



I Sheldon Clark

INTERVIEW WITH: Sheldon Clark
INTERVIEWER: Marsha Holland
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Tape 1, Side A

MH: I am here with Seldon Clark and we are here in Cannonville. Today is January
12, 2002. Hi, Sheldon.

SC: How are you?

MH: Good, how are you?

SC: I am Sheldon Clark. I was born here in Cannonville on June 13, 1920.

MH: Can I get your parents' names please?

SC: My parents were Owen Wilford Clark was my father and my mother Sarah Ethel
Henderson Clark.

MH: Your dad Owen, when did he come into this country?

SC: Well, let's go back. Let me give you a little on William Jasper Henderson senior
first. William Jasper senior was my great-grandfather. He was with the first
group that came down in here to this valley. He came down in the fall. (1876) I'll
have to look that date up. Or you might already know the date they settled here.
They settled down here what they called Clifton, just below Cannonville. And I
guess the irrigation water had enough floods to take it out so they decided that
checking it out that first summer they lived. Well he went back to Morgan up

there where his family was and spent the winter then they brought the whole family and came back here and built a cabin down below town here.

MH: Was Clifton at the confluence of the Henrieville and Paria River.

SC: Do you know where Desmond and Monte have their farm down there?

MH: Yes.

SC: It is just down here about a mile, below town on the west side of the road there.

They had a little town there they called Clifton. They decided if they came up, after the first summer, if they came up to take the water out up here and farmed this area they could keep the water in better. So, they came up and surveyed this town site here and plotted it out and laid it out so that it was four lots in a block. They assigned each one a plot and they just went down and raised their old cabins up, put timbers under them and one at a time drug them up here and started Cannonville.

MH: So, they moved the town of Clifton to Cannonville?

SC: Some of the Thompsons, I think they went up to Henrieville [and] started Henrieville at the same time.

MH: Some of the people from Clifton went up to Henrieville as well?

SC: Yes, the Thompson, it would be their Great grandfather. That is another thing I might tell you, Marva, Arma, and Glenda Feltner, Arma Dutton, and Marva Fletcher are the only other three people left her in town that are older than I am that were born and raised here. So, Great-grandfather Henderson spent the rest of his life here.

MH: What did he do, your great grandfather?

SC: Well, just more or less farmed. Milked cows. And up here, up by the foot of the dump, up in that canyon, up in Henderson Canyon. Sometime in his life, I don't know when, he went up there and built an old log cabin up there, and kind of, ... well the old stream came down and made a turn and he took and built a milk house and put it out over the corner of that stream there. He had a bunch of milk cows. He had an old corral built there and he would take the cows out in the canyon. They could go out on top there and feed and run, then bring them in at night and milk them and milk them in the morning. They would keep the milk in that old milk house.

MH: The one that went over the river?

SC: They would just put it down in the water to keep it cool. They would scoop the cream off it and make butter and let the rest of it curd and make cheese. That was what they would sell for income. They lived right here on this block here below me where this new building is going up.

MH: That was where William Jasper lived, where the Grand Staircase Visitor Center is going? William Jasper, was it Clark?

SC: No, William Jasper Henderson.

MH: Who was his wife, do you remember?

SC: (Sheldon shows me a book with pictures)

MH: Oh, here is a picture, with wife Hally Harris. No, Alvira Aurelia and William Jasper. Here is William Jasper over her with Lydia Drucilla.

SC: That is his second wife.

MH: Ah, so he was a polygamist?

SC: He had two wives. He had one that lived right here and the other lived over there where Joe Thompson lives. He raised his first family long before he ever married her. Now, do you know Margaret Dunham?

MH: Yes.

SC: Her mother is one of Drucilla Johnson's. That is the thing that is always interesting, he is Margaret's grandfather and he is my great-grandfather.

(Laughing) It took me along time to figure that one out when I was a kid.

MH: So, he was a dairyman?

SC: And a farmer. And the latter part of his years he spent down at the Temple.

MH: In St. George?

SC: The Temple was finished down in the 1800s.

MH: When did William Jasper settle in this area?

SC: I think they came down here in the 1876. I don't know just what time it was, it tells us here somewhere. I can let you take this book. This is on my grandfather's family.

MH: Tell me about your parents...

SC: Well, my grandparents Owen Washington Clark and Harriet Gennet Adair.

MH: Adair is a name from around here.

SC: Yes, Tropic especially. My great grandfather John Wesley Clark and Samuel Newton Adair, another great grandfather, were sent down to Washington to start that cotton. Then Samuel Newton was asked to go down and help settle Arizona, Northern Arizona rather, by Nutrioso and St. Johns and around through there. He finally settled over in Luna (Luna Valley), New Mexico. That was where my

father was born. My grandmother, Evelyn Brown Clark, after John Wesley had jaundice, he had a ranch up back in there around the Silver City, he was going up there and broke a reach on his wagon, so went up in the timbers there to cut a tree down so he could make a reach out of it. He got in poison ivy and between the poison ivy and the (jaundice) he just lasted two or three days and he was gone. So when the Adair family were asked to go down there both of them were Browns, Evelyn and Gennette, and related someway. So Grandmother decided she wanted to go because some of her boys were going down there too. She took Grandfather and the rest of the family that was with her and moved to settle in Nutrioso. Gennette, Harriet Gennette Adair came over there to work, to clerk in the store over there in Nutrioso and that was how our grandfather met her. They were married and moved back to Luna there and that is where Father was born. He said he was about eleven months old and they moved up to Piree (Pareah). There used to be an old town there. They move there. He said he was five or six years old, they moved up to Wooden Shoe. Grandfather went up on the East Fork. They went up across what they called Sheep Flat and what they called Yellow Creek up through there. They went up there to get lumber. Coming off there the old wagon tipped over with that lumber on and broke his hip. They never had any doctor. He just lay for months before he finally he was able to get up and get moving. He always walked with a limp. His old left hip the way it healed made his left leg about six inches shorter. My dad was about five or six then when they - moved down to Wooden Shoe, down by Clifton. They had a little farm there.

MH: Was that Owen or his dad?

SC: That was Owen Washington. So, he had his cattle down on the Paree. He had brought his cattle up from Luna with a couple of his brothers. You get down into that area around Adairville and you'll run onto East Clark Bench and West Clark Bench. It was named after his, Hye (Hyrum) brothers. They had cattle down there. So when he was well enough to get around from his broken hip he moved back to Pahreah where his cattle were. Dad said when he was about eleven years old, Grandmother and Grandfather decided they had to come up somewhere where they could get their kids in school. He came up and traded Willis out of that old home. You saw it. It is on the wall down there. (Looks through some photos) There it is. That is William Jasper senior.

MH: A handsome looking man.

SC: That is all Father's family, Owen Washington and Harriet.

MH: Did they build this house?

SC: No, they bought it from a Willis. Willis went down around Junction when he sold it to him. So, they came up and Dad said he was eleven years old. He was born in 1887. He went on a mission to Germany and when he was on the mission to Germany they had this picture taken and sent to him. This is all the rest of the brothers and sisters.

MH: And the horses.

SC: This is Minnie, that gal standing back there, that is Ethna by the horse.

MH: She is holding a baby.

SC: The baby is June. Lois is holding the baby. Ethna, and Lois and she married George Grath and she married Sam Grath. This is Marion Clark that would be Steve Clark's dad down here. This is grandfather and this is grandmother.

MH: The little girl on the horse?

SC: This is Rose and this is Ismay.

MH: A lot of girls.

SC: Yes there were just Marion and Dad, were the only boys. When Dad was on a mission, this was taken about 1909 or 1910.

MH: Is this on the site where Joe Hughes lives?

SC: Well, yes Wallace Henderson who married Aunt Ismay, lived there, I think after Grandfather and Grandmother moved down to this house here, just north of the church right here on the corner. Steve Clark bought it from his Dad and family. His father Marion and Elva after Grandfather moved out.

MH: Now it looks like a modern home.

SC: Now this girl lives there, Steve and Vergene's. The old home that is Rae's. Rae is married to Joe Hughes now, had married Aunt Ismay's boy Max. They had three girls. The old home burned down when they were living in it. Rae and Max, they started building this and I think Joe and them added a little to it.

MH: Max was the one who was caught in the truck out here on Bull Valley Gorge?

S.C.: There was Max and Hart Johnson and Clark Smith.

MH: Har Johnson?

SC: Hart Johnson.

MH: Sarah Ethel's family had been here a long time too?

SC: Sarah Ethel, that is her grandfather and he came in with the first ones.

MH: This picture was taken when he was in Nauvoo, so twenty years later he was here in Cannonville.

SC: This is my grandfather Henderson, and his posterity there. (1928) This is my mother by him. He has got baby in the arms and that is my brother Kenneth, the youngest.

MH: Where are you?

SC: I am over here somewhere. (Laughing) My old eyes just won't...

MH: What did your mom tell you it was like growing up here? Did she tell you any stories?

SC: Down here where the church is, on that lot, they built an old log cabin and had a fireplace in one end and a dirt floor. They had some benches in it, which was where they had church and that is where she started her schooling. They had gone out here somewhere and got some old slate rock and made some slates for them to write on. They would write on it and then erase it. That is where she started her schooling. When she got a little older, I don't know what age, probably about high school, Grandfather sent them to the old Wasatch Academy in Beaver. She went over there and went to school over there. And then she went up and went to school to the University of Utah now, but it was called something else then, I can't remember the name of it.

MH: Education was important. She was a well-educated woman.

SC: She got her education there and started to teach school.

MH: She became a teacher?

SC: In Panquitch.

MH: She became a teacher and taught school in Panguitch.

SC: Her and Dad corresponded when he was on his mission. He came home in the last of October 1911 and they were married in November of that year. She went to housekeeping here. The main plan was that you ate what you raised. If you didn't raise it and bottle it up you didn't have anything to eat in the wintertime. So early in the morning in the spring some of us, we used to have snow come in the fall, and it would last all winter. Once it would come down, usually we would have it by Thanksgiving, we had a least a foot or two, sometimes two or three feet. I remember they used to have a deal that they put old wooden deals together like this ...

MH: Like a 'V', like a delta.

SC: So wide and a guy would ride a horse and go down and make a path way downtown. I can recall that my Grand Dad Henderson had them go up by the old Mecham dugway. They had put in a head house there. But right there above Bull Dog where it crosses the wash there, it used to always freeze and bust, so in the winter time they would go down here to the creek and go down this lane right here by Jim Clark's and they had to cut a big whole in the ice like that and bring... Everyone had a sleigh that they could put a fifty gallon drum on, hook the old horse to it and pull it down there and put it on the top side, north side and bucket it out and fill that up. Then on the south side they would bring our cows and horses and water them on the south side. Later they put in the Cannonville head house. The water came into the head house over on Lori Dee's land (Marva's

sister) They put in the pipe through the irrigation board and bought water shares.

Later, they put in a new water storage over at the Mecham dug way.

MH: So they used the same source of water for both cattle and people?

SC: And that would last until spring when they would fix that pipe and the taps going.

My Dad got in on town mayor one time. He got what they called case-side pipe, sort of wooden outside. I don't know just how it was, that we got water out of.

We upgraded it, upgraded a couple of times since. My grandfather Henderson, William Jasper, mother's father, was made bishop in about 1909. President Hart and David O. McKay, just a young apostle at the time. They came down to Panguitch and came over here to make a bishop. They got up here where that reservoir is, where the ponds are, by the Bull Dog. They didn't have the roadway in around the old Mecham dugway so they had to go down in the creek and around. There was a flood, a big flood, and they got down and got up on that point there and went across it, I guess the old road must have going across the point of it. When they got on the other side they could see the flood had caught up with them. It was too big. They couldn't get across. It rained and poured and they just set there that night.

MH; Tell me again how the road went, when the Mecham dugway didn't come through there.

SC: Well, you know where those Shakespeare's have a farm over there, it[the road] goes off to them? They would go down in there, down in the creek and follow the creek down to here. They would either have go up over, back there someway or else down along the creek. They came down here, next morning someone saw

them there and knew they were there. So, the next morning they came and got them and got them dried out. (Laughing) They started...

End of Tape 1, side A

SC: They went to grandfather and ask him, and he said, "No, I don't want to be bishop." They just let it go all of that day and the next morning why David O. McKay went out, he saw him out in the morning there saddling a horse. Our Grand Dad was going up to do something up in the field. So he asked him if he still felt that way. Grand Dad looked at him and they talked a little, and Father looked at him said, "Why do you want me to be a bishop!" David O. McKay said, "Not me Brother Henderson, the Lord wants you to be bishop." So he accepted. And he got with the town elders here and went on to build a church. We needed a church. They thought there was no way they could come up with the money for that. He said, " Oh, yes we can." And they started to move out. He said I'll donate \$500.00 to start it and when they came back they had got up about \$700.00 dollars to start it. That was a lot of money back then. They went to work. They ask if they could dance in it. He said no, but he said, " If you will help build a church, I'll help build a dance hall." So, they went to work and built the church, they built a dance hall, built the old school house and everyone got out of their old log cabins and everybody prospered out of the deal. The old log cabins just disappeared.

MH: So, because of your Grandfathers work they got the church, dance hall and schoolhouse?

SC: Yes, while he was there. He was bishop from 1909 to 1919. My father then was bishop for about twelve or fifteen years. William Jasper Junior, my grandfather, when he first came down in here, he went to work Kanarra Livestock and Loan outfit. They brought cattle along the East Fork and down along the lower country, down there and he was only about twelve years old. His father complained about he was sorry he had to do that, that young. I guess all he got out of that was that he could go get goods out of their store. They didn't have any cash. Grand Dad thought not to worry about that. He said, "One day I will own the outfit." And he eventually went on to do that. He raised [enough money], in the cattle business through that, he was called on a mission. He went back east and spent two years on a mission. Left his wife and family here. When he came back, one of the people he had converted back there and met, sent him five thousand dollars. That is where he got the money to start his sheep business. He wrote back to him and said I haven't got any security for it. And he said I don't need any. So he bought sheep and cattle and started farming and ranching down through here, beyond the Sheep Flat up there and the ground around here. He went down here below the old Promise Rock here and built a twenty man shearing plant. At times, they sheared close to fifty thousand sheep. They came in here, it was set up, and they had an old tractor that they kept over her. He had two boys; one named Jasper and one named George. They built these two homes for them across the street. There was an old garage in this one over here and he kept that tractor there and they would bring it down. That is what they ran that old shearing plant with, with the tractor and a belt.

MH: Like a generator?

SC: I remember going down to pack the fleeces.

MH: Tromping?

SC: They came up and one or two of they guys would stomp. Actually Loren Twitchell had two big white trucks and he would haul the wool down to Marysvale.

MH: Loren would haul it to Marysvale?

SC: Yes. There were a lot of people. Escalant, some of them drove their sheep over to shear and old Wallace Houston from Panguitch used to bring his sheep in here.

MH: From Escalante and Panguitch...

SC: Some of those plus the people from around here. There were several big outfits at that time that came out of Tropic. My folks had sheep. Grandfather and Dad all had sheep. They all lost them during the Depression.

MH: What else went on out at Promise Rock? Was it just a meeting area for Shepherders?

SC: Well, they tell the story when Great Grandfather William Jasper senior brought his family on down in here, he didn't have a wagon and team of his own. His brother or nephew or someone, some of the family had a nice big team and offered to use that and come along and drive them down here. I guess there were a lot of other people coming, I don't know. Anyway there was some gal in there, as they were coming down there saw this young guy there. He was down there, with his hat over his face, lying there sleeping. She got an idea, and got a bucket of water and threw it in his face, and just doused him. He got up and caught here

and took here and dumped her in the pond. They go to romancing and when they came down here. They spent awhile here I guess. One day they were hiking over on old Promise Rock when he proposed to her. Well, they were the Packer's. I think, was the first bishop down in here, or one of the first and he had one of the field down below there and [they] saw him over in the field over there. They went over and got him and had him marry them over on Promise Rock. Some say that is where the name got started, but I heard the Indians, that was what they, where the squaws would promise and marry the Indians. We have two stories there.

MH: Whom did Bishop Packer marry? Do you remember their names?

SC: You'd have to search it out here.

MH: What do you remember about growing up here? Tell me about your life.

SC: I remember I was born across the way where the store is.

MH: Was there a mid-wife, did anyone tell you?

SC: It is on my birth certificate. It was Jane Heaps. I was about eleven months old my mother said my grandfather Henderson, who had built this place; he had brother-in-law build it. He was good at engineering and an old craftsman. He was married to Grandfather's sister. He asked him to build it for him. He used just the local help, you know the old Fresno scraper, to dig out the basement. They helped him pour the basement and put up the studding for the walls and stuff like that, and all the inside, set his shop up in an old garage out there brought this wood work in here. They said he just hand tooled it, bring it in make sure it fit, take it back out, stain it, bring it back in, put in place. It took about two years to

build this place. Nineteen twenty-one I guess it was when we moved into it.

Grandfather Henderson made stake president of the Panguitch stake and had to move over to Panguitch so he let mother have it. They moved over her when I was about eleven months old. So I grew up here.

MH: This is your house.

SC: I can remember one deal that stands out. It was in the fall of the year. They had these sheep down there and had cabins down there at the Old Paria where they would take their grain and food stuff and everything. They would it take down there and store it in those cabins and come out from their camps with a pack mule and get what they needed. One fall, why I think I was five years old, wasn't old enough to go to school, Dad said he would take me along with him if I wanted to go. Boy, was I thrilled. There was John Johnson from up here in Tropic and Sam Pollock from up there, Frank Ahlstrom, all had sheep then too. (Chuckles) Boy did I get the royal treatment going with those old boys down there. But I really enjoyed it. Each of them made me ride with them a little. Just a team and wagons. It was cold enough in the fall ... there was more water in the stream than there is now, and it froze over in a place or two so they doubled up on the teams to get across. We were two days going down and about a day and a half coming back. Then I started school, and went to school here. It was a three-room school. First and second grade was in the one room on the north side and the middle room was the third, fourth and fifth and then on the south end was the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades. That was the way I went through school here. Then I went to Tropic. In the third grade there were two or three of us, I don't remember what

the scoop was, but I guess we were too dumb so sister Thompson held us back that year. (Laughs) I took the third grade twice, I go to school then with Desmond, and George Thompson and Rhoda Schaffer and there is a Rita Davis (Baldwin) up here and a Barbara Palmer, and we went on through the school with them, clear on through to high school. Then from high school I went over to Cedar a couple of years to school there and came back out and worked a month or a month in a half for the Forest Service up here at one of the bug beetle trees. If they were infected we would saw them down and peel all the bark off them.

MH: You would use those logs?

SC: I don't know what they did with those logs, but we had to peel the bark off them and that was supposed to kill the beetles. They just stripped the bark off all those trees.

MH: Were you a sawyer?

SC: They had a crew of us. Mostly what I did was, we had a deal about this wide, sharp on the end and you could scoop that bark off. When I got paid from that my brother Merlin who had been teaching school in Hatch, said let's get out and head for Salt Lake and find some work. We went up there and I worked the summer of '41 there in Salt Lake. Then World War II started I was drafted in January 1942. I took field artillery basic at Camp Roberts. I had an appendicitis operation when I was about fifteen. I had phlebitis from that on the left leg. So they didn't want to put me in where I had a lot of footwork, I guess. Then they sent me to Camp Cook, which was set right on the seashore there in California as a displaced person personnel. Oh, they kicked me around, then I was in supplies, then they

wanted me in the MP's and they were fighting over me. I decided all they were going to have me do was make me KP and do KP all the time. So I thought then I might as well take a cook and bakers class they had going on. I signed up for that. They got a call in for somebody to a special mission, to set up a deal. They wanted so many from each area or base. They called one or two in and they heard it was overseas duty and turned it down. The old coronal got wind of it and said, " You don't ask them, you just send them!" Then they hauled me in and sent me back to Indian Town Gap, Pennsylvania. It was a good deal. We spent about a month there, then we got on the SS Monterey which was an old luxury liner in a convoy going over. We had escorts the whole way with battleships setting out there on either side of us. They would go this way a ways, then that, zigzag back and forth through there. It took about a week to get over there, seven days. I finally settled at Shrimingham, England, just outside of Shermingham was an old Lord Beckett estate. England military had taken it over and had built some real beautiful barracks. Brick and concrete barracks, two story deals. They needed the money so they rented it to Uncle Sam and set up a school center, and American school center there. I spent thirty months of the war there then because the casualties and such they started to pull a lot of these out of these areas and send them into replace the casualties. They pulled me out of there in January '45 and took six weeks infantry training. My leg bothered me quite a bit then, but they sent me to Nice, France right on the border there with Germany. The hundredth infantry had their headquarters there. They assigned me to 325th engineers, which meant that I got to ride in a truck. The engineers, the combat

engineers are just back up for the infantry, like if they run into mines they run up with a mine sweeper, then blow it up. I got into that just as they were crossing the Reine River. The outfit I was with put pontoon, they had boats that they road across, then they put up a pontoon bridge. That was all I got into and after that it was just guard duty. Then they sent us into another area there they had a lot of what they called displaced persons. What they were when Germans had brought people out of Poland, Czechoslovakia, and those other places and brought them down in there as forced labor. They had these camps for them until they could get them home. We guarded those. It was quite a deal.

MH: What was the condition of the people who had been displaced?

SC: Kind of raggy. It was interesting to see the French people and see those old French men. It looked like those old overalls hadn't been off him for twenty years, old baggy pack that they hauled their cheese and bread, which was their lunch. They were kind of raunchy, not too clean. But you get over into the Germans and they look like they just came out of the bathroom. There was a difference all together. The old Germans would have a place under one end of their homes where they kept their cow. That was cleaner than a lot of these French homes, spic and span, really clean. While I was there I got to, I wasn't there too long, I was there nine months over in Germany, not all of it there. I just crossed the Rhine and got them going. It wasn't long after that that old Hitler collapsed and surrenders there. That was all we did was guard duty. They moved up next to Stuttgart. That was all we did up there was guard duty until they

started to send us home. I had been over there long enough; I started in August and got home in December.

MH: Did you take some leave to...

SC: They didn't let you get too much leave. They let us go once and I took a trip, two weeks, and went down to Nice, France and spent about a week there. Got to see some of, one of the old perfume factories. It was interesting.

MH: It is a pretty town on the coast.

SC: Yes, but we weren't allowed on the beach, still mines down there.

MH: How did you get home?

SC: When we got back, we went around to the top of the boot, there was a lake there and traveled down one side of it. They had a roadway was a tunnel, miles along there. What Hitler had done when he got Italy back and in tune on that tunnel deal, he put a cement strip, a wall down the center of it. On the back of that wall, on the north side of it they had a regular machine shop and built machinery there. On the side every so often there was a window that a guy could get out and get on to the boats on the lake. So he would move this stuff out of there on these boats then try to get them into a train and get them through Bernard Pass back in Germany. That was why we tried to bomb that Bernard Pass.

MH: Bremer Pass?

SC: We back around and up and through that Bremer Pass and when we got up through and started down through the Alps in Austria, there were two of those little boys with the old hats and feathers, short pants. Just like you see them in the pictures. It was quite interesting. We went down through there and back into

Germany and after that I got started home. [I was with] The 12th Armored Division, they wouldn't let us go anywhere and didn't assign us to do anything, but you had to be ready. We just lay around for two months and then finally got down to Nice, France. I got down there the first part of November, got out of there the latter part of November on a little old Victory ship used to haul supplies and stuff with. The captain got paid so much extra for how many days they could cut off. They were allowed so many days to make that trip over and back. Any time they could cut off of the time they got paid a bonus for it. They pushed those things at full speed. When we got about a day out of New York, we ran into a storm. It was just about like that with waves and we were going right into them. They would go up at a 45-degree angle and flip over and then flip back. And we were headed right into it. The midshipman said we would capsize at 152 degrees and we were at 148 degrees. The old captain he was in his cabin. He flew up there and got a hold of the wheel and set it down in between those waves dropped anchor. They spent all the rest of that day and all night head counting. They got most of everybody down inside all right but a lot got thrown a head of the stairs, down there. I decided, well it was lunchtime; I'll go down in there. Well, that was a bad deal. I got down in there. They had tables, like picnic wooden tables and had them nailed or bolted down. When you get twelve people on one of them. The table goes this way and they are all pulling it finally just pulled those tables up. They had beams on the walls, metal beams about this far apart. And I got up and got in between those like this and lay back. Finally they settled it. A lot of them, a big old gallon jars of mayonnaise and catsup and mustard got thrown off

and got busted and a lot of them got cuts from that. So, they spent all night like that, counting, and had everyone go back to their booths. They wouldn't tell us anything. The next day we got started. They moved us right into the old Brooklyn Naval Yard. They had a hospital right there at Brooklyn and we had to stand by and watched them carry stretcher after stretcher after stretcher off there. You could never find out anything whatsoever about them. They just hushed it right up. We went into Camp Kilmer there in New Jersey and the rest of that day and overnight. The next day they assigned me to a group with a lieutenant in charge, [who] put us on a train and headed for Salt Lake City. We got in there on the 3rd. Spent the 4th and most of the 5th getting processed and was discharged early evening. It was too late to get on the old Trailways bus. The next day I spent around. My brother Merlin was there by then. Caught the Trailways bus the next day. It was Saturday and came down to Panguitch. Mother's younger sister and my Grandfather Henderson's second wife, Aunt Liddie was living there. I got in a midnight and went up to their place and the next morning Aunt Opel brought me over here and I was sure glad to get home.

MH: How did you feel when you got back?

SC: Pretty good. I was happy to get home.

MH: You said you spent the next forty years away from here.

SC: After that I had to find a job. I went over to Kanab and started. A guy offered me a job at a dry cleaning. I shouldn't have taken it. I should have done what I
— wanted to do in the first place. I was going to go to Hill Field. I would have been a lot better off.

MH: What did you do. I didn't hear you?

SC: Dry-cleaning. I worked for him for about a year and a half then went up to Salt Lake and stayed in that business until I decided I was starving to death. I went out and put in at Tooele Army Depot and spent about twenty years out there. My hearing got bad on me. I was working in the paint shop. Those fans were about one hundred decibels. They finally decided, after those other Depots around the country had a few lawsuits on their hearing. Then they started to really check us out. They put in a sound booth. They moved me out of the building, which moved me out of a job, really. They said you could either go out on sick leave while we put in for your medical or we'll find work for you here while you put in for it. It was wintertime so I decided well they are going to throw me out any way so I might as well take advantage of getting another month or two of work. So, I stayed there and got out the last of February 1978. Then when I got out, I had enough sick leave to keep me from February until November. I got a regular check until November then I got my pension. March or first of April mother came down with the flu. I was talking with her. I had moved into West Jordan. Over the phone, Doyle lived across the street, Kay in Henrieville, my two brothers. I told them to get her to the doctor, but she didn't want to go. But she had to go, so I told Kenneth that I was going down there and get her over to the doctor. I called her that night and told her I would be over first thing in the morning. She didn't sound good at all then. When I walked in, Doyle went over and got her up. She was sitting on the old couch that was over there by the window, got down about here and she looked at me and said I'm ready to go. We

loaded her up and took her over and she had pneumonia. We had to put her in the hospital.

MH: Did she get through that?

SC: She stayed there a few days and I brought her home. I went up and sold my trailer house and come down, because I knew somebody had to be with her. They didn't tell us anything, which was the funny part. They didn't tell us anything until about three or four months later, they told Kay that the night when I left her over there, her heart kept stopping and they kept working on her, but they never told us that. When she came home she was a different person. Her eyes started to change on her; everything was just different all together. We couldn't really figure it out until we found that out.

MH: She had heart attacks?

SC: It had to be. I just stayed here. I came down in April of '79 and she lived until March '83 and I have been here since

MH: Let's go back to your teenage years here. What did the kids do to stay busy here?

SC: Well we played. In the summer time when I was little we had the little red wagon. We would go down in the creek and make roadways. We made a little scraper. Part of us would be the horse one time and the driver the next. We piddled around a lot that way.

MH: Did you ever use a sled on the Pahreah?

SC: The what? In the wintertime, since we had snow, everyone had sleighs. We had a picket fence to the north and the snow would be right up to the top of that and we would go out there and get up on it, put the old sleigh down and get down in

that track that they had down there to get their water and they could go clear down to the creek. If we could make the turn there, and get out on the ice, then we could go clear down where the old roadway used to go across down there. We had fun: all winter long that old sleigh was going.

MH: Why do you think there isn't so much snow and rain here any more?

SC: I don't know, but it is sure different. We were snowed in here every winter. After that first snow, there was no way to get out, except on horse back or sleigh.

MH: Too deep?

SC: Yes, the snow was too deep. The old, can't remember his name, from Henrieville, anyway he had a wagon where they just took the wheels off and put runners on it and a canvas top on it. He had an old camp stove he would put up through it to have heat. He would leave Henrieville and come through here about five o'clock in the morning and go on out and up on top to what they called a half way house. The half-way house was on south side of the Rich's by the Pines, on the south side the road would take off there like you are going on up to the East Fork there, and go around on that side of it. He would meet the one coming out of Panguitch and came back through here about five o'clock at night.

MH: Wow!

SC: (Laughing) That was the way we got our mail. Unless any of them wanted to get out they had to go by horseback or sleigh and they could get down to Richfield and catch the old Marysvale creeper going to Salt Lake. In summer time we enjoyed these red rocks. We hiked all over them, Promise Rock.

MH: Did the kids go down to Promise Rock a lot? What would you do down there?

SC: Just hike around up on it.

MH: Someone told me there were some people buried down there. You ever hear of that?

SC: Yes, they are supposed to be. They found that one sticking out of the bank two or three years ago.

MH: The body Rita and Sabrina found when they were running? That was a Piute woman.

SC: The Indians, that was where they camped, down by Promise Rock.

MH: Someone told me the Navajo used to stay in town sometimes.

SC: Well, Johnny Davis, lived up here in the house across from Joe Thompson. Melda Davis lived there before she moved to Tropic. They lived there and had a big two-story house and the house just south of it, Ron's you were talking about. Uncle Johnny, he married two of my Grand Dad Henderson's sisters and one, Aunt Laura lived in the south one and Aunt Annie in the one I was talking about. Aunt Annie's burnt down. They had a half a dozen of those old houses and eventually they would catch fire and burn down. Uncle Johnny, the authorities came down to try to pick him up because he was a polygamist. He would just go down and mingle with the Navajos. He spoke it fluently and was kind of brown skinned and they said they couldn't tell him from the old Navajos. They used to come up in here and bring blankets or rugs. We used to have the rugs all over the old floor, Navajos rugs. They would bring them up here to sell them or buy a few horses or something. They always stayed in his yard. He fixed up a place for them to camp.

MH: Would they sometimes trade for deer hides?

SC: I don't remember. He was fluent with their language and helped them out when ever they could. When I was going to school down here, every fall that was a highlight to have him [Uncle Johnny] come to school and talk to us for an hour about the old tales. He came in about the same time William Jasper came down here. He came in with the Kanarra Cattle Company. He and Grandfather Henderson were close friends and worked together when they were up, so they eventually settled here and married two of Grandfather's sisters, raised their families here.

MH: What do you think about the new Visitor Center here?

SC: Well, I guess we'll have to put up with it. It looks like a nice one once it is done. It will be nice. They are putting in a meeting hall, so the town can use it or what not. People can come in for family reunions and use the park over there. That will be nice.

MH: Seldon, I want to say thank you for your time.

SC: That is all right.

UTAH STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

INTERVIEW AGREEMENT AND DEED OF GIFT

I hereby give to the Utah State Historical Society the tapes and transcriptions of the interview/interviews recorded on January 12, 2002 and grant the Utah State Historical Society the right to make the tapes and transcriptions available to the public for such educational and research purposes that are in accordance with the policies and procedures of the Society's Utah History Information Center.

NARRATOR Sheldon Clark

ADDRESS _____

Cannonville, Utah

* SIGNATURE Sheldon Clark

DATE 4-3-02

INTERVIEWER Marsha Holland

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DATE 3-12-02