It takes more than a good resume to get a government contract.

Rollin Joseph Reeves
(1848-1918)


ROLLIN J. REEVES, who at the present time is United States commissioner residing in Wilbur, Washington, was born in Fort Madison, Iowa, November 25, 1846. His parents, Joseph P. and Mary A. (Chamberlin) Reeves, natives of Ohio and New York, respectively, were early pioneers of Madison County, the mother having lived there for sixty years, dying in 1902. The father also is dead. The only member of the immediate family, other than the subject of this sketch, who is now living, is a sister, Mrs. Josephine Stewart, wife of a Los Angeles physician.

Mr. Reeves spent his boyhood in his native county, where he attended the district school until reaching the age of fourteen, when he entered the high school in Chicago. He was graduated from this school, and from the civil engineering department of the University of Michigan, in the class of 1868, and is now president of the alumni association of his Alma Mater for eastern Washington. After leaving college he was employed for one year as a civil engineer by the Cairo & Vincennes railroad, then with a college classmate spent a year touring Europe. Returning to America in the fall of 1870, he resumed the practice of his profession. In the employ of the United States government, he surveyed the following state and territory boundary lines: in 1871, between Minnesota and Dakota; 1873, between Washington and Idaho; in 1877, between Dakota and Wyoming; 1878-9 between Colorado and Utah; 1880-1-2, between Wyoming and Montana. In 1883 in company with Levi Ankeny, Messrs. Dolph, Thompson, and Burrell, he established the First National Bank of Baker City, Oregon, and was made cashier of the institution. In 1886 he came to Spokane and for two years was engaged in the real estate business, after which he formed a partnership with Samuel Wilson Condit, a well known western character, familiarly known by his sobriquet "Wild Goose Bill" and with him surveyed and platted the townsite of Wilbur. Since that time Mr. Reeves has been closely identified with the growth and development of the little city which it may be said with truth was founded by "Wild Goose Bill."

On December 6, 1893, Mr. Reeves was married to Nina Stuart, of Wilbur, the daughter of J. L. and Alice Stuart, and to them have been born three children, as follows; Eugenia, born December 18, 1896; Ruth and Rolina, twins, born October 22, 1899.

Mr. Reeves is rated as being well-to-do financially, owning quite extensive tracts of farm property, and a large amount of city real estate. He is a man of wide acquaintance, has hosts of
friends and is known by all as a good citizen.

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REEVES--At Normal Heights, Feb. 28, 1918, Rollin J. Reeves, husband of Nina S. Reeves and father of Rollina and Ruth Reeves of Wilbur, Washington, and Eugenia Reeves of Pullman, Wash., and brother of Eugenia C. Wilson of Los Angeles, Cal.; a native of Iowa, aged 72 years 3 months and 1 day.

Announcement of funeral services will be made later by Johnson-Saum Company.