The Pablo Herd

In 1884 Charles Allard and Michel Pablo purchased ten buffalo from a man named Samwell Hawk.

Later, in 1893, the two men purchased another herd from a man named Jones at Omaha. This purchase consisted of forty-four buffalo, twenty-six of which were purebred buffalo and eighteen of which were hybrids. These additional buffalo brought new blood to the herd and also caused the buffalo to increase in numbers faster. The entire herd was then located on the Allard and Pablo ranch which was beyond Ravalli. There they lived for several years.
The eventual division of the herd began with a sale to Sir Donald Smith, known now as Lord Strathcona. Lord Strathcona presented his portion of the herd to the Canadian government, four of which were kept for the City of Winnipeg. The rest of Lord Strathcona’s herd was sent to Banff, Canada to be kept in a National Park.

When Charles Allard died in 1896, there were 300 head of buffalo left. Since he and Michel Pablo were partners, Mr. Allard’s portion of the herd was equally divided between his widow, their sons and Mr. Pablo. Mrs. Allard later sold her share of the herd (which totaled about sixty head) to Charles Conrad of Kalispell. This sale ended the Pablo-Allard herd.