

Some Dixie History

Editor, WASHINGTON COUNTY NEWS —I have just received a copy of your valuable paper from a friend in Arizona, and think of old Dixie, and as I was one of the old settlers I thought I must write you a few lines

I have a letter in my house written to my father, Samuel Adair, in December 1856, by President Brigham Young, calling him (my father) and others to Dixie to raise cotton. We left Payson, in Utah County, in March, 1857, and arrived on the Virgin river just below the town of Washington on the 13th day of April, 1857. There were about eight or ten families of us. I could give you their names but they are nearly all dead. After we got there on the 5th of May the same year, Brother Robert Covington (who was our bishop for many years) came with about twenty more families and we moved to the site where Washington now is. I could give you their names also if it is necessary.

I helped to build the first dam that was ever built in the Virgin river. I helped to drive the first herd of cattle to Dameron valley in 1857, and we named it Dameron valley after the late Judge William Dameron, of Thatcher, Arizona, who was with us at the time.

I thought I would tell you a little about alfalfa. The first I ever heard of, Brother Peter Collins brought the seed to Washington in the fall of 1857, when the "Mormons" were called home from California when Johnson's army was coming. He planted the seed in the Washington field in the spring of 1858. That was the first I ever heard of in my life. I would be glad to be with you at the home coming, but I am not well enough to come.

You can show this letter to J. E. Pace, Andrew Sorenson, James Andrus, and lots of others there who know me, they can tell you who I am.

S. N. ADAIR

Luna, New Mexico, Aug 21