

Addendum 1: History of Danish Town

The following additions to the Danish Town History have come from information obtained from the General Land Entry Files of the U S Government which include the records for patent applications associated with the Homestead Act.

The information obtained from these records substantiate the fact the land in the Danish Town area was extremely difficult to work, due to the type of soil, terrain, lack of water and the natural vegetation that had to be cleared. In the average five to seven years from the time the homesteader took possession of the land, until he filed for a patent, he had only been able to cultivate less than ten percent of his property.

Andrew Hansen

Andrew Hansen moved his family into a two room log house he built, on April 3, 1874. Sometime after that, he discovered that he had built the house on land that wasn't included in his original homestead application. On Mar 9, 1877, he applied to have his original Homestead Grant amended to include the forty acres where he had built his house. On March 29, 1877, the original homestead grant was officially amended. On May 12, 1877, Andrew Hansen became a naturalized citizen of the United States. On April 5, 1879 he applied for a patent on the property and on July 31, 1879 the patent certificate was issued.

During 1874, he provided property at the north end of his homestead for Ernest Taubman and his family and in 1876, property for Andrew Poulsen and his family, to build homes and farms. These properties were not deeded to these individuals until years later.

By 1879, when he applied for a patent, he had managed to clear and cultivate fifteen acres of his one hundred and sixty acres. He grew crops of wheat, corn, lucern (alfalfa) and some vegetables. He also had built a stable, coral and some fences. He had managed to divert some water from Little Willow Creek that he used to irrigate part of the cultivated land.

William Rasmussen

On October 1, 1875, William's father, **Yorgen Rasmussen**, applied for an eighty acre homestead grant. He was not a citizen at the time but declared his intentions to become one. On October 16, 1880, he became a citizen and on the same day applied for a patent on his homestead. He claimed as improvements to the land, a house, stable, orchard, and eight acres of cultivated land on which he grew wheat and other grains. He had also diverted water from Little Willow Creek to irrigate his orchard.

On August 5, 1881, Yorgen Rasmussen, died at home, never receiving the patent certificate for his property. On February 12, 1884, his son, William, wrote a letter to the General Land Commissioner in Washington D.C., requesting that a certificate be issued. He learned that the reason a certificate had not been issued was because the signatures on the original homestead grant and the patent application didn't agree. On November 15, 1884, William, requested, again, that the patent be issued. He sent a letter with the application explaining that on the day his father applied for the patent, he was nearly blind and could not see to sign his name. The person filling out the application for him, signed his name for him and had Mr. Rasmussen mark an "X" by it, advising him that the "X" was as good as him actually signing. In reviewing the documents, the "X" was plainly there and a patent certificate was issued to William Rasmussen, being the only living son of Yorgen Rasmussen.

Thomas Dyer

On December 20, 1877, Thomas Dyer moved into a house he had built on forty acres of ground directly east of the south end of the homestead of Andrew Hansen, and south of the homestead of Yorgen Rasmussen (the south east corner of Danish Town.) On September 4, 1880 he filed a Pre-emption Claim with the U S Land Office for that property. He had cultivated seven acres of land, built a stable, coral, fencing, and diverted water from Little Willow Creek for irrigation. On May 2, 1882, he received a patent for the property.

On June 6, 1884, he filed an application for a Homestead Pre-emption Grant for an additional eighty acres located to the north and west of his existing forty acres. The eighty acre grant included forty acres that had previously been homesteaded by a man named Losse, who built a small white frame house on the property. Mr. Losse had become discouraged by the harsh condition and lack of water and surrendered his homestead grant. Later in June of 1884, Thomas moved his family into the existing frame house. In August of 1885, he hired a Mr. Mason to build a three room adobe house located to the north of the existing house. In July of 1889 the adobe house caught on fire destroying two of the rooms. This left a one room house sixteen x fourteen feet, with a nine foot ceiling and shingled roof. It had two doors and two windows.

On May 22, 1890, Thomas Dyer became a naturalized citizen and on June 26, 1890, filed for a patent on this piece of property. At the time he filed for the patent, he had only been able to cultivate three acres of the land on which he grew alfalfa and also a couple acres on which he grew potatoes, grapes, an orchard and vegetable garden. He stated that because of the sandy soil and terrain the rest of the land was only good for grazing livestock.

Thomas Dyer, in order to support his family worked as a miner. He spent almost two years working at the Custer Silver Mine in Idaho, another two years working at the mines in Bingham Canyon, where he boarded, returning home every two to three

months to work his farm for short periods of time. He also worked for about five years at the mines in Alta before retiring to his farm.

Note: It was interesting to find out the small white frame house that was assumed to be built by Lewis Dyer in the early 1900's, was actually built in the late 1870's and was the oldest home built in Danish Town, still remaining, when it was torn down to build the "Finlandia" subdivision in the mid-late 1970's.

Christian Nialson

For a short period of time around 1880, Christian Nialson and his wife Christina, lived in the Danish Town area. It is possible that they lived in the white frame house that had been built by a Mr. Losse, prior to Thomas Dyer acquiring the property or perhaps, in a dugout on Andrew Hansen's property. No other information has been found on them.

Andrew Poulsen

Andrew Poulsen was a witness for Thomas Dyer's patent application in 1890. At the time, Andrew Poulsen stated that he had lived in Danish Town since 1876. The 1880 Census confirms this.

Christian or Christen Johnson

Christen Johnson was from Denmark. He immigrated to Utah where he married Johanna Marie Eugenia Huldtqvist, from Sweden on August 10, 1874. Christen became a U S citizen on September 28, 1876. He and his wife settled in Big Cottonwood.

On December 22, 1880, Christen Johnson applied for a one hundred and sixty acre Homestead Grant. This include eighty acres at the northwest corner of Danish Town and an adjoining eighty acres located between 2700 East and 2300 East and 8000 South and 7800 South. (What is now the upper Creek Road area of our city.)

On April 7, 1885, he applied for a patent on his property. He said in the application that he had moved with his family into a three room adobe house on the property in the spring of 1879, but had actually taken possession of the property in the spring of 1878. He had managed to cultivate about 20 acres of land. He built two stables, two corals, a stockyard and a granary. He had also planted an orchard. Besides farming, Christen, worked for a short time on the rail road.

About 1890, he sold about forty acres of his property to Joseph Newman. Newman's had been neighbors of his family when they lived in Big Cottonwood. During 1891, he sold the property located on upper Creek Road to Edward Kollicker, Chris Hemmert and

Joseph Biersenger. Sometime prior to October of 1892, he moved his family to Salt Lake City. About 1895, he sold the rest of his farm to August Hauptfleisch. He then obtained work as a coal miner in Winter Quarters, Utah, and was killed, along with 200 other miners, in a mining accident on May 1, 1900, in the Winter Quarters Mine. He left a wife and seven children.

The Winter Quarters Mine was located in Winter Quarters, Utah, a once bustling mining town until the mine closed in 1922, and the company moved operations to Castle Gate. By 1930 the town was deserted. It is now a ghost town located west of Scofield, Utah.

Hyrum Covert

About 1875-1876, **William Spencer Covert**, Hyrum's father, moved from the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon to eighty acres located west of today's 3500 East and South of Bengal Boulevard. He built a two room log house where he lived with his two wives and seven children from the second wife. Late in 1877, **William's** son, Abner, married and moved to land located east of his father's place. Abner lived there until about 1904 when he moved to Idaho. Abner's brother, Jacob also lived with him until he married. All of **William's** other children left the area except for Hyrum. **William** continued to live with his two wives until they died. He then lived by himself until 1899 when his house caught on fire and he received burns that caused his death.

It appears that **William Spencer Covert** either never applied for a homestead grant or never applied for a patent, since, on April 14, 1887, his son, Hyrum Covert, applied for a Homestead Grant on the eighty acres that his father had first settled on. In 1889, Hyrum built a two room block house that was sixteen feet by twenty six feet where he lived with his wife, Agnes McGhie. On September 14, 1892, Hyrum applied for and was granted a patent on his eighty acre homestead. He listed as improvements, a house, a stable, two corals, fifty shade and fruit trees, a hog pen, hen house and about ten to twelve acres of land under cultivation. He stated that he owned two horses, one cow, two heifers, four pigs and seventy five chickens. He had also dug about a one-mile-long irrigation ditch from Little Willow Creek to his homestead.

Hyrum lived on his homestead with his wife, until she died in 1911. He sold his property in 1912 to Henry Hinnenkamp and bought the McGhie place. Later that year he married Mary Ann Harrop. He lived in Butler his whole life.

August Dittman

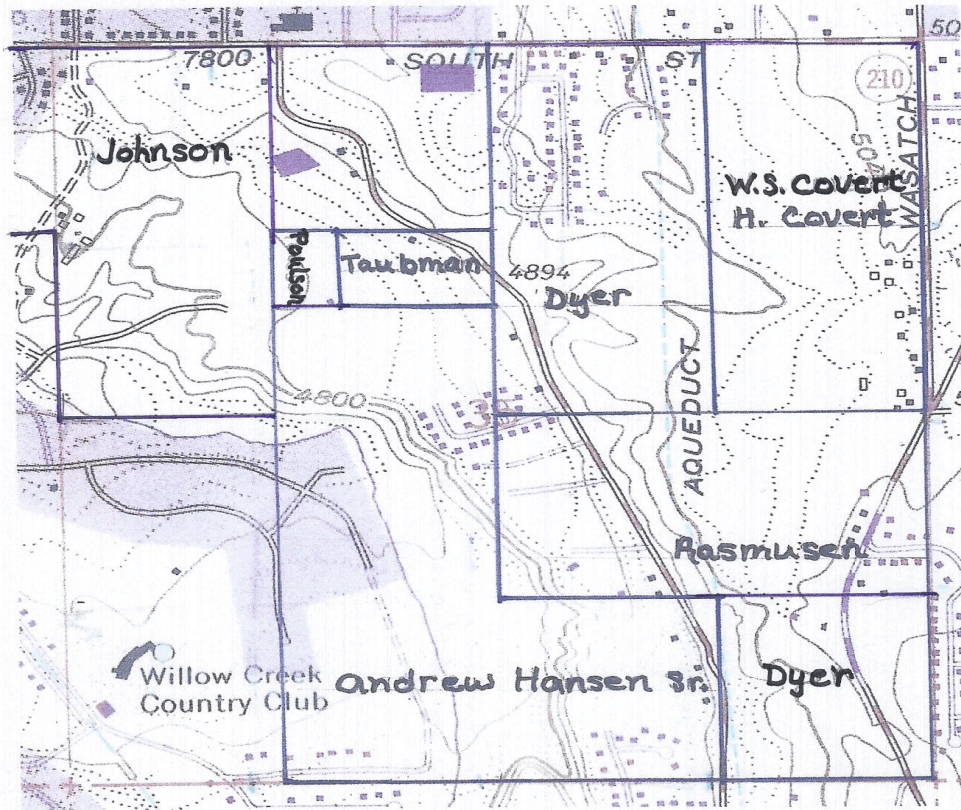
August and Friedricka Dittman and their eight children were neighbors of William Rasmussen. The family immigrated to Utah from Germany in 1885. They settled at the

mouth of Little Willow Canyon, on the Dyer property. August Dittman was a carpenter and a farmer. Two of their eight children died while living in Butler, one prior to 1900 and the other one in 1901. About 1907, the family moved to Ely Avenue in Salt Lake City, where August built a home. Friedricka died in October of 1912. August remarried in 1917. He died July 8, 1926. Their surviving children were: Adolph, who lived in Brownsville Texas, Max, Rudolph, Alfred, Herman, all of Salt Lake City, and Bertha of Cordova, Alaska.

The Dittmans were well known, respected and remembered by those in the Danish Town area.

The following maps have been revised to reflect the new information obtained from the General Land Entry Files.

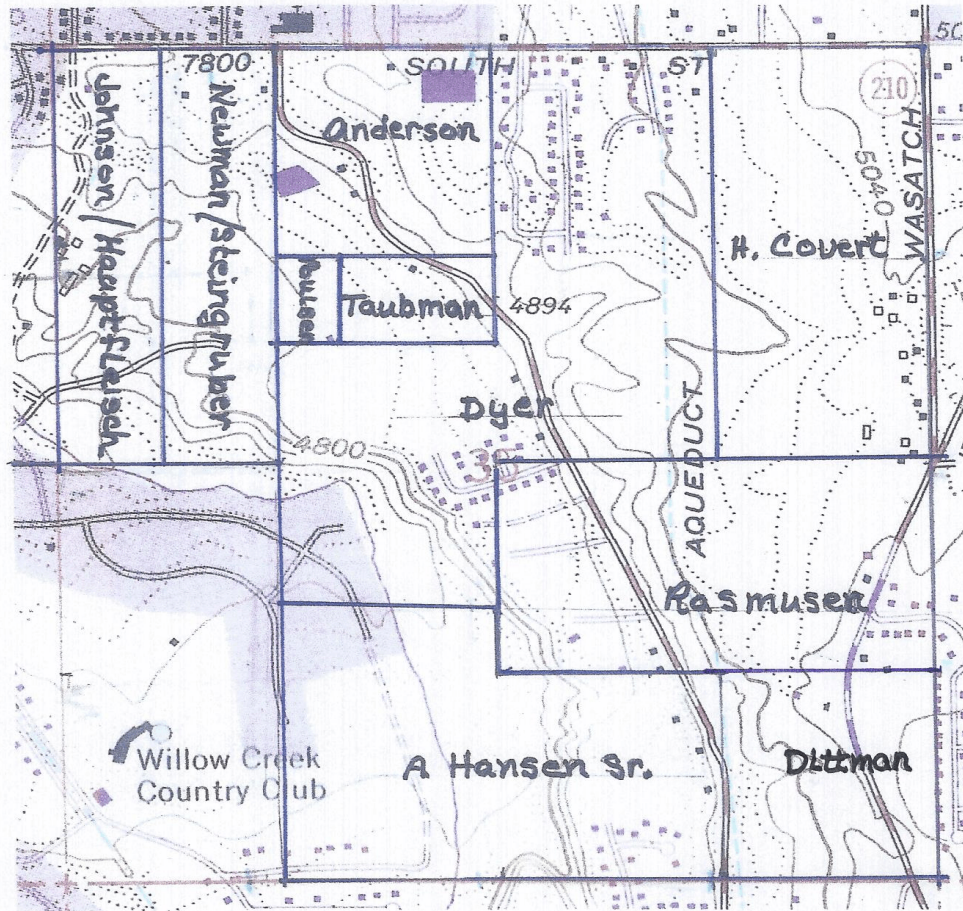
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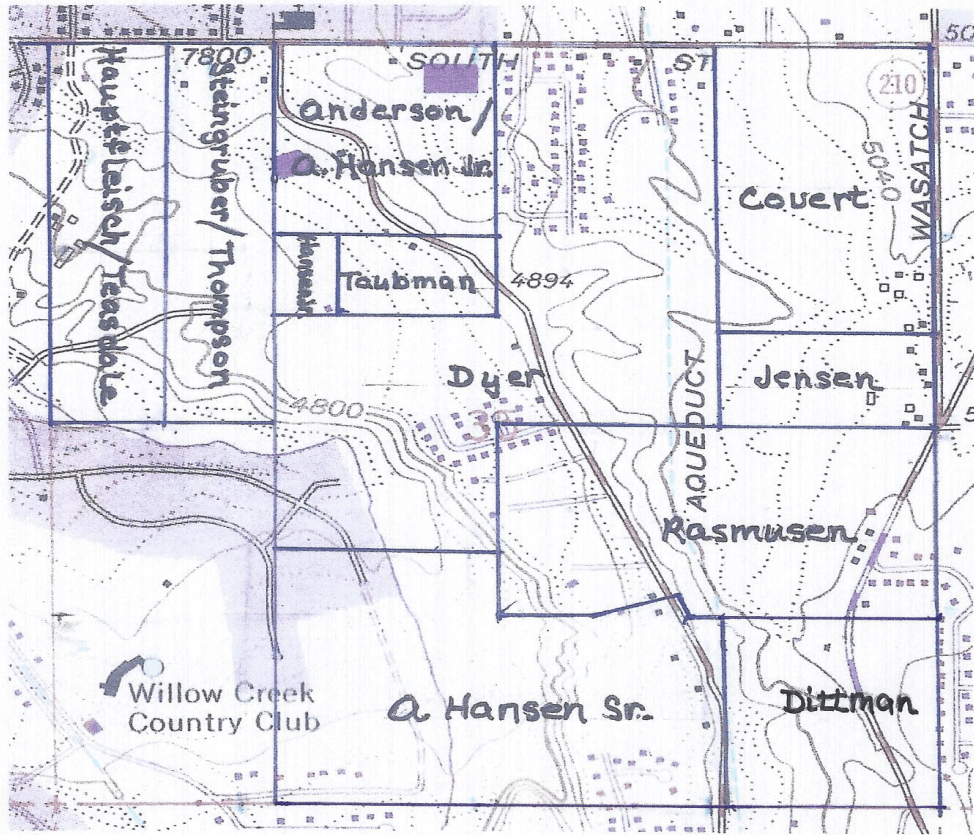
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1890's



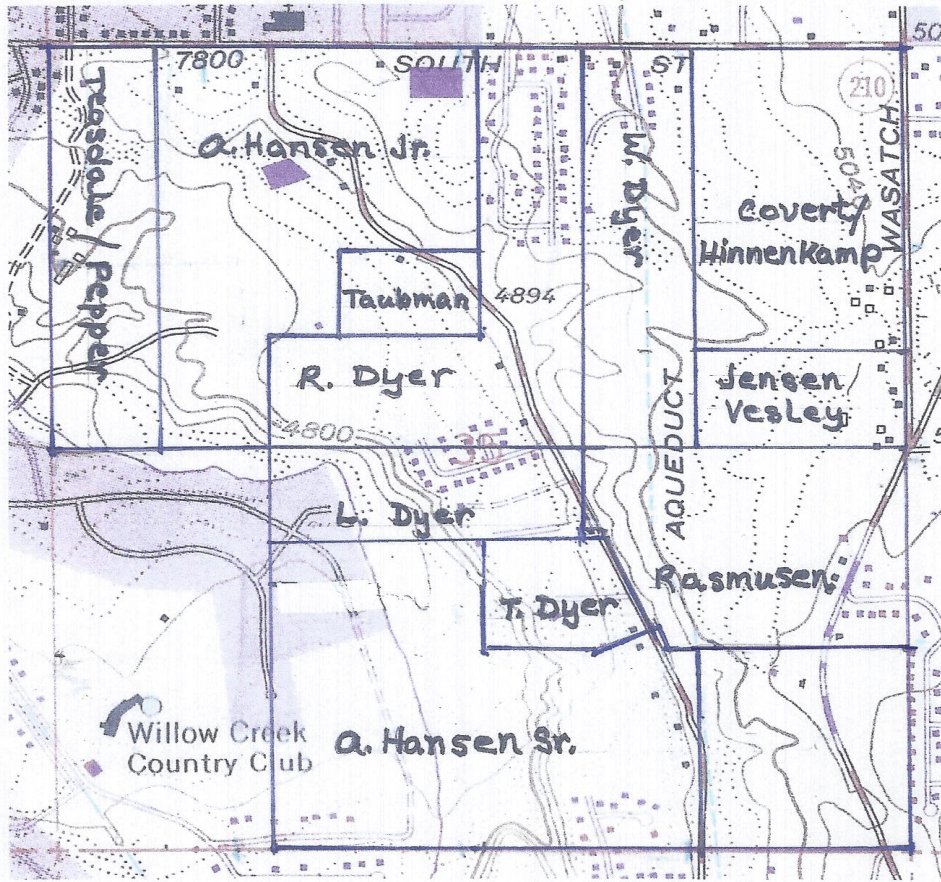
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1900's



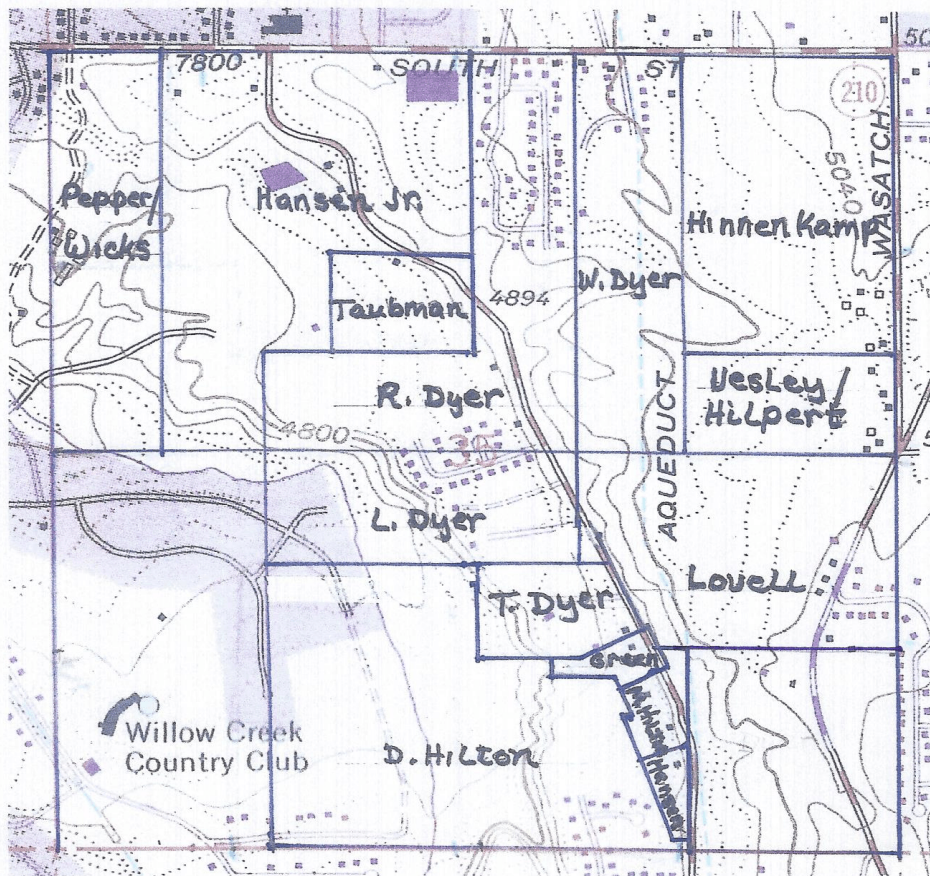
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1910's



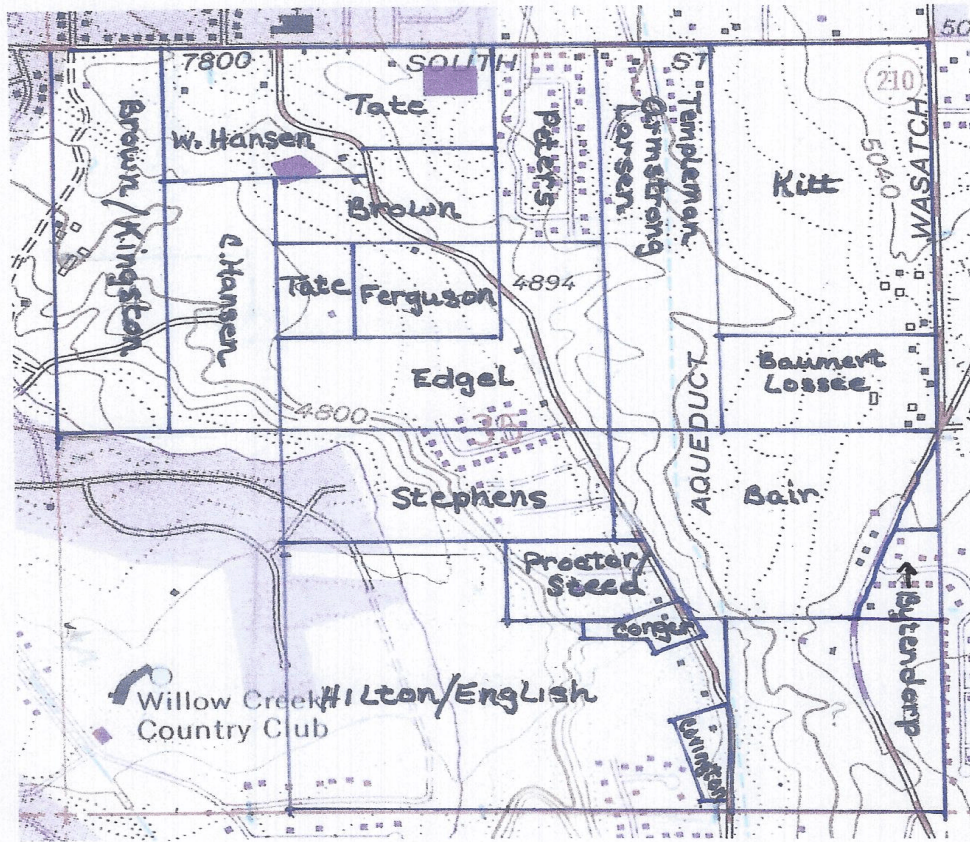
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1920's - 1930's



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1940's - 1951



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