Infant Girl Hamlin; Winter 1923

Being good friends with Wallace Hamlin for years I have the following information to give about this child and her burial.

Walter Hamlin (Nov 19, 1878) and Rose (Thomas) Bames (May 12, 1893) were married about 1918. Rose had a daughter from a previous marriage to Bames and that daughter stayed behind with family. Walter and Rose were living in Greer, Idaho when Walter registered for the draft on Sept. 12, 1918. On August 26, 1919 the young couple moved to Canada. Walter and Rose had their first child together in 1920. Their son Wallace Hamlin was born Oct 1, 1920 in Knisno, Alberta, Canada. Walter moved as the work situations changed.

In 1922 the young couple, along with their son “Wally” were living in a logging camp just outside of Weippe, Idaho, up a draw called Kamiah Gulch. This camp was run by James Edward Coon, born 1881 in Michigan. Walter was undoubtedly a logger for Coon and Rose was the camp cook. While snow was still on the ground during the early part of 1923, Rose gave birth to a daughter who soon died.

Emily Schlader Chapman told me that her father, Andy Schlader and a few other men who worked at the camp, made the infant a tiny casket and buried her in an opening in the meadow where there was no snow. In the years that followed someone built a white picket fence around her grave and maintained it. After a while though, it was abandoned and disappeared. I saw this grave in 1985 but when I went back in 2006 I could not locate it. I did find scattered pieces of the logging camp.

Because Wally was only 2 years old when this baby girl was born, he was unaware of it until Emily Chapman mentioned it to me in 2004. His mother had never mentioned this child to him. Emily had called me up and told me that there was something I should know to add to my history of Wally. It was then that she told me about this little girl.

Soon after the birth of this child, Rose divorced Hamlin and married Edward Coon. This was probably in 1924. they had four children together: Edward Coon (1925), Delbert Coon (1926), Elveary Coon (1930) and David Coon (1933). Little David died as a very young baby and is buried in the Weippe Cemetery.

There are no records of Walter Hamlin’s death. On July 11, 1924 he wrote a letter to a friend in Weippe, from Canada while at a resort in Widewater, Alberta, Canada with his address shown as “in care of/Lakeside Fish Company”. This is on the shores of the Lesser Slave Lake. Walter says he is ill and cannot move his body from the waist down and his condition is getting weaker each day. He has an insurance policy that he wants his son Wally to get and would like to find his address.

Rose Coon died April 18, 1979 in Bremerton, Washington.

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Fords Creek Research Center, 2014