

POTTER FAMILY HISTORY BY OTIS POTTER-

Marion Francis Potter and Ellen Drury were married in Missouri. They came to Idaho and Otis's father, William Francis, was eight years old. In 1884 they came on the train, they were unloaded at the end of the track, which was out in the sage brush about where the Sunnyside School is located now. Granddad's brother Knewton met them with a team and wagon and brought them up to Midvale. A place near Bonner's a one room shack with dirt floor was their first home. Someone had built it and went off and left it. They spent the first winter there. Next spring they filed on the place where Wilfred Fox place on the east of Midvale.

Otis's dad helped build the Middle Valley ditch. His Granddad had a horse-powered threshing machine, which he went all over threshing grain. He usually started in Weiser and ended in Hornet Creek out of Council. He also went down to Boise to cut grain because he heard they had money to pay for the threshing. Here he was paid with whatever the people could, like horses, pigs, grain or anything they had. In the wintertime he would go as far as Hornet Creek to get grain to haul to Weiser to sell.

William Francis Potter married Bessie Hopper in November, 1897. They bought eighty acres just south of the Grange Hall on Keithley Creek. A man by the name of Dan Farmer had filed on the property Otis now owns, and he wanted to trade with William Potter, Otis' dad, who had only made a small payment on the eighty and owed quite bit more. This put him out of debt so he decided to trade, which put out of debt. So he proved up on 160 acres there. After he lived there a little while Granddad got a livery stable in Midvale and was elected County Assessor and got Dad to come down and run Granddad's place. But Dad went back to Keithley Creek as soon as he could get away from there.

When Granddad was assessor, Washington and Adams County was all Washington County. At that time, the assessor went to every house, to find out what everyone had; cows, horses, sheep, chickens, and etc. He went to every house on horseback in both counties.

William Francis and Bessie Potter had four girls and five boys. Lenore, born March 1899, married Elmer Ross, had two boys, and one died at 8 years old. Their son was named Delbert. Grace was next born November 10, 1900. She married Earl Heathco. They had no children. Earl died in 1981. Next, Vergie born August 27, 1904. She married Laurence Garner. They had three boys, Dale, Bob, and Bill, who were twins. Next, Frank, born June 7, 1906. He married Namie Heathco and had four boys; Milford, Douglas, Terry, and Jim. He died March 6, 1961. Clifford born February 9, 1909, he married Roberta Wilson. They had two boys and two girls; Harold, Marilyn, Jackie, and Dean. Ray was born September 26, 1912 and he married Ina Martin. They have one boy, Gary. Bessie was born in 1914, and died very young. Sterling was born October 7, 1915, and was not married. The baby was Otis, born December 24, 1917 and wasn't married. All were raised on the homeplace on Keithley Creek. Cliff died on December 3, 1978. Otis's Mom was born August 7, 1877 and lived in Midvale from 1884, and was 79 when she died on October 4, 1956. She was born in Mercer County, Missouri. She married William F. Potter November 25, 1897. William F. Potter was born July 23, 1876 in Grundy County, Missouri and came to Midvale in 1884. He died at the age of 85 on January 3, 1962.