother, William, in the Fayetteville Nursery. With the knowledge that he gained working for the nursery, he was able to open his own business by age twenty-two.

Sources indicate that Oscar's older brother William had connections with an army comrade, Edward M. Fuller, who was living in Bismarck, North Dakota operating greenhouses of his own and was requesting assistance in managing the greenhouse business.

Photo from State Historical Society of North Dakota

Oscar, excited with the possibility of new opportunities, arrived in Bismarck in 1881 to help establish the Bismarck Greenhouses and Nurseries. By 1884, Oscar had been named the proprietor and successor to Fuller in their published seed catalog.

Oscar Will has some direct connections to Montana and MSU as well. In 1878, early on in their business partnership, Fuller and Will realized the Timber Culture Act could potentially produce big business for their greenhouse business. The Timber Culture Act allowed farmers to claim an additional 160 acres, which as Will and Fuller realized would increase the demand for hardy trees that could be planted on newly acclaimed lands. Fuller and Will sent a work crew of men to float the Missouri River and collect young trees to ship back to Bismarck for sale in the greenhouses. The work crew traveled as far as Glasgow, Montana, and traveled the Yellowstone River from Miles City and Billings.

As Will developed his company throughout the 1880's and early 1900's, he became a well-respected seed breeder that attracted the attention of many agricultural experimental stations in the west. One of those experimental stations was here in Bozeman, M.L. Wilson, a corn breeder for the Bozeman station, publicly claimed that Will's corn varieties will not only perform well in North Dakota but will also perform well for farmers in Montana. These varieties included Dakota White Flint, Gehu Yellow Flint, Burleigh County Mixed, and Early Squaw Mixed.

This information can guide your story when interpreting the kitchen garden for the visitors. The Oscar Will story demonstrates that homesteaders had access to a wonderful variety of garden products that could withstand the harsh western conditions of Montana. Access to the seeds produced by O.H. Will Seed Company provided homesteaders fresh produce that otherwise they would not have available on remote homesteads. The Oscar Will Seed Company operated for nearly 80 years and was run by 3 generations of the Will family.

The Grain Garden and the MSU Experimental Crops

The Grain Garden tells a significant story of Montana's agricultural past. By 1860, there was an estimated 2 million farms in the American West, and by 1900, there was an estimated 6 million farms in the West. Farming helped shape the landscape of

Montana and new agricultural practices and technological advancements aided in the success of homesteading families. The introduction of mechanization such as plows, reapers, and threshing machines made work a little more manageable for small family farms. Other techniques such strip farming, as is demonstrated in the MSU experimental crops section, was created after the devastation of the Dust Bowl during the depression era in the 1930s.

Both the Grain Garden and the MSU Experimental Crops demonstrate to our visitors that crop diversity, the new advancements in farming tools, and new practices were very important to homesteader survival.

The Grain Garden specifically demonstrates diversity of grains grown in Montana and the economic force of Montana's agricultural heritage. All the cereal grains in the garden are spring sown and are used for a variety of purposes. The grains in the garden are used for making bread (hard red spring wheat); pasta making (Durum Wheat) beer production and cattle feed (barley), horse feed (oats), and feed grain for a variety of livestock (Spelt).

Wildflower Garden/Dooryard Garden

The wildflower garden represents the beautiful array of flowers that are found in the mountains, valleys, and prairies across Montana. Some of these plants are edible; some have medicinal purposes while others are even toxic. Many homesteaders were comforted by the beauty of these flowers and would plant them around their homes and in their gardens for the aesthetic pleasure they brought after a long harsh winter. Many of the flowers found along the boardwalk and around the house are not necessary native to Montana. However, many homesteaders would bring flower seeds with them to plant on their homestead as a comfortable reminder of the flowers they may have back home.

The top two beer producers in the United States, Anheuser-Busch and the joint venture MillerCoors, use a vast majority of Montana grown barley in their beer production.

SECTION 4: General Information about the Interior of the House

The House

There are stoves in the kitchen, parlor, and living rooms downstairs. Probably there was a stove in the large upstairs room. Most likely, there would not have been stoves in the smaller rooms because of the danger of fire.

There is a picket fence around the house. A photograph of the house shows the picket fence in the home's early days; however, the exact installation date is unknown. Such a fence was common -- it helped keep small children close to the house and farm animals and others out of the family garden and flowers. There is a hand-pump well out the back door. It is located in the approximate same location as the well was located at the farmstead. The pump is hooked up to "city water" so it is safe to use for drinking and cooking purposes. All the water used in the house is to be brought in by hand, as it was originally.

All of the windows had shades. The advertisements for the time period show that both green and tan shades were available. Persons who have knowledge of the house have all mentioned green shades, so that is likely what was there before the turn of the century. Curtains for the windows appear to have been lightweight sheers/semi-sheers. One picture of the living room shows a floor length, semi-sheer with a shaped tieback made of another fabric -- perhaps stiffened with something to maintain the scalloped shape of the edge.

The Parlor

The parlor, or drawing room, as some would have known it, reflected the wealth, dignity, and cultural development of a family. It told something about the family unit and their relationship with each other and their community. Prior to the turn of the century, the parlor would have been kept closed except for very special occasions like entertaining the Minister or hosting special occasions or funerals.

The furnishings in this room would have been the finest the family had: something suitable for company, not everyday use. It contained the organ; chairs, a stove, carpet, pictures and the walls were wall papered over tightly stretched muslin. Wallpaper in the parlor is similar in color to one of those removed from the room. The pattern is somewhat different from the one found in the room but, it is a reproduction pattern from the late 19th century.

The 1899 photograph, shown to the left, was taken in the Tinsley parlor. The organ has an animal skin on the floor beneath the organ stool. Diary records identify that Edwin did some trapping, however it is unknown whether or not he was responsible for the animal skin. Skins like this one were fashionable in parlors and living rooms at this time.

According to Tinsley family information, Lucy described the parlor as having "a contented feeling." Lucy or one of the daughters would play the organ or piano and the family would sing. The Tinsley family usually sang hymns; other families favored hunting songs, folk songs, and camp songs. A favorite hymn that was mentioned was referred to as "Look Ever to Jesus." The hymn is actually entitled, "Yield Not to Temptation," written by Dr. H. R. Palmer. An interview with Harry Tinsley indicates the family Bible was kept in the parlor.

An 1888 discussion of parlors in the popular Demorest's Monthly Magazine shows the prices of furnishing a parlor and the costs ranged from $137.00 to $320.50.

Commonly found furniture items in parlors in at the end of the 19th century

- *Sofa (matching sofa/chair sets were popular from 1850 on)*
- *Gentleman's chair (like a throne, with high back and arms)*
- *Lady's chair (no arms to interfere with wide skirts)*
- *Side chairs*
- *Center table possibly decorated with a fern*
- *Portable lamps and/or center hanging ceiling fixture*
- *Easels*
- *Piano or organ*
- *Corner bracket shelves*
- *Handmade fabric covers for pianos and tables*

Current Parlor Furnishings

- Parlor Suit: Parlor suits, or what we know now as furniture sets, were very popular and could be purchased in sets of 3-7 pieces. Winifred Jeffers, descendent of the pioneer family that the town of Ennis is named for, donated the set that is currently in use in the Tinsley house. This set was her grandmother Ennis' parlor set from the 1890's.

- Antimacassars: The coverings on the back and arms of the parlor set are called "antimacassars." These coverings were made to protect the furniture fabric from the macassar oil that men used on their hair during this period.

- Wool Hooked Rug: The parlor floor may have been carpeted with a similar rug. Rugs were often recycled, or re-purposed, to other rooms in the house once they were no longer company quality. It was not uncommon for homesteading women to make their own woven rag rugs during this time as well.

- Tinsley Family Photo Album: In this album, you will find photos of the Tinsley family that MOR currently has in their photo archives. Guests are welcome to page through the photo album.

- Melodeon: This musical instrument is a small reed organ. Suction bellows are worked by treadles and draw the air inward through the reeds; the legs fold underneath so it becomes very portable. The bellows on our melodeon are too fragile to use.

- Wood Stove: A cast iron wood stove with nickel trim such as ours was available in the Sears catalog for $6.60 in 1897. This is a functional stove, but we rarely light a fire in it.

- Kerosene Lamps: Kerosene lamps were the predominate method of lighting a room when natural lighting grew dim. These functional lamps can be used but make sure the wick is trimmed and not turned up too high. Place the lamp in a safe place where it cannot be knocked over.

USING THE PHONOGRAPH

Wind the handle on the right side making sure not to wind it too tightly. Move the lever so that the record will spin and then put the needle on the outer edge. Pushing in or pulling out the silver rod can control the volume. The speed can also be controlled by moving the dial from slow to fast.

- Phonograph: Thomas Alva Edison was awarded a patent for a cylinder-type phonograph in 1879. A German immigrant, Emile Berliner was given a patent in 1888 for a gramophone that used discs of hard rubber. Later, shellac was used for the discs. In 1901, Berliner started the Victor Talking Machine Company. Our phonograph is a 1915 Silvertone that was sold by Sears.

- Piano: This piano was made in Boston, MA and purchased in Butte, MT and has real ivory keys. While historic photos show the Tinsley parlor with an organ, this piano is representative of the ways that some homesteading families entertained themselves and guests. Guests and volunteers are welcome to play the piano if they know how. Period music is suggested.

The Living Room

This was a family activity room that would have been used more in nice weather than in cold weather. People were dependent on their own talents and interests for their evening entertainment. People experienced family intimacy. Activities that would have taken place in this room include singing or playing musical instruments, card games, skill games, painting or drawing, diaries or records. "...one popular game was checkers; no 'store bought' parts, but rather a homemade board and buttons." ... Ree Hale Hester. "...each doing what we like and learning from each other." ... Lucy Tinsley Hale. The living room became a bedroom after Lucy became ill.

Family lore states that William Tinsley used to turn a chair forward until the top of the back rested on the floor lay a pillow on the back and lie down with his head on the pillow for a short rest. One afternoon while he was sleeping his little daughter braided his hair. He was awakened by someone knocking on the door, and answered the door unaware of his braided hair. The full account is in the Reminiscences of Lucy Tinsley Hale.

Furnishings currently in the Living Room

- Oak Sideboard: A descendant of the Tinsley Family donated this piece of furniture.

- Table and chairs: A descendant of the Tinsley Family also donated these pieces of furniture. This table is located under the window.

- Armoire: This large wardrobe is used to store reference books, fabric, coats, and other personal belongings that you may bring with you at the beginning of a shift.

- Sewing machine: The sewing machine was patented by Elias Howe in 1846. Do not adjust the machine. Please check with the Lead Interpreter for a demonstration before operating the machine. Please always disconnect the flywheel when finished to prevent guest injury.

- Wood Stove: A cast iron wood stove with nickel trim such as ours was available in the Sears catalog for $6.60 in 1897. This is a functional stove, but we rarely light a fire in it

- China Cupboard: Houses special pieces of china, which we do not use.

- Dining Table: the Ladies Sewing Circle donated this table as well as some chairs.

The Kitchen

The kitchen was the heart of the farm home. It served as the working kitchen, the dining room, a living area, a laundry area, a bathing/wash-up area, and a center for companionship. One writer states that, "...a woman's workshop ought to be as well supplied with working tools as her husband's is."

Furnishings currently in the kitchen:

- Wood Stove: The main item in any kitchen, wood stoves were used to prepare food, heat water and also heat the kitchen. Our stove is an 1890 Cole. It can be fired with wood or coal, although we use exclusively wood. See operating instructions under Daily Operations.

- Dry Sink: The dry sink was the precursor to our modern sink with running water. In the dry sink, the galvanized lining protects the wooden cabinet. Any water that is spilled into the sink must be mopped up with a cloth.

Please do not empty dishwater buckets near the house. Take all dishwater buckets to the tall grass between the outhouse and the chicken coop to empty.

- Baking Table: Flour and sugar would have been stored in the bins. The silverware is in the top right drawer.

- Storage Cupboard: The tin can labels are accurate reproductions of 1895 labels. Do not use. Home canned good are also stored here; these may be eaten.

- Cupboard: Made in the Springhill area, this cupboard contains dishes in the top and food is stored behind the door.

- Wash Stand. Place for hand washing away from the food preparation area.

- Folding Table: This item is located to the right of the dry sink and is generally always up but you are welcome to collapse the table should you need too.

- Washing Machine: This machine has a wooden tub and a rubber compression ringer. Similar machines were available in the 1898 Sears catalog for $2.50. We do not use this for washing, but instead use the tubs and wash stand stored on the back porch.

- Ice Box: Before electricity, this was a storage area to keep perishables cool. Ice blocks are placed in the top compartment and as the ice melts, the water runs through a tube that runs the length of the lower box. This ice water chills the lower compartment. The icebox and area where the ice is kept need to be cleaned occasionally, just as you would clean your refrigerator at home.

Please empty the ice-water collection pan located under the bottom of the icebox every morning. Pull the collection pan out from under the icebox from the front side to empty water.

- Cellar Door: Food was one of the primary concerns of the 19th century homemaker. A trap door to the cellar under the kitchen was located in the kitchen. The description provided by a granddaughter states the door was about 2-2 1/2 ft. by 4-5 ft. in size. When opened it laid flat on the floor. The opening exposed the ladder steps and a handrail. She considered this space a "Place of Magic." The "cave" was about 7 ft. by 8 ft. in size, lined with wooden boxes, glass jars, and stacks of ham and bacon. The glass jars ranged in size from 1/2 pint to gallon sized jars. The gallon jars are described as having had standard size openings. It might be of value to know that linoleum was created in 1863 and widely available by 1880, however not commonly used in our frontier area.

The Upstairs Bedrooms

Five rooms are located on the second floor of the house. There is some indication that the three smaller rooms may have been for the girls, the larger room (workroom) for the boys, however that has not been fully determined as fact. We identify the five bedrooms as the master bedroom, the baby's room, the boy's room, the girl's room, and the workroom.

All the rooms except the "workroom" have whitewashed muslin covering on the walls. This covering helped keep drafts out of the room as well as keep the rooms looking fresh and clean and was typical during this era.

The "workroom" shows the exposed timbers and beautifully illustrates the construction of the house.

Typical furnishing found in rooms during this era might include:

- *Beds frames made of wood, brass, or iron*
- *Bureau*
- *Small table*
- *Wash stand with pitcher and bowl*
- *Easy chair*
- *Strait chair*
- *Rag rugs*
- *Commode*
- *Chamber pot*
- *Storage chest*

The Workroom

The workroom is the first room located directly at the top of the stairs. Currently we use this room to demonstrate textile crafting -skills that many homesteaders would have practiced. Volunteers will demonstrate how spinning wheels and looms operate. With qualified volunteer supervision, guests can operate the visitor's loom.

Originally, this room may have been used as a dormitory type room for the boys of the Tinsley family. After the children had grown, this room may have also been used as Lucy Nave Tinsley's workroom where she would have done some spinning and weaving. Lucy may have also used this space to build her willow furniture as well.

Furnishings in the Workroom Include:

- Quilting Frame and Quilt: The frame is an apparatus that is designed to hold layers of a quilt together as it is quilted

- Fainting Couch: Couches of this type were sometimes called a Turkish couches. This type of spring seat couch could be bought for $15 in 1898.

- Loom: This large loom is set up to make rugs. The rug in the downstairs hallway was made on this loom.

- Rug Hooking Frame: This frame is used to make hook rugs.

- Spinning Wheel: The spinning wheel converts wool to yarn.

- Smaller (modern) Demonstration Loom: This visitor's loom can be used by visitors with the supervision of a qualified volunteer.

The Boy's Room

The boy's room is the first room on the left as you walk along the banister that protects the stairway.

In the boy's room, children are invited to try on the costumes and play with wooden blocks, blackboards, tin and wooden trains. This is the only room upstairs where visitors may use the items on display.

Furnishings in the Boy's Room.

- School Desk: This desk provides the work surface for using the chalk and blackboard.

- Iron Bedframe with Mattress: This iron bedframe would be a typical style bed for a child's room. These bedframes could be purchases from Sears & Roebuck mail order catalogs and were less expensive than wood.

- Commode with Towel Bar: This piece of furniture was typically where a water pitcher and bowl were kept to wash your face and hands. The chamber pot was often stored inside the commode. This piece of furniture could be purchased for $3.68 in the Sears & Roebuck catalog.

- Chamber Pot: Since there was no indoor plumbing in this house, the chamber pots were used as a toilet at night.

The Girl's Room

Directly next to the boy's room is the girl's room. This room has been decorated to represent a common style for a young woman's room that may have been typical of the era.

Furnishings in the Girl's Room

- Trunk: This wood storage trunk with metal binding has a domed top. The interior is fitted with a bonnet box and tray storage areas. Off-season clothing would most likely be stored in a trunk such as this one.

- Commode with Towel Bar: This piece of furniture was typically where a water pitcher and bowl were kept to wash your face and hands. The chamber pot was often stored inside the commode. This piece of furniture could be purchased for $3.68 in the Sears & Roebuck catalog.

- Wash Bowl and Pitcher. Decorated sets, such as the one in this room could be purchased for 84 cents in 1897.

- Iron Bedframe with Mattress: This iron bedframe would be a typical style bed for a child's room. These bedframes could be purchases from Sears & Roebuck mail order catalogs and were less expensive than wood.

- Chamber Pot: Since there was no indoor plumbing in this house, the chamber pots were used as a toilet at night.

- Dresses: Clothing was commonly hung on wall hooks while not in use. People during this era had a very limited variety of clothes and would wear their clothing until it has worn out.

The Baby's Room

The next room, directly across the hallway from the girl's room, is the baby's room. This room is decorated to represent furnishings that would be found in an infants or toddlers room during the era.

Furnishings in the Baby's Room

- Crib: This crib is made of iron and is period appropriate to the era.

- Chest of Drawers: This chest of drawers would be used for storing clothing and blankets.

- Potty Chair: This blue enamel potty-chair was used for toilet training and nighttime convenience.

- Rocking Chair: A rocking chair would have had great use in the baby's room as parents or older siblings tended to a fussy baby.

- Chamber Pot: Since there was no indoor plumbing in this house, the chamber pots were used as a toilet at night.

The Master Bedroom

The room to the right to the of the baby's room is the master bedroom. This would have been the room that William and Lucy occupied. This room has been decorated to represent the adult's sleeping quarters.

Furnishings in the Master Bedroom.

- Armoire: Since there are no closets in these rooms, the armoire is used for clothing storage.

- Commode with Towel Bar: This piece of furniture was typically where a water pitcher and bowl were kept to wash your face and hands. The chamber pot was often stored inside the commode. This piece of furniture could be purchased for $3.68 in the Sears & Roebuck catalog.

- Four Poster Bed: Look closely at hinges located at the top of the bed frame. This bed folds flat for easy transport. The top covering on the bed frame is called a tester. This bed is considered a full-size bed.

- Chamber Pot: Since there was no indoor plumbing in this house, the chamber pots were used as a toilet at night.

SECTION 5: General Information about the Outbuildings & Farming Equipment

There are a variety outbuildings located on the LHF property. Each building is representative of a building that may be found on homesteads across the west. All of the outbuildings are replica buildings that were constructed onsite and not originally part of the Tinsley family homestead.

Granary

The granary is located on the southeast end of the farm. It is a small building that would have originally been used to store grains and feed for livestock in an effort to keep feed away from mice and other pests.

Chicken House

The house contains laying boxes lined with hay, a roost, and a small fenced yard. We use the eggs produced by our chickens. We house period appropriate heritage chicken breeds throughout the summer. The breeds will include the Silver Laced Wyandotte, Rhode Island Red, Barred Plymouth Rock, Dominiques, and Buff Orpington to name a few. Please DO NOT allow the public to go into the chicken coop at any time.

Outhouse

The outhouse is a fully functioning facility that is for visitor and volunteer use.

Blacksmith Shop

This farm shop is a reproduction of the original Tinsley homestead cabin. After the main house was built, it was common for the original homestead cabin to be used for whatever purpose was needed. Ours is a well-equipped blacksmith shop, as might be found on a more remote ranch or farm. By 1889, tools and fasteners (nails, staples) could be easily obtained from a local store, and were not made in the farm blacksmith shop. The main purpose of a farm blacksmith shop is for shoeing horses, and general repair work. We currently have no historical evidence that the Tinsley family had a blacksmith shop on their homestead. This blacksmith shop is purely representational of what could have been on homesteads in the west.

For safety, no volunteer children under the age of 14 are allowed to be in the blacksmith shop for any length of time. It is the responsibility of the blacksmith to keep all visitors and volunteers safe. Please keep visitors away from the anvil and forge at all times. Visitors are welcome to sit on the benches in the blacksmith shop.

Machine Shed

The machine shed was used to store equipment and hay. Currently there are horse drawn implements stored inside including a Sulky plow, a sleigh, mower, and wagon.

Milking Barn

This authentic 1890's built barn was originally located on a small farm off Springhill Road just outside Bozeman city limits on the Lincoln family homestead. In 2006, Jim and Michele Gorman donated the barn to the Museum's Living History Farm and it was transported via large flatbed trailer to its current location. Since 2006, the barn has been undergoing a slow restoration process. First, the barn was placed on a permanent foundation. Then, a new roof replaced the old dilapidated one. The final restoration project included new chinking, replacement of the barn floor and rebuilding the milking stalls. The barn also contains a hayloft inside as well. Naturally, this type of barn would have been used for milking cows, storing feed and various other animal husbandry needs.

Root Cellar

Root cellars were a very common structures found on homesteaders' land. The root cellar maintains a temperature above freezing in the winter and is cool in the summer, making it a suitable place to store root type vegetables, fruits, and canned goods. Visitors are welcome to walk down into the root cellar to look inside. Please note that the stairs are very steep and can be slippery if they are wet.

Tinsley House, Willow Creek, MT (n.d)

Farming Equipment Located throughout the LHF

Throughout the property, there is farming equipment that dates from 1890-1920. In the following pages, you will find a list of equipment and photos of each piece of equipment so that you can familiarize yourself what we have at the LHF.

John Deere Dump Rake: Farmers would use this one horse John Deere to cut and rake their hay in the 1920s. They would start by using the mower attachment (not pictured) to cut the hay. Then they would come back with the rake attachment to rake the hay into piles. The rake teeth on the back can be lifted up with a petal to stop the raking action and dump the hay to make a pile.

Hay Loader: The hay loader was made in the 1920s to help make the process of loading hay easier. The hay loader is pulled behind the hay wagon and the hay loader always stays elevated as the hay is shimmied up. The hay comes spilling over the top and falls in the hay wagon. There is usually one or two people spacing and staking the loose hay evenly on the hay wagon while another person drives two or three horses.

Side Delivery Rake: This rake was made in the 1920-1930 and was pulled by two horses. It rakes the hay to the side, creating piles of hay in rows.

Disc Cultivator: The disc was built around 1910 to break up clods of dirt after the field had been plowed. The handles can be raised up for depth control and two horses are hooked up to pull the disc.

Cultivator (partial parts): A McCormick- Deering cultivator made for cultivating in between rows for crops like corn and was pulled by two horses. Donated by the McKamey Ranch.

Cultivator: This cultivator was made in 1900-1910 for vegetable crops like corn, carrots, and beans. While the crops were young, farmers would run the cultivator over a row of corn to kill the weeds on either side without damaging the crop. The teeth of the cultivator could be set at different widths depending on the crop and was pulled by one to two horses that had to be trained to not step on the crops while cultivating. The driver would walk behind the cultivator.

Wheeled Hoe: This is a versatile gardening tool, used for home vegetable gardens in 1900. There are different attachments like a furrow or hoe. An example of the use would be using the hoe attachment to manually kill weeds.

Wagon: Bain manufactured the wagon while Studebaker made the undercarriage in the 1890-1900s. This wagon was used for farming and carried freight like loose grain to the local grain elevators.

Bain Freight Wagon: This freight wagon pulled by two horses was made in the 1900s. A similar freight wagon is located near the front entry gate by the wildflower garden.

Sleigh: This sleigh used two horses to pull people in the winter. The sleds at the bottom were always reinforced with the best quality carbon steel so they would not stick to the ice. Note that a sleigh is what people ride in and a sled is for hauling objects.

Sulky Plow: The plow was built in 1900 and was used to turn over sod or dig irrigation ditches. It has a pedal to raise the plow and is pulled by two horses.

Seeder or Drill: The seeder was made in the 1920s and was pulled by two horses. To plant seed farmers would fill the bins with seed and the seeds would drop through the tubes and into the holes that were freshly drilled.

McCormick-Deering Mower: The mower was built in 1890-1900 and is all driven by the action of the horses. Two to three horses were used to pull the mower.

Hay Sled: This hay sled was built in the 1900- 1920 for feeding livestock and was pulled by two to four horses.

Buzz Saw: The saw was manufactured in 1910-1920 and was made for chopping up wood into chunks. A belt is hooked up to an engine that is used to give power to the saw and then a log is pushed forward into the saw to cut it.

Irrigation ditch behind the Tinsley house, Willow Creek MT. (n.d.)

SECTION 7: MOR's Acquisition of the Tinsley House

In 1983, Ken Karsmizki and Joan Brownell of the MOR began an extensive study of homesteading in the Gallatin Valley. Their paper titled *Gallatin Valley Homestead Survey* identified over 1,700 individual land claims of all types over thirty townships. The purpose of MOR initiating this study was to locate homesteading structures that were representative of the 1867 - 1890 homesteading era of Montana. Other goals of the research were to locate a structure that had significant documented history so that the structure could be placed in a historical context. Because of the need to locate a structure that had biographical history, the selection of a structure was quickly narrowed down. By 1985, researchers identified the Tinsely house as the best possible fit for the Living History Farm Project at MOR.

The original location of the Tinsley house was approximately 3.5 miles south of current day Willow Creek, MT. The house was structurally sound, had very few modern modifications, and was suitable for the intended Living History Farm Project. After an archeological survey of the house and the foundational area surrounding the house, the house was prepared for transport to MOR by the fall of 1986.

The 40-ton house was loaded on a flatbed truck and took its six-day journey down I-90 to find its way to its current home at MOR. Restoration of the exterior of the house began immediately to shore up the house and make it structurally sound for its new life as an exhibit that welcomes thousands of visitors every summer. In 1988, restoration of the interior of the house began and was completed in 1989 in time for the dedication on November 8, 1989 in celebration of Montana's centennial celebration.

APPENDIX A: Resources for Extended Learning:

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Severa, Joan. Dressed for the Photographer, Ordinary Americans and Fashion, 1840-1900, 1995, Kent State University Press. ISBN 0-87338-512-8.

Smith, Andrew F., 2000, Centennial Buckeye Cookbook, Ohio State University Press.

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Thompson, Carol Jo, July 1990, A Nineteenth Century Montana Homesteader's Ranch House, Museum of the Rockies, Bozeman, MT.

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Native Ground Music, www.nativeground.com, (Songbooks, instructions books, recordings), 1-800-725-2656.

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Lucy and Floyd Tinsley beside Tinsley House, ca. early 1900

APPENDIX B: Historical Timeline

1863 Ebenezer Butterick patented multi-sized tissue patterns

1881 Sitting Bull surrendered at Fort Buford

1882 Dow Jones (financial news service) formed

1882 Thomas Edison developed first electric power system

1883 American and Canadian railroads initiated standard time zones

1886 American Federation of Labor formed

1886 Great Southwest Railroad workers struck

1887 First baseball cards traded

1888 Department of Labor formed, Benjamin Harrison elected President

1889 Wall Street Journal published, Isaac Singer began selling sewing machines, John Phillip Sousa wrote the "Washington Post March", Mayo Clinic opened

1890 Wounded Knee Indian massacre, American Express traveler's checks, Sherman Anti-trust Act passed

1891 Basketball introduced, Carnegie Hall (New York) opens, zipper patented

1892 General Electric formed, Ellis Island opened, Grover Cleveland elected President, Sherlock Holmes (Sire Canon Doyle) published in U.S.

1893 Financial panic due to low levels of gold reserves triggers 4-year depression; Chicago's World Fair (Columbian Exposition) opens

1894 Labor Day became a national holiday, first income tax passed

1895 First Sears Roebuck mail order catalogue published, Red Badge of Courage (Stephan Crane) published

1896 William McKinley elected President, Henry Ford built his first car

1897 First (practical) subway opens in Boston

1898 Spanish American War started

1899 Oklahoma land rush began at noon, April 22

APPENDIX C: Food Availability in the 1890s

All of these items were not in general production during the 1890's. Nor would all items have been available in Montana at that time. For example, peanut butter was available in 1895, but it was first available in "health spas," then in wealthy homes.

1706 Twinings Tea

1762 Earl of Sandwich invents the sandwich

1810 Aluminum food cans

1831 Carr's Biscuits (crackers) introduced

1837 Idaho potatoes

1841 Cornstarch patented

1842 Mott's apple cider

1847 Chinese food available in America, Smith Brothers Cough Drops

1850 Modern marshmallows available

1851 Powdered sugar patented

1853 Potato chips

1854 Cream soda introduced

1855 Miller and Schlitz beers, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

1856 Eagle Brand Condensed milk

1858 Can opener patented

1863 Ovaltine developed as nutritious breakfast drink

1867 Underwood deviled ham, synthetic baby food

1868 Tabasco sauce, Fleischmann's Yeast

1869 Mason canning jars, Campbell's Soup

1870 Margarine, California raisins

1872 Dried milk patented, Blackjack chewing gum

1876 Heinz Ketchup. Soda (saltine) crackers

1877 Graham crackers

1880 Candy corn, peppermint chewing gum

1882 Red Star yeast

1883 Salt water taffy

1885 Evaporated milk; Coca-Cola introduced as “French cocoa wine”

1888 Log Cabin maple syrup

1889 Aunt Jemima’s pancake mix - first commercial convenience food

1890 Peanut butter, Knox gelatin

1891 Fig Newtons

1893 Cracker Jacks, Cream of Wheat, Shredded wheat, Good and Plenty candy, Postum coffee substitute

1895 Pizza (as we know it), shredded coconut, Triscuits, Grape Nuts, shredded coconut

1896 Tootsie Roll introduced, tea bags patented in England

1897 Jell-O, Grape-nuts cereal

1898 National Biscuit company first sold family-sized crackers (previously they had been sold in barrels)

1899 Wesson Oil

1900 Chicklets gum, cotton candy, Hershey’s candy bar

1902 Barnum’s animal crackers

1903 Ice cream cone patented

APPENDIX D: Settlement of the Gallatin Valley

Source: MOR Research

The Settlement of the Willow Creek Area and the Development of an Agricultural Community

The settlement and development of Willow Creek is related to that of the Gallatin Valley and Gallatin County. The need to establish a food supply for the mining communities of Alder Gulch, Virginia City, and others has long been considered the impetus of agricultural development in Montana in the many small valleys near the mining camps - the Tobacco Root, Jefferson, Prickly Pear and Gallatin. Each of these areas had rich soil, water for irrigation, and were located at a sufficiently low altitude to allow crops to mature.

As the need for agricultural development became evident and migrants to Montana Territory chose to pursue the field rather than mining, the lower Willow Creek valley was settled in 1863 or 1864. The Willow Creek area was slightly closer than the Gallatin Valley to Virginia City - only about sixty miles. The presence of settlers in the Gallatin City area (near what is the Headwaters State Park, by Three Forks) in 1863 suggests that the advantageous setting of the Willow Creek valley was noticed at that time; the settlement date for Willow Creek is sometimes given as 1863. The wagon road between Sterling, to the southwest, and Helena passed through the Willow Creek area, making the area readily accessible to settlers and facilitating the delivery of hay and other products to the mining regions. What appears to be the major route from Helena to the south during the late nineteenth century went through the Gallatin City area and then south along the east bank of the Madison River, in the valley to the east. Thus Willow Creek was well-connected to larger communities to the north and south, perhaps more so, initially, than to Bozeman, at the eastern end of the Gallatin County; the route to Bozeman (some 40 miles distant), crossed several rivers, requiring the use of ferries, and, later, bridges. Additional roads were developed through the Willow Creek area during the 1870s.

In 1867 the Federal Land Survey of Montana Territory was directed to begin "nearest to those portions of the Territory now occupied and settled upon, as well as those best calculated to attract prospective immigration of agriculturists" - believed to be found in the valleys of the Gallatin, Madison and Jefferson Rivers.... Solomon Meredith soon informed General Land Office Commissioner Joseph Wilson that the location for the initial point of survey was determined to be in "the Gallatin Valley one of the most valuable and thickly settled agricultural portions of Montana", where lands would undoubtedly be taken up at once were the surveys extended over them. In the summer of 1867 the initial point was established on the "limestone hill about 800 feet high which projects boldly northward into the valley of Jefferson Fork," a prominent landmark on the west side of the Willow Creek valley. The survey field notes of 1868 and map recorded five houses and fenced wheat fields in Lower Willow Creek area,

and noted that "the best farming land in this township is in the valley of Willow Creek," and that the surrounding table land had good soil and abundant grass for pasturage.

The settlers in Willow Creek were initially squatters, since there was no means to record land claims. It does not appear that a "land-claim club," as was used in the Gallatin City area, was formed in Willow Creek. Settlers began filing pre-emption claims and applications for homesteads in 1869. Most of the homesteads in the Willow Creek Township were acquired by the five-year patented homesteading process, provided for in the Homestead Act of 1862. Many of the earliest applications for homesteads at the Bozeman Land Office were for land in the Willow Creek area. George L. Gordon was issued FHE 1 for his homestead along the Jefferson River, northeast of the location of the Willow Creek town site. Several settlers took advantage of the provisions that enabled them to commute their claims and gain title after fourteen months of residence by paying $1.25 an acre. After July 1, 1870, when the second modification of the Morrill Act allowed pre-emptors to purchase their claims with Agricultural College Script, a small number of Willow Creek residents used that means to acquire their 160 acres; their Mississippi script, like that of over 100 entrymen in Gallatin and Madison counties, was probably purchased from script and land paper dealers in Bozeman and Helena. The large portion of railroad lands in the township - over 40% - was withdrawn in April, 1872. Much of the prime land in the Willow Creek area, including that in two sections that were assigned to the railroad, had been claimed prior to that time, and thus remained in the hands of the early entrymen.

During the 1860s a farming community known as Willow Creek was established in the lower Willow Creek valley and in the bottom lands along both banks of the Jefferson River. In 1865 the voting precinct, Jefferson Precinct No. 2, comprised all of Gallatin County west of the joining of the Jefferson and Madison Rivers. In 1870, there were twenty-three families in the area, and a total population of 116. The sense of community had been furthered by the establishment of a public school in 1867; earlier, teachers had taught in the Green home and perhaps others. A larger facility was erected in 1870; in 1874 the State Superintendent of Schools reported that the school at Willow Creek was the best in the state. Reverend L. B. Stateler, associated with the Methodist Church South, arrived in the area in 1864 and held the first church service in Willow Creek at Christmas time of that year. Willow Creek was the site of several revival-type meetings; during the meeting of 1873 funds were pledged for the construction of a church building, known as the Stateler Chapel, which was subsequently built at the north end of the Willow Creek valley. In 1871 a chapter of the I.O.G.T. Lodge was chartered with eighteen members. Regular mail service began in 1872 from Sterling via Willow Creek to Gallatin City. In 1873 the Davis & Fredericks flour mill was constructed at the south end of the lower Willow Creek Canyon; the mill operated at least through 1880. Also in 1873 the first store, near the site of the Stateler Chapel, was opened by Mr. Jaynes from Helena.

The Willow Creek community was dominated by two major cultural groups: A number of disaffected Mormons from Utah and a group related by marriage and friendship that had migrated from western Missouri. The group of Mormons included James Green (from Provo in 1864), Clinton Williams (from Utah in 1866), Terry Burns (in Willow Creek by 1870), Louis Gaulter (from Utah via Idaho by 1870), William Hankinson (to Willow Creek in 1871 after fourteen years in Utah), Adolphus Woodward (from Ft. Green in 1878), and several others. While James Green and perhaps others continued to practice the Mormon religion, a Latter Day Saints congregation was not established in Willow Creek.

It has been recognized by agricultural historians that Mormon agriculture was the model for the rest of the irrigated West. The group of settlers from Utah probably played an important role in transferring the technology and practice of gravity-fed irrigation ditches to the Gallatin County area. In the mid-1860's irrigation was virtually unknown in North America outside of California and Utah, although the farmers from Missouri might have seen small-scale applications near the old military posts along the Overland Trail in Wyoming. Men like James Green, however, had spent many years in Utah, and were probably well-acquainted with irrigation practice there. Roadside ditches, such as those in Willow Creek, are characteristic of Mormon methods of irrigation. While the irrigation projects in Utah were Church organized, those in Willow Creek were probably neighborhood enterprises.

The group of Willow Creek residents from Missouri was dominated by the Tinsley kinship group: The brothers William and Joseph Tinsley; William Tinsley's wife's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob (James) Nave; and Joseph Tinsley's wife's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Carey M. Tate. These families and Mr. and Mrs. James Hale, also from Missouri, initially occupied much of the southern portion of the lower Willow Creek valley. It is not known if Reverend Stateler, who had spent many of the early years of his ministry in Missouri, knew these settlers prior to serving as their pastor in Montana.

There is no evidence in local histories of any strong social division between these two groups. Indeed, there were many marriages between members of the two groups, including that of Quiteria P. Tinsley, daughter of William and Lucy Ann Nave Tinsley to Charles Green, son of James Green. The extent to which the practices of these cultural groups affected the physical development of homesteads in Willow Creek appears to be minimal; there are no obvious differences between the ranch complexes of the Missourians and Mormons. Although there are some cultural landscape characteristics in Willow Creek similar to those in Mormon country, there are also differences. The landscape is not dominated by the clustered houses of a typical Mormon village surrounded by open fields and most outbuildings are painted, in contrast to the Mormon practice of leaving such structures to weather. Neither the characteristic Lombardy poplar trees nor the "Mormon" paling fences are in evidence. It has not been determined to what extent the hay derrick, a piece of equipment

associated with Mormon settlement, was commonly used in Willow Creek. The late nineteenth-century Willow Creek ranch houses have elements in common with, but not exclusively associated with, Mormon dwellings in Utah.

The Development of Irrigated Agriculture in Lower Willow Creek

Willow Creek residents reproduced the pattern of self-sufficient agriculture that they had known in Missouri and Utah; with limited transportation to non-local markets, diversified crops were necessary. Wild hay, which nearly all farmers cut, was one of the first crops to be marketed to the mining communities. By 1870 most settlers had from 45 to 100 improved acres and all but four farmers in the area produced wheat. Most had small herds of stock, which ranged in the foothills and nonagricultural mountain valleys.

Water rights records indicate that irrigation ditches were established during the first years of settlement; allowing for some exaggeration of the initial date of water use, these ditches probably date from the mid-1860s. Many homestead application documents for the Willow Creek area include irrigation ditches in the list of improvements. The earliest ditches, which were known by the names of settlers, appear to have been both small structures dug by individuals, and larger projects, developed by a group of farmers; several of the ditches were enlarged during the first years of use. The system of irrigation ditches in Willow Creek are examples of "pioneer enterprises" in which the farmers themselves, chiefly with their own labor and always with limited capital, dug the ditches to bring water onto the dry land. The ditches were probably dug in a manner similar to that described by Arthur J. Dickson in Covered Wagon Days: "A meeting was called...for the purpose of constructing and maintaining a ditch...at the intake a six or seven-foot cut was necessary and for nearly half a mile it was pretty hard digging, mostly pick and shovel work; then we used plows and a homemade scraper or "Stone-boat," a V-shaped affair of timbers constructed the width of the ditch and weighted. Several furrows were plowed and the stone-boat drawn by six or eight horses, followed and threw the dirt out at each side." Although such small irrigation districts were soon overshadowed by larger public reclamation projects, the prosperity that resulted from these early, pioneer-era systems prompted the widespread interest in irrigation during the late nineteenth century.

According to Wilson, the farming methods used in the Gallatin Valley were patterned largely after those in use in Utah. Virgin sod was broken to a depth of about four inches, and later plowed to the average depth of six inches. Stubble plowing was usually done in the fall. Crop rotation was not practiced; however, the soils, rich in nitrogen, showed no decline through continuous cropping. All crops were irrigated and grain was flooded three times, as was the customary practice. Harvesting and threshing machinery was freighted in, but harrows were home-made with teeth of buffalo-berry sticks pointed and hardened by charring. Seeding was done by hand and grain drills were not in common use. Practically all wheat was of a soft club type

since the local mills were not equipped for grinding hard wheat and refused to purchase it. Oats were a late white variety and barley was two-rowed, chevalier malting varieties. The earlier potatoes were largely blue Meshamock; these soon gave way to white varieties like Early Rose. Scarcely any tame hay was produced, since the native grass produced such large and nutritious yields of hay.

During the first years of agricultural development, wheat was the dominant crop in the Gallatin Valley, with the production of the grain jumping from virtually none in 1864 to 20,000 bushels in 1865, and to 300,000 bushels in 1867. By 1868 two flour mills were in operation in the county and in 1873 another was established on Willow Creek. By 1870, 178 farms had been established in Gallatin County which led the Territory with the number of farms, and produced half of the total of wheat and oats produced in the Territory. With over twenty farms/ranches, about 13% of the farms in the county, Willow Creek contributed significantly to these statistics. The early dominance of wheat in the agriculture of the area waned during the 1870s. Although the price of wheat fluctuated between 1865 and 1871, from 1871 to 1875 it dropped from $2 a bushel to $.40, and at times there was practically no market. The agricultural depression corresponded to the depopulation of the mining industry after 1866, brought about by the increase in quartz mining which required a smaller labor force. By 1880 oats had superseded wheat as the dominant crop, due to the large number of horses and mules used by stage lines and military posts.

In general, farming remained at a standstill during the 1870s and early 1880s in the Gallatin Valley area, due to the lack of railroad transport to link the Gallatin Valley farms to markets and low wheat prices. Some settlers sold or abandoned their ranches while others turned to breeding stock; during that time Gallatin Valley horses and cattle earned wide recognition. It appears that Willow Creek settlers turned to stock raising to get through the difficult period; when the Woodward family arrived in Willow Creek in 1878, they found the valley partially settled by "stockmen." During the 1870s, several homesteads in the Willow Creek area were sold; most remained as individual properties, although some appear to have been rented.

The Era of Intensified and Diversified Agricultural Development, 1883-1940

Summary

This period of agricultural development was initiated by the arrival of the Northern Pacific Railroad in Gallatin County in 1883; a branch line linked Willow Creek directly with the larger world in 1887. The railroad greatly reduced the isolation of the area since markets were expanded, enabling farm and ranch incomes to increase and the presence of the railroad coincided with an increase in settlers into the area. Early attempts at dry land farming during the 1890s and the dryland homestead boom years during the early twentieth century had a marked impact on development of Willow Creek, as more land was put into production by established farmers and newcomers. The arrival of a second railroad line -- the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway -- in

1908, the development of the town site of Willow Creek during the 1910s, as well as the "bust" of the dryland farming boom and the failure of the Willow Creek Bank during the early 1920s were major events. This era was brought to a close with the construction of the Willow Creek Dam in 1937, and the subsequent availability of more water for irrigation and increasing modernization of farming and ranching operations.

Improved Transportation

The arrival of the Northern Pacific Railroad in Gallatin County in 1883 ended nearly twenty years of relative isolation for the agricultural area and was an event of great economic importance. The Butte Branch line was constructed through Willow Creek in 1887. The future route of the railroad had already checkered the area since alternate sections -- the odd-numbered ones, including 19 and 31 in the lower Willow Creek area -- had been set aside for the line in 1872 although most of these sections had already been claimed. The specific effects on the established ranches in Willow Creek of this link to non-local markets and reduced freight rates are unknown. There seems, however, to have been an increase in farm and ranch income which is reflected in the improvement of homesteads in Willow Creek around the turn of the century with many new granaries and barns. The construction of larger dwellings between 1880 and 1910 probably had much to do with economic and social changes brought about by the arrival of the railroad, both the increased prosperity and greater ease in acquiring building materials, as well as with the more intangible sense of attachment with the greater world and perception that the pioneering era was drawing to a close. The strong traditions of the initial settlement period and economic constraints, however, tempered the rate and degree of change. For example, until around 1900 homesteaders in the area usually built log dwellings.

By the turn of the century, "the finest stock yard on Butte Branch" had been established at Willow Creek. The volume of cattle and horses shipped from Willow Creek indicated a need for public scales. Grain, potatoes, and even cabbage were shipped from Willow Creek to distant points. In 1908 a second line, the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway route to the west coast, was completed through Willow Creek. Real estate developers associated with that railroad were involved in the development of the town site.

Roads through the area continued to be improved. By 1895 a county road had been established along the railroad right-of-way between Three Forks and Willow Creek. That route became a portion of a state road (now the Willow Creek Road and Yellowstone Trail) that extended from Three Forks to Willow Creek, turned south through the Willow Creek valley, and then passed through the bench land southwest to Pony. A county road -- now Breezeway and West Baseline Roads -- led up onto the bench land to the east. The iron bridge over the Jefferson River on Williams Bridge Road was constructed in 1898; a second bridge over the river, just a few miles to the north, was completed in 1914.

Intensified and Diversified Agriculture

The arrival of the railroad prompted an expansion of irrigated farming in the Gallatin Valley, where a number of large irrigation canals were constructed. However, in Willow Creek it seems that most of the ditches had been established by the early 1870s and that irrigation on Willow Creek had already reached the extent possible without water storage in a reservoir. In 1886, the "Lower Willow Creek Ditch Company" recorded water rights and shares with the County Recorder; its 3600 inches of water had initially been claimed in 1864. Several water rights claims were recorded during the 1880s, perhaps in response to the 1879 Montana statute concerning water rights, but they do not appear to indicate an increase in irrigation. In 1890, it was noted that although there were many ditches on Willow Creek there was no comprehensive system of irrigation and that there was a need for more water in the valley. In order to expand the 10,000 irrigated acres on Willow Creek (a figure that included land on Willow Creek above the lower creek valley) steps were taken around 1915 to form an irrigation district of 18,000 acres to be served by water stored on the creek; however, this project was not realized until the mid-1930s. In 1910, Joseph Dickson assumed duties of water commissioner in Willow Creek, riding the ditches and distributing water; it is not known when this position was established.

Dry farming on the benches of the Bridger Range after 1890 greatly increased Gallatin Valley's production of wheat; this increase was reflected in the appearance of elevators at Bozeman and Belgrade and a new flourmill in Bozeman. Barley and oats became important crops as well; the oats were sold to feed the horses in Yellowstone National Park and cavalry horses in the Philippines. In Willow Creek, a number of homesteads were established on the more marginal land -- at the edges of the bottomland and on bench lands -- during 1889 and 1890 and from 1897 to 1899. However, the expansion to the bench land for dry land farming seems to have taken place primarily after 1900 as members of the second generation of families acquired homesteads in Willow Creek and non-resident investors purchased land on the bench land to the south and east. Most of the homesteads on the bench land surrounding Willow Creek were established between 1913 and 1919. The sale in 1902 of a tract of 7,000 acres on the bench land, just to the south and east of the lower Willow Creek valley, to members of the Bell family of Milbank, South Dakota, indicates the interest of outside investors in the area. Several others from Milbank, a town on the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad, bought dry land property in the area and eventually two businessmen from that town founded the Willow Creek bank.

During the early 1900s, the Willow Creek column in the Bozeman Avant Courier recorded many of the familiar events in the yearly cycle of agriculture. In February large numbers of cattle were shipped. By the end of March, when ranchers were baling hay and planting potatoes it was also a good time to realize some profits on potatoes and hogs. By the third week in April, all of the stock was out on the range and farmers had their grain in. During May, virgin sod on the bench land was plowed,

at times by steam and gasoline outfits working twenty-four hours a day. At the end of June, it was time to irrigate, and haying continued "full blast." Most irrigation water was used between July 4 and 15. During July, large hay crews continued to move from ranch to ranch. The threshing season began in early September and continued into October, and grain buyers were soon loading cars of wheat, most of which went to the Bozeman Milling Company, although some farmers loaded their wheat on the Milwaukee line, perhaps for points farther east. Potato digging assumed great importance in early October, the time when many acres of fall wheat were seeded. In mid-October, a "good many fat sows and calves" were shipped from Willow Creek.

It seems that ranching was more diversified in the Willow Creek area than in the Gallatin Valley, where agriculturists were either dry land farmers, irrigated crop farmers, or stockmen. Many Willow Creek ranchers, like the Tinsleys, James Green, William Buttelman, and others had quite large acreages and combined stock raising and wheat farming. The Montana Experimental Station, established in 1893 at nearby Bozeman, had counseled the substitution of red clover for summer fallowing which early wheat-growers had practiced. Willow Creek ranchers probably fed their larger crops of hay and pea vines (from the seed pea crops popular in the area during the 1910s), to their stock. On the other hand, homesteaders on dry land were usually limited to raising winter wheat and only the stock needed to do the farm work. The practice of alternating wheat and fallowing on dry land was carried out more fully in the Gallatin Valley (and presumably the Willow Creek area) than in most sections of the state.

During the last decades of the nineteenth century farming in Montana changed from being incidental to live-stock raising to the reverse, with cultivation taking precedence over the live-stock industry; this turn around was accompanied by a considerable increase in farm wealth. It is difficult to determine what changes in agricultural production took place in the Willow Creek area during that period, particularly since the amount of water available for irrigation was limited. However, as dry land farming gained in popularity, increases in agricultural production enjoyed throughout the state were also realized in Willow Creek. By 1912-1913 the production of grain in the Willow Creek area had greatly increased; the bench land in the area was considered as prime agricultural land where the yield on an acre of winter wheat was from 38 to 44 bushels, and the yield of oats was as high as 88 bushels an acre. In 1912, the Farmers' Elevator was established by a group of Willow Creek farmers, led by John Walbert, Jr. (the elevator, on the Milwaukee tracks, burned in 1921). The Farmers' Elevator handled 56,000 bushels of wheat in 1912 and expected a nearly 100% increase in volume of wheat the following year, as well as 10,000 bushels of oats, and lesser amounts of barley and flax. The surrounding agricultural lands were rapidly being brought under the plow.