

Chapter TWO

Moveing to Star Valley

When Idalia was only about a month old we again moved, this time to Afton Wyoming in Star Valley.

Father sold our home in Logan for \$1,000 and with the money he bought a new wagon, a set of harness and a boreing machine, the later he intended to use to bore three inch holes in fin fence posts to make leaning fence for he wished to go into the farming business and the raising of live stock.

So we were on the move again and as the two wagons neared the valley going down the crow Creek road it began to snow and the wind was awful so as we came to the old Hardman cabin about five miles from the valley we stoppd and asked the boys there if we could stay with them over night?

Carl and I had been riding our rone mare called Nellie driving our two milk cows behind the wagons and were very nearly froze.

The Hardman boys, John, Alex, Mark and Will welcomed us into their cabin

but they were only boys and did their own cooking and I can still smell those frying potatoes they cooked for, *US.*

Some of these same boys had stopped at our house in Logan sometime before with us and Mother had asked them to deliver a package for her to some of her friends but the package was never delivered so when they saw Mother again they were somewhat ashamed for not delivering it, however Mother told them the package was not of great value and it was alright, it continued to snow all night and the next morning too but we managed to break our way through to the valley and arrived in Afton the ninth day of October 1889.

Some how Father had become the owner of three city lots in Afton each of two and a half acres and one of these he had bought from his son-in-law Byron Allred which had a two room, log, dirt roof cabin on it which was to be our home.

There was Father, Mother, Hilma and baby and six of us children who crowded into this small cabin for the winter, the range cattle had been brought along but Father had made no provisions for feeding them, infact there was absolutely no way of securing the necessary feed for any of them so the range cattle, our team of horses, Frank and Doll and Doll's Colt, the rone mare Nellie and all were turned loose to rustle for them selves the best they could on the west hills. Byorn Allred was supposed to look after them to get them on the best possible feed for which Father gave him the new set of harness.

We kept the two milk cows at home and by feeding them potato peelings and dry grass we secured by climbing up

to the top of the high peaks east of Afton we were able to find tall grass where the wind had blown the snow away which we cut or pulled and brought it down in bundles or in sacks to the cows, in this way we saved our two cows,

I think two or three of the cattle were traded to Frank Tolman for two ponies and these two ponies managed to survive and the best one of them was sold later to Edgar Roberts for \$11.00 but all the rest either froze or starved to death including our team Frank and Doll, Doll's colt, the rone mare Nellie and all the rest of the range cattle, because it was an exceptionally hard winter and was referred to for many years as the hard winter of 1889.

Father sold our new wagon to A Lu Hale for much less than he had paid for it who was to pay for it a little at a time in different ways, one I remember was the use of a team of horses that were so darned mean we could hardly any thing with them, Father traded the boreing maching to George Weaver down in the lower valley for a bay mare we named Doll again and some time later we got another mare from Henry Kennington we named Bess, so now we had a team again.

The summer of 1890 I was comming to my tenth birthday Carl and I got our first job digging potatoes for Nick Venter. After he had plowed each row he went away some place and it was our job to scratch away the loose soil away and pick up the potatoes and carry them to a certain spot and put them in bags and in the evening he would return with the wagon and haul them to the pit or cellar for storage for winter.

Mr Venter paid us each fifty cents per day, his two daughters Mary and Ceila worked with us.

The next job was a simular kind for Thomas Burton but was for only one day and when we had finished a very long day Carl told him we ought to have seventy five cents each but Bunton disagreed and thought fifty cents was enough I don't remember which we got but later in life they became brother-in-laws both marrying A.V. Call' girls.

Each winter we attended school while our dear Mother took in washings and worked very hard over the old washboard (We had no machines then) a very long day for fifty cents in store pay, in one case she also did the ironing as well as the washing and received one dollar and twenty five cents also in store pay, this was for Arthur Roberts family.

My first school teacher in Afton was Emery Barrus and the school house was one block east of our house and was made of logs with a dirt roof, as I remember it was about twenty feet wide and therty or forty feet long, the door was in the east end there was two or three windows on either side and this building was used for all public gatherings, Sunday school and meetings on Sundays, school on week days and dances and home talent shows periodically on other times. All pupils must furnish their own desk or table or common dry goods box to do their studies on and children both large and small were crowded into this school room with as I mentioned above Emery Barrus was the teacher. Paper was scarce and most of our work was done on slates with slate pencils.

These slates were of different sizes and generally had a frame made of wood around the outside and could be bought in most of the stores at that time, they were black in color and very smooth and were everlasting unless they became broken by dropping or received a hard blow, every thing written on them with a slate pencil could easily be erased with a damp cloth or sponge or even by spitting on it and rub it out with the fingers the later was mostly used especially by the youngesters, in our spelling class each pupil with slate in hand would write down the words as they were given by the teacher, then the slates were passed each one to the pupil to the right as the teacher again gave out the words correctly spelled and any that were misspelled were so marked then the slate was returned to its owner and grades were granted accordingly. I had no desk or other way of doing my studying except on the bench along the west wall behind and to one side of the teacher's desk and right in front of me sat the teacher's sister-in-law Maggie Tolman who had a very large woolen shawl that she folded several times and sat upon it because it made a very soft seat, right in front of the teacher's desk and Maggie was what we called the recitation bench, it was long and each class in turn was called to this bench when it came their turn to recite, all but Maggie she retained her chair always. One recess when all were outside to sun them selves on the south side of the house I managed to bring in a sheet of ice about the size of a small book and I carefully placed in between

the folds of Maggie's shawl and after the school hand bell had sent forth its call to resume studies the largest pupils were called to recite and Maggie belonged to this class, as soon as every one was seated and Maggie in her chair and me being very busy with my book and the class began to recite some one began to snicker, the heat of Maggie's body had started to melt the ice and a small trickle of water was dripping to the floor under her chair, for a while the teacher nor Maggie knew what the snickering was about then someone pointed to the water and Maggie knew by instinct that I was to blame so she got up and gave me pounding then and there but it didn't hurt much and it was fun while it lasted.

My next teacher was Mrs Mattie Barrus (Emery's wife) I do not remember of doing any thing of a mischievous nature and I did not go to her school very long because the summer before and after Mr Barrus I went to work for Levi Richardson over on the west side of the valley, I think I was eleven and started for him in July and drove the horse and dump rake all through his haying and milked four or five cows each evening and morning and did other work for him which he was to give me my board and clothes, it was there that summer that I caught my first trout, Carl and Adgar Roberts had been fishing along Crow creek and had a bushel or more of trout which they had just dumped on the ground preparing to dress them, they had layed their poles down on the ground and as crow creek ran through Richardson's ranch I happened along and saw the poles so I just called to them that "I guess I'll catch one," I took one of their poles and cast the

the hook into the water and to my joy and surprise I caught a fair sized fish some what scared but very pleased.

Mrs Richardson bought two dollars worth of cloth and made me a jacket and a pair of knee pants and she told me her time making them was worth two dollars, they bought me a eightyfive cent pair of stogy shoes and for Christmas they gave me a tencent pocket knife and a lead pencil. That year Mother wanted to go to Logan to work in the temple and as Richardson was going to Utah for fruit and other supplies he offered to take Mother and her three youngest children to Logan and he also gave my folks a small white sucking pig

I stayed with them until mid-winter, and it was very cold especially since I was very poorly dressed and I had made some remarks about going home and to school and apparently they children had told their parents because they told me if I left they would take away all they had given me. My brother Kib came over to see me one day and I told him that the Richardson's were going down to Auburn the next Sunday to act as home missionaries and if he would come after me I would go home with him. Kib did just that and I took my belongings and went with him and on the way as we rode in a home made bob sleigh Kib had brought two of his boy friends with him and as they sat facing the horses I sat in the front with my back towards the horses, Kib had tied the lines together and these were one on either side of my head, Kib was a great one to see how fast the little mares could go once in a while so as we went across the flat and came to the old dry creek bed the road went in a sort

of an S shape and as the mares were doing their best speed when we struck the bank over we all went into the deep snow me flat on my back and the lines caught me under my chin and I was dragged some distance in the snow but it stopped the mares and we were soon on our way again and when I got home I started school again and I think that was when I had Mrs Barrus as my teacher. With Father, Carl and Kib we got along some how, I do not know where Hilma had gone to but Mother had taken Emer, Parley and Idalia with her to Logan.