THE COWMAN AND HIS LADY
My father, William Bagley, was born 22 May 1862 in Hucknall, Nottinghamshire, England, the son of George Bagley and Sarah Severn. He came to the United States with his parents when he was about ten years old. He was the oldest of four children, including brothers Joseph and Enoch and sister Electra. When they arrived in Utah, his father George went to work in the mines in Cottonwood canyon (he had been a miner in the old country). He died during the first year. As a result, his mother Sarah had to work, which meant the children were placed with relatives. Sarah took a job cooking for a railroad construction crew, which took her away to St. Louis for several years. When she returned, her daughter Electra had been dead for two years. William and Enoch lived in Montpelier for a few years with William Severn. William and Enoch acquired a few head of cattle and horses but when the land around Montpelier was taken up they had to go to Thomas Fork to get hay. They spent two winters in Thomas Fork; their nearest neighbor was miles away. William was then fourteen and Enoch was twelve. Later William sold his interest in the ranch on Thomas Fork Creek and he went back to Montpelier where he worked on the railroad and tended a bar.

William married Eliza Jane Godfrey on 2 October 1890. They were endowed in the Salt Lake Temple on 22 September 1904. Over the years, they had ten children, three of whom were born in Montpelier.
In 1895, they moved to Crow Creek and homesteaded on the place now owned by Ray Hall. William and Eliza made a living by running a few stock, boiling salt, and serving meals to stage passengers. William Bagley had teams of horses and several large hay racks and he hauled wool from the shearing corrals to the railroad. In the fall, he would come to Star Valley and work on the threshing crew to get enough grain for their winter’s flour. While living on Crow Creek, he purchased a white-top buggy. When the family came to Fairview later that year to the July 24 celebration, and as theirs was the only white-top buggy in town, William was asked to lead the parade.

In 1902, the family moved to Fairview, Wyoming, where father engaged in farming and bought cattle, which he shipped east. When the East Side Canal was enlarged, William took a contract on the first four miles of the Canal. The work was done with horses. Then one year when hay was short, most of the cattle and horses were sent to Nebraska, which resulted in heavy losses for William and everyone else in the valley. While in Fairview, Father served on the school board and was always a booster in the community.

**FLOYD’S CHILDHOOD HOME, PART I**

*Burton Bagley*

While young I stayed many nights in the Fairview home. The home was built in 1903 (according to the Bagley genealogy book). Grandmother (Eliza Jane) was so proud of her four-room house; at the time it seemed like a large home. But then in the spring of 1915, the house was remodeled to add four more rooms upstairs. After living in small cabins, it must have seemed like a palace to Grandmother.

The Fairview property was surrounded with large trees. It had a root and storage cellar in the yard, just east and slightly north of the house. The cellar was always well-stocked especially for winter. I remember Alice describing an instance when she and Fred came back to Fairview after being in Yakima, Washington, where Fred had been going to school. Times had been hard for them, and so when Alice dug the snow off of the cellar and opened the door to see all the vegetables and meat, she thought it was like heaven.

Floyd Bagley childhood home, circa 1930.
William Bagley and Eliza Jane Godfrey, 2 October 1890.
Married: 2 October 1890.
Sealed: 22 September 1904, Salt Lake Temple.
“I was the most mischievous kid in school.”

FLOYD SEVERN BAGLEY