

Poulton Family

Medora, Reno County, Kansas

The Poulton family arrived in Reno County in 1873. The patriarch of the family was Solomon Poulton. Solomon was born in 1802 in Frampton Cotterel, Gloucester, England, the son of Job and Ann (Neal) Poulton. Solomon was married Oct. 5, 1834 to Jane Scrivens, daughter of James and Elizabeth (Neal) Scrivens. It is most likely that Solomon and Jane were cousins in some degree. The couple had two sons: William, born Feb. 4, 1836 and Edward born in 1838. Shortly after Edward was born, Jane died, leaving Solomon to care for his older son, William. Solomon was a farm laborer, and must have decided that America had better opportunity for him. In 1847 Solomon boarded the Huguenot at Liverpool and sailed for America. He left William in the care of Sarah, who was listed as a char woman. One year after Solomon arrived, Sarah brought William over. The family first settled in Thompkins County, NY, later moving to Cortland County. They stayed in New York for over 20 years. William became an adult there, he fought for the North in the Civil War, and in about 1865 married Elizabeth Ellsworth. Elizabeth was the daughter of Thomas and Rosanna (Suggett) Ellsworth, also immigrants from England who settled in Cortland Co. New York.

The offer of free land surely enticed them, and Solomon, William and family headed for Kansas. According to a biographical sketch written for Reno County History in 1917, the family in 1872 became Kansas pioneers, and a year later homesteaded in Medora Township. William and Elizabeth had 8 children, Irvin, Alice, Eliza, Arthur, Eugene, Emma, Teresa, and Florence. The first three children were born in New York. Solomon died Nov. 5, 1878, and is buried at North Inman Cemetery, McPherson County, KS. Elizabeth passed away July 26, 1905. William died 5 years later, May 28, 1910. The couple is buried next to Solomon. There is a biographical sketch on Irvin and the Poulton family in the 1917 *History of Reno County Kansas* by Sheridian Ploughe and it gives a lot more information on William's family.

Elizabeth Poulton and her eight children. Picture taken about 1900.



Front row, Eugene, Irvin, Elizabeth, and Arthur.

Back row are the daughters, Alice, Eliza, Emma, Teresa and Florence.

Note: Except for Florence who is on the far right, the order of the others are unknown.

William Poulton, ca 1865



Elizabeth Ellsworth Poulton, ca 1865



Submitted by Karen Burgess