

BRIEF HISTORY
OF
CLOVER VALLEY
(Barclay)

Lincoln County, Nevada

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Clover Valley is a small valley of approximately 300 acres located about 15 miles east of Caliente, Nevada at the head of Clover Creek. It was named Clover Valley by the early settlers but because there was another Clover Valley in Northern Nevada the Post Office named the valley Joseco. The Union Pacific Railroad named the valley Barclay when they laid the track through the area and this became the accepted name to present. When the railroad was building the grade through the area, they encountered a very hard clay soil that could only be penetrated by crow bars, hence the name (Barclay).

Though Clover Valley is small in acreage, it has played a major roll in the lives of many thousands of people. The Valley has a rich history and the words contained herein can only include a few of the experiences that made this valley what it is today.

The early Indians of the area left only a small trace of their existence. Pottery, flint chippings and some arrowheads are found. In two areas surrounding the valley petroglyphs can be found. In the North end of the valley at Cave Springs the University of Nevada Reno did some excavating in the 1970's and found evidence of six different Native American Cultures that had existed in the small caves.

The early Anglo settlers encountered the Clover Valley Moapa Piute band of Indians. They were a more brazen and aggressive band of Indian than were found in other nearby areas. Perhaps due to the fact that these Natives had had contact with the Mexican people using the old Spanish Trail, this contact had left a bad taste in their mouths for the whites.

In the year of 1849 the first white people of record traveled through Clover Valley. Because of the previous harsh winter that the Donner Party endured, and not wanting to risk the same misfortune with winter approaching, several small groups heading for the gold fields of California got together in Salt Lake City. There they formed a wagon train under the direction of Jefferson Hunt. Heading south, at a point in Southern Utah, Washington County, most of the group decided to head west instead of following Hunt down the old Spanish Trail. Their group was held up in the canyons of the headwaters of the Beaver Dam Wash. Except for those who were traveling with pack animals, all had to turn back. Some of their group came down Clover Creek through Clover Valley. About a mile below the valley at a place now called Islin, the canyon was impassable so the party headed north to the area now called Panaca, Nevada. They then headed west by southwest and became the Death Valley Party.

In the year 1857 a group known as the White Mountain Camp from Parowan, Utah came through Clover Valley following the same route as the 49^{er}

group. This was an exploring party sent out by Brigham Young to find a place of refuge for the Mormons in the event that they would have to flee due to the approach of Johnston's Army.

In 1864, several families led by Bishop Edward Bunker settled Clover Valley as a result of a severe drought along the Santa Clara Creek in Utah. Because of limited land and the settling of the Swiss people in Santa Cara, most of the old settlers decided to move to Clover Valley. The group included Bunker, Luke Syphus, Amos and Bradford Hunt, Brown and Hamilton Crowe, Tarelton Blair, Samuel Knight, Dudley Leavitt and Brother Young. Others soon followed them including the Edwards family as well as Dudley Leavitt's brothers and the Huntsman family. Dudley Leavitt had married two of the Huntsman girls. Although they had secured a treaty with the Indians of the area, they built their homes in the shape of a Fort along a flowing stream with their corrals attached. During the two years that they were there, some 78 head of livestock were stolen.

During this time there was general unrest among the Indians of Nevada, Utah and Northern Arizona and likewise was the case in Clover Valley. During the first two years of the initial settlement miners had killed several Indians and Bradford Hunt shot an Indian attempting to steal some cattle. So by direction of the LDS Apostle Erastus Snow, the Valley was vacated after only two years.

During the years of 1864 to 1866, twelve of the settlers' babies died from some sort of plague. This was all but 3 of the children under age 5 living in the Valley at that time. It is believed that all 12 are buried in the cemetery near the schoolhouse but there are only 3 marked graves accounting for these children.

In 1868 Lyman L. Woods was called to the Muddy Mission. He was assigned to develop the Long Valley area of the Meadow Valley Wash. The water supply there was unstable and dried up during the summer so he was forced to leave. In his travels he had passed through Clover Valley and fell in love with the place. Although he was warned of past trouble with the Indians, his desire to settle there in 1869 was granted by those in charge of his Mission. Lyman Woods did have some trouble with the Indians stealing his horses and killing cattle but he was fair and honest and soon gained their respect. He eventually became a great friend to them and with mutual trust there were few problems thereafter. Several other families soon settled in the Valley such as the Crowes, Adairs and Hamblins.

There was a sawmill in operation on Clover Mountain during this time operated by the Sherwood Brothers. Woods began working for them and soon after he and his son-in-law George Edwards purchased the operation from the Sherwoods. With the opening of the mines in Pioche and Delmar, Nevada, there was a great demand for lumber. With the need for mill workers and freight wagons

the community grew. Woods prospered with the business of lumber, farming and livestock.

In 1885, the railroad was under construction through the Valley. This caused a boom of growth for a time and as a result many temporary homes and tents were set up. The Woods home being the nicest became the headquarters for the railroad officials. The railroad people appreciated the hospitality of this family and did many favors for them. Eventually the money supply for building the railroad ran out and construction halted for a few years causing a vast slow down in the economy of the Valley.

Lincoln County took possession of the railroad grade due to the lack of payment of taxes and after many troubles with funding, the railroad was finally completed in the year 1905. The upkeep on the railroad was all done by hand. The old steam engines needed to take on fuel and water often, so every few miles where water was available, siding and section houses were built such as at Islin, a few miles to the south and Acoma to the north.

The School/Church House was built in 1898 by Lyman L. Woods and his son-in-law George Edwards. Woods, whose mother had joined the LDS church and died in 1839, left him an orphan at age 6. He was never able to get an education but was determined that his descendents would have that opportunity. This was his motivation to build the school.

Woods had 8 children; four sons all married and started their families in Clover Valley. However, between 1916 and 1918, three of the families moved away leaving Lamond Crescent Woods. Lamond was the father of 8 children and raised them in the Valley. Two of his sons, Lyman Lamond and Fred, raised their families there. Lyman died at his home in Barclay in 1959 and his property was sold to Edmond Amarue of Las Vegas, Nevada. Amarue later sold the property to the National Mustang Association in about 1966 and they own it today. Fred Woods sold his property to three of his nephews, Herschel, Eldon and Kelton Hafen in 1963 and they continue to operate the ranch to this day.

In 1912 Charlie Demmick and Sam Beal purchased the property at the west end of the valley. They ran over 1,000 head of cattle from Sheep Springs on Clover Mountain through Ellie Mountain to the Meadow Valley Wash. They wintered the cattle on the Tule Desert and at Carp on the Meadow Valley Wash. Both Sam and Charlie were known as colorful characters. Sam was believed to have killed two men; one for roughing up his girl friend and one in self-defense. Charlie was of Arizona Strip fame and loaned money to several of the Clover Valley ranchers. In 1920 their ranch was sold to Hafen and Frei of Santa Clara, Utah. Hafen and Frei consisted of Johnny, Adolph, H. Val and Lee Hafen. The Fries included Edward

R., J. Claude and Vivian. Because several of the sons were in World War II, Hafen and Frei sold to Gilbert Heaton and Andy Lytle in 1943. Heaton and Lytle sold the Ellie Mountain and Carp range to the Henry Brothers. Heaton sold the Barclay property to Andy Lytle. Andy's son Francis and Lavar Wade bought the Dutch Meadow. This area is currently owned by Lavar Wade and his son-in-law Ed Bundy. Jacob Hamblin's brother Edwin and his posterity were property owners and active in Clover Valley from the early 1870's until 1918 when they sold to Charlie Sullivan.

In 1915, Will Mathews homesteaded in the Valley and raised two children. His son Ross was a lifelong resident of the area. In about 1954 part of his property was condemned to build the Mathews Canyon Dam as a flood control to protect the railroad. He retained ownership of some property but moved his ranch headquarters near the head of the Beaver Dam Wash. His children still retain ownership of the Barclay property.

In 1916, Willard Simkins from Circleville, Utah purchased the Jasper Woods Ranch. Three of his sons, Jack, Waldo and Clyde remained until 1968. Jack and Clyde sold their property to Hafen Brothers in 1968 and Waldo and sons sold theirs to the Lytle's in about 1979. From 1916 to 1978 the Simkins were a very important part of the Valley.

The Crow family had holdings in Clover Valley from the early 1870's to 1910. They were with the first group that was there from 1864 to 1866. Some of the Adair family lived there about the same time. The Price family was here around the same period.

In 1918 Charlie Sullivan of St. George purchased the Hamblin's property and ranched in the area until 1930 when Waldo Simkins purchased it. Simkins sold to Andy Lytle and later Lytle sold to Ken Newby. In 1919 George H. Lytle bought the large meadow north of the railroad track in the west end of the valley. From 1919 to present, decedents of George Lytle have been active in the area. The current property owners of the valley are Hafen Brothers, the Lytle family, the National Mustang Association, Lavar Wade, Ken Newby and Ron Cannon.

The Clover Valley Cemetery sits 1/8th of a mile behind the School House. There are 32 graves in the cemetery. Of the 32 marked graves the first, Rebecca Wiggins Hunt, wife of Amos Hunt, died September 10, 1865 at age 23. The last grave of the old settlers is Lyman Lamond Woods who died in 1959 at age 65. In August of 2007, Francis Lytle passed away and he is buried there.

Unmarked graves believed to be in the cemetery are children that died between 1864 and 1866. Three were children of Dudley Leavitt from three

different wives. Three were children of Benjamin Brown Crowe and Lucida Jane Adair Crowe and one child of Tarelton Blair.

William Hanes Hamblin, also known as Gunlock Bill, was poisoned in 1872 because he knew too much about a murder that was committed in Pioche, NV. It was a dispute over a mining claim and someone didn't want him to testify. He traveled from Pioche to Clover Valley before he died and is buried in the cemetery. In January of 1914 the 5-year-old son of Ed and Josephine Milne Hamblin was drown in a flood that came through Clover Valley. Over the years many large floods have caused damaged to the railroad running through the valley. There is a grave of a railroad worker named John Coffee who was killed while working on the construction of one of the tunnels. Another railroad section hand Rube Johnson got drunk and ran his railroad handcar into and oncoming freight train. In 1949, twenty-year-old Wilford Woods caught on fire and burned to death while trying to prime his pickup truck.

Of the families buried in the cemetery their names and numbers are Hunt (4) Price (3) Woods (10) Hamblin (9) Adair (2) Lytle (3) Coffee (1) and Johnson (1).

The children and grandchildren of A.K. and Orilla Woods Hafen renovated the old school/church house, which was re-dedicated in July of 2000 by Elder Steve E. Snow of the LDS Church. It is now used by several church groups and family reunions.

The Hafen brothers are descendents of Samuel Knight who was one of the original settlers in 1864, and of Lyman Lafayette Woods who settled in 1869. Some of his decedents have been living and working in the valley throughout this time. Also they are descendents of Johnny Hafen who had property there from 1920 to 1943.

Livestock grazing on the BLM administered land near the valley has always been the most important business to keep the people of the area active. Hundreds of different livestock operators have held grazing rights here over the years. Cattle made most of the use of the range but there were also several herds of sheep. The sheep industry faded out in the early 1930's. Big bands of wild horses roamed the mountains. In the bad winter of 1948-49, most of the horses died because the snow was so deep that they could not get the feed. Several still remain today. Deer hunting season has always been very good in this area. Today the deer herd is somewhat sparse but still every year a few extra nice bucks are harvested.

Clover Valley continues today to be a refuge of beauty for all of the property owners and their families to enjoy during the spring, summer and fall months.