

Companion to the book

Pioneer Stories of Arizona's Verde Valley

Use the contents below as you read the book
Pioneer Stores of Arizona's Verde Valley.
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I encourage you to read the entire book, not just pages that reference the Dickinsons. Many of the stores in this book are about those that traveled to the Verde Valley from Missouri by covered wagon in 1875. Several families intermarried with the Dickinson family, were neighbors, and had the same life experiences as the Dickinson family.

The purpose of the content below is to assist you in understanding how you are related to the people in the stories you are reading.

References in the book for Squaw Peak:

Squaw Peak has been renamed Porcupine Peak. Located south end of the Black Hills which includes Mingus Mountain and Jerome. The closest city to Porcupine Peak is Camp Verde.

First let's review some genealogy to help you relate to some of the persons referenced in this book.

- Samuel Cotton Dickinson family's last name was Dickerson prior to arriving in the Verde Valley in 1875
- Frank Lee Dickinson is a son of Samuel and Nancy
- Frank Lee and Hulda are the parents of Helen (Dickinson) Moxcey
- Helen (Dickinson) Moxcey is the mother of Richard Moxcey and Diana (Moxcey) Rowe
- Charles Dickinson is Samuel's son from a prior marriage and is Frank Lee's half-brother.

The book, Pioneer Stories of Arizona's Verde Valley, is compiled of personal histories either by early settlers of the Verde Valley or by members of their families who heard the stories first-hand, and approximately covers the years from 1865 to 1890.



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The wagon train took three months and twenty days to reach Verde Valley, going through Kansas City, Emporia and Dodge City, Kansas, Colorado and New Mexico and continued west by the Old Star Mail route through Winslow and Holbrook, and on over a rocky trail which took them over the Mogollon Mountains, by way of Pine Springs, Stoneman's Lake then past Rattlesnake Tank to the Verde Valley.

Page 20: Photo of Samuel and Nancy Dickinson. Second row, right, photo.

Page 22: Mrs. Charles (Charlie) Dickinson — **Martha Priscilla Burford Dickinson** (1863-1931) — recorded her reminiscence titled "*Crossing the Plains in '75.*" In her account, she recalls that the journey from Missouri to the Arizona Territory lasted three months. Twice during the trip, the wagon company was surrounded by Native people, though no harm came to them.

As supplies dwindled, Martha's father, Preston W. Burford, announced that he would ride ahead to Camp Verde with a pack horse to secure provisions and return to the train. Preston was married to Elizabeth Ann Hornbeck. A young man in the company, **Charley Dickinson**, then twenty-two years old and Martha's future husband, volunteered to accompany him on the dangerous advance ride.

The wagon train ultimately reached Beaver Creek in the Verde Valley, arriving at the Wales Arnold ranch on August 23, 1875.

Martha Priscilla (Burford) Dickinson's story is especially valuable because the Burford family themselves were members of the 1875 wagon train from Missouri. Her husband, **Charles Dickinson**, was the older half-brother of **Frank, William, Alfred, and Ed Dickinson**.

A related family memory tells of "Grandma Dickinson," **Nancy Jane (Green) Dickinson**, giving the Dickinson boys a well-deserved whipping — and it is very likely that **Frank Lee Dickinson** was among the culprits. The "Frank" mentioned in this tradition refers specifically to **Frank Lee Dickinson**.

Page 58: References that the Dickinson family was a part of the 1875 wagon train from Missouri. States that Margorie Dickinson Back attended the first Baptist Church service in Arizona.

Page 67: Mentions that the Dickinson family settled on Oak Creek. The reference to "William Back" is Margie Ann Dickinson's husband, they owned the Montezuma Well.

Page 68: THIS IS A MUST-READ CHAPTER

Written by Mrs. Mildred (Back) Fain.

Mildred (Back) Fain was the first of seven children in the family of Marjorie Ann (Dickinson) Back and William Beriman Back. The reference to Frank is Frank Lee Dickinson, Helen (Dickinson) Moxcey's father.

Photo and story of Marjorie *Margie* Ann (Dickinson) Back. (Frank Lee Dickinson's sister) William and Margie Back owned Montezuma Well. Montezuma Well is a National Monument. Their daughter Mildred married Dan Fain.

Page 84: References relationship to the Hawkins family. The reference to "Grandmother Dickinson" is Nancy Jane (Green) Dickinson. After Mariah May (Dickinson) Hawkins and James Hawkins died Samuel Cotton and Nancy Jane (Green) Dickinson raised the orphaned children (Charles and Minnie). Minnie Hawkins married Maurice Calvin Smith. (Maurice is son of Maurice Calvin Adkins Morris" Smith, the brother of Hulda (Smith) Dickinson-Marshall) Minnie rode the horse with \$5,000 in her purse. (book *Amazing Girls of Arizona* by Jan Cleere). Constable James Hawkins was shot and killed in Jerome while escorting a prisoner to the courthouse on April 19, 1891.

Page 84: Mrs. Roy Van Deren is Winifred Adeline (Dickinson) Van Deren 9/2/1895 - 8/24/1969. Her father is Charles Dickinson (Frank Lee's half-brother) and her mother is Martha Priscilla (Burford) Dickinson. Her sisters are Mary Rowena (Dickinson) VanDeren and Dovie May (Dickinson) Fisher.

Page 88: Charley Dickinson is the son of Samuel Cotton Dickinson and half-brother of Frank Lee Dickinson. Author of this story is Mrs. Roy Van Deren see above.

Page 118: Julia Smith is the sister of Hulda (Smith) Dickinson-Marshall. Diana (Moxcey) Rowe's grandmother.

Page 122: Grandville (Dan) Fain 05/11/1879-09/07/1962.

Spouse: Mildred (Back) Fain who was the first of seven children in the family of Marjorie Ann (Dickinson) Back and William Back.

If you are in Prescott Valley and see reference to "Grandville", this is who it was named after.

Page 125: “An Old Timer” by Rowena Van Deren. Rowena Van Deren is a granddaughter of Samuel Cotton and Nancy Jane Dickinson.

Charles Dickinson is the older half-brother of Frank Lee Dickinson.

This story tells how the Burford’s are related to the Dickinson’s. The Burford family also was part of the 1875 wagon train from Missouri.

Page 126: Ties Rowena (Dickinson) Van Deren to the Van Deren family.

Rowena’s father was Charles Dickinson, Frank Lee’s half-brother.

The V-Bar-V Heritage Site was commonly referred to as the “100 Place”. Later owners of the ranch included Jimmie and Rowena Van Deren, and Bill and Frank Dickinson. It is now called the Crane Petroglyph Heritage Site. In 1915 William Dickinson patented the holding which included 102.5 acres. Two years later it was purchased by two other Dickinsons and David Babbitt. In 1920, those partners sold the ranch along with another 40 acres to A.G. Dickinson.

Page 127: Mentions the Dickinson family as part of the 1875 wagon train from Missouri. The reference to “Las Vegas” is Las Vega New Mexico, not Las Vegas, Nevada.

Page 128: Charlie Dickinson, Frank Lee’s half-brother, was one of the first stage drivers to Prescott, AZ from Chimney Flat, AZ.

The reference to Sam Dickinson is Samuel Cotton Dickinson.



Page 128: Mentions the OK Ditch Company. In 1877, six men formed the O.K. Ditch Company and began to work on the ditch. These men were: Samuel Dickinson, Mitch Birch, Press Burford, M. K. Gaddis, and a man by the name of Hughes, and James Davidson.

The OK Ditch is one of the oldest operational irrigation ditches in the Verde Valley. Construction on the ditch began in 1877 to water agricultural lands in the Middle Verde area on the east side of the Verde River. In the early twentieth century, as the Yavapai and Apache peoples began to reestablish their homeland in the Verde Valley, the OK Ditch provided water to 450 acres of their farmland. Land that today comprises the Middle Verde Reservation of the Yavapai-Apache Nation.

Page 130: A story of the 1875 wagon train from Missouri.

Page 130: Mentions the OK Ditch Company.

Page 131: Mildred Fain's mother was Margie Ann (Dickinson) Back, Frank Lee's sister. Helen (Dickinson) Moxcey's aunt.

Page 132: Note the year, 1917, of the photo of the mule train. This is the year that Helen (Dickinson) Moxcey was born.

Page 142: The reference to William G Dickison is actually William G Dickinson. Note the mention of a ditch created by Dickinson's, this is most likely the O.K. Ditch.

Page 148: 1877 William G and Frank Lee attended school in Middle Valley; teacher was Ewan Witts. Mr. Ewan Witts was the first teacher there, 1877-78. Mention of Bill Back, husband of Marjorie Dickinson, buying Montezuma Well for 2 horses.

Page 159: The address 1702 W Roma Phoenix, AZ is Alta Mae Dickinson Spooner's second husband, Marion Reid's, house.

Page 160: The reference to "Biscuit Bill Dickison" is William G Dickinson, Frank Lee's brother. The 100 Brand: The year 1900 Benjamin and Florence Taylor homestead the property, branding cattle "100" and calling the ranch the "100 Place." Later owners of the ranch included Jimmie and Rowena (Dickinson) Van Deren, Bill and Frank Dickinson. It finally became the V-Bar-V Ranch and is now called the Crane Petroglyph Heritage Site.

Page 172: Photo includes Ida (Van Deren) Dickinson 1876-1945. Daughter of Godfrey & Elizabeth Anne (West) Van Deren. Wife of Alfred Dickinson.

Page 186 (end of page): There is a mention of Deception Gulch. In 2022 Bill & Diana Rowe purchased and are living in a house along Deception Gulch in Clarkdale, AZ.

Page 190: Photo of Maurice and Minnie Smith. Maurice and Minnie are husband and wife. Maurice is Hulda Dickinson's brother. Minnie's grandparents are Samuel and Nancy Dickinson.

Page 191: This ties the Dickinson 1875 wagon train with the Smith 1886 wagon train. Frank Lee Dickinson married Hulda Susan (Smith) Dickinson-Marshall. Maurice and his parents came to Arizona by covered wagon in 1886 from Missouri. Maurice and Minnie Smith are Helen (Dickinson) Moxcey's aunt and uncle. Helen (Dickinson) Moxcey is the mother of Richard Moxcey and Diana (Moxcey) Rowe. Minnie's grandparents are Samuel Cotton and Nancy Dickinson. Mariah May (Dickinson) Hawkins is Minnie's mother. Frank Lee's sister, and the wife of Constable James Hawkins.

Bottom Pages 191 & 192: Written by Mrs. Bud Thompson (Sarah Ellen "Sallie" (Smith) Thompson. She is the sister of Hulda (Smith) Dickinson-Marshall and Helen (Dickinson) Moxcey's aunt. Hulda is Diana (Moxcey) Rowe's grandmother.

Page 194: Mentions Dickinson's and the 1875 wagon train.

Page 195: Dora Dickison is not related to the Dickinson family. She is the wife of A. G. "Dutch" Dickison. It can be confusing because of the similar names—W. G. "Dutch" Dickinson and A. G. "Dutch" Dickison.

Page 196: Top photo is Hulda (Smith) Dickinson-Marshall's sister, Mrs. Bud Thompson (Sarah Ellen "Sallie" (Smith) Thompson). She is also Helen (Dickinson) Moxcey's aunt. The infant, Aubrey Thompson, is Hulda's nephew. Aubrey Franklin Thompson Birth 20 Apr 1891, Camp Verde, Arizona, Death 9 Feb 1965 (aged 73), Burial Cottonwood Cemetery. Aubrey was the first of 6 children. Sallie Thompson's husband was Renos Thompson, 10 Nov 1853 - 24 Apr 1931 (aged 77), Burial Cottonwood Cemetery.

Pages 206: Sequel to page 68. The author is Johnie Lee Fain whose mother-in-law is Mildred (Back) Fain.

Page 207: Mildred Back's mother is Margie Ann (Dickinson) Back. Margie is a daughter of Samuel Cotton Dickinson.

Page 208: Photo Mildred Fain. Mildred is the oldest daughter of Margie Ann (Dickinson) Back.

Page 208: The Author, Mrs. Johnie Lee Fain, is the wife of Norman William Fain. In 1940, Norman Fain was elected to the Arizona Senate.

Page 208: Frank Dickinson is Margie Ann's brother and Diana Rowe's grandfather.

Page 208: Morris and Minnie Smith

Morris is Maurice Calvin Smith, the son of Maurice Calvin Adkins "Morris" Smith, and brother of Hulda (Smith) Dickinson. Minnie is Minnie Lee (Hawkins) Smith, her grandfather is Samuel Cotton Dickinson.