

**Frank Burghardt 1886 - 1917** As submitted by Donna Rothe of Talking Rock, GA



Frank Burghardt was born on 9 March, 1886 in the small Colorado mining town of Rico. His parents were Samuel Hassard Burghardt and Fannie Cart McConnell Burghardt. Frank's father was a miner, real estate speculator and former County Commissioner for Dolores County. Samuel Burghardt was a veteran of the Colorado 3<sup>rd</sup> Cavalry and fought at the infamous "Sand Creek Massacre" in November of 1864. He was wounded in the leg by an arrow during that battle. Sam came west with his Uncle Henry Grinnold and a couple of his brothers in 1859 and became a miner in Central City, Colorado. Sam was born in 1843 at the Burghardt ancestral home built by his great grandfather in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. The Burghardts were a prominent family in Great Barrington and Samuel's great-grandfather Coonrod Burghardt negotiated with the local Indians to purchase the land that is now Berkshire County.

Frank's mother, Fannie, had been widowed at a young age and was struggling to raise two young daughters. Fannie went to Silverton, Colorado in 1878 to keep house for her brother James Cart who was the town marshal for Silverton. In 1879 they all moved over the mountain to the young mining boomtown of Rico where James was to become Rico's 1<sup>st</sup> town marshal. Fannie and her daughters, Lillie Maude and Emma Jane McConnell ran a boarding house in Rico until Fannie met and married Samuel Burghardt. Fannie's parents left their home in Charleston, Virginia (later to become West Virginia) in 1848 headed to the California Gold Rush. Fifteen years and 6 children later, the Cart family settled in Golden, Colorado where they homesteaded 160 acres. Fannie was actually born in Covington, Kentucky in 1849.

Frank had three sisters, two of whom died 2 days apart in 1890. Fannie Burghardt died in 1900 and is buried in Rico next to her two young daughters. After Fannie's death, Frank's older sister (my grandmother) Minnie Estella was sent to live with her Aunt and Uncle in Durango, Colorado because her father felt like a young lady without a mother didn't belong in a mining town. Frank stayed with his father in Rico but his brother Leland was sent to live with his half sister Emma Jane McConnell Law in Greeley, Colorado. When Emma Jane became too ill to look after Leland Lavelle, Sam took Frank and Leland to live near his brother in Oregon. We know that in 1910, Frank was working in Vancouver, Washington installing gas lines. At some point he became a lineman and was electrocuted on 27 August 1917 in Missoula, Montana. By this time, the family had fallen on hard times and I assume did not have the money to have Frank sent home. Frank now lies in Grave 1, Lot 1, Block 64 in the Missoula Cemetery.