

BUTLERVILLE RESIDENTS LIVING ON BOLLIGER'S FLAT

Bolliger's Flat is northeast of the Old Mill. Driving past the Old Mill one will notice a dirt road that leaves Big Cottonwood Canyon Road and climbs northeast to a flat section of land. A road from the Flat originally wound its way to Wasatch Blvd. The address of the Flat is 6430 So. Big Cottonwood Canyon Road. One can see this address on a mail box nestled between a tree's branches immediately past the Old Mill on the east side of the Canyon Road.

The first settler on the Flat was Alvin W. Green. Later, his sons Alonzo and George A. Green built homes on the Flat. Joseph (Parley) Bolliger, for whom the Flat was named, lived on the west side of the Flat.

Alvin W. Green

Alvin was born 19 November 1854 in the Big Cottonwood camp. Previously, his father, Alvin General Greeley Green and family, traveled west from Winter Quarters with Brigham Young on his second and last trek to the Great Salt Lake Valley. They departed 1 June 1848. The company consisted of 397 wagons and 1,229 people plus horses, mules, oxen, cows, cattle, sheep, pigs, chickens and other animals. They arrived in the valley 24 September 1848 after a slow, wearisome and difficult journey (Nibley, 1974, 118-19, 124).

Alvin G. settled in the Big Cottonwood camp or Holladay Burg between 1848-1849 (Carr, 1976, 11). The Big Cottonwood camp was settled in the spring of 1848 by John Holladay and others. "William Walker and Aaron F. Farr built the first two houses (cabins) in the settlement." Walker Lane was named after the Mormon Battalion member (Jenson, A., 1941, 62).

Alvin W.'s father was an enterprising man. He was instrumental in bringing water out of Big Cottonwood Creek in 1848. It was known as the Green Ditch. His competency resulted in an appointment by the Salt Lake County Commission 6 June 1852 to superintend all water running out of Big Cottonwood Canyon (Commission Minute Book A, 6/6/1852, 105). It appears he was a good role model for his son.

Also living in the Big Cottonwood settlement was Alice Mariah Jane White who later married Alvin W. Green. She was born 5 March 1859 in Boston, Massachusetts. Her parents (Thomas Phillip and Alice (Potts) White, converts to the Mormon Church, decided to migrate west to the Salt Lake Valley. They crossed the plains in Nephi Johnson's company of 82 wagons arriving in the valley 5 October 1860. The family included Thomas Adolphus, a son, and fifteen month old Alice Mariah. She was the second of eight children. The White family settled on what today is Walker's Lane (Swenson, n.d., 1)

A "fun loving and high spirited girl, Alice White was popular and had many boy friends. Of all her boy friends, [she chose Alvin W.] for her husband [age 20 yrs.], the boy least liked by her mother...It was a traumatic time for [Alice but] she finally went against the wishes of her parents. She climbed out a window one night and eloped [at age 17 years]...27 December 1875. [This]

nearly broke her mother's heart (Ibid, 2)."

Married Life

The newly weds settled on property in the foothills near the site of what later became the Deseret Paper Mill. The area was flat but had a grove of scrub oak trees. Water was available from a stream that flowed from Heughs Canyon. In the late summer the stream dried up. This necessitated [that] Alvin W. ... dig a cistern to store water for the year.

"This was done by digging a large round hole 15 or 20 feet deep. [Then] plastering it to hold water - putting [on] a cover and [installing] a pump to draw the water out... Sometimes the couple hauled water from Big Cottonwood Creek which was down the hollow a mile or so away" (Ibid, 2).

Occupations of Alvin W.

Farmer

Alvin W. initially followed his father's occupation by becoming a farmer. Living as he did in Butlerville, the 1880 U.S. Census confirms that Alvin W. was a farmer. He and his wife Alice had three children. He continued that livelihood until he realized that opportunities awaited him in Big Cottonwood Canyon. He concluded to be an independent sawmill operator.

Sawmill Operator

Using his building skills Alvin W. proceeded to erect a water-powered sawmill. It was located on the north side of the creek below Silver Fork and near the Spruces. Asa Bowthorpe, who wrote a history of lumbering in Big Cottonwood Canyon (1961, 6), related the following about Alvin's sawmill:

[Alvin W.] obtained his logs from a basin high on the north slope which later became known as Green's Basin. He also rolled his logs to the bottom of the canyon and then had to drag them across the creek to his mill.

Income from the mill provided a better standard of living for Alvin W., Alice and family. By hauling his lumber down the canyon and then to Salt Lake City for sale, he helped the growing housing industry. Another plus was having his family join him in the summers where they could enjoy the cooler climate and nature's beauties.

Alvin Washington's Premature Death

Life seemed good to Alvin W. as he set out one brisk February morning to take a load of lumber to Salt Lake City. Traveling alone, he guided his horse drawn wagon full of lumber to the city.

Having become skilled in negotiating he was able to sell his lumber for \$40.00. A tidy sum for those days.

His route back to Butlerville went through Murray. Here he stopped for a drink at a tavern. A woman serving customers prepared his drink telling him what he owed. She noticed that he had a considerable sum of money. The thought went through her mind that she could obtain Alvin's money. All she had to do was put some knockout drops into his drink.

When Alvin W. consumed the drink he keeled over dead. Since he was the only customer in the room it was easy for her to pocket the money. As the breadwinner for a family of nine children, he died in the prime of life at age forty-one years. The date was 29 February 1896.

Word reached Alice of her husband's death. She was devastated. Since the incident occurred in a tavern, she would not allow charges to be pressed against the woman responsible for Alvin's demise. Her desire was to restrict any publicity about the incident (Swenson, n.d., 3).

Making Ends Meet As a Widow

Alvin Washington Green was laid to rest in the Murray City Cemetery (Green, C. 11/99). Survivors were his widow, Alice and children Alvin Reuben (1877), Alberta Mae (1878), Ernest Valorus (1880), Thomas Sylvester (1882), Alonzo (1884), Alice Florence (1887), Francis Iva (1889), George Almon (1892) and Harriet Gladys (1895).

Alice was aware she had to shoulder a heavy burden. Nineteen years was the age of her oldest child, Alvin Reuben. The youngest, Harriet was yet a baby. Her first decision was to continue operating the mill. To do so, she needed the help of her older sons. Evidently Alvin Reuben ran the mill for several years. Alice eventually concluded it was best to sell the mill.

The buyer was Julius Cook, a hermit. This was probably between 1919-20 for Cook hired George Almon Green and his wife Loraine and Warren Bowthorpe to haul his logs down to the mill where he sawed them into all sizes of lumber...Years later his mill burned to the ground. In trying to fight the fire Mr. Cook was badly burned. He later died in the County Hospital" (Bowthorpe, 1976, 6).

Alice kept the family at the old homestead on Bolliger's Flat. Eating vegetables were raised in a garden. The older boys helped by gathering dandelions and sago lily roots to add to the food supply. A cow was the source of milk and butter. A pig or hog provided winter meat. Life was difficult with the family suffering many hardships. Regardless, Alice was equal to the challenge. She successfully raised all nine of her children to be responsible members of the community. The oldest son, Alvin Reuben, filled an L.D.S. mission (Swenson, 4).

"In the last years she lived for a time with her daughter Alice Florence Irving in Salt Lake City. Then she went back to the old homestead and was with her youngest son, George (whom we called Dord) and his wife Loraine, where she suffered a stroke and died 28

December 1931 at age seventy-two. She is buried in the family plot in the Murray City Cemetery.

Milton Pedler

For a period of time Milton Pedler and his wife "Gem" Bolliger lived in the home of her mother Francis Iva Bolliger until they could find a place of their own. (Pedler, 11/12/99)

Alonzo Green

Alonzo, as mentioned above, left his Old Mill residence to build a home on Bolliger's Flat. He lived there until 1925 when he moved his family to 2300 East.

Joseph (Parley) and Iva (Green) Bolliger

Alonzo sold the house to his sister **Francis Iva Green Bolliger**. Her husband was **Joseph Paulis Bolliger**, typically known as **Parley** (Green, C., 12/16/99). The 1920 U.S. Census for Butler Precinct No. 65 notes that Parley (age 32 yrs.) and wife Iva "Ivy" (age 28 yrs.) lived in Butlerville. They had three children - Afton (7 yrs.), Preston (7 yrs.) and Joseph Donald (3 yrs and nine months). Parley reported that he was employed as a "Miner."

The mine Parley worked at was Silica Mine #1 located north of the Holladay Gun Club. The foreman was John Morton Wilkinson. (Butler, C, 7). Parley eventually succumbed from the mine dust that affected his lungs (Pedler, 10/17/99). Other children living with the widow Iva were Dee and Gem Bolliger. After they left the family home Iva remained in the home until her death in the early 1960s. 1960s.

George A. and Elva Loraine (Staker) Green

According to Clement Butler (1990, 7), George Almon "Dord" Green and his wife Elva Loraine Staker also built a home on Bolliger's Flat. It was on the east side across from the small house in which Alvin W. Green and his wife Alice lived. George was born 7 September 1892. On 15 October 1919 he married Loraine Staker. Their children were Kendrick and daughters Carole and Iris

George was a veteran of World War I. He retired in 1957 after working for Southeast Ready Mixed Concrete Company.

George died (66 yrs.) in a hospital of a heart ailment 26 February 1959. At the time of his death he was still living on Bolliger's Flat. Pallbearers at his funeral were his sister Iva's sons Dee and Donald Bolliger. Survivors were his wife Loraine, son Kendrick, daughters Carole (Ronald P. Jones) and Iris (Kenneth E. McCleary) and sister Iva (Green) Bolliger (28 February 1959 News Obituary)

Though George Almon Green's obituary makes no mention about him being a worker for Julius Cook who had purchased his Dad's