

## HISTORICAL EVENTS

In the year 1901, my husband and I left Utah to go to the Big Horn Basin in Wyoming. He went first to see if he would like the country, before sending for me. My brother had gone in 1900.

My parents, my brother and sisters had gone earlier in the year. A group of people from different parts of Utah, under the direction of the authorities of our church (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints) went there to make new homes. There was plenty of land, but no way to get water for it; so the men had to work to build canals. There were a few farms scattered around, and people were raising cattle. One community was named Lovell; in honor of a man by that name, who had a large cattle ranch a few miles east on the Big Horn River.

This group of people from Utah, settled in three different places Lovell was on the south side of the Shoshone River, the other two on the north side. They named one Byron, the other Cowley. These two were in honor of some church leaders. All were under the direction of one of the Apostles of our church, by the name of Owen Woodruff.

The people were soon organized into three Wards, and leaders were chosen to carry-on and supervise their activities. The Burlington Railroad Company decided to extend its line into Wyoming from Frannie, which was the terminus at that time. This proved to be a great help to the Mormons, by furnishing employment for the men.

The winters were very severe, but not much snow at that time; tho' lots of cold wind. The men worked for the railroad in the winter, and cultivated the land in the summer. They built log houses. It was fifty miles to the nearest town of Bridger, Montana, where they could get lumber and other building materials. It did not cost so much to get logs for log houses, and they could be made very comfortable. Most of those pioneers could not afford to go so far to get materials for frame

houses. Many lived in tents the first winter.

That first summer of 1901, a group of the pioneers pitched their tents down by the river in a row. It was a happy, friendly group. One of the families, who had settled in that vicinity a few years previous was named Strong; Frank and Ellen Strong. They had two young daughters Those girls liked to ride horse back and go galloping across the sagebrush. They said, " Those Mormons live in 'rag houses' ". That family was very friendly and kind to the pioneers. They had built a nice frame house of two stories; large enough to entertain travelers who sometimes passed that way.

Another family by the name of Cook, also had a place large enough to entertain travelers. They lived on the north side of the river. Had several daughters and one son. They also were very fine people. As more people came to settle there, they moved to the south side of the river and had a small store; which made it convenient for the people.

When a group of Mormons settle in a community, one of the first considerations is education. So they built a school; which those people did. In a short time after their arrival they erected a nice large building with several classrooms. They were able to use the building for worship also.

Before the turn of the century, William F. Cody (Buffalo Bill) went into another part of the country; west, and on the way to Yellowstone National Park. He bought land and built small houses on those farms and hired men with families to work and take care of them. He founded the town of Cody, Wyoming. He also started a livery barn, had horses and vehicles to hire to those who needed them. He also had a large Stage-coach, or "Tally Ho" as it was called, to take vacationers through Yellowstone Park.

Enterprising people soon came and built business establishments and homes. The town grew and prospered. The town was situated on an elevated piece of land above the river.

We were living at Lovell, Wyoming and work was scarce. My husband (Harry Barnes) went to Cody in search of employment. He was successful in obtaining work at Buffalo Bill's Livery Barn. Several other men worked there also, and needed a place to board. There was a small house near the barn, but large enough to take care of some of the men. It was included in the property of the livery barn, and owned by Mr. Cody. They needed someone to cook for the men. My husband asked if I might go and live there and do the cooking. They agreed. I went and took my sister to help me. We lived there in that house. In January of 1902, our first baby was born there. Sometimes Mr. Cody went to see how the town and his business was prospering. He happened to be thereat the time our baby was born. Someone told him there was a new baby in that house. He wanted to see her, so he came in with my husband and talked to us and held her little hand. He left a silver dollar in her hand, which we discovered after he was gone. It was a thrill to have such a famous man call on us. He used to drive some of his fine horses, four or six of them hitched to that "Tally Ho", through the streets of Cody. We saw that and it is a pleasant memory to cherish. He was a very distinguished looking gentleman and and always attracted attention wherever he went. He was in stature, straight and portly, had a pleasing personality and dealt justly with his employees. He owned a circus and traveled much with it. No doubt he met many notable people and would be at ease in their company. He was brave and fearless and did much to build up the West. He also had a kind and gentle nature as evidenced by his coming to see us and our baby in our humble circumstances. He was an Indian Scout. That winter it was decided the town needed a nice hotel. They had to make and burn brick for the building. My husband helped to burn that kiln of brick. When ground was broken for the erection of the building, my husband hauled the first load of materials to the site. Mr. Cody had a daughter named Irma, so they named that hotel "The Irma Hotel". I think it is still in operation.

The town had no city water supply at that time. They had a large water tank on a wagon at the "Barn". Each family had a large barrel of forty or fifty gallon capacity. My husband was assigned the job of hauling water from the river to supply it for domestic purposes. They had to pay the company thirty-five cents a barrel for it. My husband had to drive down to the river with the tank and back ~~to~~ it down into the river and dip the water with a large pail to fill the tank. That winter the weather was very cold.

Four year later a small coal mine was discovered down the river a few miles from town. The Buffalo Bill Enterprises built a nice little frame cottage there. Also a large barn to protect the horses which they used to work around the mine. A boarding house was also built for the men. Some who had their families with them, lived in tents, including our family. The town of Cody was growing rapidly. Many tourists passed through enroute to Yellowstone Park. Some would spend quite some time there. Miss Caroline Lockhart was writing a book about Wyoming and traveled over the state. She was there at that time. A sea captain, one Captain Corfield, from England was there also. Those two became friends. Sometimes they went down to the cottage by the river where it was quiet and she would write. They also went fishing at the river. For bait they used grasshoppers, of which there were plenty. Our little girl was now four years old. She had a little paddle and caught grasshoppers for them. Captain Corfield paid her a little money for them, which made her very happy. She grew-up, married, and raised a family. She lived at Casper, Wyoming. Oneetwo or three years ago, there was a celebration of some kind in that city. Miss Lochart was there and my daughter was privileged to speak to her, and asked if she remembered the incident described above. She did. She was surprised to learn my daughter's identity. Cody, Wyoming is now a beautiful prosperous city. A monument of Buffalo Bill on his horse has been erected at the west end of the

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main street.

I have learned since that he is buried on Lookout Mountain, near Golden, Colorado.

signed \_\_\_\_\_

Mrs. Maggie Barnes

This article may be condensed, or some of it may need to be changed in some way, but I wish very much to have most of it printed verbatim, as written.

Return postage guaranteed if not acceptable.

signed \_\_\_\_\_

Mrs. Maggie Barnes