

established a Stage Station, on N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$, 15—10—2 and placed in charge a Mr. Chapin, who kept it for a period of six months, when it passed into the hands of Jack Smith, who remained proprietor until the freight wagons disappeared, and its mission was ended.

The McDonald Ranch was also established in 1864, and is named in honor of its original proprietor. This ranch was purchased by a Mr. Baker, in the fall of 1865, and operated by him until the close of the freighting business. It was located just east of Porcupine Ranch.

Antelope Ranch was situated only a few miles east of the McDonald Ranch, and was established in the month of November, 1865, by James T. Mathewson.

Next to the Jack Smith Stage Station west was the ranch known as Jack Stone's Ranch, established in August, 1865, by George Chapman, but operated by him for only six months, at which time he transferred it to John McClellan, alias Jack Stone, and maintained by him until the business of freighting was abandoned.

One would think from hearing of the McClellan Ranch, the Jack Smith Ranch and the Jack Stone Ranch, all just down the Beaver Creek from York, that there were three ranches, but from information gathered from old settlers it appears that George Chapman first started a ranch and sold to John McClellan. This John McClellan afterwards got into a fight with a fellow and whipped him, and knocked the breath out of him, but the fellow soon got his breath and picked himself up; and John McClellan said, "Why I thought I knocked you dead as a stone," and he was afterwards called Jack Stone, and the ranch was lastly known as the "Jack Stone Ranch."

Robert Henderson, N. A. Dean and M. Sovereign went to the site of the Jack Stone, McClellan, Ranch, to verify its location, also to find the location of the Jack Smith Stage Station.

Mr. Henderson, who put in the first crop on the Jack Stone ranch in 1865, and lived there, locates the place where the ranch house stood, near the south bank of Beaver Creek and about 40 rods from the S. W. corner of Fred Whitecombs

farm, the S. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ —9—10—2, about 4 miles S. E. from York, the Ranche was built of logs with sod roof. Marks of the buildings remain in the pile of dirt and an old caved in well. The course of the creek is very familiar to Mr. Henderson and he made no hesitancy in locating the exact spot, and by the way it is the exact location where the first white child was born in old York Precinct, our friend Mrs. Alex. Stephens now living at 815 York avenue.

The Ranch stables were about 30 rods S. W. of where the house stood on the N. E. corner of N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$, 16—10—2.

Next the party proceeded to locate the Jack Smith Stage Station which was about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile down the creek. There was no trouble in locating the Stage Station it was on the banks of a big draw on Sec. 15—10—2, this is the Station made famous by the shooting of a drunken stage driver by the keeper of the Station—Jack Smith, the victim was a driver in charge of the overland stage coach, and in passing over the road stopped at Smith's Station. He was, under the influence of "pioneer whiskey," very abusive, and finally declared his intention to shoot Mr. Smith.

With this purpose in view, he went to the stage, secured his revolvers, returned to the ranch and drew a bead on Mr. Smith, just as he was about to enter the ranch.

Mr. Smith shot first, the ball entering the forehead and producing instant death. Our Mr. Henderson saw the fellow's hat with the bullet hole through the band.

Near the site of Mr. Smith's old Stage Station, on the bluffs, a few rods south of Beaver Creek, on the northwest Quarter of Section 15, Township 10, Range 2, may be seen the grave of the first white man interred in York County. His death occurred in 1865, was tragic and brought on by his own evil intentions.

H. H. Klone, an early settler, says that about the same time the stage driver was shot and buried near Jack Stone's Ranch a wagon boss, a stranger, Sam Tate, was passing through the country and was killed by lightning in a

storm, and nothing could be found on his body to, in any way, identify him, but \$500.00 was found in his pockets; the parties who found him buried him by the stage driver, and as a compensation for the 500.00 sent to Nebraska City and procured paling and placed a fence around his grave, the fence is supposed to be around the stage driver's grave but is by his side and around the other grave.

Mr. Henderson says he has read the lead pencil lettering many times as he went by the grave. This was 47 years ago, and the marker is in a good state of preservation was brought in by the party and left at the County Judge's office with other curios of early times.

This was the first death occurring in the county, and although assuming the form of a tragedy, Mr. Smith was justified in the course he pursued. This death occurred February, 1865.

The party also found plain marks of the famous old Freight Trail, that so many thousands of California gold hunters passed over in "49" and later years in their untiring hunt for wealth and other thousands of Mormons on their way to Utah where they committed so many atrocities in the guise of Indians on the early pioneer emigrants.

The marks of this old Trail which brings to mind so many thrilling incidents of early times is on the banks of the big draw just below the residence of Mr. John Nelson on Sec. 15—10—2 about 4 miles S. E. of York. The emigrants used to travel in great companies for protection against the indians, and drove their wagons side by side usually making a trail two to four rods wide. Mr. Henderson says he counted 160 wagons of Mormons in one company, and it took them 3 hours to all get in camp, but in going down this steep draw they made 4 separate tracks, and came together in the draw and made one track coming out on the west side.

The first permanent settlement of the county was made by John Anderson and his son William Anderson, upon the first homestead claims in York County on Section 2, Town-