

Pitman, Daniel (1857-1900) - Biography

This Story was written by Alice Pitman Nielson with drawings of the House

No drawing of the house sorry!

This was our first home in Winterquarters known that time as, Pleasant Valley Coal Camp.

Father built this shack of two rooms and moved Mother from Spanish Fork to this home when I was nine months old. As a little girl I remember how awfully cold it was in the mornings in winter; it was bitter cold our bread would be frozen so hard mother would have to cut it in chunks and heat it in the oven of our coal stove and thaw it out before we could eat it.

Father worked in the mine it was hard work and long hours, he went before daylight in winter and came home after dark many times, only seeing daylight on Sundays. We lived in this shack until there were four of us children; myself Alice, John, Mary Ann and Ellen. The day my sister Ellen was born Aunt Amy Parker Pittman (father's brother John's wife) was buried, the snow was awfully deep and it was plenty cold. Mother was very sick and I was in the kitchen standing with my arms on the window sill watching the funeral going down the canyon. Father got ready to go, but when the time drew near, Mother was very ill and Father could not leave her. My little sister Ellen was born that cold day in January. Aunt Amy left her family of five children Motherless. Grandmother Pittman took care of this family for a while then Aunt Amy's sister Sarah Ann Langdon a widow came from Canada and made her home with them and was a mother to her sister's children. She never had any children of her own. She made Winterquarters her home for as long as she lived. She died at Winterquarters and was buried by her sister in Scofield Cemetery.

This is our second home at Winterquarters and was much nicer than our first home. Father bought this home from Mr and Mrs Tom Brown it was farther up the canyon and the creek ran through the yard. The yard was very nice and in summer we had a small garden which we enjoyed very much. We children would go wading in the creek and one day while wading I stepped on a piece of glass in the water and cut my heel badly. We kids were wading a short distance from home, and I was crying so loud after cutting my heel, Mother and Grandmother came to meet me to see what was the matter. I shall never forget it. Father was working night shift and Mother was trying to get me to quiet down before I got to the house so that I would not wake father. Grandmother lived in the next house the creek running between the two houses, she dressed my foot and I thought she was awfully rough at the time, but my foot soon got well, she dressed it every morning. We children had to walk to school, over a mile when I first went to school Father had to pay for six weeks in advance. School was held in the little log L.D.S. church and we used slates on our lap. Later desks were put in. We had only the railroad track or wagon road to walk we used the track. This canyon was not very wide; the homes were built on the hillside on both sides of the canyon. In winter the snow was very deep and it was hard to get off the track when the train would go up or down. Many times the snow plough has covered me with snow; sometimes the snow would be wet and sloppy.



Alice was Daniel Pitman's daughter born 08/01/1882, she married Thomas Padfield 1899 after Thomas death in the Winterquarters Explosion on 01/05/1900, she later married Edward Nielsen on 15/07/1901

This is also Aunt Alice referred to in Ellen Hayes King's story.

Edward and Alice Nielsen

Transcribed by Carol Watkins - cgablesgal@aol.com