

"Mormon" Pathfinders Guests of Senator Clark

Pullman Palace Car Pleasures Vs the Hardships of the Trail.



RUELL BARRUS AS A YOUTH.
He Now Lives at Grantsville and This Picture is from a Daguerreotype Taken in Los Angeles in 1846.

MONDAY next the pioneers of the Southwest trail will run over the line it followed, in about as many hours as it took them days to do it when they blazed the way over half a century ago. The party will number 26, and among them will be survivors of those who established San Bernardino, those who built Las Vegas Fort, and those who carried the mail on the Southern overland route.

It is as personal guests of Senator W. A. Clark that the men go. The party itself is in charge of W. C. A. Smoot, Jr., who acts as personal representative of Mr. Clark and who has charge of detailed arrangements.

The party would be larger except for the fact that the most diligent search of the applicants who establish their right to go, and the matter will be submitted to Senator Clark on his return to America.

INVITATION TO VETERANS.

The invitation issued to the pioneers reads as follows:

Dear Sir:—As one of the survivors of that brave and hardy band of men who 50 years ago blazed the trail from Salt Lake City to San Bernardino, Los Angeles and San Pedro harbor, and in recognition of your energy, fortitude, and bravery displayed at that time, it is my pleasure to extend to you an invitation to join with the other survivors of that historic and far-reaching event in an excursion over the line of railroad of this company, so closely following the trail over which you and your associates struggled and endured the hardships and privations of the trail to that perilous undertaking and which marked the dawn of progress for the great empire of Southern California. The excursion will leave Salt Lake City on Oct. 9, 1905. With assurances of highest respect and esteem, I am Yours very respectfully,

W. A. CLARK.

Sept. 15, 1905.

ARROW HEAD BADGE.

Accompanying his invitation each pioneer is presented with a burnt leather badge bearing the arrowhead emblem of the route, a picture of the hardships and privations of the trail, and below a sketch of the railroad train en route across the old trail. The badges are the work of F. H. Leith of this city.

Among those who go are many who had wonderful experiences that test the hardihood of men who would fight the desert. One man tells of suffering from thirst that he had to kill his animals and drink their blood. Another tells of famishing with hunger that it was necessary to kill and eat the horses of the party, and still another of dragging slowly along over the 50 mile stretches from bitter spring to bitter spring, where fagged and weary, they could quench their thirst on brackish water.

INDIAN SKIRMISHES.

Of fights with the Indians there are many tales. Although the fights never became serious, John Hunt, whose complete narrative appears on this page, tells of a trip he and John McDonald, the father of J. G. McDonald, the well known candy manufacturer, took from San Bernardino to this way. Out in the desert they were attacked by a band of Indians who were starving, and demanded their animals to eat, giving them the privilege of making their way into Las Vegas on foot. However they showed light and finally drove the Indians off without losing their property. Dr. Faust, who was one of the pioneer mail carriers over the route, told a similar tale before his death, in which he escaped with the loss of his stock, walking into Las Vegas from out on the desert.

THOSE WHO WILL GO.

The list of those comprising the party is as follows:

W. C. A. Smoot, James A. Bean, Provo; A. L. Hays, Grantsville; Benjamin Cluff, Provo; W. W. Cluff, Salt Lake; Henry Heath, Salt Lake; S. L. Ensign, Salt Lake; S. S. Worthington, Grantsville; Ruell Barrus, Grantsville; William Price Jones, Kureka; James Oakley, Springville; William C. Mitchell, Parowan; William Robins, Scipio; Charles Crismon, Salt Lake; Alex. Gemmill, Salt Lake; I. N. Dunyon, Salt Lake; Geo. Speils, Salt Lake; A. Milton Musser, Salt Lake; Elliott Willard, Beaver; Geo. Harrison, Springville; Thos. Dallas, Springville; Hop Pender, Salt Lake; J. Lawson, Salt Lake; Nathan Tanner, Granger; W. C. A. Smoot, Jr., Phil Margolis.

THIRTY MEN CALLED.

Of these pioneers, those who went to Las Vegas to establish a fort and half-way station, four years after San Bernardino colony was established, have been least known, and their work has been the least heralded. An interesting story of what was done is told by William G. Mitchell, one of the band of 30 who performed the service. His narrative follows:

"At a general conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, held in Salt Lake City, April 6, 1855, President Brigham Young called 30 men (1 being one of that number) to go on a mission to Las Vegas. I left my home at Parowan, Iron County, on the 23rd of May and arrived at Las Vegas early in June, 1855. The object of our mission was to establish a half-way station between here and Southern California, for the protection of travelers, as the Indians had been very hostile and it was unsafe for a few men to go through that country, it was all so our intention to cultivate a feeling of friendship with the Indians, and to do them all the good we could, not to kill them off, but to teach them to live in peace with each other, and also with the white men who might come to live in and pass through their country. We made a treaty with them and requested permission to settle on their lands, which they willingly granted.

"We taught them to labor and when we traded with them we paid them a fair price for what we bought of them."

BUILDING OF A FORT.

"The first work we did was to erect a fort to protect us from the searching eyes of the Indians. The fort was very trying to us as we had come from a much colder climate. We then surveyed some small garden lots and began to clear off the ground and plant corn and all kinds of vegetables, and succeeded in raising considerable garden truck the first summer. Our next labor was to build a fort and we soon commenced to haul rock and make adobies, and to explore the mountains for timber, which was scarce. We found in one place about 30 miles distant a small body of timber; there were 50 or 60 trees that would do to saw into lumber. We cut down the trees and hewed them into square timber to save hauling the bark and waste material. We had no saw mill, therefore we had to saw our lumber by hand with a whip saw, and in this way we made lumber enough to cover some of our houses so that we could live in them."

SOME WENT HOME.

"The first winter some of our men went home to see their families late in the fall, but I was one of those who stayed all winter."

"The second year I went on some exploring trips. I sowed one and one-half acres of wheat which yielded 50 bushels; also had a good crop of corn and vegetables."

TO THE LEAD MINES.

"In the fall of 1856 I was released from the Las Vegas mission and called to go to the lead mines about 35 miles from Las Vegas. I went there late in the fall and we put up a furnace and ran out several tons of lead. The blast to our furnace was furnished by two alternating bellows run by mule power. The mine soon pinched out; although there was plenty of float ore we were unable to discover another good lead mine. After prospecting some time we started home and I arrived at my home in Parowan in March, 1857."

ANOTHER MAN'S NARRATIVE.

Another view of this same event is interestingly given by James A. Bean, who was also a member of the party. He gives the following facts:

"I came to Utah in 1848. In 1849 I moved to Provo and lived there most of the time until 1855, when I was called to go to Las Vegas."

"On May 15, I started for Las Vegas, under the direction of William Bringhurst, and by the call of President Brigham Young, for the double purpose of building a place for the rest of the travelers and for the civilization of the Pledge Indians."

"I arrived at Las Vegas on the 15th day of June, and went right to work putting in such vegetables as we needed to live on. When that was properly started, we built a little fort of adobies with which to protect ourselves from Indian depredations."

"In 1856 about 35 miles from the fort we found a lead mine, of which I was one of the discoverers. The mine is now called Potomac, and is owned by another party."

"In the latter part of 1855 quite a number of us went to work in the mine under the direction of N. V. Jones of Salt Lake City. When we got two loads of the lead ore, Lorenzo Roudy and myself hauled it to Salt Lake, it being the first run out and taken to that city. There were about nine tons taken out."

"On account of some misunderstanding with the parties who were down there the place was broken up March 1, 1857, and all returned to Utah."

CRISMON'S EXPERIENCES.

Of the work in San Bernardino, and at the China ranch perhaps as clear a narrative as is extant is that of George Crismon, who went over by the North Pacific route, and went down the coast to the port of Los Angeles, and from there over to San Bernardino in 1856. He was in San Bernardino when the colonists of the Pratt and Lyman party arrived in 1851, and of the events of those days he speaks as follows:

"I did not go to California with the colony under the charge of Apostles Rich and Lyman, but was there and living on the China ranch when the colony arrived. In 1849 my father, Apostle Lyman, and my father's family went through to California on the northern route. We went to the Mission Dolores, at that time three miles out from San Francisco. I don't know if the plan originated there, or if my father, and Jesse B. Hunter, a captain in the 'Mormon' Battalion, went south by steamer to locate a suitable place for a colony. They had an offer from the owners of the China ranch, and had the idea of purchasing it in view. The

first crossed the trail to

Los Angeles from Salt Lake? The question has been growing in importance with the interest in the southwest country. Credit has generally been given, so far as Americans are concerned, to a 'Mormon' emigrant party under Apostle Amasa M. Lyman, who left Salt Lake in 1851. This week has developed the fact that a party of 'Mormons,' numbering eighteen men, preceded this trip by eight years. All record of the ex-

pedition has been overlooked. It has been omitted in the histories, and but for the announcement by President Clark that those who first made the trip were to be given a ride over the trail on his new railroad, would perhaps never have come to light.

One of the survivors of the first party is Bishop John Hunt of Snowflake, Arizona. When he read in the 'News' last week that the party of 1851 was the first to cross the desert, he called to correct the error, and in doing so unfolded an altogether new chapter of



PATHFINDER'S BADGE.

owner at that time was named Williams, and was an American. The Virchase was not concluded and the party returned to San Francisco. My father had become interested in the country during the trip and moved with his family down to the China ranch, leaving it from the owner. He drove down the coast by train."

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ANSWER TO PRAYER.

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send an expedition back to the ranch to make purchases, and my father and I were among those chosen to go. The party was under the leadership of Horace K. Lathrop, with E. K. Fuller as his lieutenant. There were 18 in the party and the names were Horace K. Lathrop, E. K. Fuller, William Penick, G. P. Rockwell, Joseph M. Davis, Eli Harvey Pierce, Thurston Larsen, James Hyrons, Jake Workman, Jackson Workman, Jefferson Hunt, who was my father, Gilbert Hunt, my brother, Peter Nease, my adopted brother, James Shaw, John Y. Greene, Elias F. Pearson, William B. Cronnag and myself."

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"When we reached a point where the station is now located we camped, while two of our strongest men—Shaw and Cronnag, rode ahead to get provisions. They sent a Mexican to us with beef and fresh mutton, and we moved on again, arriving at the China ranch after 45 days on the trail."

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"The church authorities decided to

send an expedition back to the ranch to make purchases, and my father and I were among those chosen to go. The party was under the leadership of Horace K. Lathrop, with E. K. Fuller as his lieutenant. There were 18 in the party and the names were Horace K. Lathrop, E. K. Fuller, William Penick, G. P. Rockwell, Joseph M. Davis, Eli Harvey Pierce, Thurston Larsen, James Hyrons, Jake Workman, Jackson Workman, Jefferson Hunt, who was my father, Gilbert Hunt, my brother, Peter Nease, my adopted brother, James Shaw, John Y. Greene, Elias F. Pearson, William B. Cronnag and myself."

"We took provisions for 30 days, which we estimated would be ample time to reach our destination. But we found the directions of Mr. Weber very hard to follow, and lost the trail so often, and spent so much time hunting it again, that we finally ran out of provisions before we had reached the vicinity of Las Vegas. We then did not think of other party of 'Mormon' emigrants ever had to do—we killed and ate our horses. Three horses in all were consumed. Two of them belonged to John Y. Greene, and the other to William Cronnag. The first we killed at Mountain Spring, just beyond Vegas, the next at Amargosa springs, and the final one near the Mojave river, at a point where the river about 20 pack animals, and a saddle horse each, with plenty of arms with which to defend ourselves, and the slight provisions already mentioned."

"When we reached a point where the station is now located we camped, while two of our strongest men—Shaw and Cronnag, rode ahead to get