

Aser C. Pipkin

And Family

[Various sources - some from various pages on Aser in Family Association newsletters]

Aser C. Pipkin was born to Enos Pipkin and Elizabeth Dill Pipkin November 18, 1805, Davidson County near Nashville, Tennessee.. He was married to Margaret Singleton Foster in Maury County, Tennessee December 23, 1824. She was the daughter of Richard Singleton Foster and Elizabeth Mann Foster, who were cousins. Margaret was born August 11, 1805, in Charlotte, Virginia.

Aser and his family lived in Maury County for the births of their first five children and removed about 1840 to Hardin County, Tennessee for the birth of Nancy Julia, their sixth child, born in 1842.

Aser served in the First Tennessee Militia Mounted Infantry during the Mexican War as a Private in Capt. Porter's Company of the 1st Regiment, Tennessee Volunteers, commanded by Col. Jones E. Thomas. He enlisted at Memphis, Tenn., on June 9, 1846, and was mustered into service on June 15, 1846. The unit had originally been organized at Big Springs, Tenn. On the march from Memphis to Mexico, Aser contracted a case of measles at Little Rock, Arkansas, and was left behind in that town. Upon his recovery he joined the regiment at Matamoros, Mexico, by boat. He was then transferred to Capt. Cooper's Co., on August 1, 1846. He was part of the movement from Matamoros toward Victoria, Mexico, according to a document dated December 31, 1846, and was at Vera Cruz on March 31, 1847. Col. Jones E. Thomas certified in Aser's discharge that, "to all whom it may concern: Know ye that Asa Pipkin, a private of Capt. Cooper's Co., Tenn., Regiment of Cavalry, who was enlisted June 15, 1846, to serve for twelve months is hereby honorably discharged from the Army of the United States by reason of Surgeon's Certificate". The certificate states that Asa Pipkin was born in the State of Tennessee is 42 years of age, five feet seven inches high, light complexion, gray eyes, dark hair and by occupation was a farmer when he enlisted.

Signed by: J. E. Thomas, Col.
Commanding Regt. Tennessee Calvary

On November 18, 1848, Aser filed an application for "back pay" before a Justice of Peace at Fayette County, Tennessee. Whether Aser was a resident of that county is unknown. I believe, since he was known to be a resident of Mt. Pleasant, Marshall County, Mississippi, and which was only a few miles from the above county, it might have been more convenient to file in the State of Tennessee. On December 4, 1848, Aser filed another declaration, testifying to his service in the Mexican War, with the Justice of Peace in Marshall County, Mississippi. Sometime after this, he was issued bounty land (Warrant No. 43790-160-47) comprising of 160 acres for his service. I wonder if this was not in the State of Arkansas, as the family moved to Arkansas and a grant was given to him there.

Records of Mt. Pleasant Lodge #99, Ancient Free and Accepted Masonry, Marshall county, Mississippi, show that he was initiated, passed and raised in 1849, and was still a member in 1850. They were also found in the 1850 census Marshall County pg. 342. The census shows Aser to be 45 and his real-estate is listed with the value being \$1200, and shows him to be a farmer. In the middle of the year 1851, the family moved to Prairie County, Arkansas where they were listed as family #581 in 1860 and family #61 in the 1870 census of the County.

On the 1853 tax list Prairie County Arkansas Aser Pipkin was listed with 400 acres of land and the total value being \$2,074.00. He also had two slaves, 2 cows and 2 horses that he paid tax on. In 1854, he had the same property with an additional slave. By the 1860 tax roll he had another 160 acres and 5 slaves. By 1857 he had accumulated 320 more acres and in 1859 an additional 100 acres. The year of 1859 shows 5 slaves, but it is noted that taxes were only collected on persons over 21 and under 60. There could have been several more slaves not under this category.

Aser Pipkin was first Lieutenant of the Prairie Invincibles, a militia company made up of volunteers, and organized at Hickory Plains, Prairie County, Arkansas, on July 15, 1861. This information was printed in the Des Arc Semi-Weekly Citizen, on Wednesday July 17, 1861, pg. 2 col. 1. It states: Prairie Invincibles, this calvary company was organized at Hickory Plains on Monday, last. The following officers were elected: V. B. Dalrymple, Capt., Asa Pipkin, 1st Lieut., P. J. Williams, 2nd Lieut., John M. Jackson, 3rd Lieut. This Company will leave for General McCulloch's column on Saturday next. All who wish to cast their lots with this company can do so by repairing to Hickory Plains next Saturday. All must provide themselves with such arms as they can. This will make the sixth company from Prairie County.

The story was told by Aser's daughter Nancy Julia that when she was about 18 years old, she was engaged to a man by the name of Hood. He joined the Confederate Army during the Civil War and was captured by the Federal Soldiers. He died in jail. Nancy Julia lived pretty close to the battle front. (she would have lived at Hickory Plains, Arkansas). The Confederate soldiers came to their house in a great hurry and threw papers in their fireplace, she quickly covered them with ashes and had barely done so when the Federal Soldiers came in and asked where the soldiers were that had run through their house, as they had some important papers. She did not tell them anything. They ripped the feather mattress and pillows open and feathers flew all over the place. She became very angry and called them "Dam Yankees". She also told about hearing the cannons roar for about 2 days. After the battle was over she, with some of her family, went where they had been fighting and found that the dead had not yet been buried; their bodies were black and swollen. What a horrible experience. About this time the great plague of yellow fever broke out and many in the area lost their lives.

On April 1885, Aser's attorney received a letter from him post-dated "Ramah, New Mexico, P. O. Valencia," asking for help in obtaining pay due him for his personal expenses incurred on the trip from Little Rock to Matamoros. Near the end of the letter; Aser attested that he had made this application previously to his Congressman while living in Marshall County, Mississippi. This would have been prior to 1851 when he moved to Prairie County, Arkansas, from Marshall County, Mississippi.

In 1868, Richard Singleton Foster, father of Margaret Foster Pipkin, of Maury County, Tennessee, died. Margaret had preceded the death of her father in 1857, and her daughter Martha Jane Pipkin Allen had also deceased in 1857. Margaret Foster Pipkin's portion of her father's estate was divided between her children and grandchildren as listed: M. A. Jones, A. C. and Henry Allen, grandsons raised by Aser Pipkin and his second wife and children of Martha Jane Pipkin Allen, Margaret Ann, Nannie J. (Nancy Julia), J.K.P. (James Knox Pipkin), and Sally Salina Lenderman.

On March 22, 1887, Aser again made application; this time for a pension while living at Savoia, in Valencia County, territory of New Mexico. He gave all pertinent data, including the facts of his wife's (second wife) maiden name, as being Martha Yarber, whom he had married at Hickory Plains, Arkansas, on March 3, 1858. Aser also stated in the application that since his discharge he had resided some years in Mississippi prior to his move to Arkansas. Aser drew a pension of \$12.00 a month under Certificate No. 6145, until his death at the advanced age of 95, on May 4, 1901.

One family member wrote that after Aser moved to Arkansas he practiced law. It is known that he was a Justice of Peace and that his name was applied to various legal documents that can still be seen in the Prairie County, Arkansas, Courthouse. His first wife Margaret Singleton Foster Pipkin died in Prairie County, Arkansas on May 14, 1857. He later married Martha Matthews Yarber, widow of Daniel Yarber. In one Mormon document Aser lists Daniel Yarber as a friend. Martha's oldest daughter Emmaline married Aser's son James Knox Polk Pipkin. James was not only his son but now son-in-law.

Marriage records of Aser Pipkin and Martha Yarbrough (Yarber) and JKP Pipkin and E. O. Yarber from Des Plains Courthouse, Prairie County, Arkansas.

Pipkin, Aser to Martha Yarbrough age 41, March 3, 1858, by David Royster (Boysten), J. P., and recorded December 27, 1858.

Pipkin, J.K.P. 19, to Miss E. O. Yarber 16, consent of parents March 16, 1859, by Y. D. Robertson, J. P., and recorded April 4, 1859.

Aser owned a large tract of land in Arkansas, and it was said after the Civil War his slaves would not leave the plantation. They stayed and worked raising cotton. It was thought he was a kindly man. (I found a black Pipkin family in the census of Prairie Arkansas; one could assume these were the slaves of Aser Pipkin) da

A story told by a granddaughter, Cora Lafintie Allen James, about her father Aser and his step-grandmother Martha Pipkin. "When Grandpa Pipkin rode off to fight in the Civil War in 1861; it was Aser's (or Asa as he was sometimes known) chore to feed the geese and herd the sheep. He liked his grandmother very much. One day he asked his grandma to fix him a chicken, but grandma thought they were too pretty to kill and dress. Aser had a mare to stomp on it's head to kill it so gramma would have to fix it for him."

Mormon Elders went to his home ca 1873, and converted he and some of his family, baptizing them on April 3, 1874.

Around 1876, Aser's family joined a wagon train of 80 wagons and traveled to St. George, Utah, where Aser was endowed in the St. George Temple on April 23, 1879. From St. George they moved to Sunset, Az. About 1880, a settlement called Ramah, N.M. was opened and Acer and his family moved there until his death at nearby Fruitland, N.M. where he died June 20, 1901 and is buried.

(See his will)

The following story was told by James Knox Polk, Jr. in 1960, to great granddaughters Evelyn Pipkin Tanner and Ellen Pipkin Jones. "While my mother was sick, just before she died, the Latter Day Saint Missionaries came to teach us the gospel. She believed what they said was true. The missionaries, Henry G. Boyle and D. K. McAllister and Johnny Page converted my father (James Knox Polk Pipkin) and my grandfather (Aser Pipkin) and they and my grandmother and two boys were baptized the same day. (The reference to the two boys..could have been the Allen boys living in the household, but to our family's knowledge, they never practiced Mormonism.) The neighbors learned of the baptism and they gathered to cuss and swear at the missionaries and throw rocks at them. It got so bad we had to quit. Later several converts from Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee all met and left in 1876 for the west, mostly Utah. There were about 100 families and they traveled mostly with ox teams; although there were one or two horse teams in the train. We started with a guide named Bee Bee from Az., however, when we got as far as Kansas he got sick and a second guide was sent to take us on. His name was William P. Wimmer. I remember we had to put iron shoes on the oxen before we could start over the Rocky Mountains. At night we would circle the wagons so the front wheel of one wagon was against the back wheel of the next, so as to form a circle or corral. We would cook and light our fires in this corral. If the ground was hard the people would dance after supper. We had a couple of fiddlers in the company. We also had night riders to look after the herds but sometimes the Mexicans or Indians would raid and steal some of the oxen. One of my father's oxen died and we had to break an old black cow to work. All went well until we got to Albuquerque. My father's wagon became stuck in the quicksand. We had to unload and take the wheels off to get it out. Albuquerque was almost all Mexican. The houses were adobe and had mud roofs. The leaders of the Church sent word where all the different saints would settle. We were chosen to help settle Sunset, Arizona. The United Order had been started here and we all ate at one big table. We lived there for 6 years. Lot Smith was our leader. It was decided that the Little Colorado River could not furnish enough water for irrigation; so father (James Knox Polk Pipkin) and grandfather (Aser C. Pipkin) were called to settle in New Mexico, about 150 miles east of Sunset. There were no town here but soon after they named the new settlement Ramah, New Mexico. We lived in Ramah from 1882 to 1892 and then volunteered to go to Farmington, New Mexico on the San Juan River, between the Navajo and Ute Indian Reservations".

(Bill and I visited Fruitland, N.M. and the grave of Aser Pipkin, along the San Juan River. We also visited an old Pipkin Trading Post, which was a grocery store, post office, etc., it was very interesting and old.)

It must have been a tremendous decision on the part of Aser to leave for the west, and leave part of his family behind. It is known that Acer Allen and Henry Allen by then were married to the Hodge sisters and left approximately 1877 for Texas, about the same time their grandfather left. According to family history, Nancy Julie, her family and her sister Margaret Ann, and family left a few years later and joined their father, brother and other members of the family. (See additional stories)

Children of Aser and Margaret Singleton Foster Pipkin were:

1. Sally Salina Pipkin
 2. Elizabeth Pipkin
 3. Margaret Ann Pipkin
 4. Martha Jane Pipkin
 5. James Knox Pipkin, Jr.
 6. Nancy Julia Pipkin
- (see pages for each family)

Information obtained from:

Aser Pipkin kept a book in which he recorded the names of his father's brothers and the name of his grandfather. This book has been used as proof of the parentage of Enos and his brother Colonel Phillip Pipkin.

Militia records of the Civil War are recorded in the office of the Sec. of State at the State Capitol in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Stories submitted by various family members; many of whom have belonged to the Pipkin Family Association.

Various County Records and State Records

Mormon Baptismal Records

Children of Aser and Margaret Singleton Foster Pipkin:

(1) Sallie Salina Pipkin born October 22, 1825, in Maury County, Tennessee. Sarah/Sallie/Salina married Jacob A. Lenderman on September 22, 1846, in Marshall County, Mississippi. They lived close to her parents in Mississippi and came to Arkansas about the same time, if not the same time, as the elder Pipkins. She died August 24, 1876, in Arkansas.

Their children were:

- (A) Mary Tennessee Lenderman who married J. M. Waits
- (B) Margaret Ann Lenderman who married Thomas E. Pernel
- (C) Solomon Lenderman died as a baby
- (D) Jane (?) Frances Lenderman married (1) John W. Lane, (2) James H. Smith

- (E) Jefferson Davis Lenderman, died as a baby
- (F) Martha Jane Lenderman married Charles J. Ford, after she died, he married her sister
- (G) Sallie Salina Lenderman married Charles J. Ford
- (H) William Henry Lenderman married Georgia Ann Love

Below is a letter written home from the Civil War to Sallie in 1862 by husband Jacob. It refers to her Paw, which would have been Aser Pipkin. It is typed as the original spelling of the letter, sent to Delores Allen from Nancy Haley, Prairie County, Arkansas.

East Tennessee Knox County
Camp Keane Louden

15, 1862
November

Dier affection companion, I rite you a fiew lines to inform yo that I am improving a little in helth at this time. I hope these few lines ma find yo all well when the come to hand. I have nothing straing to rite you as i have riten to you all the particclers. James Casky is ded , he died at ring gold georgia october 25. Marion Guinn is ded. Wea had a hard time in Kentucky. Wea traveled day and night. Wea captured all quantity of federel goverment store of all sortes. I have ritten yo before all about our campain in Kentuckey and about the fight at richmond. I was in that fight but I came out with the top of mi hat shot open. It rained bulets all around me but I went ahead. I shot ther flag down and all the runing that yo ever scene it was there. There was runing for life and wea shot them down like hoges. It was the hottest days worke I ever done. I had no water all day until the fight was over and I have not bin wel since that time.

I want to her from yo. I have not herd from yo since last April. I doe that you might rite one letter to me. I would be glad to get one leter from yo. I have riten to you an Paw and and he wont rite to me and I have riten to James and he has not riten to me and I wont rite no more to them until the rite to me. All the rest of the solders gites leters from home but me and I cant get none at al. If yo cant rite get someone to rite for yo and it will doe as wel as eny for me to read as eny. Just soe it is from yoe it doe me. I made enuf to doe yo or not. I want to be with yo and them little children. Tel mi baby i want to see it and to kiss it for me and tel it i am agone have to see it when i get the chance to do so. Wea wil leave her in a day or toe. I doe not know wher wea are agoin to. Capt. Thomas sendes his best respect to you all. Tel docter to take good care of mi houndes and to not let them get lost from and to be a good boy. I want all children to be good to ther mother. I send you ten dollars in money and a dewe bill for twent dolars on Casky. It is money i lont to him. I send it by L.M. Jackson. I will send yo some more in a short time.

I dont want yo tto send me any clothin fore I have a plenty to doe me. If yo have eny maid up for me I want yo to keep them until i call for them. I want yo to rite to me as soane as yo git this leter without fail. Tel Mary to knit me a pare of gloves and send them to me. Tel Pet to knit me a pare of sockes and send them for me. Tel James and Marthie to be good childrein. I want yo to rite how Jeff Dais is agit in along. I would like to see him. Tel your Paw to rite to me. Tel Saliney, my baby that I want to see it and to her it talk. So nothing more at prescnt but remaines yo husband until deth.

Jacob Lendermod

This letter was copied by Nancy Lee Hayley as it was written with all the misspelling.

Below is a letter accompanied by the above letter from Nancy Lee Hayley, a Lenderman descendant, with the following remarks to Delores Allen in 2005.

James reference is most likely to be his brother in Miss. Doctor is his son Wm. Henry. Pet is Margaret Ann and Mary is her older sister. Paw is Aser Pipkin, Sally's father. L. M. Jackson was a Lieutenant and later a Captain who came back to Arkansas several times a year to recruit and to check on the men's families and take back letters, clothing etc. He was married to Fannie Fleming a step-sister of Francis Hayley. Some of the men did not think he was as helpful as he could have been. He spent most of his time in Des Ark with Fannie rather than going around the county to get information, letters, etc. to take back to the men who never had a leave to come home; until they were discharged for wounds, illness or the end of the war. Jacob was discharged because he was over 40 years old. He was over 40 when he enlisted February 1862, along with four neighbors at Johnson's Chapel, near Des Arc Prairie County, Arkansas. The friends were Francis Hayley, Charles Ford, Henry Clay Thompson and Gilbert Takington. My husband and I ordered Civil War Markers for these five and they are in a row at Johnson's Chapel Cemetery. We had a beautiful dedication service for them. The sisters, brothers, children of those five men married and their families still live on today.

2. Mary Elizabeth Pipkin born October 2, 1831, in Maury County, Tennessee, and died there in 1833.

3. Martha Jane Pipkin was born February 21, 1836, in Maury Co., Tennessee. She moved with her parents to Marshall County, Mississippi, where she married Richard S. or L. Allen, January 5, 1851. He made arrangements for a wagon and horses in Marshall County July 1851 and it is thought this was used to take he and Martha Jane to Prairie County, Arkansas, where the Aser Pipkin's family moved in 1851.

Martha Jane Pipkin died at the age of 21 years, 3 mos., 2 days, on March 14, 1857, a couple of months before her mother died in May of 1857. Martha was buried in the Old Hickory Plains Cemetery. As of 1989, there were only two tombstones left in the cemetery and it had been turned into a pasture for animals. The records of the old cemetery were available from Martha Hambrick Harrell, a local historian of Prairie County, and the tombstone read: Martha Jane E. (?) Allen Pipkin, daughter of A. and M. S. Pipkin. Her mother was also buried in this cemetery.

She and Richard had two children:

- (A) James Henry Allen born in 1852.
- (B) Aser C. Allen born in 1854.

Aser's daughter Cora LaFintia Allen James stated that her father told her, his father, Richard, went out to get a bucket of water one night, disappeared and was never heard from again. The family assumed that "bushwhackers" who roamed the countryside kidnaped him and or killed him. A Prairie County Historian said that bushwackers were not in Arkansas until 1860's. A Richard L. Allen, married a lady in White County, a few miles from Hickory Plains, in Prairie County, in 1855. He was born in Mississippi and was the son of Zachariah Allen from Itawamba County, Mississippi. Zachariah came from the same part of Tennessee that the Pipkins came from, and Zachariah's ancestors came from Virginia.

The marriage took place one year after Aser died and two years before Martha died. If Richard, the father of two small boys, left the family and remarried, one could see being told the above story..There is a R. L. Allen the same age serving a term for bigamy in Mississippi in the 1860 census. I have been unable to find Richard L. Allen in the 1860 census, but do find him in the 1870-1880 census. He and his second family moved on to Texas. His father Zachariah was listed as a physician, and this family has been researched back to the early 1700's in Va. Aser, was a Justice of Peace and if his son in law had left the family, I could see where he possibly filed bigamy charges. In 1860 his father Zachariah and family still lived in Miss. In research, Zachariah's father who was a Methodist Circuit Minister, was known to have left his family in Alabama, for Texas where he married and had a second family. An Allen Family Historian said that Richard Lee, was a wanderer as a young man and would leave and be gone for long periods of time and she felt that this was the same Richard L. Allen that married Martha Jane Pipkin.

Richard and this lady had a family and some have attached Martha Jane and Richard's marriage to this Allen. My husband and I have tried very hard to find who our Richard was, but so far cannot say with 100% certainty. Richard L. Allen was also given a land grant in Fulkerson County, Arkansas, in 1860, and in 1852 was paid for road work in White County.

It is possible that Richard just left his family and never looked back. Aser Pipkin who left a lot of written facts on his family only referred to him as Mr. Allen and as far as we can determine, there was no attachment for James Henry and Aser with any Allen Family as they were growing up. On the census records they refer to their father having been born in Virginia which is what Aunt LaFintia told us when we interviewed her about family history.

4. Margaret Ann Pipkin was born May. 30, 1837, in Maury County, Tennessee. She, too, moved with her family to Mississippi and then to Arkansas. She married J. B. Jones November 29, 1854. She was 17 years old and he was 35, a widower with three children. She and Mr. Jones had two children who died suddenly in the 1870's (cause unknown), she went out of her mind, and whether she imagined it or whether it really happened, she claimed her husband tried to strangle her, so she left him, joined the Mormon Church along with her sister Nancy Julia and went to Arizona to join the rest of her family. She was never quite the same and always lived with or near her sister Nancy Julia, to be cared for. She was remembered by Ida Gallagher, always, sitting on the front porch in her rocking chair and chewing her tobacco. She, after

moving, married a Mr. John Bloomfield, and was listed as Margaret Bloomfield in the 1900 census of St. Juan Co., New Mexico.

Her children were :

- (A) Fanny Jones born 1855 who died in the 1870's.
- (B) Margaret Emalina Jones born 1858 and died in the 1870's.
- (C) Laura Caledonia Jones was born in 1867 and died in 1867.

Margaret died February 25, 1918.

5. James Knox Polk Pipkin born March 29, 1840, in Mooresville, Maury County, Tennessee. He first married Emaline Octavia Yarber on March 16, 1859. She was the daughter of his step-mother Martha Matthews Yarber Pipkins and her first husband Daniel Yarber. (also sometimes spelled Yarbrough). Emaline was born March 22, 1843 in Carroll County, Mississippi. She died July 28, 1876, at Hickory Plains, Prairie County, Arkansas.

Their children, were all born in Hickory Plains, Arkansas and were:

- (A) Aser Pipkin born December 27, 1859, and died October 6, 1931 at Vinson, Oklahoma. He married Mattie McLain.
- (B) Mary Elizabeth Pipkin born April 4, 1861, died in infancy.
- (C) John Paris Pipkin born May 31, 1862, died about 1884
- (D) Sterling Price Pipkin born September 23, 1863, died about 1933
- (E) Robert Elderidge Pipkin born April 8, 1866 and died in infancy.
- (F) James Knox Polk, Jr., born March 30, 1868. He died in 1973 at 105 years old.

About James Knox Polk, Jr.

Emaline, his mother, died July 28, 1876, when James Knox Polk Pipkin, Jr. was 8 years old. The next spring the family moved to Arizona and it was he who told the below story:

“ When I was about 26 years old I met a young girl, Phoebe Owens. She had always said she would never marry if she couldn't find a man who didn't drink whiskey. This seemed a reasonable price to pay, so we were married. I never drank or smoked from then on. But once, I decided to homestead, and had to ride horseback about 125 miles to the county seat. Since I thought it would be a lonesome ride, I bought a pipe and some tobacco. I filled the pipe and lit it up. I took one or two puffs and then looked at the pipe and said, “I believe this would be a damned good time to quit you. And, I did. My first wife Phoebe Owen died in childbirth in 1906. We had 6 children.”

(Phoebe Ann Owens was the daughter of Silas Ardene Owens and Mary Elizabeth Gillispie and was born July 22, 1878, Virgin City, Washington County, Utah. She died April 19, 1906 at Kirkland, New Mexico)

The story continues, "In 1908, I met Clara Marzlin, then a non-member. She attended LDS meetings about a dozen times with me before we were married". (She took their 4 children and moved to Oklahoma in 1927, and died soon after in 1929). His story continues, "I left Farmington, New Mexico, in 1927 and went to Redwood City, California. There I worked on a dairy farm. I worked there for 9 years but by then I was 68 years old and the heavy work of lifting baled hay and sacks of grain was too much for me and I suffered a paralytic stroke. I remained single for 15 years after my second wife left me. Finally in 1942, I became lonely so I bought a home and married Nettie A. Spence, a widow 12 years younger than I. She was a non-member, a Free Methodist. In September 1958, my half brother Arthur Lewis Pipkin and my son Earl Pipkin came to my home in Redwood City and took me to the Temple in Los Angeles, where I performed the ordinance which sealed me to my first wife. I went through the temple Sept. 23, 1958."

Children of James Knox Polk and Phoebe Owens Pipkin, Jr., were all born in Kirkland, New Mexico and were:

(a) James Aser Pipkin, born December 18, 1895 married Mae Duckett (b) William Paris Pipkin, born December 27, 1897 died June 13, 1899. (c) Robert Emmett Pipkin, born November 26, 1899 married Marie Towell (d) Horace Earl Pipkin, born November 25, 1901, married Alta Whitney at Aztec, New Mexico (e) Levi Milton born April 15, 1904, married Marie Hazel Johnson (f) Mary Emaline born February 12, 1906 married Richard Taylor and died April 17, 1963.

Children of James Knox Polk, Sr., and Emiline continued:

(F) Richard Enos Pipkin born September 20, 1869, died December 8, 1938, married Josephine Silvo.
(G) Joseph Emmett Pipkin born August 9, 1872
(H) Arthur Abraham Pipkin born July 23, 1874, died in 1874
(I) Daniel Moroni Pipkin born 1876 and died July 6, 1938. (see story) *

James Knox Polk Pipkin Sr., married again to ** Sarah Elvira Lewis March 6, 1884. She was the daughter of Samuel and Sarah Jane Huntsman Lewis. Elvira was born January 16, 1870 in Minersville, Utah. When their youngest daughter (see below) ** Josephine, was about 9 months old they had a bitter divorce and Sarah took her surviving three children to live with her parents. She changed their names to Lewis and kept their true names from them. She married Robert Lee McBroom and died October 4, 1960, at Globe, Arizona. J.K. P., Sr., died December 12, 1912, in Kirkland, New Mexico.

Their children were:

(J) Arthur Pipkin born 1885
(K) Emaline Octavia Pipkin born 1887
(L) Ella Bertha Pipkin born 1889 died 1890 (see story) **
(M) Josephine Pipkin born 1890

* When we interviewed Aunt LaFintia in the late 1980's she was in a nursing home in Las Animas, Colorado, in her late 90's but her mind was very sharp and she gave us many accounts of her life

and those of her family. She told remnants of the below stories , and it was exciting to find them posted on the internet and also in the Pipkin Newsletter.

ELLA'S DEATH **

The Pipkins lived in a canyon near Savoia, several miles above Ramah. They had a ditch between their house and the canals which were three or four feet deep. A rainstorm came up and after it was over the children went out to play. Gullies may run for hours after a rainstorm. The baby Ella was sixteen months old and went out to play in the ditch where the children usually played. Unnoticed by others, she slipped in the waters of the flash-flood and was carried downstream and drowned. The mother, Lavira, told others that Polk held her responsible for the accident and had threatened her life several times. Polk also accused his wife of immorality with his son by a former marriage. Ernst Tietjen was one of two ward teachers sent to their house to investigate the matter. They found no basis for such a charge. Lavira left the ranch with her remaining children and stayed in Ramah with her brother, Samuel Edward Lewis. She had taken her bedstead, sewing machine and trunk. She wrote to her mother in Arizona and the mother came to Ramah bringing Lavira's brother Joe Lewis to take Lavira back to Safford, Az., with them. Polk then had Joe Lewis arrested for grand larceny. He was taken before a Justice at Gallup and acquitted. Joe Lewis was 21 years of age.

John's Love Affair and Death **

No event in Ramah's history was as traumatic as a case of domestic violence in the Pipkin-Lewis Family in October, 1890. It shook the community to its' very foundations. In its proportions, it was truly a Shakespearean Tragedy. James Knox Polk Pipkin, he was called Polk, married Sarah Levira Lewis, a sister of Samuel Edward Lewis, on March 14, 1885, she was three months past 15. Pipkin was 39 years older, and had nine children by previous marriages. Pipkin's older boy John, was two years older than Sarah and had taken a romantic interest in her. Sarah is said to have taken the advice of some older persons to marry the older man since he had money. Five months before their marriage, John disappeared. After five days, the father organized a search party and Polk found him dead of a gunshot wound, an apparent suicide. Some thought the father found his son a bit too quickly to have no pre knowledge of his whereabouts.

History of the Ramah Pioneers by Gary Tiejjen..1884..Sunset Az. John Paris Pipkin (1862-1884)

RED RUNS AWAY **

Daniel Moroni Pipkin, a son of Polk born in 1876 and known as Red Pipkin because of his red hair, ran away from home and ended up at Grants, New Mexico. There he ran into a bunch of outlaws and they took him in. The bunch of outlaws was Bronco Bill's Gang and this leads into their story: "A Little Outlaw Gang" story of Bronco Bill by Evans Coleman, cowboy in Apache County, Az. In the late 1800's and supplemented with the book "Jeff Milton, A Good Man With a Gun".

There was a man by the name of Bill Andrews, who was serving a life sentence in the penitentiary in Santa Fe for murder and robbery. He broke out of jail and came to the Black River, close to Ft. Apache, Az. In the winter of 1896-97 and he became known as Bronco Bill. Because of its isolation that country seemed to draw outlaws. In the spring of 1897, or 98, a little gang of local boys became attracted to Andrews. They consisted of William Johnson, Ed Colter and Red Pipkin. They were young cowboys who were in just minor trouble with the law. Pipkin wanted to be a bad man, shot up the town, resisted arrest and fled to Black River. Colter had committed an offense which would have cost him under \$5.00, but he swore that he would not be arrested. Willie Johnson was "in some trouble about some cattle" and might have drawn a two-year sentence, but he too fled from the law. They found in Andrews an experienced train robber and decided they wanted to be the same. Andrews' methods were so much like Butch Cassidy's that he was probably on the Wild Bunch. Against Andrews' advice the young men threw in with him. Burnett was another gang member about whom little was known. He "made a little disturbance," wouldn't be arrested and ended up also in Black River. Their idea was to get enough money from train or bank robberies to "leave the country and settle down somewhere else". Willie Johnson, who had worked for the Double Circles, knew their best horses. They went over to their horse camp, held up the riders and took five of the best horses. October 1897, Bronco Bill, Red Pipkin, Bill Johnson, Doug Perry, Two-fingered Jack and others robbed the train in Grants. Somehow they had discovered that Wells Fargo had a lot of money on a particular train coming through Gallup and Grants on the Santa Fe Railroad. At the Railroad stop at Chavez (near Thoreau),* Louis Kirk and Joe Tiejien saw at least one gang member aboard the train. He waved them away with a rifle. (Louis Kirk, told the author this story) In Grants the gunman forced the engineer to uncouple the passenger coaches and run the engine and express car several miles east where they proceeded to rob it. There are a number of conflicting stories from other sources claiming the outlaws were Black Jack Christian's gang, etc. Not so, Frank Childers said, they got away with \$80,000 and fled south. Others have claimed that they escaped with only \$3,000. Coleman understood that the express messenger, Fowler, fought off the gang and that they fled without any money. In Coleman's account, Colter was wounded and dragged away by the others. Fowler went to Ft. Wingate and hired Jeff King, a noted Navajo tracker, but the money was never recovered. Colter left the gang and went home to Springerville, then skipped the country. The posse decided not to follow him and continued hunting the Gang. Sometime later they ambushed them in Southern Arizona. The outlaws barely escaped with their lives and believed that Burnett had tipped the posse off. In telling their story to Coleman, they hinted darkly that Burnett would never tip any other officers off.

Not long afterwards Bronco Bill and Willie Johnson held up the train at Belen, New Mexico, in the night getting about \$20,000. The Sheriff there gathered up seven Indian trackers and went in pursuit. Jeff Milton took the train to Magdalena and headed toward Alamo to meet the Gang. The outlaws stopped for supper with some Mexican freighters, and then went on westward, up the Alamosa Creek which formed the northern border of the Drag A Ranch (on which the author later lived). The Sheriff and his Indians followed into the night, occasionally striking matches to verify that they were on the trail. From the freighters they learned that the outlaws had passed two hours earlier. According to the story the outlaws told Coleman, Bronco Bill, and Johnson slept late the next morning and this gave the Sheriff and Indians time to get into place. The outlaws had left their Winchester on their horses. A fight for the horses started, the Sheriff not knowing where the horses were. Then the outlaws got their Winchester, they settled in for a fight, about fifty yards from the posse. Bill Johnson shot the sheriff between the eyes, but a bullet hit Johnson in the cord

of the neck and down he went. Andrews thought he was dead. Standing over Johnson, he killed another member of the posse. From the rear Andrews was hit in the hip, a flesh wound. Another bullet hit him in the shoulder. Andrews saw an Indian just raising his head up about thirty yards away and whirled and shot him between the eyes. Johnson was just coming to and trying to get up. Shooting and dragging Johnson Andrews managed to get hold of the money and the pair crawled across the little wash and got 159 yards away. Three of the seven of the posse were dead, and they gave up and went to Belen. Bronco Bill and Johnson then made their way back to Black River where they met Coleman and got some fresh horses. This has been called the worst fight in Western outlawry. Bronco Bill did not like Red Pipkin: he thought he talked to much. He had not been in on the Belen job, but he wanted to get back with the gang. By now, however, Jeff Milton, an ex-ranger working for the cattle growers and George Scarborough, head of the Arizona Rangers, had been on their trail for months. At the Double Circles horse camp, they deputized all the men in the camp. When Bronco Bill rode in, he sensed a trap and started to ride off, but Scarborough shot him through the shoulder. Johnson and Pipkin appeared shortly afterwards, making their way down a steep hill toward the camp. They heard the shooting and started firing at Scarborough. They were behind a big rock where Scarborough could not hit them. Jeff Milton, 600 yards away and across the canyon, could see them and "dropped two bullets right in amongst them and put them out from behind that rock." Scarborough then shot Johnson through the hip. Pipkin got on his horse, but the horse was shot out from under him and he escaped a foot. Despite getting a doctor from Ft. Apache, Johnson died that night and Andrews was carried to Geronimo, Arizona on a stretcher. He served time in the penitentiary in Santa Fe, was released and went to Columbus to work on a ranch. He fell off a windmill and was killed. Red Pipkin was captured up in Utah having gotten the mumps. He served 12 years in the federal penitentiary in Yuma, Arizona, then got a job as a deputy sheriff in Gallup. He died in 1938 from a suicide attempt. The author's father, Jeff Tiejien and his brother, Fat, knew Red Pipkin around Grants and he told them that the gang split up after the robbery at Grants in order to elude the posse. One group, not the one he was with, took the money. Red spent a good part of his life looking for it, claiming they had buried the loot under a small cedar tree. Ike Lewis told the author that his father Chalk Lewis, was working up at Mapais Springs one year when an old man came by telling him that he was part of the robbery years before and wanted Chalk to guide him in the Hole in the Malpais. After going through a narrow strip of malpais, the country opens up into about 30 sections of nice grazing land, being surrounded by lava rock. The man told him that he had buried the gold 17 steps from the door of a log cabin. The two managed to find two log cabins, but could not find the gold.

*Lewis Kirk was a cousin of Red Pipkin, son of his Aunt Nancy Julia.

From the Rajah Pioneer History- Daniel Moroni Pipkin (1876-1938)

From the Arizona Republic, October 13, 1902..J.P. Pipkin of San Juan County, New Mexico, has been in Solomonville, during the week. Mr. Pipkin is the father of Dan Pipkin (Red Pipkin) who was convicted of robbery in this county two years ago and sentenced to two years in the penitentiary. Mr. Pipkins comes here bearing high testimonials from the county officials and others in San Juan County, as a good and prominent citizen of New Mexico. He will make an effort to secure a pardon for his son, whose downfall he attributes to bad associates.

Other Stories About Red Pipkin

The Great Grants Train Robbery-New Mexico Magazine

The April 1980 issue of the New Mexico Magazine printed this article, “The Great Grants Train Robbery” by Laurence Barker. The article reports how a group of armed men robbed the Santa Fe Railroad at Grants Station about 8 p.m. on 6th of November 1897. The article continues that the robbers who were suspected as being members of the Black Jack Gang were never caught and never positively identified. They were not sure which. Black Jack Gang, for it seems there were two of them operating in that portion of New Mexico Territory at the same time, Black Jack Christian and Black Jack Ketchum. The author wrote, “One man who apparently never tried to hide his involvement in the train robbery, but was never convicted and ironically, he later became a deputy sheriff in Gallup.”

The article continues with interesting material concerning reports of offers of rewards by the railroad, Wells Fargo and newspapers stated “Old times in Grants maintain that the money remains hidden not far from the actual robbery site, concealed somewhere in the rugged lava beds, known as the Malpais.” The author continued, “One Grants resident Fats Taitjen claims Red Pipkin spent 20 years looking for the gold.” The article stated that treasure hunters have been looking for the gold since.

Wells Fargo Agent Won –Old Arizona Magazine

This story is told a little different by Roscoe G. Willson and published in the above magazine. Mr. Willson wrote his article after interviewing Prime T. Colman, who knew the people involved personally. It seems that Colman and Walter Bard had a cattle ranch about 40 miles east of St. Johns. In May of 1898, Wells Fargo agent Charley Fowler came to the ranch and said he was trailing four men under the leadership of Broncho Bill who had robbed the Santa Fe train near Grants of \$3,000. Colman told Fowler that Broncho Bill, Red Pipkin, Billy Johnson and Ed (didn't know his last name) had come by the evening before and got a bite to eat and went on. Agent Fowler trailed the group to the head of Black River and gave up and returned to New Mexico.

After the agent left, Colman reported that Broncho Bill, Red Pipkin and Bill Johnson, came down from the hills and lived high on the hog around Geronimo and Fort Thomas. While still high, they stopped the stage near Geronimo and had the passengers hand over their money and valuables, and with a lot of “whopping and a laughing, they handed everything back to the astonished travelers.” The stage driver too was non-pulsed, “What the hell you fellows trying to do,” he asked? Broncho Bill, laughing fit to kill, slapped the driver on the shoulder and said, “Oh, we just did this to keep in practice. Get aboard and pull out before we change our minds.”

In June, Colman said that having spent all their money, Broncho, Johnson and Red stopped by on their way to rob the train at Grants, again. This time Sheriff Virgil of Grants met them with gunfire and they fled. The second day of the run, the sheriff came upon Broncho Bill and Johnson (no mention of Red) and they had a gun fight. Broncho and Johnson got away. Virgil followed them and to cut the story short, finally had another show down at which Johnson was killed and Broncho Bill wounded. Broncho recovered and was convicted of train robbery. The article continued...

Red Pipkin, who was said to have been a member of the gang, decided to return and became a peace officer in Utah. While a member of posse pursuing outlaws in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, he was

recognized by a brother officer, arrested and returned to Arizona, where he was tried at Solomonville. Although his Utah friends came to his defense, he received a short sentence, but was soon pardoned.

A year or so later, Colman was in Gallup on business and on the street he met Pipkin, wearing a six-shooter and a star. "Why Red, you old hellion, what the hell are you doing here," asked Colman? Pipkin grinned, shook hands and said, "I'm a peace officer now Prime, and a damn good one. Come on, let's have a drink and I'll tell you about it" and that is how Prime Colman got the full story.

Colman was probably the same that wrote the first story. Based on fact or fiction, one can probably believe pieces of each. It makes for interesting reading and proves that Daniel (Red) Pipkin was one colorful character...as was his father James Knox Polk Pipkin, Sr. The Pipkins led a colorful life and helped, as well as many of our forefathers, settle and make up the history of this great country of ours...delores allen

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James Knox Polk Pipkin, Sr., died December 12, 1912 at Kirkland, New Mexico.

6. Nancy Julia Pipkin was born March 24, 1842 in Hardin County, Tennessee. When Nancy Julia was a baby she moved with her parents to Mississippi where they lived eight years. In 1851, on her eighth birthday they moved to Hickory Plains, Arkansas, where they remained. At the age of 14 years she lost her sister Martha Jane Pipkin Allen and her mother Margaret Singleton Foster Pipkin. This she said was the darkest hour of her life.

Nancy Julia was about 18 years old when she was engaged to a man by the name of Hood. See the story in previous writing....

Nancy Julia married Paris Pipkin who was born July 14, 1811, in Maury County, Tennessee, to Phillip Pipkin and Suzanna Morris. He was Nancy Julia's second cousin and 31 years her senior. They lived seven years in Missouri. During this time three children, two girls and a boy came to brighten their home. But this happiness was short lived. The tenth of May 1870, her husband was taken in death and the 27th day of this same month, their little boy died. The 20th day of June, the oldest of the little girls died. The children had scarlet fever. This left her and her little six month old girl all alone. She went back to her father in Hickory Plains, Prairie County, Arkansas.

Children of this marriage were:

- (A) Lillie Morris born April 19, 1865, died June 20, 1870.
- (B) Paris born September 9, 1866 and died May 27, 1870
- (C) Mary Lafentia born November 7, 1869, she died September 13, 1909. She married Josiah Emer Ashcroft on May 6, 1885.

Nancy Julia, on December 24, 1873, married William Louis Kirk. William Louis Kirk was born April 9, 1833, Hollow Springs, Marshall, Miss. He died December 14, 1879, at Hickory Plains, Arkansas. He was first married to Hattie Bradford, second marriage was Mary Lackey. His father was Allen Kirk and his mother was Elizabeth Rosson Kirk. Two daughters and a son were born to Julia and William Louis, but on the sixth year of their marriage, again the angels of death came, taking her husband, just a month before her son was born. William Louis Kirk died December 13, 1879, and the baby boy was born January 24, 1880.

Her children by Mr. Kirk were:

- (D) Lelia Kirk born October 11, 1875
- (E) Minnie Kirk born November 7, 1877
- (F) Louis Amrous Kirk born January 24, 1880.

With all she had passed through, she trusted in the Lord continually. She was baptized into the Church of Later Day Saints in February 1882. She went west by train to Sunset Arizona the same year to join her father and family. There she met Ira Hatch and they were married June 7, 1882, in the St. George Temple by David Cannon. Ira Hatch was born August 5, 1835, Cattaragus County, New York to Ira Starnes Hatch and Wealthy Bradford. He died September 30, 1909, at Fruitland, New Mexico. His first wife was Amanda M. Pace and his second wife was Sarah Dyson, an Indian lady.

They moved from Sunset, Arizona to Ramah, New Mexico in the fall of 1882. They lived there until the year of 1891. In 1892, they moved to Fruitland, New Mexico, where they remained until their deaths.

She was blessed with a daughter and a son by this marriage, which lasted for 27 years. Children of this marriage were

- (G) Martha born May 4, 1883, Ramah New Mexico and died April 25, 1931. She married John L. Hunt October 25, 1900. (
- (H) Ira Asa born October 12, 1886 and died January 24, 1944 married Margaret Gallagher.

On the September 13, 1909, her oldest child, Mary Lafentia Pipkin Ashcroft was taken by death and the 30th day of the same month and year her companion was taken from her. With all of her children married but the youngest son, this was a lonesome and trying time for her to endure as she was feeble in body and had passed through so much, but she never failed to say "The Lord's will be done" for all of her days. She clung to Him for comfort. Her eyesight had been bad for years and on the 19th of September 1910, she found herself blind to the world with in growing cataracts and for four years she sat in this condition, but she was not forgotten by the Heavenly Father. She was

blessed being able to learn the raised letters for the blind. On the 14th day of Feb. 1914, she was operated on and recovered the sight in one eye. Two years later the sight returned in her other eye, stronger and better than the one that was operated on and she could see well enough to read print again. She was called home July 28, 1922. She was blessed with many kind and loving friends who loved her dearly for her humble, loving disposition.

Written by her daughter Lelia Kirk Hatch on March 1921 on her mother's 79th birthday.

Other stories and facts of Nancy Julia Pipkins written by her children

Nancy Julia and Paris Pipkin's children were: (A) Lillie Morris was born April 19, 1865, Crawford Co., Mo., and died June 20, 1870, (B) Paris Jr., born September 9, 1866, Steeleville Crawford Co, Mo., died May 27, 1870, (C) Mary LaFentia born November 7, 1869 Steeleville, Crawford Co., Mo., and died September 13, 1909, at Ramah, New Mexico. She married Josiah Emer Ashcroft. (Josiah Emer Ashcroft practiced polygamy and they had 10 children)..see story below.

The following stories were written by Paris Ira Ashcroft about his mother, Mary Lafentia, daughter of Julia and Paris Pipkin:

Mary Lafentia, daughter of Paris Pipkin and Nancy Julia Pipkin (they were second cousins) was born November 7, 1869 at Steeleville, Crawford, Co., Mo. She was the youngest of the three children. Her sister Lillie and brother Paris Jr., died when very young and about the same time with "chills and fever." Her father also died about the same time with quick consumption as they called it then. We now know it as pneumonia.

Paris Pipkin was a gentleman from any point of view. He had a splendid education and was a lawyer. He was legal council and advisor to Jefferson Davis of the Civil War fame. He was a man of means and respectability. The strain of the Civil War was perhaps the cause of his weakened condition. He passed away 10th of May 1870, at Charondelet, Missouri, near St. Louis.

After the passing of her husband, Nancy Julia took her only child Lafentia and went to live with her father Acer Pipkin, who lived in Hickory Plains, Arkansas, where he had a large plantation.

The Pipkin family has been in America since before 1704, that we know of. John Pipkin, a direct ancestor, was in Nansemond County, Virginia, in that year. Some of the family moved to North Carolina and then to Tenn. Some came on to Missouri and Arkansas. Col. Phillip Pipkin, the father of Paris fought in the War of 1812 and many others fought in the Revolutionary War with England. (We also know that Enos Pipkin, brother to Phillip Pipkin, also fought in the War of 1812, see story that his son Enos told of Phillip and his father Enos).

Nancy Julia married Judge Louis W. Kirk, December 24, 1873, at Hickory Plains, Arkansas. Mr. Kirk was a fine man, well educated and a gentleman. From this union three children were born: Lelia, Minnie and Louis. Only a few years of this happy marriage; until Judge Kirk also passed away leaving Nancy Julia with Lafentia and the three younger children.

Lafentia remembers some of the conditions subsequent to the Civil War. The slaves had been liberated, but none of them wanted to leave the plantation. They knew no other life and had no place to go. After Mr. Kirk's passing, Nancy Julia and children went the second time to live with Aser her father. He had lost his wife and Nancy Julia managed the home. (This would have been when she took the train to Sunset, Az.)

Aser Pipkin must have been a kindly man and fair, as the slaves loved him and worked right on raising cotton, etc. Some Mormon Elders had come to the Kirk and Pipkin homes in Hickory Plains sometime between 1873 and 1880. Mr. Kirk and wife and children were converted to the LDS church, but at that time were not baptized. When the Elders came back in the Spring of 1880, Mr. Kirk had passed away, but Nancy Julia and her sister Margaret and perhaps others of the family including Aser Pipkin accepted the gospel and was baptized. One of the Elders was John Morgon and the other was Elder McCowley. Acer and James Henry Pipkin had left the home and were in Texas, according to the 1880 census.

It seemed to be the advise of the Church authorities at that time for the saints to come west where the bulk of the Mormon people had settled. In the fall of 1881, Nancy Julia and her four children and sister Margaret and perhaps others boarded the train and came to Sunset, Az. This place was near where Winslow, Az. is now. Aser Pipkin, or Grandpa Pipkin as everyone called him and some of his family were already in Az. As I have a letter which states that Uncle Polk (brother to Nancy Julia and Margaret) would meet them when they came in on the train. Note: The Santa Fe train at that time did not go through to California. So I am told, but was being rushed as rapidly as possible.

It was said that at the time Nancy Julia left Arkansas times were hard and not a thing could be sold, so when she left, they left with just what they could take in bags. The plantation was left with the canned fruit left on the shelves.

The little community or fort of Sunset had not been there many years. It was settled by the Mormon Pioneers who had been called by Brigham Young to settle Az. At that time, several other little towns or forts had been settled along the Little Colorado River. This little Fort Sunset was run on the United Order basis and presided over by Lot Smith. Many ate at a common table and men and women worked more or less as they were directed. Overseers of different kinds of jobs were appointed and men were called wherever needed.

People have been misinformed to quite an extent and have call the United Order of Sunset a failure. But the order was only established for mutual protection from outlaws and Indians, etc, until permanent settlements could be located and made. The venture was very profitable as the flocks of sheep, the herds of cattle and horses increased rapidly.

Nancy Julia married Ira Hatch, one of the Church's outstanding missionaries to the Indians, in May of 1882. They traveled back to St. George, Utah, by team and wagon for this event. In May 1882, Mary Lafentia was baptized by Israel Call and confirmed by Ira Hatch. This must have taken place at St. George, Utah. However, I am not sure, but mother told me she was sealed to Ira Hatch (her step-father) and that would have had to take place in the Temple, so we know she must have gone with the Ira Hatch family to St. George.

The Hatch family along with others were called to settle Ramah, New Mexico and from the records they moved there from the Sunset area in the fall of 1882. Lafentia (mother) was 15 years of age or near that when they moved to Ramah.

Ramah is a beautiful little Mormon settlement near the head waters of the Zuni Mountains. The elevation is some like 6,000 ft. It is natural livestock country.

As soon as the settlers landed at Ramah, a council was held and a town site was laid out with streets running at right angles and a public square for a church and school, etc. However, the Hatches must have landed there before the town had been laid out, as the letters I have and other data show that the Hatches first home near Ramah was about a mile north and east of the town, near where the reservoir is located or was at the mouth of what is called Pasture Hollow.

The Hatch family soon moved to a ranch some four or five miles east of Ramah near a ranch that Aser Pipkin had located and taken up. However, they moved back to Ramah so they could get the benefit of the church and school. Ramah is outside the Navajo Reservation and just about three miles from the Zuni Reservation, but hundreds of Navajo Indians are settled on all sides of Ramah. It is really Navajo country. No doubt Ira Hatch was called there to help settle the country because of his long experience as an Indian Missionary. Ira was truly a peacemaker among the Indians. His first wife was an Indian and they had four children before her death. Nearly all the family learned to speak the Navajo language and Mother could speak it very well. Mother told me dozens of Indians seemed to gather at the Hatch home most all of the time. Note: It might be of interest to some if I told a short story about an Indian chief trying to get Mother to marry him when she was a girl in her teens.

Jose Pine, the chief, was very friendly to the Hatch people and a very frequent visitor. He decided to ask Ira for Lafentia to be his wife. He had several wives already, but that was the custom. It was also their custom to make this proposal of marriage through the parents of the girl instead of making the proposal directly to the girl. Ira (grandfather) told him it was not our custom to sell our girls or make a deal of this kind. But that if he could get the girl's consent, that was the white man's way. Ira knew Lafentia would not consent to any such deal.

At this time Mother was keeping company with my father, Josiah Ashcroft, although both of them were quite young. The chief didn't waste much time in asking Mother to marry him. He said he would give her a lot of jewelry and nice clothes. He would give lots of sheep and horses and she would be looked up to by all the other wives and other Indians. Of course, Mother answered and told him she appreciated his friendship, but that she already had a sweetheart and would have to refuse the offer of the great chief. Jose Pino, didn't take this refusal with any degree of relish. He left quite angry. Mother thought that was the end of the matter but not so! One day at the ranch, Mother was alone as the family had all gone somewhere for a short while. Jose Pino must have known Mother was alone because he came to the house dressed in his finest clothes. He told that he had come again to ask her to marry him and that he wasn't used to having women refuse him and would she have him without delaying any longer. She told him again that she already had a lover and had promised to marry him and for him to go away and not to bother her again; as she had made up her mind. The chief jumped up and grabbed Mother and told her she would kill her unless she consented to marry him. He forced her to sit in a chair and he held her head over the back of it with his left hand and taking his hunting knife in his right hand, he told her if she still refused he would cut her throat. Mother was very frightened, but she knew good and well she had better not show it. She looked him

square in the eye and said “go ahead and kill me if you dare, I am not afraid of you and would rather die than consent to be your wife, if you kill me, my lover will know it and will hunt you down and kill you as he would a dog. Now go ahead and kill me if you dare.” This bravery of Mothers’ was too much for Jose and he released her and said, “I can’t kill you; you are too brave a squaw to be killed. I am sorry I acted this way. I will not bother you anymore.” He made good his word. He still was very friendly to the family and in a few years he was converted to the church and was baptized. To the day of his death, he was always friendly to our family. I might add here that many times he came to our home and times he carried me on his back to his camp or “hogan” and I have spent days at their “hogan” playing with his boys and staying with them at night. One of his boys, who was my age, was like a brother to me. . He learned to speak English and I did pretty well with the Navajo language.

Ira Hatch and Nancy Julia had two children born to them. Martha, born, during the time they lived near Ramah, in Pasture Hollow, in their first home and Asa born a few years later, either at the ranch or near there. The people who settled and made the little towns and communities of the western country in those early days really went through hardships. When a new community was settled, the people had to bring along seeds to plant, and plows to break the virgin soil. They used ox teams or at this time mostly horse or mule teams. There were no tractors or cars. Such roads as they had were made by them. If they had a crop failure it was just too bad. In the winter the snow was deep for weeks, they couldn’t get out so they had to grind the grain by hand, that they ate. They did take grain when they raised it, back great distances, where they could get it ground into flour or graham. I heard Mother say they only had corn to eat for bread for weeks at a time. They would parch the corn, then grind it in a hand mill. There was quite an abundance of wild life which helped sustain them in their struggle for existence.

There were no public schools, or public handouts of any kind. It was simply up to them to furnish these things through their own efforts. As soon as people landed or moved into build a settlement, they held a council together and decided where to locate a school and church. Usually the same building served both purposes. A town site was platted and people drew lots. Generally the first building of any abundance was the school or church. In the Ramah settlement most of the homes were built from logs with dirt floors and split logs for the roof, with straw and weeds on top to hold out the dirt, then about eight inches of dirt on top of the straw. These people, when called to make a settlement, usually were pretty well organized and plans were made in advance. A miller, a sawmill man, a carpenter and all the rest of the trades were represented, so that it wasn’t long until a thriving settlement was stabilized. A school teacher would be hired by the family a while, then another, to help pay the cost of teaching. About all the teacher received over and above his board was farm commodities, cattle, etc. I expect in many cases there was no pay except what pleasures one gets out of doing good to another.

It didn’t take the Ramah settlers long to have a thriving little community. A reservoir was soon built so they could irrigate farms and have water for their homes and gardens. A sawmill was set up and lumber provided to put floors in their houses and sheathing for roofs. Shingles were cut out for covering of roofs instead of the dirt. Some of the roofs were covered with “shakes” in four or five years time, nearly every family had quite a comfortable home with barns, corrals, etc.

I will mention several families who settled in Ramah that I can remember. The Ashcroft boys, Bloomfields, Pipkins, Bonds, Nielsons, Lewises, Hatches, Gallaghers, Johnstons, Tietjens, Nielsons,

Harrises, Garnes and others. The community had entertainments and dances which were run in a very strict manner. There were no alcoholic drinks of any kind allowed. Good order was strictly enforced. At first, and for several years, no round dancing was allowed. Most all regulations came from the church authorities as very few civil officers were anywhere near. Be it said in due credit, these early settlers were fine people, well behaved and what is more, they really had good times and were happy.

Mary Lafentia, my mother, and Josiah Emer Ashcroft, my father, were married May 6, 1885. They made the long trip by team and wagon back to St. George Utah, some five or six hundred miles distant. Another couple Jim Hatch and Bertha Nielson made the trip with them and were also married in the St. George Temple at the same time. It was a long hard trip, but must have been a very happy honeymoon for the four young people. Jim was a step-brother to my Mother. He was one of four children Ira Hatch had when he married Nancy Julia. His first wife, an Indian, having passed away. I might mention the Hatch children, Jim the oldest, Starn, Joseph, who later married Lelia Kirk, Nancy Julia's second daughter, and Amanda. These four with the four Nancy Julia had and the two born to Ira and Nancy made a large family of ten children in the Hatch home.

I am not sure about the home Father and Mother lived in when they came back from st. George. But I think it was the Bloomfield house as they lived there for several years. The Bloomfields were Josiah's Mother and Step-father. The Bloomfields had gone to Mexico and Father purchased their home.

Mother and Father were both active in church and community affairs. Mother seemed to have unbounded energy. She came from a family who were very athletic. Two of her brothers (half) came close to the world record in running and jumping. Mother was a small person. At the time she married, she only weighed 98 pounds. I don't think she ever weighed more than 120 pounds. Her eyes were a deep blue, her complexion was very white and fair. Her hair was a beautiful dark brown. She might not be classified as being the most beautiful, but had poise and intelligence that made her very outstanding. She had a very beautiful form. No one could ever forget her after having known her. She was kind to everyone and lovingly called Aunt Fintia by everyone. She especially loved children of the community and they would gather in her home, usually every Thursday evening, where she would lead them in games, then in songs and wind up the evening by reading or telling them a beautiful story. Usually at these parties, she would serve popcorn or cookies. At these parties, she taught the children how to read music, how to sing and play musical instruments. No charge was ever made for this work. Mother loved nice things. She loved education and polish. She made tremendous sacrifices herself to get a little better education than most people got at that early day. Even after she had two children, she went by team and wagon, a distance of 80 miles to go to the Academy at St. Johns, Az. She went to school there for two winters, one of these was the winter after I was born. (I was her third child). Mother and Father had ten children. Their names are as follows: 1. Henry Emer born August 19, 1886 died Sept. 8, 1908 2. Joseph Rulon, born March 23, 1889, died December 16, 1929 3. Paris Ira born June 1, 1891, died December 30, 1959 4. Ida born Mary 22, 1894 5. James Wilford born June 20, 1897 6. Julia Minnie born February 20, 1901 7. Lelia born March 7, 1904 8. Lenora born August 31, 1907 9. Walter born September 12, 1909 and died May 17, 1926 10. Wallace born December 13, 1909.

Note from the author of this story: Some of the dates of the time these people joined the LDS Church; conflict with the dates on the Aser and Nancy Julia life histories, but since I do not know for sure which ones are correct, I have followed the life histories as they were sent to me.

These pages submitted by Delores Allen, wife of Bill, ancestor of Aser Columbus Allen, son of Martha Jane Pipkin Allen, and grandson of Aser Pipkin.