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THE STORY OF BUTLERVILLE

When the Pioneers came to Salt Lake Valley, they used logs for their homes. Big Cottonwood Canyon was one of the canyons that furnished much of the lumber for the new homes and other buildings throughout the valley.

The distance from the mills to the city was too great for the teams to complete in one day, so there came to be stopping places for the teams and men to rest and get food before they continued their journey. One of these places was near the mouth of the canyon near the Old Mill.

Around this stopping place, a few homes were built. As the number of workers in the canyon and the teamsters increased, more people came to this particular place to help provide the homes, food, and other necessities for them.

In about 1890, a Post Office was established at the mouth of the canyon to provide mail service for the sawyers, teamsters, and miners in the canyon.

About 1861 the Deseret News built a paper mill near the mouth of the canyon. Many people came to work at the mill and to gather rags to make the paper. A brewery and a store were established to supply the wants of the increased population.

Stone haulers from Little Cottonwood to the Salt Lake Temple had a stopping place to the west of the canyon. (At the corner of Highland Drive and 7000 South).

Around these centers, farmers began to take up land and to build permanent homes. Among the earliest of these settlers were the Butler brothers and the McGhies. It is said that there was one more Butler than McGhie so the place was called Butlerville. According to the L.D.S. Ward Records, it was called Butlerville in honor of Alva Butler who became the first bishop of the ward at the time of its division from the Granite Ward in 1901.

The town has continued to grow in population and has become important for its fine fruits, poultry products and, more recently, as a residential area.

LUMBERING

In the year 1854, Feramorz Little became associated with Daniel H. Wells and Brigham Young in the lumber business. With them were A.O. Smoot, Fredrick Kessler, and C.F. Decker. This association was known as the "Big

Cottonwood Lumber Company". In that and the following year he superintended the construction of five sawmills on the canyon stream. This was a large undertaking considering that all the machinery had to be hauled from the Missouri River in wagons.

The company soon divided and Feramorz Little went into the lumber business on own his account. He associated with C.F. Decker and the company was known as "Little & Decker". For several years they conducted a very successful business and were leading lumbermen in Utah. They put on the market about one million feet of lumber annually, which was an important factor in building up the new settlement.

Little and Decker sold out to Armstrong and Bagley, two enterprising young men who had learned the business while employed by Little & Decker.

The Butler boys became interested and built mills in the canyon. Alva Butler operated a mill at the mouth of the canyon just below the present Salt Lake City water intake. Philander Butler owned and operated a steam sawmill in Butler Fork. Neri Butler owned a steam mill near the mouth of the canyon and another steam mill at Brighton which operated until about 1930. The Green family owned a mill about four miles below Brighton. They sold out to a Mr. Cook and his sons. This mill operated until about 1937.

At Mill D, which is now known as the "Spruces Picnic Area", a community was built. Beside the mill, there were cabins of the workers, a boarding house and a dance hall. The workers furnished their own music. Old residents describe it as a very enjoyable time in their lives.

The lumber from the mills had to be hauled out of the canyon by teams of oxen or horses. The lumber was usually hauled out of the canyon by one group in one day's haul. It would be taken by a second group in the city in another day. The first group would return to the canyon with supplies on their second day.

MINING

During the hauling of the lumber from the mills, Richard Maxfield and Charles Wooton saw some shiny rock on a ledge. They stopped on their way up the canyon the next morning to investigate. They found a vein of galena ore. This was the beginning of the Maxfield Mine which produces a large amount of the precious ore, but not until the first owners had been forced out of the company by heavy assessments. They did not have enough money to operate the mine by themselves so they sold controlling interest to a mining company. The owners directed the digging along the

wrong direction until the Maxfields and Wootons were forced to quit. Then they went into the vein and extracted a pocket of very rich ore. As the mine went down deeper, the ore vein ran thinner. They soon struck water and the vein was not large enough to continue operation of the mine.

Other mines soon opened up and prospectors were busy through the canyon. Some of the most important mines were the Cardiff, the Prince of Wales, the Tar Baby and the Kessler Peak. All these mines produced lead and silver ore. The Prince of Wales was the only one to produce gold. It was run by a Mr. Goodspeed and was located in Silver Fork.

Some mines are still operated in the canyon today. Some ore is still hauled from the Cardiff and the Mutual Metals Mining Company is still producing some ore. The Wasatch Gold Mine is still producing some ore.

The ore from the mines in Big Cottonwood Canyon was hauled to the smelter in Sandy and later to Midvale. The ore is now hauled to Murray Smelter. The road that the ore haulers made to Sandy was, for them, the shortest route but the section lines were surveyed and the road was later straightened to follow these lines.

The smelters started another mine in Butler. There was a need for silica and clay to line the furnaces in the smelters. Silica was mined along the foothills three miles southeast of the school site. Silica was sent to the Sandy and Midvale smelters. In 1912 the Utah Fire Clay Company opened a Silica mine just north of the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon. The silica was carried about a mile and a half in a tramway from the mine to a point near the main road where it was loaded on trucks and taken to the company's plant to be made into bricks and furnace linings. The mine was abandoned because there came to be too much metal in the silica. This would burn out in the 2000 degree heat of the kilns and leave poor fire bricks. These bricks were used only in furnaces as they were too expensive for ordinary use.

Much of the mining in Big Cottonwood stopped because the veins of ore seemed to be high toward the top of the peaks and ran out as they got deeper. Many tried to find where the veins began lower down along the faults but haven't succeeded. Mining was better on the Alta side of the canyon divide for the reason that the strata seemed higher there.

Mining was hard, especially during the winter, when men had to stay in the mines and cabins much of the time because of deep snow. Ore had to be "rawhided", that is, pulled on bull hides over the snow down to the main roads.

One large snow slide buried and killed 18 people at one time in 1886. At another time a snow slide came down early in the morning and took away all the mine buildings and part of the cabin where the men were sleeping. George Blair was tipped from his bed and his arm was pinned between the wall and the moving snow. Mr. Alonzo Green and Mr. Bowthorpe tried to get out but couldn't. It was late in the afternoon before the men could get out of the cabin and start out of the canyon. This slide happened in 1912.

THE OLD MILL

The Old Mill, or Granite Paper Mill, was begun in 1861 under the supervision of Willard Richards. Two of the masons were James H. Moyle and James Muir.

Machinery for the mill was hauled across country, and was, according to Brigham Young's statement in the Tabernacle, "the best to be obtained and will cost between \$20,000 dollars". This figure probably includes the cost of the erection of the mill itself. It was built of granite blocks for the Temple Quarry in Little Cottonwood Canyon. In 1863, the Deseret News, operators of the old mill announced that there would be no edition until the wheel had been repaired. Part of it had broken off and had floated down stream.

People were asked to save and gather rags. These were usually turned in at the tithing office and scrip was issued for them. Later they could be taken directly to the mill where five cents a pound was paid for them. When white rags could be obtained, the paper was very fine in quality, but, as there was no bleaching agent, paper was often gray in color from the colored rags which had to be used.

When any article made of cloth was mislaid or lost, someone was sure to make some remark about a nickel being made at the paper mill.

During the first fifteen months of operation, 28,000 pounds of paper and board were turned out at the Old Mill.

On April 1, 1893, the Granite Mill burned. It is supposed that it started from the night watchman's lantern. People thought that it was a April Fool joke when they were asked to fight the fire. As a result of the fire, the machinery, roof and wood interior was completely burned. It was never rebuilt as a paper mill because the process of making paper from wood pulp was being used and the railroad could bring paper from the east.

About 1928, Mr. J.B. Walker bought and rebuilt the Old Mill into the Old Mill Club. It has become famous as a dancing and dining resort.

About the same time that the Old Mill operated, Philander Butler built and ran a brewery near by. About three-fourths mile from the Old Mill, William McGhie ran the first United States Post Office. It handled the mail for the community and the canyon from 1892 until 1900 when Rural Delivery was started. The first rural delivery was carried by horse and buggy and continued that way until about 1924 when a car was used. The horse still had to substitute when the car couldn't get through the deep snow.

THE CHURCH

The people who settled in the community of Butlerville were mostly Latter-Day-Saints. They had a rock Church between Granite and Butler until May 12, 1901 when the wards were separated. A two-story adobe brick church was constructed on the present school grounds. In about 1925, the church and school exchanged property and the old school house was remodeled into an amusement hall and class rooms. In 1929 a new chapel was added to the old building. This made a good meeting place both for amusement and worship.

Alva Butler was chosen as the first bishop. When he died in 1909, his son, William W. succeeded him and was bishop until 1913. Charles Colebrook then became bishop until 1919 when William C. Wootton succeeded him. In 1930, Nathaniel S. Jones was chosen as bishop. He was succeeded in turn by Phillip J. Badger and Frank L. Cowley who is the present bishop of Butler Ward in East Jordan Stake.

In 1930, the ward consisted of 264 members. It now has about 400 members and is growing rapidly as possible under present building restrictions.

SCHOOL

School began in our town in a one-roomed log cabin. It consisted of about the same books and materials as the other schools of its time. It was moved to a more presentable board building until 1893 when a brick building was built to accommodate the pupils. This was much larger and provided space for a platform at one end for any school performances. An addition was necessary on this building. Four more class rooms, a hallway for cloaks and a bell tower were built on the west end on the building. Each morning the large bell tolled the time of starting the school day. Boys anxiously awaited their turns to ring the bell by pulling the rope which hung from the tower. Sometimes it

would take three or four of the smaller ones to furnish sufficient weight to ring the large bell. Older boys liked to annoy the janitor or principal by ringing the bell at the wrong time. Some would climb up to the tower and ring the bell at night and wake people for a long distance around. An eighth grade boy climbed up the rope after school one night and began to ring the bell. The janitor wouldn't let him down so some of his friends took a long pipe and stood it up to the roof on the outside. The boy climbed from the tower to the roof and then slid down the pipe to the ground without the janitor knowing about it. His work wasn't completed until quite late that night.

In 1925 the church and school district exchanged property and sides of the road. A new school was built on the south side of the road and more playground space was provided. The old church house was torn down and a teachers dormitory was erected in its place. Here on the playground the school, community and C.C.C. ball teams played many interesting games.

Some of the early teachers in the Butler School have been Dermont Huffaker, H.T. Walk, William V. Morris, Mrs. Harrison, E.E. Greenwood, and B.F. Lofgren. Some later principals have been Ivan C. Dalby and Peter M. Mickelsen. Harold W. Blair is the present principal.

Since about 1931, there have been only six grades at the Butler school. Those in the higher grades have been transported on busses to the Junior High School at Union and to the Jordan High School at Sandy.

For a long time there were no busses and people who went to school had to walk or furnish rides for themselves. The first bus provided was a team and wagon. This was replaced by a model T Ford. Then the busses began to carry pupils to the High School as well and larger and better busses were provided. Now we have very modern comfortable busses that carry large loads much more rapidly than the old time ones. The earliest bus driver was John A. Maynes.

EARLY SETTLERS AND THEIR WORK

Besides the mines and lumbering, farming attracted many settlers. Mr. Whitney homesteaded the land just below and immediately on Butler hill and gave the land for the first school. Jack Cornwell owned and farmed land on the "Wasatch Boulevard". Hyrum Covert also had property near him. Mr. Andrew Hansen settled in what is now called Danish Town. Marshall Hunt, a company commander in the Mormon Battalion, settled near the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon and was later sent to take charge of the settling of the colony at Snowflake, Arizona. Two of his granddaughters now operate

the Maxfield Lodge in Big Cottonwood. It is a popular eating place and picnic area. Nathan H. Staker had one of the first fruit orchards in the vicinity and also ran the first store. His store was established in about 1894. Eri Butler was a blacksmith and had his shop near the mouth of the canyon. Philander Butler owned a sawmill and a brewery. Neri operated two different sawmills. Alva Butler operated a sawmill and farmed some land on his homestead. Leander Butler was another of the five brothers who came to this section.

The McGhie family included William, Thomas, John, and Sant. Wm. McGhie ran the post office and Sant was one of the first workers for the Utah Power and Light Company in the canyon. William Rasmussen settled on the foothills south of the mouth of the main canyon. Diphtheria caused the death of his children and they did not remain long. William O. Blair also had a homestead at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon. Charles Wootton became the first constable and John Harrop was the first Justice of the Peace. William Sanford, Robert Ritter, Silas S. Jones and David Hilton were other early settlers.

The need for irrigation water was one of the first problems. When the ditch companies were formed, all the men would work on the ditch. Each one was given one rod or share of water for each rod of ditch he dug. A number of ditches were dug and dams were built in the mountains to store water for the summer irrigation. The Brown & Sanford, Little Willow, and Tanner are the main irrigation companies. People are now awaiting the completion of the Deer Creek aqueduct to furnish more water. There is not enough to raise late crops successfully in large amounts. Additional water would make it possible to increase the productions.

Fruit farming has become an important industry of the community. The fruit has an especially delicious flavor and is shipped all over the nation. Mr. Kasuga developed a new strain of strawberries while living here. These have been producing more and better berries for many people during the past few years.

Poultry farming has also been on the increase. Eggs and meat are produced in large amounts on the poultry farms and have helped to make Utah famous for Utah Turkeys and fine eggs. Ramshaw Hatcheries and Hen Acres, owned by Harry Smith, are the largest producers of eggs and chickens.

Another industry which has had a rapid growth is fur farming. Mr. Alma Farnsworth began his fox farm here nearly twenty years ago. During the last five years the Erekson Fur Farms have moved to this community, the Finlayson Farm has been started and the Utah Fur Farm has grown very rapidly. Other producers on a smaller scale are Cyril Fowles, Howard Mills, Wilford Hansen, Gladen Dalton, and

Douglas Covington. Some of the finest fox and mink furs available are raised here.

CANYON AND COMMUNITY

From the very beginning of the history of Utah, Big Cottonwood has been one of the recreation areas favored by large numbers of people. The Utah pioneers were at Brighton celebrating the founding of the state on July 24, 1857, when news was brought to them that Johnson's Army was on its way. Ever since that time, the number of picnic areas has increased along with the number of people using them. Some of the larger and better known areas from the mouth of the canyon up are Oak Ridge, Moss Ledge, Storm Mountain, Maxfield Lodge, Lake Blanch, Burnt Flat, The Spruces, and Brighton itself, situated in a natural basin and surrounded by craggy peaks. In the summer there is horse-back riding, fishing, boating on beautiful Silver Lake, hiking, or just relaxing in the cool mountain air. The M.I.A. Girls home and numerous cabins provide facilities for comfortable living or open camp grounds are available for the more rugged life in the open. There are a number of beautiful lakes within easy hiking distance of the main road.

In the winter the ski lift operates nearly every day for ski enthusiasts and ice skating is available for those who wish it. Many people prefer it to the famous Alta area.

In Butler, the Butler hill was used by people from all over Salt Lake Valley for sleighing parties. Hardly an evening passed without a roaring fire at the top of the hill and great numbers of laughing sleigh-riders going up and down the hill. Oil surfaced roads and power graders have put an end to most of the riding on the roads. But now and then after a heavy snow, riders are again able to capture the thrill of a swift ride for a mile or more and then to wonder if it is worth the hike back to the top.

City workers enjoy the quiet and cleanliness of the country air after a busy day. As a result, many are building their homes in our community. Each day they drive to their work in thirty minutes. After the day's work they can again be free of the buzz of the city in a few minutes.