

McFadzean, Daniel,

5/24/45

In 1852 Uncle Basil Gather Parker, --Uncle Bas--lived in Arkansas. When he was a young man of 20 he married. He was the uncle of my wife's brother. His home was burned out and things were pretty hard so he decided to come to California, bringing his wife and two children with him. He got a train together and started in the spring of 1852 and the wagon train had a very difficult time of it.

At one place they found Indians lined across the way. It seems by that time the Indians were starting to collect a toll from the settlers. They demanded cattle for the right to pass. Uncle Bas just took his big blacksnake and opened a way through them. The Indians thought he was crazy and stepped aside and after that he was known as "The Mad Captain."

The party had a difficult time crossing Death Valley. They got into a sandstorm and Uncle Bas had to get down on his hands and knees to locate the trail, the sand was blowing so thick. The party was out of water too and it didn't look like they could go farther when his father walked ahead and found a spring and water. They had a rough time of it but after watering, they got across the desert to Southern California the next day. That ~~was the end of the trail~~ had 300 head of cattle and 14 wagons. When they reached Southern California they pastured the cattle and during the winter Uncle Bas came to the Four Creeks country arriving in the spring of 1853, coming over the Tehachapis. It was early summer when they arrived and they camped where the Tulare county courthouse now stands. Uncle Bas looked the country over and selected some land four or five miles from Visalia, where Elbow Creek now is. He built a cabin there. When the cabin was completed it was the first time the had slept under a roof since 1852. On the trip out, as he was captain of the wagon train, he usually road ahead and his wife drove the wagon most of the way to Los Angeles.

One man who came with the party was Ira Chrisman's father and Jack Chrisman's grandfather, Gabriel. He wasn't married until later and he married Uncle Bas' sister.

Uncle Bas and his wife began raising cattle and his wife made butter. Then came the White River gold rush and they made lots of money selling produce to the miners.

In 1856 I think it was he went down to the Los Angeles country to buy Spanish cattle and when he came back found that the Indians had stolen calves out of his corral. They had stolen stock before, but not out of the corral. So he got mad. He started the Indian war of 1856. He got some whites together and went to the Indian Camp, I think it was where the Old Iron Bridge was located on the Kaweah. They took the chief into custody and told the Indians they would give them three days to bring in the thieves. Before the time was up the Indians brought in two who they said were the thieves. So they gave them a

pioneer trial and condemned them to death. One of the Indians took out and he was shot and the other laid down. They held another consultation and agreed to let the one Indian go as a warning so he could tell the other Indians and stop the stealing. But the Indians were aroused and gathered up a group of men so the whites knew they were going to fight. They sent a party to follow the Indians and left the women in a stockade. They found the Indians in the Tule River country and entrenched, too strong to get them so they went back and got up a party, larger, under 'old man sheriff', John Williams, former city marshall then went down to the Kern county gold fields and brought a party from there and soldiers came from Fort Miller, making a party of 400 men. They went against the Indians again and found they had built an obstruction across the mouth of a canyon, a rock fence it was described as being and the Indians were behind it in the brush. It was up somewhere in the Success

country. The party was large enough to outflank the Indians and when they saw that they dispersed back into the hills.

After that Uncle Bas received word that his brother had died back in Arkansas and left a widow and three little children. His brother's name was Hiram. The children were Joe, Bud and Ben Parker. He said it was his duty to go back so he and his wife started back. Gabe Chrisman started back with them too. They took a boat from San Francisco and went by the way of the Isthmus. Some people on the trip died of colorea . The entire party had to walk across. He and his wife got to New Orleans and then went on to Arkansas. He organized another wagon train in the spring of 1857. A school mate in a neighboring county wanted to come out too so he became enthused and organized a train. At an appointed time they started and were to meet along the way, after they were about 100 miles or something like that. One party traveled ahead of the other sometimes and then they would change places. Gabe Chrisman, Nat Warner, ancestors of the Kellys, all came through. The Dunns, some in the "oodlake country yet, Troy Owen's f00 kin, Caldwell's mother--Sam Kelly, Mrs . R.R. Sparks was a daughter, were on the party (not clearly told by narrator. "elatives mixed Up.) (Also it appears it is H.T. Chrisman instead of Gabriel C^hrisman.) ~~see also below City of 1850~~

They got as far as Salt Lake City. It seems that some years before down in Arkansas there was a high ranking Mormon hanged for something and the Mormons were much incensed. Brigham Young said that no Arkansas Train would ever pass through the Salt Lake country. When Uncle Bas and his train got to Utah they were a day behind the other train. Bas bought some bulls from a Mormon in Utah and during the transaction the two became friendly. The Mormon wanted Uncle Bas not to take his train along the same route as Bas' partner, not to follow the train but to take the southern route. So he changed his route and the other train went on

to Mountain Meadow where it was massacred. Uncle Bas said it was the Mormons dressed up as Indians.

They finally got through the Sierras, over the ~~reno an~~ ~~00000000~~ way and over the old trail by Placerville and they got here (Visalia) in September of 1857. Of the three Parker boys, Joe Parker lived here and died in this house (North Church street) . Bud married Mary Markham and had quite a family. He became sheriff in 1886. He was also a past master of the Visalia lodge of Masons and Ben was sheriff at one time, it was 1898 to 1902 or long about there, the records will show.

When Nell's mother met her father here in California, in Visalia, he was Wm. C. Owen and he came from Alabama, arriving in California in 1849. He was sheriff of the county during the Civil War and was chairman of the board of supervisors at the time of his death. The two were married about 1860.

Bud Parker figured in an early day dispute about riding ability. It was a dispute whether cowboy or western riding was easier than the English style. So in ~~18900~~ 1876 the cattlemen sent him to the fair in Philadelphia along with 30 ~~cowponies~~ ~~and~~ cowponies and he was to ride 300 miles in 15 hours without rest. The test started on a race course. He rode at a dead gallop, then changed to another horse at relay intervals. The sweat band from his ~~00000000~~ hat bothered him and his eyes swelled shut after he had ridden 226 miles. He wanted to finish the race with other cowboys leading him but the judges wouldn't let him. He rode 226 miles in 11 hours and it was the farthest that anyone has ever ridden in that length of time. Another time he rode three days and three nights and he drove cattle from the Tehachapi to Oregon. He was Mrs. Crow's father. (Mrs. Inez Crowe) It proved the cowboy method was better. He owned ~~from~~ 200 acres

and the north line was where Tulare avenue now is. He was a heavy-set man, not tall but he was very witty. His home was the old brick house, the original Markham home. He died in 1926. Bud died first and the three of them died in 10 months. Then Ben died and then Joe.

Uncle Bas' wife, Aunt Malinda, was the first matron of Martha Washington Chapter Order of Eastern Star. Her daughter, Mattie Harter was the second.

Uncle Bas said that in the 1870's, about 1877, he went to Utah and ~~00000~~ happened to find a renegade Mormon. He came across a ~~g00d00d~~ two girls on the road and one of them was thrown by a horse so he took her home and met the Renegade Mormon that way. The two were friendly and he told him the story of the Mountain Meadow Massacre.

Remarks:

J.C. Ward history, concerning telegraph.

Hamilton, pioneer, lived up near Yokohol.

History of Stone Corral School 6/4/45

Dorothy M. Sprague

Route 3, box 371, Visalia

Our school district is very old. It was organized on May 4, 1875

Before this there was a private school which was located above C.A. Chalst home. This school was attended only by children of three different families and their teacher was Miss Ella Rice. All the other children that went to school usually rode barback two on a horse. They had to go to Elbow Creek School which was the closest public school at that time. Because of the long distance to Elbow Creek School quite a few children didn't attend school at all, and so when the first Stone Corral School was built the pupils attending school varied from five to twenty years old; as many of the older ones in this group had never attended school. During the early years of the school the teacher taught six months of the year at Elbow Creek and the rest of the year at Stone Corral. The Stone Corral District was known as Cricketville before 1875.

The first Stone Corral school was built south of the Twin Buttes packing house on the west side of the road. This school was built by the men in the community who donated their time as there wasn't much money to build the school. The lumber was hauled from Visalia by W.H. Bowen who lived in the district. Some of the ones who helped build the school were Mr. Curtiss and Dave Robison, H.B. Sprague and W.I. Bowen. Henry Light the first teacher and R.P. Merrill was county superintendent.

Some of the first pupils attending Stone Corral School in 1875 are still living in Tulare county. They are Mrs. Sophronia King, Miss Mary Curtiss, Mrs. Mary B. Curtiss and Lee Robison.

The families living in the district at the time the school was organized were three Robison families, two Bowen families, two Sprague families, Morris West, Bill Keener, Book Bennett, Luther Ward, two Rice families, Al Baird, a family by the name of Buckmaster and the Roarks

What I have just told I gathered from these first pupils of the district as there are no records until 1882 when E. V. Johnson taught the school. He received a salary of \$70 a month. The superintendent

at that time was C.H. Murphy who had taught in the district in 1876. There were 25 pupils enrolled and the average daily attendance was 16. I would like to emphasize here that the money allotted to a district was based on a census of school age children and not on an ADA basis as it is now. In those days the school term was also based on the amount of money allotted. Some districts had longer terms than others.

The first building wasn't very well constructed as it is brought out Mr. Lee Robison's report in 1883. In this report was a question asking how the school was ventilated. His reply was "doors, windows, cracks and etc. Another funny incident which was told to me by Robison was in 1882 when E V⁺ c Johnson was teaching. The river flooded around Visalia and he couldn't get out to teach so Robison who was in his last year of school was put in charge. Along in the middle of the morning Tom Bowen came by on horseback and asked him how he was getting along. He said. "OK, except for one of the preacher's boys who was acting up." So Bowen said "send him to the door," which he did and Bowen picked him up by the suspenders and took him home with his feet and hands dangling in midair.

"The first school burned in 1887. The teacher was Minnie Gray. There were 21 pupils enrolled. The school was built back in the same place. It was built by some of the pioneers with the help of a carpenter. While the school was being built by the children went to school in a building at the southwest corner of the Palmyra Ranch. This next school was about twice as large. It was 24 by 40 feet. The first trustees that I can find any record of held office in 1896. They were N.B. Sprague (My grandfather) J.H. Newman and R.O. Newman, clerk of the board. These trustees held office quite a while and the teacher at that time was Minnie Grover.

Miss Mary Curtiss taught several years starting in 1897. Another

student student of Stone Corral was Abi Robison who is Lee Robison's sister. She taught in 1906 in our district.

Some of the landmarks of the district are Stone Corral, which was a sheep corral. This was located ~~about~~ on the old Barrington place. Sontag and Evans were captured about a mile from there in 1893. The house Mrs. Gaebler lives in is a landmark also as it was the Luke Hall place. The Johnny Bacon house is still standing. It is part of the J.D. Martin Ranch. Another one ~~of~~ is the old Harrell Place. It is also a part of the Martin ranch.

Seville was subdivided in 1913 by Mrs. Becker. She built the hotel and the house Rex Keener now live in. This house was built for the land agent by the name of Ernest Becker.

The first store was located about where the Hernandez family lives and was owned by Mr. Semar. The railroad was laid in 1913. The first depot agent was Mr. Rogers.

Mr. Beckner built a lumberyard. There was also a packing house owned by Mr. Gundelfinger. Seville grew fast in those early years; at one time there were two stores, a postoffice, hotel, plumbing shop, depot, lumber yard, packing house and blacksmith shop.

They moved the Stone Corral School sometime about 1919 to Seville after an election was held. The teacher at this time was Miss Shry. The first teacher after the school was moved to Seville was Mrs. Conaway. She had 48 pupils enrolled. Mr. Shaver was clerk of the board.

There wasn't any janitor until the school was moved to Seville. Up to this time the janitor work was done by the teacher, and older boys and girls. The boys carried in the wood and built the fires. The girls swept the floor and cleaned the blackboard with the assistance of the teacher. The first janitor was Mrs. McCloud.

Our school remained a one teacher school until 1921. The teachers were Mrs. Thora O'Neal and Mrs. Martha Jordan. There were

69 pupils enrolled and the ADA that year was 48.

In the early 20's the lumber yard was sold and moved away. About this time Mr. Chalston, who had a store on the corner where the Duarte family lives, bought the hotel and moved his business to it. There was only one store left in Seville then. This other building was used for a storehouse.

The hotel burned in the fall of 1929. Mr. Chalston opened another store in the building where he was first in business. This was later sold to Al Fuller and James Kipp. This building burned in 1931. Seville had always had a postoffice up to this time. When the store burned we were put on a Visalia mail route.

The depot burned in 1932, and was not rebuilt, as it had not been used since 1929. One by one the smaller buildings burned until Main street was a very deserted street.

The school burned in December of 1930. It burned during the night and when Mrs. Pearl Chase, who was janitor came over to build the fires she found the school in ashes. The cause was not known but it is thought to have been caused from faulty wiring. The teachers at that time were Mrs. Bessie Melton and Mrs. Martha Jordan. It was built back on the same foundation. The new school was not finished until the spring of 1932 so the children attended school in the Gundelfinger packing house until the fall of 1932. The trustees then were Mr. H.W. Anthony, Ray Miksch and J.B. O'neal. The teachers in the new school were Mrs. Bechtel and Mrs. Gibson.

Stone Corral remained a two-teacher school until 1942 when the little building was purchased and moved from Sunnyside School. The ADA was 71 at this time. The trustees were H.V. Wynn, C.T. Shipley and Troy Lantrip. The ~~teachers~~ teachers were Miss Frances Clark, Miss Flora E. Stambaugh, the principal and the third teacher was Mrs. Alice Bierer. T.R. Nickel was county superintendent of schools.

Our new school has grown until we are going to have four teachers next year as our tax election went through. The teachers are Mrs. Velda C. Ball, Mrs. Annie Mabel Cowan and William E. Burden, principal. Our trustees are H.V. Wynn, Ed Shipley, Tom Day, clerk of the board. Our approximate ADA for this term is 97.

I wish to thank Lee Rubison, Mrs. Sophronia King, Miss Mary Curtiss, C.A. Chalston and the county office of schools for their cooperation in helping me ~~gather~~ gather this information.

Newspapers. California. Interview with Clarence Lillie, August 14, 1945
(He died later about two years ,maybe three after interview.)

Milton McWhorter started the Hanford Journal about 1880 or 1881, the Old Hanford Journal was Hanford's first newspaper. J.O. Blakeley who was a school teacher went to Hanford and bought the Journal and moved it here (to Visalia) Stephen Barton was the editor. I worked for McWhorter. It was moved here (Visalia) and called the Tulare County Journal.

Blakeley started the office on the second floor of the building where the bank of America is now located. Our plumbing facilities in those days were very poor .

We had an old Washington Press. When we were through with the forms we carried them out in back to a little zinc lined sink and washed with lye and rinsed with water . There was a bucket beneath the sink and when the bucket was full I'd give a toss over into Church street. One day was not too careful as might be and I remember a fellow walking below got the water and was mad.

Blakeley afterwards bought the Delta and merged the Journal with the Delta and later on the Delta moved to the second floor where the Security First National Bank is located. H. Cohen had a general merchandise store on the first floor.

The Delta before then was located about where Togni-Branch was located or it was just Togni's then. They couldn't get editorial room on Main street and had to go through the alley to the printing office.

When McWhorter moved ~~to Hanford~~ from Hanford he paid ~~me~~ 50 cents a day.

In the winter time, when we were working in the California style building, and would wet a handful of type it was frozen by the time we could get it distributed.

Then the paper was moved to where George Hayes has his office and it was established on the first floor there, right across the alley from

the waterworks run by Crowley.

I worked for Bkaleley here . He moved here and in two or three weeks I got a letter wanting to know if I wanted to work. He found he had to have skilled help..I was 17 years old when I came here. I used to set type and used to roll forms and fold papers for the old "ashington hand press and did everything else around the place. I think I was paid \$7 a week for working. I paid \$7 a week for room and board at the old Exchange hotel where Automatic Supply company is now located. It was facing main street, a two story building with a rear porch. We used tin wash basins that worked on a roller chain with tracks, right off the porch was mill creek . They had a willow pole sticking up in the hotel with line and hook and we used to fish in the creek. We got trout in the spring. In those days there was more water than now.

I came to Hanford in 1800 or 1881 and came here in 1883.

Milton McWhorter afterwards went to the west side oil fields and got into a row and killed a man. He was a preacher too. ^IHe came to Hanford from Santa Rosa. He was born in Chicago August 22, 1866, I was 9 years old when I went to Santa Rosa and 14 when I went to Hanford.

One reason they put the train tracks on the west side was to get land. They were granted every odd numbered section of land. For all the theories as to why the train or railroad didn't come through Visalia, are wrong. They wanted to get more valley land.

I was here in 1888. We had an awful job with our 8's , small fonts of type, we had trouble.

Went to Alta Californian in San Francisco. It was located on California street east of Kerney. John P. Irish was the editor. Had a compositor named Pitman. He was well educated and wrote the editorials. Another man who wrote there was a Balmig Gilland ????(notes not clear.)

Pitman got hold of that copy and was stumped with it, not too plain to proof reader. Is there a Barn in Gilroy. I worked there three years until health failed, night work, 10, 11 or 12 hours a day and got

paid 50 cents a thousand ems. Made \$3.50 to \$5.00. Living expenses were according.

Ben Maddox worked on it (The Alta Californian) before I did. He was in the composing room.

August 12, 1945.

Henry Lawrence. 82. Doesn't know birthday.

born: Call that up the mountain, Wok-Koy-Ya (Ookoya) Poso Creek.

Used to live in Alta foothills. Lived in Indian brush house. Mother came from Kern. Father a Yow-lamni.

Kern: Yowlamni, Wukchumni, Waksatchi, Tachi. Folk were people at Mill Creek, Drum valley. Left when a boy.

White man came and said: This my place and pretty soon soldiers came there were three families there. Now, I think they are all gone.

My father's name was Tenicha. Mexicans called him Corvalho. My Indian name is Wa Kum Cha. My Sister is living yet on the reservation. She is three years older. Her name Two Halet. Her name Mary Santiago.

In the old days lots of people came on the reservation, Chico. Lots of Monache. That was the old reservation, five miles from Porterville.

Measles came and some people die, quite a few of them.

When I went out and worked. Dug potatoes in swamps at Lemon Cove (Indian potatoes) Sheared sheep. Worked in grain. Three children, sent to Riverside school when 10 years old.

Y, they got married. Whooping cough came, two lose em all. One buried on reservation. One buried at Riverside.

One man lived at Deer Creek. He named Gana. At Deer Creek, south of Porterville, just two families lived. His name Gana. He killed my dog with a shotgun. Later when I was shearing sheep near Bakersfield, was driving a springboard. Came across Gana walking with bad. I didn't help because he was the one who killed my dog.

I came to Visalia six years ago.

I remember my father told me the first white people had long, tall hat. Indian call him "ap-a-Bit. Indian for hat.

My father met soldiers headed for Kern river.

When I was a boy I ate acorn mush. My father kill deer. Cook him,

sometimes roast him. Roast him with a stick. Sometimes cook him in pot. Some seed, don't know what kind, put him in water, ground up like mush.

Grass at Woodlake we ate, seed came from, we call Ya-Hol.

We ate Manzanita too, took berries, dried them, ground them up.

We got them on Deer Creek.

Dog origin:

There used to be a dog. He lived in the rocks at Dog Deer Creek. He used to come down to camp at nights a long time ago. Then he came to the camp later to live. That's how the Indian got the dog.

Arrowheads:

Up by Woodlake father used to make arrowheads of black rock. He held a piece of deer hide in hand, used short deer horn, used bone arrows for rabbits, doves and birds and small games.