



INTERVIEW WITH: Arma Stock
INTERVIEWER: Marsha Holland
INTERVIEW NUMBER: two
DATE OF INTERVIEW: October 24, 2002
PLACE OF INTERVIEW: Willis Creek, Georgetown
SUBJECT OF INTERVIEW: Farming and homesteading in Paria Drainage.
TRANSCRIBER: Marsha Holland
DATE: April 15, 2003

MH: I am with Arma Stock. It is October 24th, 2002. We are going to continue her interview out in the area where Arma grew up, right?

AS I grew up in Cannonville, but my family spent a lot of time [out here]. My dad was what you would call a sharecropper out to Willis Creek. He would go out there and raise crops.

MH: What kind of crops?

AS: Oh, corn and alfalfa, and we would raise a garden.

MH: That is a long way out there from Cannonville. Why would you go so far out there to raise a garden?

AS: We raised gardens here on this lot (Cannonville), but Dad didn't have any irrigation water in town and we couldn't use the culinary water then. We put in two or three different [water] systems since I grew up.

MH: So, you couldn't use it for gardening?

AS: Well, no and a lot of time we didn't even have any water. When we first moved to this place (Cannonville) we had to leave our tap on all the time in order to get water for culinary use.

MH: I remember Desmond telling me that at one time the water came out so slowly that you had to collect it for a long time just to do a laundry.

AS: This was on the end, well not exactly on the end of the line, but it had to push the water up here from down there and so if someone else was using it we could not get any out of the tap. We had a barrel that we ran the tap in so we could have it for washing dishes and all that stuff.

MH: OK, let's head out.

Leaving Cannonville we head out on the Deer Range Road (Skutumpah) towards Willis Creek.

Inaudible section

AS: This is where we did most of the gardening and farming. There was a place we called the lower field and I think it was right up here.

MH: This flat place where the road crosses is where you had picnics?

AS: Here is where we used to come. There used to be a little shack up there and that is what we lived in. I thought I could tell you where it was, but it has been so long ago. There is a meadow there.

MH: You think along the road we might be able to spot where the cabin was where you would spend the summer?

AS: I think we can stop there when we go back.

MH: Your family would come out during the summer?

AS: Yes, we lived in that little old house. Most of us slept outside.

MH: Would you have a bedroll? What would you sleep out in?

AS: We had cots with us, mostly double cots. There was a sort of a porch deal on the front of the house...it had a pretty good roof but the rest wasn't much of anything.

MH: You told me some of the things you used to farm, corn and alfalfa...

AS: And we raised a lot of vegetables like squash, carrots, and potatoes. I pulled a lot of weeds.

MH: Would you just put up the vegetables for the winter or could you sell the surplus?

AS: It was mostly potatoes and we would put those in a pit.

MH: You would just dig a big pit and that would keep them cool?

AS: Keep from freezing. You would dig an earth pit then the potatoes would keep. It was cool enough that they wouldn't sprout and grow all winter. It kept them from freezing. We took all of our stuff into Cannonville.

MH: You hauled everything back and forth by wagon and horses?

AS: Yes, yes.

MH: If you explored around here, did you go on foot?

AS: Yes.

MH: What were some of your adventures out here?

AS: Well, for me there wasn't much playing. [Sometimes] We would take the wagon up on top, on the road to Deer Range that goes to Kanab and Mom was lost the minute she got out of that wagon. She didn't know where she was. (Chuckles) I used to do a lot of hand sewing. One year we took the treadle sewing machine out with us.

MH: Where was up on top?

AS: We would walk a lot. We would get gum off the pinyon trees and chewed that. We had pine gum, if you could get the nice clear gum, just the pitch from the trees that made a nice gum when it hardened. Grandma used to put that sticky gum on wounds to draw out infection, or to hold down infection.

MH: There is a fence up here that we are looking at...

AS: That must have been the field. I am not sure that is it. Everything has changed so much. That was probably sixty years ago.

MH: This creek area is different then?

AS: I'll have to look at it, I don't even remember this much.

MH: There is the old corral over there.

AS: That is the old stockade corral. Its posts are standing up, stuck into a trench, that is why it is a stockade. My dad built part of that corral when we lived out here. That was what he had to do to pay the rent on the farm.

MH: Whose land was it then?

AS: It belonged to Wilfred Clarke, Sheldon's dad. He just got a share of the crops, Wilfred did.

MH: We will go back on to the road and head back and see if you recognize more. Would you take water out of the creek?

AS: Yes, in fact there was a reservoir up Willis Creek farther. I think Dad built that. We lived out here several different summers.

MH: How many in the family would come out?

AS: The whole family, Mom, Dad, and us kids. I was the oldest. I had three brothers, Newell, Dean and Rile and a sister, Nina that came out here. We would also bring our some of our relatives sometimes that were our age.

MH: Now we can see more land from here.

AS: Yes, this is the lower field. That is mostly where we did the farming because we could get the water on it easier. That little grove of trees was oak, gamble oak.

MH: Big oaks now. How would you get the water up there?

AS: Just run it in a ditch. You go up to a higher spot and make the ditch in. You would have to dig it by hand if you couldn't get the plow up there.

MH: There are cattle in here now. They look like big horn.

AS: The Johnson's, Brian and Thorly, owned this part of it for a while. The bushes have grown up so much since I was out here.

MH: See those two posts coming up out of the ground?

AS: Yes, those are fence posts. I think this is where we lived. It was a meadow at one time and the little house was right there.

MH: I'll go look for evidence. I can't see much of a building left. You can see old pots and pieces of equipment.

AS: You should be able to see an old stove.

MH: No stove.

AS: The house was right there and the corral. There wasn't a road between them like there is now. It kind of went down where the bushes have grown up. That was a big open corral. Part of it was torn down because there wasn't a road between the house and the corral. The house was over in here somewhere. It was a meadow in between the house and the creek. There was a meadow just below the house. They didn't build a house on the meadow. Right in here somewhere.

MH: I'll go take a look. The old road is right over there.

AS: Yes, that is the one that went up to Yellow Creek.

MH: So, if you take that road it hooks into Yellow Creek, huh?

AS: Yes, there is a farm up there. I never did go up there. I think maybe Bob Ott is up there.

Recording interrupted then resumes.

AS: We were good friends with Lamar's parents. When they would go into town they stop at Willis Creek where we lived and visit awhile.

MH: How much time would you spend out there? Two or three or four months?

AS: Something like that.

MH: Did you look forward to it?

AS: We liked it. We liked it over here.

MH: It sounds like there were other families that did the same, stay out on their farm land in the summers.

AS: Yes, then they would go into town in the winters so the kids could go to school.. It was kind of a common practice.

MH: Tell me again about your dad, William Dutton. How many brothers and sisters did he have?

AS: I think there was eight in the family. George, John, Joshua were the brothers. He had one brother; his older brother, George who lived in Cannonville. He raised twelve children with his wife Matilda Fletcher.. His name was George Dutton. He was, oh, Kendal Dutton's dad. They lived in that big house where the Stone's live, in lower Cannonville. Then there was Oscar. He lived in Georgetown. He traded the farm for a place in town. And the other brother was Dan..

Side B, Tape 1 We begin again in Georgetown at the cemetery, near Cannonville.

AS: It was that lot where Bonnie Willis lives. It was a small house on that lot.

MH: Then your grandparents were out here?

AS: My parents came out here before Grandma and Grandpa came back and they ran the farm a summer or two.

MH: Your grandparents went to Blanding for a while, right?

AS: Yes.

MH: This place across the street is where your grandparents homesteaded.

AS: it was all cleared. It didn't have any sagebrush on it at all. They farmed that. We had a big tall house. It was tall enough to be two story but they didn't put the ceiling in between the two floors. They put a ceiling over the kitchen and had a bedroom up there. It was a loft.

MH: How about if we go over to the cemetery?

AS: OK. My Uncle Squire is buried there. And so is my Grandma and Grandpa, and my mother and Dad and I have two brothers out here and a whole bunch of cousins. The cemetery more or less belongs to the Johnsons and the Mangums and the Otts. They are relatives of the Johnsons so there are quite a few Otts buried out here. I am not going to be. I am going to be buried in Cannonville. That is where my husband is and his parents.

MH: Pretty close though.

AS: (Chuckles)

MH: You really grew up and lived in Cannonville?

AS: Yes, I was born here (Georgetown) but went to school in Cannonville. By the time I was going to school my parents had a home in Cannonville.

MH: Now your dad was out here then went to school in Cannonville?

AS: That was when he started to school out here in Georgetown. There was a school out here at one time. He was born in Joseph, but mostly lived in Cedar City and Hatch. Now where is the turn? Oh, it is right here. I think he went to school in Cedar City part of the time, but I don't know for sure. My mom was born in Oasis, but raised in Georgetown.

MH: Would you like to get out here?

AS: Oh, yes, I can walk over there.

Recording resumes in the Georgetown Cemetery.

AS:It was all those years of having kids.

MH: No, kidding. You grandma was seventeen when she had here first kid and forty-eight when she had her last?

AS: Yes.

MH: She had twelve kids, your grandma?

AS: Yes.

MH: Who are the Mangums buried out here?

AS: Elizabeth and David Newton, that is my Grandma and Grandpa.

MH: The Newtons. Then you have a few brothers?

AS: The one, Newell and Dean Vee.. Newell is buried here but his wife is still alive. Then my parents, William Henry Dutton and Lily, they are up here.

MH: Then there are the four little babies.

AS: Those are Nyles and Dot's.

MH: Then your uncle who had the homestead, he is here?

AS: Squire and Sara Ann. They had a bunch of kids too. I think nine. Then he married another woman after she died and she had quite a bunch of kids too.

MH: You had to have a bunch of kids out here to...

AS: ...run the farm. (Laughter) Squire's kids were mostly girls but he got a job as an Indian Agent out in Kayenta, Arizona. They lived out there most of the time. That was why Grandma and Grandpa lived on their homestead because Squire lived out in Arizona. I had another uncle that lived in Blanding. He was Grandma and Grandpa's son. Well, Squire lived out in Kayenta, which is not far from Blanding and I think some of his brothers went out and lived with him and then the other one, Wesley, moved up to Blanding and married a girl up there but they finally moved to Utah and that is where they died, up in Riverton.

MH: Wow, the Cannonville sign is all the way out here now.

AS: Now this is near where Boyd Packer's mother was buried. Jonathan Packer was the first bishop. It was his wife that was buried out here. Jonathan Packer was Boyd Packer's father, I guess.

MH: It must have been where Wooden Shoe was across from there. It was Loseeville that was up there east of Tropic and it was Clifton was somewhere over here. There were farms here, but we called it Wooden Shoe. This used to be big old pastures of alfalfa.

MH: It is almost overgrown with sagebrush now.

AS: Desmond Twitchell and Monty own this.

MH: The kids are out of school already. It must be noon.

We are headed back into Cannonville. Interview ends.