

## Oral Histories

Number: OH 99 (2 tapes)    Date: 5/28/02    Condition:    Holdings:  
Good    WP Library

Initials: DP

Interviewee: Williams, James

Interviewer: Davine Pera

Abstract: Tape 1 Side A

00-49 Early history. Grandmother Dart arrived in Conn. In 1640. In 1849 Great Grandfather Dart joined the Mormon movement and started to Utah. They had always been Episcopal in the old country. When they reached Missouri in 1850, the money started running out, so they stopped and farmed a year, raised a crop to get enough money to continue on. Traveled by covered wagon. The family contracted cholera while in Missouri. Seven-year-old brother died. They got cholera again in Wyoming and the grandmother's mother and sister died. They traveled on to Utah

49-129 When grandmother was married at age of 18, she and her husband was the first ones married in Iron County, Utah. They had four children. Sister married Lafe Porterfield and lived on Wilson Mesa. Grandmother's husband was ambushed and killed over a fight for a second wife. She married Gibbons as a plural wife but later divorced him and married a non-Mormon. He was killed in the civil war. She moved to Washington where she met and married Jim's grandfather. His grandfather left his grandmother with small children. The older sons by her first husband married and lived in Clear Lake, Washington. Mother and sister and brother moved to Telluride.

129-176 Father and uncles were freighters using horse and buggy for the Telluride area. Their head quarters were near Norway. Mother stayed with relatives on Wilson Mesa. Parents were married in 1905. Jim is the youngest of six children. He was born on the Williams ranch near Norwood.

176-212 History of William's family ranches. Father and Uncle hauled ore from the mines and supplies to the mines. James started to school at Coventry. The next year rode the bus to Shanandoa to school.

212-403 History of father's family. After his grandfather arrived in the United States, in 1852, he traveled to Iowa and worked as a carpenter on the courthouse. Met his wife there and lived there for 15 years. Tells of his great uncles serving in the Civil War. Speaks of the night his father was born. Describes the family's trip to Colorado in 1863 by horse and wagon. Settled in Central City where they lived until his father was 14 years old. Grandfather worked on the first Opera House there along with several other buildings. Story of his uncle's army service. At the age of 18 his father joined a cattle drive to Wyoming from Texas. Father fought boxing matches for several years. Various stories of his father's life.

403-475 Father moved to Anderson Canyon in Maverick Creek and homesteaded on 1892. He and his brother Roger started a freight business there. Describes location of father's homestead. Tells of his father's boxing matches to earn money. Speaks of the 640 Homestead Act. Relatives all homesteaded in the area.

475-599 Jim's memories of the ranch. He rode burros to school with his cousins. Attended the first year at Coventry and the next 7 years at Shanandoa. He rode a horse to high school in Norwood. Memories of loading hay into the big barn. He speaks of different activities on the ranch. Mentions "Wild Ed Williams".

Side B-Tape 1

00-37 Continues speaking of memories on the ranch and his life as a kid growing up there. After uncle died and the depression hit, things got very bad. Lost some of the acres of the ranch during the depression.

37-69 Jim was 21 when Pearl Harbor was bombed. He tried to enlist in the Navy, but was turned down. Both cousins enlisted and served from December until the war was over. Jim was drafted into the infantry in spring and summer of 1943. He was sent overseas in September.

69-620 Jim's memories of serving in the war. Describes his wartime experiences.

Description: sound cassette (90 minutes)

Subjects: Tape 1-side A

Early history of mother's family

Early history of father's family

Ranch memories

Tape 1-side B

Memories of growing up on family ranch

Pearl Harbor

War memories

Number: OH 99 Tape 2

Abstract: Tape 2 -Side A

00172 Tells story of being injured in battle. Describes being carried on stretcher to the aid station. He was evacuated in ambulance to tent on battlefield and operated on. He was flown to Naples the next day and had a second surgery. Spent the summer in hospital. Describes the cast on both legs with a bar between the legs. Was shipped back to the United States on hospital ship. Four thousand injured passengers on board besides the men going home and 50 nurses. Describes a wound he received earlier. Describes arriving in Virginia. Spent 11 days in Virginia and then shipped to Denver on train to Fitzsimmons hospital where they operated on him again. Stayed in hospital from August until January and then went to Camp Carson to a convalescent hospital. He was discharged the 27<sup>th</sup> of April 1945.

172-242 He stayed on the ranch after being discharged and farmed. Speaks of a war buddy coming to visit him. Describes meeting his wife. They lived on the ranch for 9 years. He attended GI farm school. Sold their ranch and moved to Redvale. Mentions different jobs he had. He applied for postmaster at Redvale, got the job and worked there for 20 years.

242-333 Tells the story of buying the Redvale Hotel where they live now. Gives the history of the hotel. Explains how they bought it for taxes. Reads names of guests that had stayed in the hotel from the old register.

333-430 Talks about his children, when they were born and their education. Speaks of their occupations now. Speaks of his grandchildren.

Description: sound cassette (35 minutes)

Subjects: War injuries

Life after the war

Redvale Hotel

His children