the geological history of the country in the "Fowkes formation" that comes to the surface on the ranch about six miles below Almy, taken up by Reuben Fowkes in 1874. This ranch is now owned by the son, Charles R. W. Fowkes, who is clerk of the present Bear River Coal Company. He makes his home in Evanston, as do three of the daughters, Mrs. Seth Thomas, Mrs. W. J. Starkey and Mrs. Harry Harris. Seven other children still live in the mountain states.

John Graff, an employe of the Union Pacific at Evanston, was made superintendent after Mr. Eurgens. He was succeeded by a man named E. P. Epperson. In 1886 W. T. Ramsay, an eastern man, was made superintendent, and he remained until 1892, when James Bowns came into the management of the Union Pacific mines. Mr. Bowns came from England in 1871, had worked for a time as a miner, and in 1885 was made foreman at No. 3. In 1887 he was transferred to the same position at No. 4, and in 1889 was made superintendent at No. 7, the last mine to be opened in Almy by this company. He held this position until the closing of the mines in 1900. He still lives in Almy, where he has a fine ranch. He is known throughout the country as Bishop Bowns, from the position held in the Mormon Church, in which he is a leading worker. He has served twice as justice of the peace of his precinct. One of his sons, W. H. Bowns, is fire boss at the Bear River mine, and another is cheif electrician at Castle Gate, Utah.

Among the first miners at Almy were the three Johnson brothers and Joseph Fife. Accompanied by their wives they sailed from Scotland, their native land, in early manhood, and settled for a time in Pennsylvania. In 1862 they traveled together across the plains to Utah, and on the opening of the mines at Almy, moved there. David Johnson was the first foreman at the Old Wyoming. Thomas Johnson was one of the most prominent men in the settlement, and the home, under the motherly care of his wife, was a favorite gathering place, especially for those of their own nationality. Mrs. Johnson makes her home in Evanston with her daughter Elizabeth, Mrs. L. E. Smith. There are eight children in all, who are well known in the state.

In 1872 Joseph Fife opened a mine that was known by his name, and he was later employed by the Union Pacific. Houses

were scarce in the early '70s, and they had to take temporary shelter in rooms excavated in the sides of the hill, known as "dugouts". After a short time the company put up frame dwellings. From a distance they looked as much alike as a flock of sheep, but the interiors revealed the character of the owners, and there were many pleasant homes.

The Rocky Mountain Company was the first to employ Chinamen, and brought in about seven hundred. After a strike of white miners in 1874 the Union Pacific depended largely upon their labor, and at one time there were as many as twelve hundred employed by the two companies.[1] After the massacre at Rock Springs in 1885 white men only were employed at Almy.

Each of the two big mining companies had its store. That of the Union Pacific mines was situated near the Old Wyoming. It was made of brick and stood there for many years after the abandonment of the adjoining mines, and when torn down in 1898 the bricks, which were of excellent quality, were used in the construction of the Golden Rule Store at Evanston.

A man named Slater was in charge of the Union Pacific store that was put up near No. 2, and afterward moved to a large building between No. 4 and No. 5. James Eakin, who was for many years manager, moved, at the closing of the mines, to Salt Lake City, where his sons were in business, and he died there in 1909. Oscar Ludwig was bookkeeper for the store and mine from 1876 to 1887. The family lived in a large frame dwelling a short distance below the first store, and their home was a favorite gathering place for the young of both Almy and Evanston. There were three daughters and one son. Mr. Ludwig died in 1923 at the home of his daughter May, in Kansas City, Kansas.

Many were the tragedies of the Almy mines. In March, 1881, twenty-nine lives were lost in an explosion at No. 2. Twenty of them were Chinamen, whose names have not been preserved. The white men were John Barton, William Glaspy and Silas Crosby, father of Thomas Crosby, who, through many hardships, has made for himself a place among our substantial men, and is foreman of the railroad shops at Evanston. A miner named Charles Beveridge had a miraculous escape. Seeing the

[1] Wyoming Historical Collection, Vol. 1.

flames coming through the trapdoor of his slope he threw himself into a depression between the tracks. His hands and feet were terribly burned, but in spite of being crippled he lived a long and useful life, and was postmaster in a little store he set up in Almy until 1904, when he was claimed by death. There were seven children in the Beveridge family, four of whom are living. William Beveridge taught in Almy for some years and now makes his home in Ogden, as do two of the daughters, and another lives in Salt Lake City. One of the daughters became the wife of R. W. Fowkes and was well known in Evanston. She died in November, 1920, and is survived by her husband, three sons and a daughter.

Shortly before midnight of January 12, 1886, there was an explosion that shook the earth for miles around and resulted in the death of eleven men. They were John Cummock, William Horsley, Frank Mason, Enoch Thomas, Robert Murdock, John H. Hood, Joseph Evans, John Peat, Ellis Gradman, John Hunter and two boys named Horn and Peterson. Work was resumed at the mine, but two years later it was closed on account of fire.[6]

Most disastrous of all Almy explosions was that of March 20th, 1895, when, at No. 5, sixty men who were just about to come to the surface for the evening meal were suddenly ushered into eternity. The victims were James B. Bruce, O. Maltby, W. E. Cox, James W. Clark, William Sellers, Jr., Jerry Crawford, James Limb, Fred Morgan, Samuel Clay, W. H. Grieves, Willard Brown, John G. Lock, George Hydes, David W. Laurie, Jr., Wm. Morris, John Clark, James T. Clark, Wm. Longdon, Marshall Longdon, John Morris, David Lloyd, John G. Martin, George Crichley, George Hardy, Matthew Johnson, H. A. Hyborn, Wm. Pope, John Wilkes, Charles Casola, Gus Casola, Wm. Weedup, James Hutchenson, Samuel Hutchenson, Thomas Hutchenson, Wm. Sellers, Hugh Sloan, Wm. Graham, Jr., Henry Scotthern, Albert Clark, John Phebes, Wm. Mason, Andrew Mason, John Lester, Wm. Wagstaff, Chas. Clark, Joseph Hyden, John Lethu, Matt Silta, Walter Miller, Thomas Booth, Benjamin Coles, Samuel Bates, John Dexter, Henry Burton, Samuel Holston, John Iapar, Angel Dermodi, John Fern, Baptiste Julian, Aaron Butte, Isaac Johnson.[7]

[6] Bishop Brown's Diary.
[7] News-Register, March 23, 1895.

Seven on the outside were killed by flying timber. Death came instantaneously to James Bruce, the mine foreman, and O. Maltby, superintendent of motive power, died about two hours after being found. Those within the mine were killed instantly. The bodies were all rescued through the heroic efforts of rescue parties. The disaster occurred on Wednesday, and on the following Sunday interment services were held by ministers of the various denominations. Thirty-two were buried from the Mormon Church, and the others from the chapels to which they belonged.

Many lives were lost in accidents. Henry Cummock died from a broken back caused by a slide of rock. His widow became the wife of Martin Christenson of Evanston. Harry Cummock, her son, is instructor in mechanics in a Los Angeles school, where he is eminently successful. The daughter Anna married Charles Stahley, a successful sheep man of Evanston.

In 1873 the Mormon Church at Almy was organized under the Bear Lake Stake, with James Bowns as bishop. In 1878 it was transferred to the Summit Stake, and later to the Woodruff. Meetings were held in various halls until the erection of the meeting house in 1873. It is a well-built edifice and stands near Number Four mine. Among the prominent workers of the early day were James Hood, who was an accomplished musician, and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Dean, whose children received the best education available and have won for themselves places of honor in professional circles in Utah and Idaho.

Three miners, George Griffin, Laben Heward and Samuel Young, were instrumental in organizing the Methodist Church, and in 1887 a building was put up and dedicated, in which Mr. Heward preached the first sermon. Here he, with the help of other laymen and of a local preacher named John Reonalds, held services for several years. The first regular minister was Rev. O. L. Ramsay, and he was followed by a man named Long. Dr. C. F. Gamble, the mine physician, and his wife were active workers in the church, where she was for many years the organist.

Mine Superintendent Ramsay started an Episcopal Sunday School in 1888 that met first in a dwelling house near their home and later in the schoolhouse at Number Four.