

Last of the Mountaineers Pays Visit to Salt Lake City



JOSHUA TERRY, TODAY.

SOMETIMES a reporter has to hunt long and wearily for his larger "stories," but this one walked right into the office this week in the person of an aged man with a beard much more bushy than they now grow them, clothes that looked the part of mountaineering rather than of tailor made fashions, and a general appearance of one who had walked through the vigor of his life in another generation than that one mostly meets upon the streets and in the clubs.

The visitor's first words bespoke his character, for he objected to a statement made in the "News" a week ago about Jim Bridger, the famous trapper and mountaineer who met the Mormon pioneers near Laramie, directed them into Salt Lake valley, and then told them they could never make a success of farming in the mountains.

"I am a friend of Bridger's," he said. "I worked for him for two years, and I was with him when the Utes were making war on the Mormon settlers here in Salt Lake. You say in the 'News' that he furnished the powder and ammunition for this war, but I know he did not, and I want the statement about my old friend corrected."

The most vague chapter of western history is that concerned with the men who trapped through the mountains, and went their way. Utah still retains a few traces of them, but mostly they have disappeared with all record of what they did. Ogden Canyon preserves the name of Peter Skeen Ogden, who built a fort and trapped in it in the forties. Weber river carries the name of another of them—old John Weber who trapped there, and along the Humboldt, before the beavers were all taken and the country made uninhabitable to its first white inhabitants. From such narratives as that of Kit Carson, it would appear that Weber named the Humboldt "Mary's River" and it lost the name after the trappers went there way because Fremont came west with his engineers and tagged it with the name of Humboldt on the maps which he made.

Other trappers lost much in Utah, in terminology, for Utah lake was once known as Ashley lake, and Captain Ashley had 120 men camped there in 1825 taking furs and skins from lake animals, and from those whose habits were along the tributaries. When the map makers came Ashley was up the Duchesne, and Ashley valley found its way upon the map in his honor. "Peg-Leg" Smith survived into pioneer days, and is remembered as the great Indian trader of the Bear Lake country.

When their names were suggested to the old mountaineer who called at the "News" he recalled them all readily, he had met most of the men, and knew the lives of the others. There were many more whom he recalled who have never been given credit for sleeping in

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Joshua Terry, Squaw Man, Gives Interview to Deseret News Regarding His Personal Reminiscences of Jim Bridger, "Peg Leg" Smith, Jack Robinson, Jas. Baker and Other Trail Blazers of Three-Quarters of a Century Ago.

the Utah mountains before her regular settlers came and when he concluded by announcing that he was the last of the living mountaineers of the Bear mountain days, and that his wife was an Indian 82 years of age, it was apparent that the contribution he can make to Utah's earliest history is important.

HOME IS IN DRAPER.
The old veteran's name is Joshua Terry, and his home is at Draper, where he settled after giving up the mountains, because old age was coming on and the mountain life was one that had gone its way with the building of railroads and the coming of too many settlers.

Asked to tell how he became a trapper and keeper of a trading post, Mr. Terry began by throwing an interesting side light on the settlement of Salt Lake valley. He said that he belonged to the Church, joined it in Nauvoo, and shared in the persecutions. Then he came on her with a partner in 1847, arriving in September.

WAS STARVED OUT.
"I left here because I was starved out," he said. "When the winter of 1847 came on I had one peck of wheat to live on till the next harvest, and I started to go to California to see if I could not get along better through the winter there. I never got to California. Instead I was turned out of doors to drift without even my peck of wheat or a gun, and only a little powder and lead, and a fire Flint. James Pollock started, he agreeing to furnish my board in return for my work in driving his team. We went to the Snake river and then he wanted me to herd his cattle as well as drive, and I told him whenever he was ready to roll west, I was ready to drive, but when he wanted his cattle herded, that was not my work. He told me I would either herd cattle, or never go a day's journey farther with him."

AWFUL EXPERIENCE.
"I left and went to Ft. Hall, where I found Capt. Grant in charge. He told me he didn't need me and didn't want me around the fort, so I had to go ahead, as I couldn't very well turn back to Salt Lake valley where food was scarce than anywhere else I knew of. This was in winter, but I struck out afoot and alone to the east. The first day out I struck the dividing ridge between the Bear and the Snake rivers and night found me without any blankets, and hardly any food. I guess this is where I started to be a real mountaineer, for I found lots of quaking aspens, and I struck fire with my flint, and made a warm bed to sleep on by melting the snow away with the fire, letting it burn till it had warmed the ground for a foot or two down, and then scraping it away until I had a bed of dried ground enough to lie on. Next day it snowed all day, and eight inches fell upon me, blinding the trails, and wetting me through. That night was one of the most severe in my life. I spent it on the lava flats, where no vegetation ever grows, between the Bear river and the summit to the east. For several hours I thought the time had come for me to die, but finally I found a big rock that was hollow and full of loose dirt inside. I crawled into the crevice, covered myself with the dirt inside, and slept till morning. The next day I made Soda Springs, and then went to Tollock's fork, that you call Montpelier now days."

FOUND "PEG LEG" SMITH.
"You were asking about 'Peg Leg' Smith who lived on the Bear river. Well, when I got to the river I found foot prints on the bank, and while I didn't see how anybody could be there, I noticed they were fresh, so I set up a shout and it was answered from across the stream. Pretty soon the answer was followed by the appearance of a man on the other bank, and this was 'Peg Leg' Smith. It seemed mighty good to me just then to see some one of my own kind. Smith sent a Mexican across the river to carry me over and I joined him in his log hut which he had erected to trade with the Indians and the emigrants who went that way to Oregon and California."

"Smith was good to me. He fed me, and let me rest in his cabin. 'How about the peg leg?' was suggested. 'Did he get that in Utah, or before he took to trapping?'
CUT OFF OWN LEG.
"Well, he told me about it, but I don't just recall the circumstances. I think though it happened down in New Mexico, before he came to the Bear river. He shot himself with his own rifle by accident, and I have heard mountaineers tell that he cut the injured leg off himself with his own butcher knife, bandaged up the stump himself, and then made his own wooden stump from a piece of mountain timber."

TAKEN IN BY INDIANS.
Continuing the story of his entering the mountain life, Mr. Terry said that he traveled east and south a day after leaving Smith's camp. "At night," he continued, "I noticed some fires in the distance and going towards them I found a camp of Shoshone Indians. In those days I had to talk to the Indians with signs, but I'll tell you now that no white man ever tells me what an Indian means. I can talk their language in all its dialects, but on that night I couldn't do it. I put my hands on my stomach to show I was hungry, and they brought me some soup made of boiled antelope. They then showed me a lodge to sleep in, and I enjoyed that night's rest, for I was very tired. One old squaw kept talking to me while I ate, and she asked one question over and over again. I could not make out what she meant, but now I know she was asking me if I had no friends, and how I came to be alone, away from my tribe."

MET BY JIM BRIDGER.
The Indian I met had some dried buffalo meat on a saddle, and some fresh antelope meat. I made signs that I wanted to buy some, and I offered him for it the powder and lead I had, for it was useless to me without a gun. He could not make out a piece, and let me know by signs that it was not good to eat too much. In another day's walking I came to Maxime's camp on the Muddy fork of the Green river in Wyoming. Maxime was a French trapper, working for the American Fur company, while the Hudson Bay company operated farther west. I stayed with him two days, and then went on to Fort Bridger. When two miles away Bridger came out to meet me. He was a kindly man, not very big, nor very dark, nor very athletic. From what I learned later of his habits, he must have seen me while he was sitting on the roof of his fort, keeping a lookout for unusual movements in the country, and he had come out to see who it was that was in his preserves."

"Jim Bridger took me in and fed me. I want you to know that, for he never let a man come to Fort Bridger in all the time he was there, without feeding him, and caring for him, and the man doesn't live, and never did live that ever was turned away hungry."

WORKED TWO YEARS.
"I know this for I stayed there working for him for two years. When I was rested up from my long walk from Ft. Hall, I asked the party the party of dissatisfied settlers that was going back, and he said he had heard it was coming. I told him my folks were Mormons and were coming out next year, and it was going better to join them and return with them."

Jim didn't like this, and he told me to sit down and let him talk to me about it. Then he told me I could help them more by staying west till they came, and getting together a little property. He offered me a position, trapping and trading for him, at a regular mountaineer's pay. I accepted, and I had my pay raised to \$16 in a few months, payable of course in mountaineer's money, which was shirts and such things, at \$5 a shirt."

NEVER WORE A BEARD.
"Jim was always clean shaved. He never wore a beard, and he always kept a keen lookout from his fort, for he had to watch the Indians all the time. I traded for him with the Utes, along the Duchesne, with the Shoshones, and with the Colorado Utes, giving butcher knives, and tobacco, and ammunition and guns, and blankets for horses, and skins."

RAISED HIS WAGES.
These skins we took over to Laramie and traded for more goods to trade the Indians, and I made several trips myself over to Laramie with Jim Bridger. I got a table and he raised my pay to \$1 a day. When I quit he asked me how much more I wanted to stay with him, but I told him I could make more money than he could pay me, trading by myself, and I went away to start a post on the Green river in Wyoming, where I ferried hundreds of California gold hunters across."

THOSE UGLY STORIES.
"Now about that trouble with the settlers, and the Indian war. There was really no about the giving guns to the Indians, but that was all wrong. They had some of his guns, but they got them before the trouble in the regular trading, and Jim had no grudge against the settlers. Why, when my folks came along with the emigrants, they had no omen fit for anything when they got to his fort, and he told me to give them the guns, and he went and helped them in. At Huntington came up there with a party to arrest Bridger, and he took to the brush, while I met Huntington and went out and met the Ute chiefs, and tried to get them to consent to making peace with the whites. But they wouldn't and Huntington kept on spreading stories about Jim Bridger that were all true. Things got so bad Jim left the country, and he didn't come back again until Johnston's army came in 1857. He was the pilot, and when they went away I gave him my own horse to ride to the Sweetwater so he would be sure to keep out of trouble with Huntington and his friends."

MARRIED INDIAN WOMAN.
When asked about his marriage to an Indian woman Mr. Terry said that he first met his Indian wife at Ft. Bridger, married her there and lived

with her until her death at Draper from consumption.
MOUNTAINEER ROSTER.
The roster of old time mountaineers as Terry remembers it is an interesting one. There was Jack Robinson, who lived on Smith's fork of Black's fork of the Green river; James Baker, who trapped along the Snake, in the Ute country, and finally died there. There was Tim Goodell, who traded all through the hills, and finally died out there; Sorrell, who trapped in Montana and died there; Elijah Ness, whom the Cheyennes killed on the Platte; and William Rodgers, who died in the Flathead country.

NOT COUNTING FRENCHMEN.
"This isn't counting," explained Mr. Terry, "a lot of Frenchmen that nobody could spell the names of, who came down from Canada."

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Shoe Critics Show Their Appreciation

of

Money-Back Shoes

and endorse the strenuous policy of this store by their liberal patronage. Every odd and end, broken and discontinued line was sold, and what was left was given to the worthy poor. The Bargain Basement is closed and those who profited by the great values are now "Money-Back" Shoe enthusiasts.

New Fall Shoes are Coming In

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