



Solomon Valley History

To Read More about
Solomon Valley History
visit our website at
www.hwy24.org

Up The Solomon

From Lindsay to Glarsco [Glasco]

Glarsco, Cloud County, March 17th, 1870

Dear Record: -The wind blew a hurricane as we left Lindsay, on Wednesday morning, but not so bitterly cold as on Tuesday. This "slight mitigation" gave the party a better opportunity to observe the country.

The first town discovered after we left Lindsay, was Minneapolis. At this point we found that the water power on the Solomon had been improved, and a grist and saw mill erected, which appeared to be doing a good business. There was also a drugstore where the "medical purveyor" made some additions to his "outfit," and there is also a dry goods and grocery store.

The settled appearance of the country excited much comment. Along the Solomon there was a continuous line of farms. At one point some German settlers had inclosed a section with a wire fence, and had, besides, built one of the most comfortable dwellings we had seen in the Valley. We shall not omit to mention here that Mr. Guthrie left us at Lindsay, and his place on the "bus" was filled by Mr. Lambert, whose acquaintance with the country, for a portion of the route, was of great service to the party.

A description of the country for one mile answers for nearly all. On one side was the Solomon, with its fringe of Cottonwood timber, and the cabins of settlers at intervals; and on the other hand stretched the boundless prairie.

At intervals of a few miles the road crossed ravines marked by a line of trees which showed that they were, in ordinary seasons, watercourses; but we found them dry in most instances. Scattered over the prairie were the bleaching skulls of buffalo, showing how recent had been the occupation of the country by civilized man. The experienced land hunters of the party discovered in the character of the grasses and other vegetation unfailing indications of the fertility of the soil, and the encomiums on the country increased the farther we advanced up the Valley.

Of course, as we were nearing the scene of the Indian outrages of the two last summers, the doings of the "noble red" formed a part of the "subject matter" of consideration, and we learned that on our road we passed within a mile of the residence of Mrs. Morgan, whose capture by the Indians, fearful experience among them, and subsequent release created so much sympathy and interest throughout the country. All who read the narrative of this lady's experiences will be glad to hear that she is now living peacefully and happily with her husband on the banks of the Solomon, and has recovered from the effects of her inhuman treatment during that awful winter.

After crossing Lindsay and Pipe creeks, the first near Lindsay, and the second at Minneapolis, we crossed no running stream till we reached Fisher's creek, a mile below our "objective point"—Glarsco. Here, our "veterans," who had indulged a vague belief that they had seen the original site of the garden of Eden several times, now became positive that they had reached that historic spot.

Between Fisher's creek and its timber, and the Solomon, lies a point of beautiful prairie, low enough to be classed as "prairie bottom," but high enough to be safe from overflow; and at a point in this prairie where the distance between the two streams is not over a mile, is the "stockade" and the few cabins which make up what there is at present of Glarsco. We found quarters at the house of Capt. John A. Potts, on the banks of the Solomon, and with the Captain we found a hearty frontiersman's welcome.

To one of the party at least, the scene was a novel one, and the aspect of the cabin, built almost entirely by the two hands of its owner, its interior decorated with buffalo robes, wolf and beaver skins, and numerous guns of various kinds, reminded one of the stories read in boyhood of Daniel Boone and the "hunters of Kentucky."

The favorite style of building in Glarsco is the "dug out," a species of architecture familiar to the early settlers of Kansas, but not so well known farther East. Near Capt. Potts' place, on the banks of a ravine running into the Solomon, are great number of excavations, which were occupied by militia during the fall and winter of 1868. These subterranean abodes are of great service to the settlers constantly coming in, until they have time to build habitations of their own.

As in all new countries all the settlers in the neighborhood turn out to assist the new comer when he raises his cabin; and some idea of the settlement may be formed from the fact that twenty men can be collected within a radius of two miles.

It must be constantly borne in mind that the actual settlement of the country commenced only about five years ago, and that since then the people have been twice driven out by the Indians. We have not time to give a full account of our pleasant stay with Captain Potts--how the fire roared in the huge chimney, and how peacefully the beautiful prairie looked in the bright moonlight; how we all spread our blankets and robes and slept the "sleep of the just" on the floor; how the settlers gathered in at night and filled the cabin "chock full" to talk about the railroad. All these matters the readers of the RECORD must "help out" with their imaginations.

The formal account of the meeting will be found elsewhere.

We go to-day to Willow Springs [Beloit], and you will receive another letter from there. When the expedition returns, your reporter will give in a more concise manner the facts now told in this rambling and desultory manner. N.

Railroad Meeting at Glarsco, Cloud Co.

The settlers in the vicinity of Glarsco, met at the home of Capt. Potts, at Glarsco, on Wednesday, March 18th, 1870.

Capt. Snyder called the meeting to order and was chosen Chairman, and Messrs. Shaldey and Calhoun, Secretaries.

Mr. Snyder was the first speaker. He said this was the first railroad meeting held in Solomon Valley, but he trusted it was but the forerunner of others. He said the country in the vicinity of the forks of the Solomon was settling up very fast, and settlements were being made in Smith, Jewell and Mitchell counties.

An Iowa colony, of 182 families, was expected soon, and the country up to the forks would soon be densely settled. The people had not a great deal of money, but they were willing to give their influence for a railroad. It was needed now.

Dr. Webb told the people about the route of the proposed railroad, and expressed not only his own sentiments, but those of the whole party, in saying, that the Solomon Valley, as he had seen it, was the most beautiful in the State. He stated that he believed the road a protection; next to cold lead, railroad iron was the best thing to stay an Indian's stomach. He gave a full explanation of the terms upon which a land grant could be obtained, and the road built.

Mr. Spooner gave a sketch of the railroad history of the State, in general, and of the Solomon Valley, and Republican River railroads, as far as the project had been matured, and particularly, of the legislative history of the matter. He spoke of the assistance of a railroad in settling up a country in the one particular of transporting lumber. Mr. S. assured the people that the Solomon Valley was bound to be set right before the people if the newspapers could do it. He called attention to the fact, that in these days a traveler could get over a vast scope of country in a short time, and the tide of explorers once turned up the Valley, would soon spread all over it.

Mr. Lambert was called on, but excused himself, and called up Mr. Dalrymple, who said that the citizens of the neighborhood, had talked over this matter of a railroad, and they all wanted it. He saw no reason why a railroad could not be built up the Solomon Valley as well as any other valley. Messrs. Potts, Abbott and Dalrymple were appointed a committee to draft resolutions.

The committee reported resolutions memorializing Congress to grant lands to aid in the construction of the Solomon Valley and Republican River Railroad, and it was also resolved that copies of the resolutions and of the proceedings of the meeting be forwarded to the Senators and Representatives of Kansas.

(to be continued)