

**In Memory of Pvt. Joseph Nathaniel Ritter**

**A Carbonate Camp Pioneer**

**163<sup>rd</sup> Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry**

**“100 Days Men of Ohio 1864”**

**1845 – May 3, 1893**



# **CARBONATE CAMP CEMETERY, LAWRENCE COUNTY, SD**

**July 7, 2025 – 1pm**

**Master of Ceremonies – Jeannine Guern**

**Pastor David Baer**

**Deadwood Mayor/Lawrence County Commission?**

**Dakota Gold ?**

**Local Preservationists?**

**Family of Joseph N. Ritter**

**Military Firing Squad, Taps and Flag Presentation**

## **DIGNITARIES**

**South Dakota National Guard**

**Office of Veterans Affairs**

**Spearfish Honor Guard**

**Mayor of Lead and Deadwood?**

**Joseph Ritter Family**

**A huge thank you to Barrick Mines and Dakota Gold for their tremendous unwavering support and dedication to help protect the Carbonate Cemetery, clean up and road preparation and repairs (so we could get to the cemetery), anchoring the headstone and assisting in the preservation of the pioneer cemetery for future generations. Thank you to the Lawrence County Historical Society for the donation of the metal sign that will list the names of those buried at the Carbonate Cemetery as part of the preservation process. Thank you to the South Dakota National Guard, Spearfish Honor Guard, City of Lead for providing seating for the service, City of Deadwood, Monument Health Lead - Deadwood Hospital for the canopy, having paramedics available and water, Pastor David Baer and Jeanine Guern for assisting with the memorial service and VA headstone dedication for our grandfather. Thank you to all of the local historians that have offered advice through the years and work so hard every day to protect our history here in South Dakota, we sincerely appreciate you and all you do.**

## Carbonate Camp, SD, Pioneer and Saloon Owner – Joseph “Joe” Ritter 1875 – 1893

### Story by Nicole Shiffrar

Joseph Nathaniel Ritter was an original pioneer to Carbonate Camp and the Deadwood region of South Dakota. We have a rich family history in this area of South Dakota that has never been shared much publicly, but we thought it was important to share, as so much gets lost over time. Fortunately, our family has preserved these memories over time, and we would like to share our love of family and history with all of you reading this. Joe Ritter’s full story has never really been shared to the full extent, so we hope you enjoy.



Ritter Farm on the Maumee River, Napoleon, Ohio, 1917

### The First of the Ritter Family in America

*The Ritter Family came from Germany, entering America through the port of Philadelphia about the year 1760. They originated from the city of Mannheim, Germany, and they were relations to the Royal Saxon Family. The Ritter Family were originally Lutherans, and they published the first German Newspaper in America. The Duke of Saxe-Weimar, on his visit to Lancaster in 1825, he recalled the office of the Ohio Eagle, then a German Language Newspaper, where he was shown*

*a dozen different newspapers from across the country; he recorded in his memoirs that the best edited of them was by Mr. Ritter of Philadelphia.*

Joseph Nathaniel Ritter was born on the Ritter Farm on the Maumee River in Henry County, Ohio, in 1845 to a prominent farming family, the oldest of 10 children. His parents, John Ritter, Jr. and Elizabeth Gottensberger Shetterly Ritter, married in 1844, farmed the land of Ohio and operated the Ritter Flour Mill in Napoleon, Ohio, until John died in 1871. Elizabeth then made her home with her son Levi in Malinta, Ohio following his death. Elizabeth had been a devout member of the M.E. Church from the age of 14, her last membership at the Sharon Church where a memorial tablet was established in her honor. She also founded the Elizabeth Ritter Industrial Home in Athens, Tennessee, and was a lifelong member of the Home Missionary Society. Mrs. Ritter died May 11, 1912, in Henry County, Ohio.



Elizabeth Shetterly Ritter – Mother of Joseph Nathaniel Ritter

Joseph Nathaniel Ritter was a Civil War Veteran, enlisting in the National Guard Company G, Ohio 163<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Regiment on May 2, 1864, at Camp Chase, Ohio at the age of 19.

In 1864, President Abraham Lincoln needed additional troops sent to Washington D.C. as the Capital was under threat of siege by the Confederate Army. The Governor of Ohio answered the call, Governor Brough (Pronounced Bruff) submitted a proposal to the Secretary of War and President Lincoln to call on Ohio Volunteers to do 100 days of service to assist in the war efforts, the proposal was accepted. In the span of two weeks 35, 982 volunteers joined the Ohio National Guard, and they were organized into 41 regiments. Joseph was one of those men federalized for 100 days under Colonel Hiram Miller, Lt. Col. John Dempsey and Major Aaron S. Campbell, also known as the 100 Days Men, and ordered to Washington D.C. by General Heintzelman.

The Ohio National Guard Units were sent to be placed in "safe" rear areas to protect railroads and supply points, freeing up regular troops for Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's push on the Confederate capital of Richmond, VA. However, it ended up that many units found themselves in combat, stationed in the path of Gen. Jubal Early's Army of the Valley during the Valley Campaigns in 1864. The Ohio Guard Units met Early's Army head on and helped stop the Confederate advancement toward Washington D.C., saving the Capital from capture. The regiment headed toward Washington D.C. on May 13 and was assigned to 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade Haskins' Division XXII Corps through June of 1864. With their headquarters at Fort Reno, they defended Washington D.C. until June 8 then moved to Bermuda Hundred, Virginia, June 8-12 where they joined 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 3<sup>rd</sup> Division, X Corps, Army of the James. They had a reconnaissance mission on the Petersburg & Richmond Railroad June 14-15 and a skirmish on the Turnpike June 15-16 then moved to Wilson's Landing on the 16<sup>th</sup>. At Fort Pocahontas they guarded the fatigue duty building and did scouting on the west side of the James River until August, returning to Columbus, Ohio, on August 29, 1864, where they mustered out at Camp Chase September 10, 1864. In all, the Ohio 163<sup>rd</sup> Regiment participated in the battles of Monocacy, Fort Stevens, Harpers Ferry and the Siege of Petersburg.

Pres. Lincoln to an Ohio Regiment.  
Thursday afternoon a regiment of 100 days men, 16th Ohio, whose term of service had expired, paid their respects to President Lincoln, who addressed them as follows:—

Soldiers—You are about to return to your homes and your friends, after having, as I learn, performed in camp a comparative short term of duty in the great struggle. I am greatly obliged to you and all who have come forward at the call of their country. I wish it might be more generally and universally understood what the country is now engaged in. We have, as all will agree, a free Government, under which every man has a right to be equal with every other man. In this great struggle this form of government and every form of human rights is endangered if our enemies succeed. There is more involved in this struggle than is realized by every one. There is involved in this struggle the question whether your children and my children shall enjoy the privileges we have enjoyed. I say this in order to impress upon you, if you are not already so impressed, that no small matters should divert us from our great purpose.

There may be mistakes sometimes. Things may be done wrong, while the officers of the government do all they can to prevent mistakes. But I beg of you, as citizens of this great republic, not to let your minds be carried off from this great work we have before us. This struggle is too large for you to be diverted from it by any small matter.

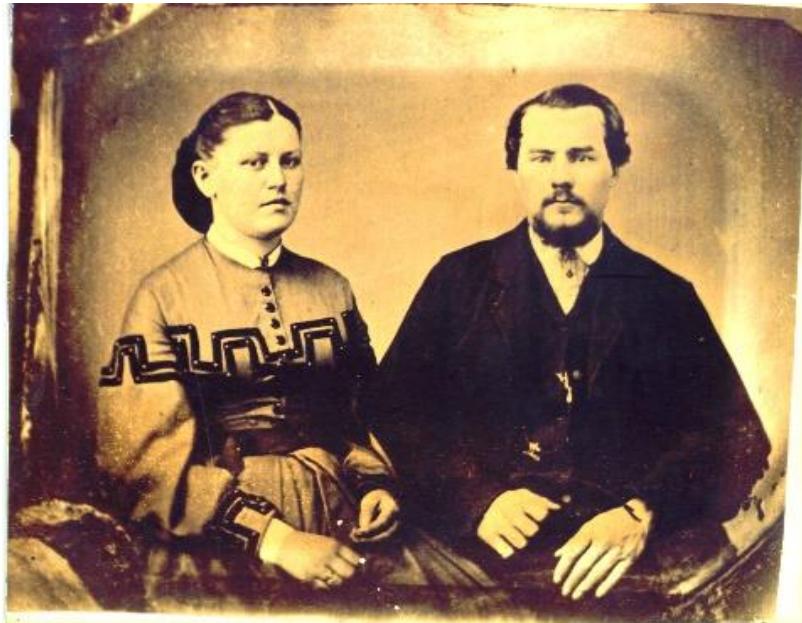
When you return to your homes rise up to the height of a generation of men worthy of a free government, and we will carry out the great work we have commenced. I return to you my sincere thanks, soldiers, for the honor you have done me this afternoon.

Cheers were given for the President, and he was saluted by the regiment, after which the line of march was taken up for the railroad depot.

The bombardment of Atlanta

Joseph married in 1867, on Christmas Day, to Susannah Lingle, the love of his life. Susannah's mother, Diana Hetzler, had died at childbirth having Susannah, and her father, Edward Lingle, was a prominent farmer in Henry County, Ohio. The couple's daughter, Edna Mae Ritter, was born in 1869, and their son Edward Arthur Ritter was born on March 10<sup>th</sup> of the following year. Edna died as an infant in 1870 due to illness, and Susannah died a couple years later in 1873, following an illness.

Shortly after the death of his wife, Joseph Nathaniel Ritter, known as "Joe", left his young son Edward with his in-laws in Ohio and headed toward the Black Hills of South Dakota in search of dreams of gold, on his own as a widower. The new Deadwood Camp after all was no place for children.



Susannah and Joe Ritter December 25, 1867, on their wedding day



Edna Mae Ritter

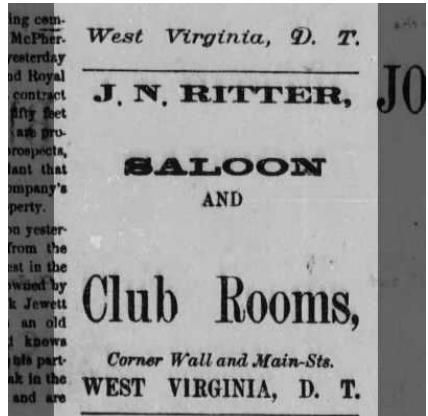


Joe Ritter



NATHANIEL JOSEPH RITTER  
EDWARD ARTHUR RITTER'S  
FATHER

According to family accounts and news articles, Joe made it to Camp Crook in 1875, then made his way up the Hill toward Deadwood the same year. The mining camp outside of Lead, Carbonate Camp (at the time was called West Virginia City), seemed like a good place for Joe to settle. The new silver mining camp was growing rapidly, more people by the day were arriving. Joe had dabbled in mining but quickly realized that owning a saloon was more of a gold mine for him. I do not know the exact date Joe opened his first saloon in Carbonate Camp, but it was between 1877 and 1880, he lived across the road from the Livery Stable in the town of Carbonate. According to the Deadwood Times in August of 1881, "Joe, the old time favorite of Central, was doing a booming business and had moved his saloon in from West Virginia City." In an advertisement in the Times in that same paper, J.N. Ritter Saloon and Club Rooms, was located on the corner of Wall and Main in West Virginia, Dakota Territory.



Joe Ritter, the lovely Joe, has moved his saloon in from West Virginia, and will open out in the building adjoining Dillon & Fuller's drug store, formerly occupied by Mr. Dillon as a saloon. Joe is never behind the times, and will now give his old and many friends an opportunity to give him a call. Everything first-class, and you will be treated as such.

Joe's saloon successes were booming and in 1881 Colonel Lawrence and the boys had a rousing meeting at Joe's saloon about his run for County Commissioner according to the Black Hills Times.

Central Herald, 3: The friends of Col. John Lawrence had a rousing meeting at Joe Ritter's saloon last night, and unanimously resolved to support him for county commissioner. The colonel unanimously accepted and he told the boys a good deal what he knew about county affairs, and left untold a great deal more that he didn't know. The colonel has been quietly working for the office for a week, and has had his scouts out laying the pins for his success. Jimmy Martin has been on a scout for him out to Spearfish, and Dan Scott being an old Missouri river friend of the colonel, will undoubtedly support him.

Henry Barnett, dealer in crockery and household furniture.  
P. S. Tetrault, proprietor of the Occidental hotel.  
A. O. Ingalls, chemist and assayer.  
In Central, and suburbs adjoining, the following named persons are engaged as saloonists:  
John McPhee, Al. Fowler, saloon and billiard hall.  
Mills & Weeden, Rosencranz, & Anchor, Fred Heims, John Delauney, saloon and billiard hall, and largely interested in valuable mining properties.  
James Wilson, saloon at South Bend; M. Dillon, saloon and billiard hall.  
Joseph Ritter, saloon in Blacktail.  
In the immediate vicinity of the city there are situate the following quartz mills with their respective stamp capacity indicated:  
McPhee & Co's mill

March 17, 1884 - Deadwood

In 1884, Joe had a saloon in Blacktail Gulch according to the Times. In 1886, Ritter, LeBarge and Hugginson were planning on building a 3-story hotel at Carbonate. The business in the Hugginson Hotel was called Ritter and LeBarge Billiards, it was located in the rear of the Hugginson Hotel. (In attached

photo of Carbonate Camp Main St, the Hugginson Hotel is the first white 2 story building on the right-hand side. Photo courtesy of the SD Historic Archives.)

Tributes, Lulu Kingsley; The Soldier's History, Bald Couse; A Last Token, Dottie Smith.
<b>UP-GULCH ITEMS.</b>
At Mr. Lamberg's, Lead City, there is a brand new baby.
Ritter, LaBarge & Huglison will put up a three story hotel building at Carbonate.
G. W. Lewis has accepted a position as assistant manager for the Pearson company,

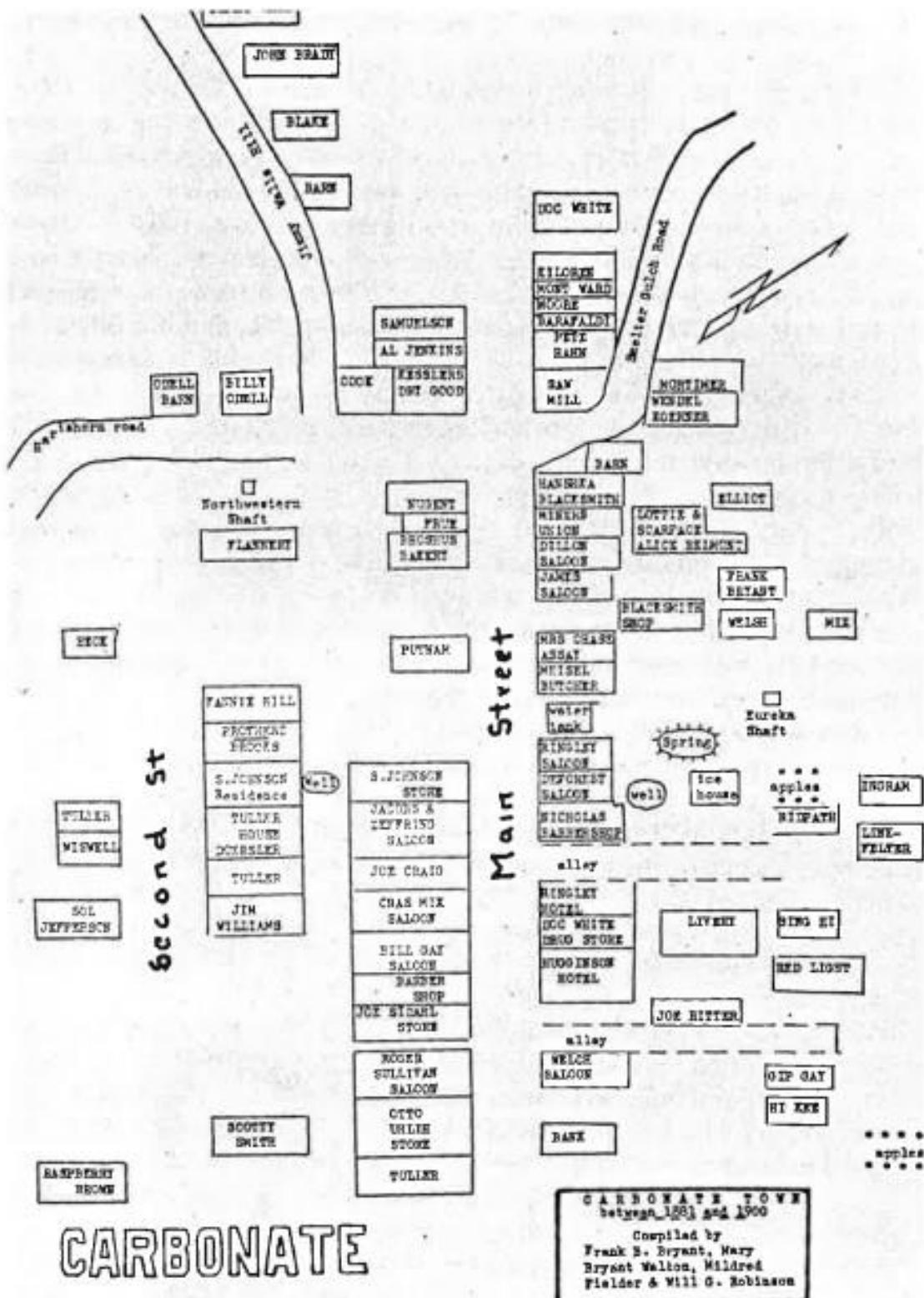
Ritter, LaBarge and Hugginson Billiards Article June 1, 1886



Photo Courtesy of Deadwood History, Inc.

A billiard token from Ritter and LeBarge Billiards still exists in the family today. Joe had several saloons and billiard halls that were very successful in his time at Carbonate Camp, and in Central. From news articles he continued in business until his son, Ed, moved to town from Ohio in 1889, they then ran the saloons together as a father/son team.

Joe was an avid billiard player and was known as Joe Ritter, billiard champion of Dakota Territory, as announced by an article in the Times in 1882. He hosted, as well as played in many billiard tournaments while in the Hills. In one particular tournament, the prize was a gold pool cue and Joe was a contestant tied for first place! Many people loved Joe's saloons, as he treated everyone first class and you should not expect less!



*The Carbonate Camp town map compiled by Mary Bryant Walton, South Dakota State Historical Society Secretary Will G. Robinson, and Mildred Fielder.—Map by courtesy of South Dakota State Historical Society*

from here. Seth drove on as directed, and at last, long after midnight he arrived at his place of destination.

#### Central City.

John Delaney has as fine milk punches as any one in the town. Call and try them.

Don't forget the billiard match to night at Gray & Souter's parlor, for \$50 a side, between Joe Ritter, champion of Dakota and Johnny Hanley.

Governor Bogy, while owning as fine horses as any man in the Hills, always walks if he is only going out of town a few miles. Yesterday he took a trip to

#### On his recovery.

The billiard tournament that has been going on at Graham & Wood's billiard hall, in Central city, for a week or more, for a magnificent gold mounted billiard cue, was so near decided last evening that the contestants were all out of the ring, with the exception of John Hanly and Joe Ritter, who are tie. To-night these two champions will make the ivories jingle, and may the best man win.

July 1, 1882 – Deadwood

Joe was an excellent storyteller and was remembered by his family members for this. My great grandmother, Susan Ritter-Liming, (daughter of Ed Ritter) recounted a story Grandpa Joe would tell the children about being in the saloon the night Wild Bill Hickock was shot. The kids would get very excited about hearing that story and he told it many times, probably embellishing a little to excite the children. Joe was a great friend to many and a great entertainer, he had many friends throughout the Black Hills and was well respected.

In 1889, Joe's son Ed moved to the Black Hills to be with his dad, a young man now. Ed was very involved in Carbonate Camp. He opened his own saloon in Carbonate in 1892, played in a family band, and was school district clerk several years in Carbonate Camp. Carbonate Camp is where Ed eventually met his wife, Eve Nancy Ringley, daughter of William Jacob Ringley, another well-known man in the Carbonate Camp. Ed eventually moved his family to Tinton and on to Vale in later years. Ed owned and operated several successful businesses, such as Ritter Lumber Company (now Spearfish Lumber) and a restaurant in Spearfish and the Ritter Hotel in Vale. His name is etched on the courthouse in Belle Fourche, as he was a Butte County Commissioner in 1911 when the courthouse was built. Ed passed away in 1944 in the St. Joseph Hospital in Deadwood and is buried with his wife in Sturgis. (Picture of Ed Ritter and Eve Nancy Ringley in 1891 below, the year they were married.)



## E. A. Ritter Lumber Co.

Spearfish, South Dakota  
Dealer in

All Kinds of Building Material



\$18,000 Paid in Freight to Date

"THERE'S A REASON"

Stucco  
C'ment  
Brick  
Lime

Coal  
and  
Wood



J. C. H. GRABILL.  
OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHERS OF THE BLACK HILLS AND F. F. S. & R. R. & HOME STATE MINING CO.  
STUDIO: DEADWOOD AND LEAD CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA.



By the early 1890's Joe was becoming despondent, the mining in Carbonate Camp was subsiding, the camp was no longer booming as it had been when he had arrived 18 years prior, the money was not flowing in like it had been. Joe grew sad, as he had lost his wife, daughter and now his livelihood was waning, which brought on "fits of melancholy" according to his son Ed during the sheriff's inquest into his death. On the evening of May 2, 1893, Ed had said goodnight to his father for the last time.

Sometime after 10pm, it appeared that Joe had taken his own life in his room at the boarding house, dressed only in his night dress. Joe was found the following morning by his son Ed, as Ed was calling on him to come to breakfast. Joe had shot himself in the head with a large caliber revolver and was found deceased on his bed at the age of 48. The sheriff's inquest concluded that it was a suicide, or as they worded it "Self Murder". Joe was buried at Carbonate Camp and remains buried there today. His grave is the one surrounded by a board enclosure as noted by Mildred Fielder in 1955 in the Book, "Silver is the Fortune". The family kept track and passed down the information about where Joe was buried as it never had a headstone to identify where he was buried. The family made a marker in 2024, which is to be replaced by a military headstone from the VA.

*When the Lord said you have finished,  
Come up higher, father dear  
You have now a crown in Heaven.  
By the pain you suffered here.  
Those that saw you in your casket  
Pure and oh so fair.  
Thought you were the light of Heaven,  
As you lay so sweetly there.*

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### SELF MURDER.

**While in a Fit of Despondency an Old Timer Blows His Brains Out.**

Joseph Ritter, an old timer, was found dead in his bed at the Carbonate hotel yesterday morning with a ragged bullet wound in his forehead. Grasped in his hand was a large sized calibre revolver with two empty chambers. It was a clear case of deliberate suicide. The deed must have been committed shortly after he retired Tuesday evening, as the body was rigid and the large pool of blood had become congealed. The body was discovered by a son of the suicide who went to call him for breakfast. When found the body was attired only in night dress.

Young Ritter said his father retired Tuesday night between 9 and 10 o'clock; he did not notice any thing unusual in his demeanor; none of the loders in the house heard a shot or any commotion in Ritter's room during the night. Sheriff

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Here's what  
Star's camp-  
First ward  
Powers, 203; B  
Second ward  
Ricket, 215; B  
Third ward  
Maloney, 135; I  
Fourth ward  
Baer, 248; Bak  
Wardman's  
Total vote for  
Star, 456, leavi-  
of 288.

Itemer and Deputy Sheriff Woods of Cen-  
tral, and Justice of the Peace Gittings of  
Central, went out and held an inquest  
yesterday afternoon.

Ritter & Son conducted a saloon in the  
hotel building. Owing to dull times Ritter  
became despondent, and it is thought  
that one of his fits of melancholia came  
on him and he arose and committed  
self-murder as before stated.

He was about 48 years of age, a widower,  
with one son. He has been a resident  
of the Hills for years, mining being his  
vocation. He will be buried today at the  
camp.



—Photo by Mildred Fielder

**Carbonate Camp Cemetery—1955.** Child's grave at rear left. Rear right headboard could be read in 1953: "In memory of John Tripp. Born 1835, Died Feb. 8th. 1888." Front left headboard has very faint markings, of which only "Died 6th. 1887" could be identified. Both are weathered past reading now. The front two have been identified as the graves of Bessie Lingenfelter and Lovey Ingram.

identified the nameless mounds that held her two small sisters Melody Bryant and Baby Bryant. Others buried in the forest cemetery were Joe Ritter, in the grave marked by the tumbling remains of a board enclosure; Bessie Linkenfelter and Lovey Ingram in the two graves with headboards still standing; Kittie Forrest, the daughter of the DE Forrest; Jay Ringley, son of Jake Ringley; Frank Brady. Of the children's graves, one is that of the year and a half old son of Randall Lewis who died in 1890, and another is that of the Brady boy, a diphtheria victim. At one time Rhoda Prothero and the Wilmarth children were buried here, but when the town moved, their bodies were moved, too.

Pat Martham's children are not here. They were buried in Deadwood.

Young Jay Ringley's body was moved to Terry Cemetery before 1900. Rhoda Prothero Ringley was buried in Vale, SD, she was never buried at Carbonate Camp.

Family of Joseph Nathaniel Ritter:

**Susan Ritter Liming Family**

**Ray Liming Family** - Kim(Shear)Chancey & David Chancey, Nicole (Robb) Shiffrar, Cheyenne and Joseph Shiffrar, Evan Colladay, Keith & Jessie (Ekeland-Asakawa) Chancey, Llewlyn Chancey, Lacey(Shear) Powles, Devon Powles, Peyton Powles, Addisyn Martinson, Brekken Martinson, Kendra(Shear) Lyngaa and Zachary Lyngaa, Jeannie Shear, Kahleiana Shear, Scottie Shear, Jeff Shear, Angela(Shear)Hix, Layla Hix-Firecloud , Logan Hix, Hunter Shear, Justin Shear, Julia(Shear) Solano and Scott Solano, Hadley Solano, Aiden Solano

Rodney and Charlene(Goehring) Nelson, Travis Nelson and special friend Kristi Olsen, Eric and Donelle Nelson, Logan and Adelynn Nelson, Barb(Nelson) Harlan and Randall Harlan, Verna Harlan, Evan Rath, Ian Rath, Megan (Harlan) Lafayette and Robert Lafayette, Robert Lafayette, Samantha Lafayette, Jennifer (Harlan) VanNortwick, Ella VanNortwick, Randall Harlan, Lillian Harlan, Morgan Harlan, Noah Harlan, Tina(Nelson) Muntifering & Tom Muntifering, Brittany Muntifering, Lyndsey Muntifering, Shelby Muntifering, Shelly(Nelson) Eisenbarth, Justin Gladson, Trent Gladson, Dalton Gladson, Tyson Gladson

**Lyle Liming Family** - Dawn(Liming) Draine and Larry Draine, Timothy Draine & Joni (Stoddard) Draine, Stacie(Draine) Ostendorf & Jake Ostendorf, James Draine Patti (Liming) Joehnk & Thomas Joehnk, Jamie Joehnk, Trenton Joehnk, Ronald Liming, Nicholas & Jill Liming, David Liming

**Eve Liming Family** -Heather Malcolm, Allison Malcolm, Judith(Malcolm) Coonfield, Dionette(Coonfield) Freeman, Betty Jean(Cameron) Frankina, Dorothy Mae(Cameron) Edwards

**William Ritter Family**

Coleen(Ritter) Choisser, Robin(Ritter) Pfeiffe, Keith Ritter

**Roy Ritter Family**

Roberta(Steinberg) Swenson, Rebecca(Sheldon) Mower, Rocky Sheldon

**Myrtle Eve Ritter Family**

Sabra(Troia) Moon & Family, Dominic Troia, Tracy Troia, Dana Troia, Frank Troia, Cory Prendergast

**Nancy Ritter Family**

Cheryl Strachan, Donald Starchan, Robert Strachan, Robin Southworth, David Southworth, Paul Southworth, Nancy South, Marcia South, Karen South, Scott South

**Earl Ritter Family**

Allison(Ritter) Adams & Dale Adams, Ricky Pearsall, Brent Ritter, Loren Lee Ritter

**Arthur Leon Ritter Family**

Michael Ritter

**David Jackson Ritter Family**

David Ritter, Dennis Ritter, Susan Ritter, Anne Marie Ritter, David M. Ritter, David Ritter, Troy Ritter

....and many more not known or listed.