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History of Morgan County



By MRS. WILLIAM CHADWICK

GRASSHOPPER WAR

(Continued From Last Week.)

Mrs. Dorothy Norwood Marker writes the following regard to her experience with grasshoppers: "I well remember, when only a child, of fighting grasshoppers. We had four or five acres of wheat and only realized ten bushels from it. Father would dig trenches around one side of the grain field, and fill them with water, the whole family worked trying to keep the hoppers back. We would take gunny sacks and scare them into the trenches and they would drown. It they were so thick that we lost nearly everything. Our gardens were cleaned out in a few hours, with not a sign of vegetation left."

On account of the grasshoppers the flour had to be hauled from the east, and was sold as high as \$12.00 per cwt. The last of the hoppers was in 1874 or 75. They came from the east and passed over the country, dropping into Great Salt Lake.

EARLY INDUSTRIES

About 1870, an eastern man, William Farrell, brought a beam saw mill into the valley, and ten expert mill men. He also brought a large number of oxen.

They camped in Richville that spring. The mill was taken up into Hardscrabble canyon where they cut hundreds of thousands of feet of lumber. The cutting and hauling of the timber furnished employment for most of the men in Porterville and Richville.

After using this mill for about a year, Mr. Farrell sold and bought a larger one, a 60-inch saw, with which he was able to cut a great deal more lumber. His camp supplies he bought direct from the east. Fruits and finer provisions to the value of one thousand dollars were brought by him at one time. He had a lumber yard at Richville where the Stanley house property now is. It was the largest lumber yard that has ever been in Morgan. Mr. Farrell married a daughter of Billa Dickson.

Nine saw-mills were operated in Hardscrabble canyon in the early days, some were run by steam and some by water. There were also two shingle mills. The mill farthest up the canyon was Farrell's mill, which was located on the east fork of Hardscrabble. The timber was brought down the mountain side by oxen. The next was the Standish mill. It was located on the west fork of Farrell canyon. The work here was mostly sawing ties. The next was Holdman's mill, a water power mill, which sawed a great many shingles and lumber also. This was located at the mouth of Standish fork. Then came Billa Dickson's mill. This furnished shingles and lumber of all kinds. It was situated about 200 yards down the main canyon from Farrell's canyon.

The water mills ran night and day because they could get more power in the night than in the day. Farther down the canyon was Porter and Walton's mill, and at the mouth of Arthur's canyon, was Jake Arthur's mill. Josh Williams also owned a mill in the same canyon. Lumber was hauled over the mountains from these mills to Bountiful.

Charcoal was produced in the same canyon. This was shipped to the mines at Bingham for smelting purposes. The lumber business brought a great deal of wealth to the people.

MERCHANDIZING

William Eddington was called the Pioneer merchant. In 1867 he built a store in South Morgan. It was made of brick and consequently very durable.

The first place of business on the North side of the river was a restaurant and feed stable, which was built in 1868 by Timothy Metz, at what was known as the mouth of Metz hollow.

The railroad coming through brought many avenues of trade, and ways of making money. There was no need of anyone being without employment. Cord wood and charcoal were in great demand, considerable charcoal was burned by Sloan, Smith and Tucker.

The method of carrying on commercial business in Utah was revolutionized in the years 1868 and 1869. The people of Morgan City caught the inspiration and commenced to build a cooperative mercantile business, with a small capital of \$1300.00. Soon after this the pioneer merchant, William Eddington, went with the current and put in his stock of goods which swelled the capital to four or five thousand dollars.

The new institution occupied Mr. Eddington's former place of business in South Morgan to begin with, but was later moved to North Morgan, which was more convenient to the railroad depot. The institution was called the Z. C. M. I. (Zion's Co-operative Mercantile Institution). George A. Davis was made manager and salesman. He was succeeded by Fred Kingston.

At this time Daniel Williams' wife was made postmaster of Mt. Joy, at which place the overland stage had a station. But in 1869 he built nearer the track, and the following year he went into the mercantile business.

During the winter of 1868 a shoe shop and tannery was established with the following officers: Robert Hogge, president, Charles Turner, vice-president; directors, W. G. Smith, Richard Fry and James Tucker. James R. Stuart, D. J. Ross and Fred Kingston were employed as shoemakers and cobblers.

The tannery failed because of the fact that material could be imported cheaper than it could be produced at home.

In the spring of 1869 there was no bridge across the Weber River, it having been taken away by high water the previous spring. During one entire winter James R. Stuart waded the river everyday to get to his work. The shoe company was turned over to and made a part of the Z. C. M. I., which firm assumed its liabilities, and continued the work with James Tucker as manager. Later Mr. Tucker bought the shop and continued business with James R. Stuart and James T. Worlton as shoemakers.

About 1869, soon after the incorporation of Morgan City and the coming of the railroad (Morgan City at this time had the distinction of being the only incorporated city between Omaha and Ogden at the time of the coming of the railroad) Morgan County appropriated \$1500 and the Territory \$1000, to build a bridge across the Weber river in Morgan City. It was completed in 1870 and gave South Morgan easy access to the railroad. It proved to be very expensive in the end, costing about \$6,000.

(Continued Next Week.)