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Wider  
Overland  
Trails  
#Kumms  
& Nebraska  
City Trail  
Belfry Mount June 1932

Mr. A. E. Sheldon

Lincoln, Nebr.

NEBRASKA STATE  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

My Dear Mr. Sheldon:

Yours of recent date in regard to the Fouse ranch and the Overland Trail at Beaver Creek Nebr. will say: That I was raised there also my six sisters & two bro's. I was three years old when my father John E Fouse settled there. He bought out a Frenchman by the name of Gene Lavine, who had a small store and a squatters right for the sum of \$360. on the 20 day of June 1863. Father built three sections on the store of logs & made a cellar underneath the store where he always kept enough powder to blow the store up in case of an Indian raid. He then left a four foot wall & dug another cellar for store goods & vegetables 16 ft long and left another four foot wall and dug a stable to the creek bank some 60 ft. room enough for six teams of horses

Horse thieves were bad in those days,  
Hence these precautions and also safety  
for the family.

The name he gave it  
was Elk Horn Ranch. He also had a  
contract with the Stage Co. to feed and  
care for two teams, & feed the passengers.  
My mother often got supper for 7 to 10  
passengers at mid night when the stage  
was late. My mother was a wonderful  
woman! She passed away June 24 1923 at  
the <sup>age</sup> of 90 years, here at my home  
my father died at Rapid City, So. Dakota Feby  
25 1898 age 64

All the children are still living In the Order

W. H. Fouse Belfry, Montana,

Mrs M. E. Jones. 4028 Jackson Ave. Culver City, Calif.

Mrs Sophonisba Brint 72 1/2 S. Sichel St Los Angeles, Calif.

Mrs Bee Lockhart

Mrs Anna M Nolan

Mrs Minnie E Deffenbaugh York, Nebr.

Mrs Clara Flock

Probus Fouse

Cha<sup>s</sup>. E. Fouse

Miss Mattie B. McMichael is a Cousin of ours. Her Father bought the original Elk Horn Ranch from my Father in the Eighties & Mattie & Eva are the heirs to the estate. Mrs. Frank is a renter of theirs. The Thompsons were neighbors of ours also. Roland Reed & family, Dan Millsap, Thomas Gisdale started his store in the Elk Horn ranch, and had the P.O. named Beaver Crossing. He moved store & P.O. to where it is located now. My Mother owned that land & sold it to Ross Nichols in 1869.

You can pick out what will be of any benefit for your History and discard the balance. Our house burned down in 1885 and we lost all pictures & keepsakes of early date. I am sending you under separate package a photo of the family taken in 1883. which you can return.

Wishing you success I remain  
Yours Truly,

W. H. Fouse  
Belfry, Montana,