

SHABLE

Submitted by Donna Marshall Shable

Anthony Shable, one of the early settlers in the Milliken area, was a native of Germany, born January 8, 1831, near Wurtenberg, Germany, to Xafera and Barbara Burnhardt Shable. His father was a farmer and Justice of the Peace. Until Anthony was twenty years old, he worked at farming with his father on their homestead and at times worked at a nearby brewery.

Anthony decided to come to the United States and reached New York City August 26, 1852. He went to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and worked for a farmer for a couple of years. In the spring of 1856, he traveled to Audubon County, Iowa, where he rented farm ground and operated a sawmill. In 1860 he came west and mined at Central City, Colorado.

The mining business wasn't profitable so he gave it up and went to the Big Thompson Valley and purchased one hundred and sixty acres for \$300. He lived in a cave he had dug until 1865 when he sold this property and homesteaded two hundred acres two and one half miles east of Milliken. His mailing address was Evans, Colorado.

The homestead was irrigated from the Big Thompson and Platte River Ditch Company. Anthony helped organize the ditch and served as president for four years.

In 1868 he left his Homestead for others to care for and as foreman helped build the Union Pacific Railway from Cheyenne, Wyoming into Utah. Later he returned to his farm in the Big Thompson, continued working and living there until his death October 26, 1909.

About 1865 he had become the owner, through patent, of eighty acres of land located southwest of Greeley, near the Elm beet dump. Anthony decided five years later he needed a span of mules more than the eighty acres and traded the 80 acres to Samuel Hockman for the mules.

Anthony Shable, Henry and J.A. Daniels were the first white men in the Big Thompson Valley and had many thrilling stories to tell of living with Indians nearby.

When Henry Daniels passed away and his property was probated, it was in Anthony's name. Several years before Anthony and Henry had traded the farm for a team of mules. Neither had the property changed into Henry's name. Anthony came forward and told of his transaction with Henry and had the property changed into the Daniels name.

November 9, 1876 Anthony married Mary Elizabeth Kimsey of Evans. They had two children, Jenny born October 18, 1877 who died April 24, 1894, and William Anthony born August 2, 1880.

There were six sons and three daughters in Xafera and Barbara's family. As far as the family knows, Anthony is the only one who came to the United States

William married Maude Edith Warner November 25, 1908 and had Henry Richmond, a carpenter from Milliken, build a two-story house south of his parent's home.

William and Maude had four children, Guy, Delbert, Alva and Genevieve.

After Anthony's death in 1909, William continued the farming operation with his mother until her death August 31, 1921.

Maude passed away January 22, 1925 leaving William with the young children to raise. He continued living and working the homestead until his death February 4, 1958. His son Alva and wife Donna Marshall Shable purchased the homestead from the William Shable estate and added it to their present operation.

Alva Shable married Donna Marshall September 11, 1949, at the Presbyterian Church in Milliken. They had two children, Raenette and Duane.

Raenette lives in Denver, is a registered dietitian, and works for the City of Denver as a consumer protection inspector. Her husband, Gary, also works for the City of Denver as a Technical Service Manager at Denver International Airport.

Duane, Debra, and children Delane, Devin, and Daniel live on the homestead, in the house Henry Richmond built for Maude and William. Duane was farming with his father at the time of Alva's death April 12, 1993, and continues with his mother. Duane and Debra own and operate Excellent Images Photography.

