

Joe Wing's Grandson Visits Range Creek

In the fall of 2006 the Range Creek Research Project was delighted to welcome Steve and Gunvor Wing to Range Creek. Steven Wing is the grandson of Joseph Wing, perhaps the most memorable of the early settlers in Range Creek Canyon. As a young man Joe left his home in Ohio and traveled to Utah to work for the Range Creek Cattle Company, owned in part by an uncle who was one of the principle investors in the newly formed company.

Joe's enduring legacy is largely due to the fact that he was a well read and thoughtful individual who wrote many letters home describing his time in Range Creek. These wonderful letters contain well written and descriptive information on a host of topics beyond his farming and ranching experiences. Eventually Joe returned home where he would become an authority on raising alfalfa about which he published several articles and books. Joe never forgot his time in Range and the letters and mementos of his time in the canyon have been preserved and cherished by his descendants.

During Steve and Gunvor's visit, Corinne Springer took them to the old trail described so often in Joe's letters. Wheeled vehicles could not negotiate this trail and everything used on the ranch had to be dismantled and hauled on pack animals-including a wagon. While exploring a section of the trail Gunvor made a wonderful discovery. She found an historic inscription panel created and signed by Joe in 1887. The site overlooks another discovery made that day, a stone switchback to get horses and other livestock over a vertical sandstone cliff band. We think that the hatches on the panel may have been made by cowboys counting the herd and making sure that all were accounted for before continuing on to Range.

It was an amazing day of discovery made so much more memorable because Joe's grandson and his wife were here to share it.

