

This came in a Butler Senior Family letter one time

From K.T. Butler - Gooding, Idaho - November 1, 1973

It was 70 years ago that my brother John and I set out to come to Idaho. He was following the advice of our father to go to a new country where there was plenty of land and opportunities for his family. Our father had been prosperous in the ~~stock~~ stock raising business, but had lost his money in the Butler-Beck mine.

John had been home from his mission five years. Our father was ill when John left for his mission and John thought he shouldn't go, but father said, "Yes, go, but when you come back I will be gone, but I want you to lead out and take the family to a new country." First John went to Canada and put down earnest money on a piece of land near Alberta, Canada. His money and contract were returned with the excuse that some one else was ahead of him. He worked at the Kimberly mine until the time came for us to get ready for Idaho to scout for a settlement for the family. He bought a beautiful matched team of bally faced Clydesdales. We called them Prince and Bally. He also bought a new covered wagon and harness.

We left on Friday, I think the 26th of March. ¹⁹⁰³ I was a real proud boy, not quite 13 years old and felt very important. I had hauled wood from the mountains and chopped it for Mother, enough to last her until we returned in the fall. It wasn't easy bringing wood out of those ~~hill~~ Red Hills, over dugways and rough roads. Gomer Richards came with me one trip. Sadie was staying with Mother for awhile and Gomer was looking for work. Jobs were very scarce and wages were poor.

I was thrilled about going on this adventure, though I hated to leave my Mother and little brother with his barn shovel teeth. Zettie now had Erma and Omer John and when she told us goodbye she was really crying for she knew her family would soon ~~be~~ gone- and I had some regrets about not going to Zettie's any more to tend her little ones, for she always had goodies to eat and the best root beer. John ~~CHRISTENSEN~~ was a very prosperous man and I thought of him as being very wealthy.

It was on the 7th of April when we crossed the Idaho line and we talked about "today Carrie and Erin are to be married." The 9th of April we got to the mouth of Goose Creek where the town of Burley now is and John said, "This looks like wonderful land." The sagebrush was as big as small trees. Today that is considered the best land in Idaho.

Other wagons of immigrants had joined us along the way - 9 wagons in all. Nebekers and Lee and Ralph Fairbanks and others. Lee was such a cut up. There was never a dull moment with him around. John had been homesick for his wife of 2 years and his songs were always so lovesick that I was sorta bored at my age. My days were livlier with others in the company. Lee Fairbanks and I both lost our

hats in a high wind over Shoshone Falls and it was a long time before I got another hat. We parted company with most of them in Hagerman as John wanted to go to Bruneau to see Jim Gilbert, his old friend of Kimberley mine days. John had picked up a letter from Jim at Albion. We smiled at the wording. Jim wanted John to come to Bruneau and he said, "There are plenty of water and there are plenty of land." There was a horrid twister tornado hit the town of Bruneau just as we were out a ways, but close enough that we could see the twister pull out big trees and blow away houses. Our horses and outfits were hit by flying rocks and debris until we could hardly hold the horses.

We spent a few days studying the project and John felt it was too expensive a project so we turned around and went to Camas Prairie. We had heard about the Mormon Dixon Family when we were in Hagerman. It was now May 13th when we got to Camas Prairie, and a blizzard overtook us. The grass was about a foot high with thousands of cattle trailing along, but before the day was over there was about a foot of snow and all these cattle were drifting with the storm.

We headed for Old Soldier. There we met a young cowboy (Earl Person) and we asked how long they had winter on Camas Prairie. He smiled and said, "I don't know, I have only been here 13 months." We went to Hailey and worked there for about 2 weeks clearing land. The fishing was fine and sagehens by the 100's so we lived high off the fat of the land. By now we found that the blizzard had been very general so we went back to Camas Prairie and found ourselves knocking at the Dixon home. This was at Fir Grove. He said he had a family of boys and was very pleased when he found that we had some girls in our family. Bailey was at home on our 1st. visit and ~~later~~ he became my brother-in-law. We were ^{always} ~~good~~ ^{so} good friends.

John joined a group of men what were forming the Twin Lakes Reservoir Co. They made arrangements to buy the Alex Syphers Twin Lake Ranch and that was the starting of the Mormon Reservoir. It was the first storage dam in Idaho. I helped the surveyors of the dam. I drove a stake every 100 ft. for $\frac{3}{4}$ miles for what was to be the reservoir. Alex Syphers and Mr. Roach had been scouts together years before. I loved to hear them talk and tell of their earlier day experiences. It was a rare experience for me as I was a little pitcher with big ears.

The Reservoir Co. by paying cash got the hay from the Twin Lakes Ranch so we had a big haying job all summer. Gomer Richards came up for the summer and when October came I went with Gomer to Shoshone where we took the train ~~back~~ to Salt Lake /City. This shows how I started school late and quit early. Gomer helped me pick out a suit of clothes in Salt Lake and I went back to Richfield in pretty good style. The

kids I used to fight with were all glad to see me. By this time I was strong and tough and none of them ever wanted to fight with me anymore, so my days with a peeled nose were over. By the next spring we knew where we were going and before we went John took Mother and me and Bertha and baby to see Grandmother Smith McGregor at Parowan but that is another story.