

STATEMENT OF ARTHUR HUTCHINSON, SALIDA.

My mother's family was composed of my grandfather John McP, grandmother and three children, C. H. McP; my mother who was 12 years old, and John. My grandfather's brother, Murdock McP owned the mill. There were other women in the party but only one girl of mother's age, Sarah Porter. All teams were oxen but one, and that was a 4 horse outfit which said horses came in very convenient on one occasion when three oxen were all stolen one night, and not found till the next evening. The thieves making about 40 miles before being overhauled and the oxen so badly jaded that they had to rest them all night before they could return; and, of course, a great deal of anxiety at the camp as they were stranded out on the lone plains, not knowing the results of the parties in pursuit of the oxen. Two men on horseback had taken up with the train and followed them a couple of days. They were rather suspicious of them for they were not very sociable and then they dropped out and they did not see them any more for a few days till overhauled by Uncle Murdock and party (on said horses which came in "convenient"). These parties made their escape before they got in rifle range. The party that owned the horses was evry careful of them not allowing them to graze very far from camp and bringing them in early to camp where they were tied up for the night, for that reason the horses were not stolen too. The first time they heard Coyotes howling caused them considerable fright also. One afternoon the Pony Express rider stopped and told them the Indians were killing all the Emigrants to the west of them and also burning all the Pony Express Stations and killing the tenders. A halt was called and a council was held, some were for going back immediately, some for putting themselves in a state of defiance, some were for waiting a few days and see whether the rumor

was correct.

The men were for taking the women and children to the Sand Hills and hiding them for the night but the women said they were going to stay with their husbands come what may. So put themselves in a good position of defense as possible and slept at their guns all night. About 3 o'clock in the morning the Coyotes started howling, the first time they had heard them and they thought it was the Indians coming sure, which was certainly the cause for some fright but the morning dawned and everything was peaceful. Found out later that the Expreee rider had exaggerated the burning of a Station or two.

Another thing was the immense herds of buffalo on the Plains at that time. Signal fires on top of prominent points. My mother spoke of them when first arriving in country in neighborhood of Canon City. On approach of Plains Indians, Ute Scouts signaled by means of smoke in day time and fire at night to give warning to different bands throughout mountains to meet and repel the invader.

The first white settler in South Ark. Valley was Nat Rich and Bob Hendricks who built a cabin on the present town of Poncha Springs on in 1865 later on selling squatter rights to Jos. Hutchinson on in 1868.

Rich was quite popular with the Utes where he went by the name Nav-a-et. After McPherson moved to the Rich Place, Indians coming in unaware of the change of hands would say "This Navaet's Camp three sleeps you go. Navaet heap good man, you no good."

An Election Precinct was established which extended from Brown's Creek to Saguache Co. line and from Fremont Co. line to Utah and I understand eight (8) votes were cast. What settlers there were,

were on the creek. J. E. Gorrell on the present Veltry place; Wm. Bale on present Sterling Jones Ranch; Nash Bace whose ranch is cut up and occupied by several different ones. Otis White whose ranch is now composed of several tracts. The John Nelson Ranch which is composed of the present Starbuck, Dobbie, Fuller, Plimpton, Joy and ground owned by City of Salida. The Hutchinson Ranch at the present location; then the McPherson Place at where Poncha Springs now stands. John Burnett above Poncha, present Burnett's Ranch; Peter Carruth on the Scanga Place; Boon Boys on the Velotta place; Tonassee was originally on the Baer Ranch; Christison was on the present Hutchison Ranch for a short time; King, Cox and Shriver were originally on the Scanga place where the first post office was located. Later on James Maxwell had it then later Peter Carruth. The present mesas and Hill Ranch between Hutchinson and Poncha were not taken up till '79 and '80's. A few years later G. Hunsucker, Martin Hicy, John Mundlin, Charley Whitson, Wm. Dunn, Tom Maxwell (son of James Maxwell), Matthews Boys came in. John Volk ran a blacksmith shop in the present town of Poncha.

Over on Adobe Park were Chas. Peterson, Wm. McCalmont present Glenn Ranch, Tom Cameron, Ed. Naylor, Jim Rule, O. E. Herrington, Spragues, Briscos, George Williams, Wm. Bacon, Amertz, Man Johnson, Bradt, who surveyed this part of country, laid out townships, etc. John Weldon besides relatives and employees of above. Refer to Poll List of 1876 which I let Mr. Cuenin have. This was first election after Colo. became a State. The Precinct comprised all territory this side of Brown's Creek.

You can delete - set out what you don't want &c. Best Wishes.

(Sgd) Arthur Hutchinson.