

1875: FIRST FAMILIES; Samuel C. Dickinson Family

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Samuel Cotton Dickerson grew up with his family in Bristol Township, Morgan County, Ohio, then the family moved to Iowa. In the 1850 Census of Van Buren County, Iowa, Samuel is 23, born in Ohio. Samuel had married Adeline (Green) Jones in February of 1849. Her cousin, Nancy Jane Green (his future wife) was the bridesmaid. Samuel went across the plains to California during the Gold Rush, made his fortune, then traveled by ship from California to New York, and returned home. Samuel and Adeline lived in Van Buren County, Iowa, when they became the parents of Charles in August of 1853. After Adeline died, Samuel married Nancy Jane Green on June 2, 1860.

In the probable tradition of military service established by his family during the Revolutionary War, Samuel Dickerson is believed to have joined a Union regiment during the Civil War. He is probably the Samuel C. Dickerson of the 1st Regiment, Iowa Cavalry, Company F. That regiment was organized in 1861, owning its own horses and equipment. They were ordered to St. Louis, Missouri, then served actively in many parts of Missouri, moving in 1865 to Ark., Tenn., Miss., La., and Texas, until they were mustered out February 15, 1866. They moved back to Iowa from February 19 to March 12, then were discharged on March 16, 1866.

After seeing Missouri during his military service, Samuel moved his family there before the 1870 Census, when he lists his birthplace as New Jersey.

Apparently, Samuel and Nancy Dickerson heard about the letter written from Arizona Territory by Charley Buster and heard the good reports given by the man who had been stationed at Camp Verde, who had returned to Missouri. Because Samuel and Caroline (Smith) Green are the parents of Nancy Jane (Green) Dickerson, she may be related to Luranda (Smith) Bristow, the wife of "Parson" James Bristow. "Parson" Bristow wrote: "Uncle Sam Dickison fell into line too. I had never seen him but once before. Uncle Sam in those days was much of a man and no coward either." Uncle Sam apparently did not discuss his military service, so "Parson" Bristow wrote, "I do not know whether he ever wore blue or not." Although the Dickerson family may have left their home on April 26, they were probably there when "nine wagons met at Humansville, Missouri. So we all pulled out on the tenth day of May and met the next day" for the long journey to Arizona. "A man to talk about crossing the plains those days would be to talk bigger than for a man now to talk about going to the North Pole." (A Sketch of the History of My Traveling from Southwest Missouri to Arizona; by James Clawson Bristow; October 5, 1909; manuscript; pages 2-3.)

During most of the trip, the Dickerson family traveled with the families of Preston W. Burford, "Parson" James Bristow with James Human, "Brother" Lett, James G. Davidson, Michael K. Gaddis, Nicodemus D. Hutcheson, Tom Smith (brother of Luranda Bristow) with W. P. "Pleas" Bristow, Morris Smith, William Hawkins, and also the Pankey, Parker, Stackhouse and Wagner families. There were about 50 people plus stock. After a dispute in New Mexico, the families of William Hawkins, "Parson" Bristow and James Human, with their horses and over 100 cattle, left the group and traveled the northern route. Pres. Burford led the rest of the group on the southern route. They arrived on Beaver Creek at the Wales Arnold ranch on August 23, 1875. Most of the families rested, then continued on to what would become the Central Verde, then the Middle Verde settlement. (A Sketch of the History of My Traveling from

Southwest Missouri to Arizona; pages 1-8; and Pioneer Stories of Arizona's Verde Valley; 1933, 1954; The Verde Valley Pioneers Association; pages 55, 127, 130, etc.)

"Samuel Cotton Dickerson," age 49, born in New York, is #848, and his son, "Charles Dickerson," age 23, born in Iowa, is #846, both living on Beaver Creek on September 4, 1876, on the Great Register of Yavapai County. After 1876, the family changed the spelling of their name from "Dickerson" to "Dickinson."

The family moved to Lower Oak Creek with their horses and cattle they brought with them from Missouri. In 1877, Frank and Bill Dickerson attended school at Middle Verde where Ewan Witt was the teacher. (Pioneer Stories of Arizona's Verde Valley; page 148.)

In the 1880 Census, Samuel Dickinson (born in New York) is living with Nancy and their children Mary [Mariah May], Frank, Willis, Alfred, and Edward. Charles Dickinson had married Martha Burford in March of 1878; Margie Ann Dickinson had married William Back in 1878.

In the Lower Oak Creek area, near Cornville, Samuel Dickinson received land patent #65 on August 20, 1885; Charles Dickinson received land patent #507 on September 7, 1899; and Roy Dickinson received land patent #09469 on October 8, 1914.

The Cornville Post Office was established on July 9, 1885, with George A. Kingston as the postmaster. The Post Office was operated as a stage stop with fresh horses, a meal available for the driver and passengers, plus "conveniences." Samuel C. Dickinson became the postmaster and stage stop operator on April 2, 1887, serving until July 13, 1905. Samuel C. Dickinson, postmaster at Cornville, "has a farm of 30 acres and raises hay and grain. He also has a large vineyard and makes some wine." Nearby, another "Dickinson farm of 20 acres produces hay and grain." (The Jerome Chronicle; April 20, 1895.)

The Dickinson family purchased Strahan's old Cottonwood Store located on the northwest side of the 1884 homestead of David W. Strahan [now located at the southwest side of the parking lot south of the 1929 "Old Town Jail."] Samuel L. Strahan, postmaster at Cottonwood, turned his job over to Edward V. Dickinson on January 18, 1904. "E. V. DICKINSON, GENERAL MERCHANDISE, HAY, GRAIN, PRODUCE" was painted on a sign across the top of the wooden building. Frank Dickinson took over the duties of postmaster from his brother on August 4, 1905. The Dickinson family, with Maurice and Minnie (Hawkins) Smith, operated the Cottonwood store. After Samuel Dickinson died on January 17, 1907, the family sold the property to Alonzo Mason, who became postmaster on May 21, 1907.

SAMUEL COTTON DICKERSON/DICKINSON is the son of Zadock Dickerson, born in Pennsylvania on September 16, 1774. He married Mary "Polly" (Williams) Thorn in Washington County, Ohio, on February 13, 1817. She was born in Wales on February 25, 1789, and is the daughter of Robert (1762-1843) and Jane (Roberts) Williams. She is the mother of David Thorn (1811-1899). Zadock and Mary are listed in the 1820 and 1830 Census of Bristol Township, Morgan County, Ohio, then in the 1850 Census of Van Buren County, Iowa. They are buried in Heidlebaugh Cemetery, Davis County, Iowa. He is probably the parent of David Dickerson (1806-1886), Harriet Dickerson Sanford (1810-1886), Zadock Dickerson (1812-1855), Rhoda Dickerson Harward (1814-1892), and they are probably the parents of Elizabeth Dickerson Haney (1821-1908) Mary Ann Dickerson Brown (1826-1914) and Samuel Cotton Dickerson (1827-1907). (Find a Grave.) There are at least 2 Dickerson families arriving from England and settling in the northern Colonies. Grandsons of Henry Dickerson were patriots in the Revolutionary War: his sons are John

(1721), whose son is Henry; Thomas (1723), whose sons are Thomas, Kinzer, and Vachel; and Sarratt (1725), whose sons are Zadock and Solomon. (GenForum.) It is likely that these are the ancestors of Zadock Dickerson (1774) and Samuel Cotton Dickerson, who was born in New York (Ohio or New Jersey) on September 10 (Sharlot Hall.) or 16 (Gravestone.), 1827. Samuel died on January 17, 1907, then was buried in the Cottonwood Cemetery, plot C 437.

(1st Wife) ADELINE GREEN (GREENE) was born in 1818 and died on December 11, 1851[?]. Adeline (Green) Jones and Samuel were married in Van Buren County, Iowa, in February of 1849 (or 1847). She is buried as "Adline" in Leando Cemetery, Douds, Van Buren County, Iowa. (Find a Grave.) Samuel and Adeline are the parents of 1 or more children:

CHARLES DICKINSON was born in Van Buren County, Iowa, on August 23, 1853. After arriving in the Verde Valley, Charles was one of the first mail stage drivers, traveling between Prescott and the Beaver Head Station. (Pioneer Stories of Arizona's Verde Valley; page 88.) In March of 1878, on Dry Beaver Creek, he married Martha Priscilla Burford, who was born in Cedar County, Missouri, on February 1, 1863. Later, they went to live for 8 years at Cove, Oregon, then returned to the Verde Valley, where Charles worked in Jerome for 7 years. They bought a little farm near Cornville. Charles worked for the U.V.X. as a watchman from August of 1920 until October of 1923; he also worked as a Clemenceau carpenter. While on a much-needed vacation with his wife, Charles died in Ocean Beach, California, on December 5 (or 4), 1926. He is buried in the Cottonwood Cemetery, plot C 430. Martha was living in Scottsdale when she died in Phoenix on May 15, 1931. She is buried with her family in plot C 428. Their children born in Oregon are: Mary Rowena Dickinson (1880-1974), wife of James Godfrey Van Deren; twins, David M. (died young) and Dovie May Dickinson (1882-1968), wife of Thomas Benton Farron/Farrow (1876-1934), then she is Mrs. Fisher; Archie Leroy "Lee Roy" or "Roy" Dickinson (1886-1937), husband of Ellen Pearl Duncan. Their children born in the Verde Valley are: Winifred Adeline "Minnie" Dickinson (1895), wife of Le Roy Van Deren; George Arthur Dickinson (1897-1975), husband of Maude Evelyn Cobert; Ruth "Ruthie" Clara Dickinson (1900), wife of William Bricie Powell; and Esther Irene or "Irene Esther" Dickinson (1902), wife of Arthur Edward Abbott until after 1926, then Mrs. Riley Lee [?]. (Find a Grave; Pioneer Stories of Arizona's Verde Valley; page 125; The Verde Independent; "1875 First Families; Preston W. Burford Family, August 23;" August 8, 2014.)

(2nd Wife) NANCY JANE GREEN (GREENE) was born in Reading, Perry County, Ohio, on April 22, 1833 (or April 11, or 22, 1836). (Sharlot Hall.) She is the daughter of Samuel and Caroline (Smith) Green. Nancy married Samuel in Van Buren County, Iowa, on June 2, 1860. She died on November 7, 1919, and is buried in the Cottonwood Cemetery, plot C 436. Sameul and Nancy are parents of the following children:

MARGIE ANN DICKINSON was born in Iowa on September 17, 1861, just as the Civil War was beginning. She married William "Bill" Beriman (Berryman) Back on December 23, 1878. He was born in Harrisonville, Cass County, Missouri, on May 20, 1856, and is the son of Henry and Mildred B. (Asher) Back. Bill and Margie Back lived on Lower Oak Creek for awhile, then moved to their Montezuma Well Ranch. Margie died in Palo Alto, California, on July 5, 1926, then was buried in the Cottonwood Cemetery, plot A 521. William died in Camp Verde on May 13, 1929, then was buried by his wife. They are the parents of: Mildred M. Back (1879-1967), born in Cornville, wife of Granville "Dan" Fain (1879), who are the parents of Norman William Fain (1907-2000); Fred Back (1880-1957), husband of Rose Irene Allen (1895-1976), who are parents of Evelyn Rose Back (1917-1997), the wife of Ernest Warren Chilson (1915-2002); Bertha M. Back (1883-1904); Harry Wales Back (1885-1918), husband of Maggie Merle

Hough (1892-1960), who are the parents of Basil Pleasant Back (1912-1984); twins, Jennie Lee Back (1889-1907) and Jessie Lee Back (1889-1945), wife of Noval N. Cherry (1885-1970), who are the parents of Esther Lee Cherry Henderson (1910-2009), Agnes Vivian Cherry (1914-1925), and Norval C. Cherry (1916-2011); and William "Bill" Lester Back (1892-1952), husband of Anna Mae Cox (1899-1994), who are parents of Carl Lee Back (1918-1974), and Gail Thurmond Back (1920-1997). (see: Pioneer Stories of Arizona's Verde Valley; pages 68-69, 206-208.)

MARIAH MAY DICKINSON was born about 1865 in Van Buren County, Iowa. She married James Gabriel Hawkins on July 3, 1882. James was born in California on January 28, 1861. They were the parents of 2 children when May died in Camp Verde in 1889. Constable James Hawkins was shot in Jerome. (The Verde Independent; "1891: JEROME; Constable James Hawkins Killed April 19;" April 17, 18, 2013; and "1875: FIRST FAMILIES; William and Harriet Hawkins Family;" July 25, 2013.) Samuel and Nancy Jane Dickinson raised their orphan grandchildren. Charles Hawkins was born in Cornville about 1885. He became a cowboy and married Francis Bruce. Minnie Hawkins was born in Cornville about 1887. She married Maurice Calvin Smith, who was born in Cedar County, Missouri, on August 17, 1879. He died in Oracle, Pinal County, on March 5, 1960. Minnie died in Pima County. They are the parents of Eugene L. Smith (1906); Cecil L. Smith (1908); and Agnes Mae Smith (1911-1989), wife of Reginald M. Ramsey (1903-1972). (see: Pioneer Stories of Arizona's Verde Valley; page 191.)

FRANK LEE DICKINSON was born in Missouri on January 13, 1867. He married Hulda Susan Smith on December 25, 1899. Frank Dickinson was the postmaster at Cottonwood from August 4, 1905, until May 21, 1907. "Mr. Frank Dickinson, proprietor of the general store at Cottonwood, has sold the same to Alonzo Mason, formerly a member of Mason & Slack of Camp Verde. ... Mr. Dickinson expects to go to Hackberry, Mohave County, where he has a freighting contract with a mining company. It is his intention to go into the stock business if he can find a suitable range anywhere between the Santa Fe railroad and the Colorado river west of Ash Fork." (Prescott Morning Courier; March 26, 1907; page 2.) Frank was a rancher. Frank died in Cottonwood on October 22, 1925, then was buried in the Cottonwood Cemetery, plot C 449. Hulda Susan (Smith) Dickinson (1881-1985) married Ralph A. Marshall (1890-1966); Hulda Marshall lived in Coolidge in 1968. Frank and Hulda are the parents of: Vaudrey Samuel "Sam" Dickinson (1900-1981), husband of Nina E. Allen (1903-1985), parents of Nancy Dickinson Wright (1930-2011); Alta Mae Dickinson (1903-2002), wife of Robert A. Spooner (1904-1972) of Coolidge in 1968; Edward "Eddie" Lee Dickinson (1906-1968), husband of Jessie Mae Fenstermaker (1908-1990), parents of Dixie Mae Dickinson Baxter (1929-1972) of Wickenburg in 1968, Nova Jean Dickinson Brown (1936) of Prescott in 1968, and Frank Lee Dickinson (1934) of Wickenburg in 1968; Frank H. Dickinson of Flagstaff in 1968; Helen Dickinson Moxcey of Apache Junction in 1968; and Mattie Dickinson Brashews of Chinlee in 1968.

WILLIAM GREEN DICKINSON was born in Stockton, Cedar County, Missouri, on September 30, 1868. He married Nellie M. Pattie in Flagstaff on January 20, 1895; they divorced. He was a stockman and sheriff, serving as the Sheriff of Coconino County from 1915 to 1919. William and Nellie and the parents of Carl Lee Dickinson (1896), of Flagstaff in 1931. Willis Green Dickinson died in Flagstaff in September 10, 1931, then was buried in the Cottonwood Cemetery, plot C 427. (Sharlot Hall.)

ALFRED DICKINSON was born in Cedar County, Missouri, on July 21, 1870. He was a rancher and owned a hotel. Alfred and Ida Mae Van Deren were married on May 13, 1895. She was born at Big Pine, Humboldt County, Nevada, on May 28, 1876. She is the daughter of Godfrey and Elizabeth (West) Van Deren. Alfred Dickinson bought the Carl Dickinson cattle and moved them to the Mogollon Mountains about 1914. Ida

Mae died in Phoenix on October 25, 1945, then was buried next to her husband, in plot C 434. Alfred died in the United Verde Hospital in Jerome on April 26, 1940, then was buried in the Cottonwood Cemetery, plot C 435. (Certificate of Death.) Their children are: Ralph Elwin Dickinson (1898-1918); Walter Edwin Dickinson (1899-1946), husband of Margaret Opal Smith [daughter of George W. and Johnny (Randolph) Smith] and are the parents of Betty Dickinson Kent (Walter and "Opal" divorced and both remarried); Roland B. Dickinson (1902); Elma or "Alma" M. Dickinson, wife of E. Ford Knowles; and Loren Alfred Dickinson (1912-1981).

EDWARD VIRGIL DICKINSON was born in Stockton, Cedar County, Missouri, on August 1, 1872. He married Florence Myrtle Stegman in Oak Creek on November 26, 1902. Edward V. Dickinson was the postmaster at Cottonwood from January 18, 1904 until August 4, 1905. "E. V. Dickinson and family, who formerly owned the store at Cottonwood, but now of Long Beach, California, are visiting in the valley with friends and relatives." (Weekly Arizona Journal-Miner; December 20, 1905.) Ed. Dickinson worked as a watchman for the U.V.X. during 1918 and 1919. Edward died on July 17, 1958, in Los Angeles County, California, then was buried in the Cottonwood Cemetery, plot 448. Edward and Florence became the parents of at least 6 children: Wanda Rita Dickinson (1907); Edward Ross Dickinson (1916-1916); Felix Clyde Dickinson (1916).

(Sharlot Hall Museum Library and Archives, Find a Grave, Certificates of Birth, Certificates of Death, GenForum, etc.)