

NOTES ON THE LIFE HISTORY OF HUGH BOON

(Notes dictated June 12th, 1931.)

I was born at Fredericksburg, Ohio, October 24th, 1840. My father's name was James Boon, and my mother's name was Tamer Truesdale Boon. My parents lived on a farm. My brothers and sisters were eleven in number, and their names were as follows, beginning with the oldest:

1. James Truesdale Boon.
2. Elizabeth Boon, who later married Thomas Cameron.
3. George H. Boon. *Died about 1919 buried at Parsha*
4. William Boon.

William Boon was in the Civil War and was the first of the Boon family to die. He was in the same company with William McKinley.

5. Hugh Boon.
6. David Boon. *Wife killed him. Buried at Parsha*
7. Samuel Boon. *Wife " " " "*
8. Nancy Boon, who married Sam Hartzel. *1st husband Frank Mayoll*
9. Boon, who married Gibson, and whose second husband was Jessie Davis. *- Buried at Parsha*
10. Sarah Boon, who married Alex Hogue.
11. John Seymore Boon. *Died at Soldiers home in So. Oaba Kansas*
12. Thomas Marion Boon. *Died in West Virginia about 1932*

My father's father's name was George Washington Boon, and he was born in Carlyle, Pennsylvania, in June, 1776. This is the same town in which Daniel Boon was born, but Daniel Boon was born some thirty years or more before my ^{etc} ~~grand~~ father. They were undoubtedly related, but I have never traced out the relationship.

My sister Nancy was married to Frank Mayoll before she married Mr. Hartzell. Mr. Mayoll was a Frenchman, and lived near Riverside, in Chaffee County. He was the first man to attempt to

raise crops in the upper Arkansas Valley, and that was the year he packed potatoes in from down near what is now Castle Rock to plant on his ranch at Riverside. Much of his first crop he sold for three pounds for one dollar.

I joined the Union Army in April, 1861. I was in the first 90-day service call. I was in what is called the first battle or engagement, although it was not a battle. It was at _____ Virginia. The first real battle that I was in was at _____ Virginia. This service was in the 16th Ohio Militia. This became the 16th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. We were mustered out of this service in August, 1861. As soon as discharged we re-enlisted or were transferred to the 16th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. We drilled and were trained at Camp Dennison, Ohio. We left Camp Dennison and went into Kentucky, and camped at Lexington, Kentucky. About January 10th, 1862, we started to march southward. On January 19th we joined General Thomas's forces at Mills Springs, Kentucky. In the spring and summer of 1862 we spent in or near Cumberland Gap, marching here and there in Kentucky and Tennessee; Cumberland Gap being a place where the States of Kentucky, Virginia and Tennessee corner, we celebrated July 4th in all three states. On or about August 6th we went to Manchester, Kentucky. Buell's Army was then on the retreat. After drawing rations and clothing in Ohio and camping for a short time in the place that is now the capital of West Virginia, we started on a trip down the Ohio and the Mississippi. The first stop that we made was at Memphis, Tennessee. We then took the boat and went to Vicksburg. On December 29th, 1862, I was participating in the charge on Vicksburg. At that time I was wounded. The Fort Vicksburg had a large gun that shot a 65-pound shell that was an explosive shell. At this time Grant was at Corinth, Mississippi, and Sherman's and Grant's plan was for Grant to march down the center of Mississippi towards Vicksburg,

and for Sherman to go down the river and capture Vicksburg. The communication was so bad that Sherman did not know of the delays and the defeat of Grant's troop when he made the charge on Vicksburg. On the morning of the 29th we started to make the charge when I saw a big shell coming toward me, looking as though it would hit me right in the breast. It exploded a very short distance from me, it appearing to be only about two feet from me. Before the shell exploded I could see the fuse attached to it, sputtering, and when it did explode it broke both my arms and bruised and cut practically every spot on my body, there being fourteen cuts on my right side. The only thing that saved me was the fact that I had ^{my cartridge box in} ~~the~~ front of my belt contrary to regulation instead of on the side. The cartridges in this cartridge box were cut in two. My right leg was badly bruised and it still hurts me nearly every night. My right eye was nearly blinded. I was taken to the hospital as mortally wounded, and was classed as mortally wounded for ten days. I spent six months in the hospital. The hospital was at Paducah, Kentucky. I was discharged from the Army at Paducah when I was released from the hospital.

I went back to my home and stayed there most of the time until I came west. My father was a lather and plasterer by trade, and I had learned that trade before going into the Army, but on account of the wounds to my right arm and wrist I could never work at the trade after coming out of the Army.

My brother, James Truesdale, and George Hutchinson came to Colorado in 1859, and later enlisted with McClain's Battery in the first Colorado Artillery. They were sent down to Smokey Hill to fight the Indians, but when they arrived there that job had been completed, so they were sent on to Fort Dodge, Kansas. They both participated in the last fight against Price's Army. James Truesdale Boon's name appears on the Solders' Monument near the

Capitol Building in Denver. He is buried at Paola, Kansas. He died while in the Army waiting to be discharged in 1865.

My brother George died at Salida, Colorado, about thirteen years ago and is buried at Poncha.

My father and mother sold out their farm in Ohio and moved to Missouri, where they bought a place, but were not satisfied and along in the late '70's came out to Colorado. They are both buried at the Poncha Springs Cemetery.

I came to Colorado and the vicinity of what is now Salida in 1866. My brother John Seymore and my sister Mrs. Hogue and her husband, Alex Hogue, came with me. We came from Leavenworth, Kansas, with a wagon. When I came here in April, 1866, a man by the name of John ^(WELDON) Walden was located on what is known as the Mundlein Ranch now. Judge Dyer was living on what later became known as the Boon Ranch, and is now owned by Velotta on the Little Arkansas River. Peter Carnuth was on the ranch just above what is known as the Burnett Ranch. John Burnett was batching at what is now and ever since has been known as the Burnett Ranch. ~~Mat~~ Nat Rich and Hendricks were at a place now known as Poncha. There was no one on Little River from Poncha down, except John Tenasse who was down where the Bales ranch is, now owned by Sterling Jones. He was an Italian and had about a hundred head of cattle. Noah Bear was also here, but I think he was living with Peter Carnuth when I came. Joe Hutchinson settled on what is now the Hutchinson Ranch very shortly after I came here. John McCalmont and a man by the name of Peterson were located on Adobe Park. Also Nolan was on Adobe Park. This is about the list of all the settlers in this end of the Valley when I came here. Ehrharts were located on what is now the Ehrhart Ranch when I came. Bertschys and Royal and the Cantonwines were also in that vicinity

road right

This is the main road not far from here
Harris Ehrharts came 1865 - see heavy mead

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