

# LETTERS <sup>29-13</sup> TO THE EDITOR

Prominent in purebred livestock circles in the same era as Mr. H. P. Hammer was Mr. E. C. Butler, although their backgrounds were entirely different. Mr. Hammer was the immigrant from Norway, while Mr. Edward Clarence Butler was born in New Hampshire in 1845. He enlisted at the age of 17 at the outbreak of the Civil War and served until his regiment was mustered out of service. Mr. Butler was married in Maine in 1870 to Miss Mary Hayes. Mr. and Mrs. Butler spent 6 years in Nevada from 1876 to 1882. While on a visit home to Maine in 1882 Mrs. Butler died, their only daughter also died at an early age. Their son, Will Hall Butler, became a well known citizen of this community.

Mr. E. C. Butler came to this section of Dakota Territory in 1882 and formed a partnership with Benjamin A. Upton. In the winter of 1882-83 they had a meat market at Mardell. Mr. Butler began farming in Greenview Township, Steele County in 1882 and Mr. Upton farmed land between Cooperstown and the Sheyenne River.

The Butler farm was known as the Greenview Stock Farm. It was located one mile east from where I live which is about 9 miles southeast of Cooperstown. The buildings have been taken down many years ago. The barn with a sign on it was 112 feet long and 40 feet wide. The hay section occupied 8 feet down the center of the barn and livestock in 16 feet on each side. I have a picture of the house but not of the barn.

My mother worked for Mr. Butler in 1901-02-03. At that time his son, Will, and wife assisted with the farm operations. My mother often spoke of the livestock men coming there, staying for meals or over night. One must realize there were few if any automobiles in those days. Cattle were hauled in wagons to fairs or shipping centers. I remember mother telling that Mr. Butler always went out to the barn to see about his cattle the last thing in the evening before going to bed.

Mr. E. C. Butler was married the second time to Mary T. Hagen in 1905. She was the eldest daughter of pioneers Mr. and Mrs. Thor Hagen. Her sister, Thea, had married Ben Upton (he died in 1904). Because of failing health Mr. Butler retired from farming and moved to Cooperstown in 1917. Mrs. Mary Hagen Butler died in 1925, and their only son, Clarence, lived for some 25 years in California, where he died in Ventura in 1968.

On January 30, 1925, the portrait of Mr. E. C. Butler was hung in the Hall of Fame at the state agricultural college (now NDSU)

in the Hall of Fame at the state agricultural college (now NDSU) by the Saddle and Sirloin club in recognition of outstanding contribution to North Dakota agriculture in connection with his work with Shorthorn cattle and Poland China swine Mr. Butler died in 1929.

A column on E. C. Butler seems incomplete without a little more about W. H. who was a business man in Cooperstown for many years. W. H. graduated with the first class at Mayville college, taught the rural school where I later attended and also served as Superintendent of Schools in Steele County at Sherbrooke. After his father's second marriage Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Butler moved to Cooperstown where W. H. and Mrs. E. S. Hamilton became partners in the Hammer Condy implement firm and continued that association until 1929 when the Butlers moved to Grandin, N. Dak., where he was in the same line of business until his retirement in 1951. W. H. died in 1955, Mrs. Butler, (Idella Wilson) died in 1960.

As president of the Cooperstown Board of Education, W. H. handed me my high school diploma in 1927 and the signature, W. H. Butler, on it means much to me.

Sincerely,  
EDWARD JOHNSON