

## Bassett Craddock Leyson

Bassett Craddock Leyson was born 18 September 1857 in Blue Mounds, Dane, Wisconsin. He was the oldest of five children of David Leyson and Esther B Watkins.<sup>1</sup> In 1860, Bassett was living in Ridgeway, Iowa, Wisconsin, with his grandmother, mother, aunt and brother. He also shows up on the Oregon Township, Butte, California, the same year, living with his parents and brother.<sup>2</sup> By 1870, they were living in Humboldt, Humboldt, Nevada, where his father was a quartz miner.<sup>3</sup> Bassett came west with his mother in 1871, travelling by schooner to Panama, across the isthmus by wagon train, and by boat to California.<sup>4</sup>

On the 1875 census, the family was living in Humboldt, Nevada.<sup>5</sup> They moved to Silver Reef, Washington, Utah Territory, by 1880, where Bassett was a miner.<sup>6</sup> At age 19, he discovered the Leyson coal mine near Cedar City, Iron, Utah.<sup>7</sup> He married Carrie Ellen Pace about 1884; they had five known children (but may have had up to nine children). The next year, Bassett was an assayer, living with his wife, parents, and siblings in Spokane, Washington.<sup>8</sup>

In 1890, Bassett and Joseph Leyson (unknown what relationship they had) filed for a patent on a furnace for roasting ores.<sup>9</sup> Bassett was foreman of the Alice Mill in Walkerville, Silver Bow, Montana<sup>10</sup> and superintendent of the Mayflower Mine in Gaylord, Montana, in 1898. This gold mine produced over a million dollars of high-grade ore.<sup>11</sup> On the 1900 census, he was a mine superintendent, living with his wife in Rochester, Madison, Montana.<sup>12</sup> In 1905, he became the superintendent of the Greene-Campbell mine at Silver Star.<sup>13</sup>

Bassett and his family moved to Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California, where he worked as a mining engineer.<sup>14</sup> In 1909, they moved to Montana, where he was a mine superintendent in Twin Bridges.<sup>15</sup> That year they moved back to Los Angeles, where he was a mining engineer at a gold mine.<sup>16</sup> By 1912, they were living in Silver Star, Montana.<sup>17</sup> On the 1920 census, he was a miner, living with his wife, three children, and mother-in-law in Jefferson, Madison, Montana.<sup>18</sup> He became the mine superintendent in 1925-1927.<sup>19</sup>

On the 1930 census, Bassett was a silver miner, living with his wife and three children in Neihart, Cascade, Montana.<sup>20</sup> They lived in Neihart until 1940, when they moved to Bozeman, Gallatin,

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<sup>1</sup> Montana County Births and Deaths, 1830-2011.

<sup>2</sup> United States Census, 1860.

<sup>3</sup> United States Census, 1870.

<sup>4</sup> *Great Falls Tribune*, 6 February 1942, p. 1; [Buttehistory.blogspot.com/2012/10/the-mayflower-mine.html](http://Buttehistory.blogspot.com/2012/10/the-mayflower-mine.html).

<sup>5</sup> Nevada State Census, 1875.

<sup>6</sup> United States Census, 1880.

<sup>7</sup> *Great Falls Tribune*, 6 February 1942, p. 1.

<sup>8</sup> Washington State and Territorial Census, 1885; United States Census, 1910.

<sup>9</sup> Google patents US 453120 A.

<sup>10</sup> Butte, Silver Bow, Montana Directory, 1891-1892; *Anaconda Standard*, 21 February 1898, p. 5.

<sup>11</sup> [Buttehistory.blogspot.com/2012/10/the-mayflower-mine.html](http://Buttehistory.blogspot.com/2012/10/the-mayflower-mine.html)

<sup>12</sup> United States Census, 1900.

<sup>13</sup> *Anaconda Standard*, 6 December 1901, p. 6; 8 October 1905, p. 7.

<sup>14</sup> US City Directories, 1822-1995.

<sup>15</sup> *Los Angeles Herald*, 10 June 1909, p. 11; United States Census, 1910.

<sup>16</sup> United States Census, 1910; US City Directories, 1822-1995.

<sup>17</sup> *Anaconda Standard*, 24 March 1912, p. 31.

<sup>18</sup> United States Census, 1920.

<sup>19</sup> US City Directories, 1822-1995.

<sup>20</sup> United States Census, 1930.

Montana.<sup>21</sup> In 1942, they were living in the Bozeman Hotel.<sup>22</sup> Bassett died of a cerebral hemorrhage on 5 February 1942 in Bozeman and was buried in the Sunset Hills Cemetery.<sup>23</sup> Carried lived with her daughter until her death in 1950 in Portland, Multnomah, Oregon. She was buried in the River View Cemetery in Portland.<sup>24</sup>



Bassett Craddock Leyson (image from *Ancestry.com*)

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<sup>21</sup> United States Census, 1930, 1940; US City Directories, 1822-1995.

<sup>22</sup> US City Directories, 1822-1995.

<sup>23</sup> Montana Death Index, 1860-2007.

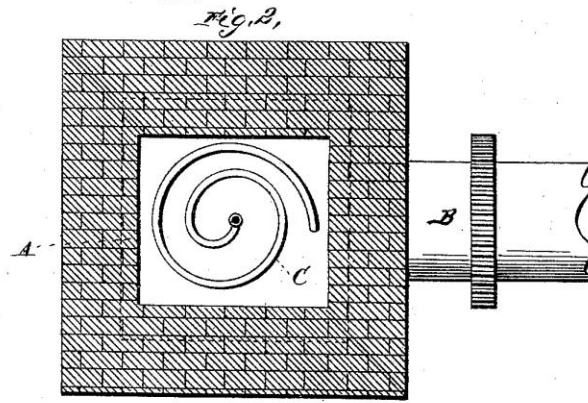
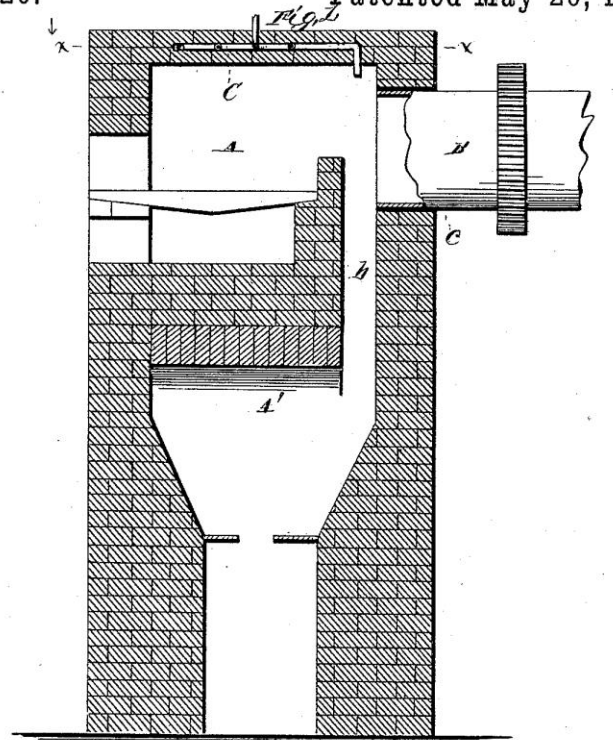
<sup>24</sup> *Findagrave.com*; *Independent Record*, 4 February 1950, p. 5.

(No Model.)

J. & B. C. LEYSON.  
FURNACE FOR ROASTING ORES.

No. 453,120.

Patented May 26, 1891.



WITNESSES  
*Chas. L. Taylor*  
*Phillipasi.*

INVENTORS  
*Joseph Leyson.*  
*B. C. Leyson*  
by *E. W. Anderson*  
Attorney

Furnace for roasting ores, patented 1891 by Joseph and Bassett C. Leyson of Walkerville, Montana (image from Ancestry.com)

Research by Elaine Young, Silver Reef Foundation historian, 2017  
Please email [eyoung@youngzones.org](mailto:eyoung@youngzones.org) for additions and corrections