

**EMERY COUNTY ARCHIVES
ORAL HISTORY – SAN RAFAEL SWELL PROJECT
JIM KENNICK – PRICE (about Thaddeus Clay Hambrick)
Interviewed by Dottie Grimes
September, 2007**

(Jim Kennick is 59 years old but he has been keeping history on his ancestors and wanted to share his ancestors with me. There is very little about his life—he only wanted to tell me about his great grandfather Thaddeus Clay Hambrick. So this is what this history is about.)

Jim Kennick: My name is Jim Kennick. I was born the 20th of May, 1948 in Price, Utah to William Kennick and Doris Brandon.

Dottie Grimes: Who were your grandparents and who first came to this area?

J: My grandparents on my mother's side, my grandfather was Hugh Rex Brandon. And on my grandmother's side, her father was Thaddeus Clay Hambrick and her mother was Mary Ann Barbara Brooks. They were the ones that settled down on Hambrick's Bottom on the San Rafael.

D: Great. Tell me about that and any other stories that you remember.

J: Well, Thaddeus Clay Hambrick was born at Chatham Hill, Virginia. Well, do you want dates? I have dates.

D: Sure.

J: He was born June the 2nd 1867. No no, that is wrong. He was born October the 4th 1844. His father was Jackson Hambrick. He was a horse trader. And when he was a young boy, in his teens, his family moved to Browning, Missouri. And if you'll look back through history at that period of time, that was the big cross roads of America, Missouri. So what better place to sell horses. His father got shot in Browning Missouri, prior to the Civil War. It was referred to as bloody Kansas and bloody Missouri. And there was a lot of controversy over slavery and everything. And I can't tell you who shot him or exactly why, but that is what was going on in that period of time. Perhaps that was related to the situation. Or perhaps he sold someone a blind horse.

Anyway, Thaddeus got married there to a woman by the name of Harriet Harris. They had 3 children. Two of them died real young. So he had one daughter, I can't think of her name. She moved to Sanpete Co. But anyway, after the Civil War, Thaddeus, his mother and his daughter, because his mother raised his daughter. They all moved to Utah. I guess because he was still in the cavalry and he fought in the Blackhawk Indian War. Then later, he became the sheriff of Sanpete County.

D: Now which one are we talking about?

J: Thaddeus Clay Hambrick

D: How do you spell that exactly?

J: Thaddeus. There are many spellings. But this is the way I have found it the most. I am not sure what is on his tomb stone. He was buried in Castle Dale. He died in 1904

D: So he was sheriff over in Sanpete County?

J: Well, actually Price was Sanpete County at that time. And then Price later became Emery County and then Carbon County. Yeah, he lived over by Mt. Pleasant and that is where he met my grandmother. She was also from Chatham Hill, Virginia. They were married and lived over there for a while and then he killed a man in the live of duty, as sheriff. But the guy's family was giving him a lot of problems. While my great grandmother's sister Susan had married a man named Tom Fuller and they had moved over on the San Rafael down on Fuller's Bottom. So my great grandmother and great grandfather they came over. I thought they homesteaded that place, because I had heard them call it the Homestead. But I looked back through history and it was the Desert Land Act. And at the period of time they bought all that land for 25 cents an acre.

I have looked for like Homesteading documents and all I could come up with was this Desert Land Act at that period of time.

D: I haven't run across that yet.

J: They lived on the San Rafael. They had 12 children. Some of them were born in Sanpete County like Alexander and some of the older ones. Down on the desert there is a grave that's my Aunt Lillian's that died as a baby. The river was flooded and they couldn't get her across the river to get her to town. So they buried her there on the hill. She is still buried there at Hambrick Bottoms.

D: Is there a marker there?

J: Actually I made a marker when I was in high school out of a piece of cedar wood and had her name and all the dates put on the cedar wood. Then one of our distant relatives by the name of Cheney, who was a descendant from Thaddeus Clay's first wife, the little girl, I can't think of her name. She never did come to live with him after he remarried. She'd come to visit. But she lived with her grandma all the time. I remember my great aunt Jess told me she didn't like her. She was a spoiled brat. But my grandmother and my uncle Doug were born down on the San Rafael. Some were born in Castle Dale and some were born on the San Rafael. And 3 or 4 of them died. And of course they were related to Tom Fuller. One of Tom Fuller's daughters, my great aunt Alice, she married one of Charley Swasey's boys. Young Charley Swasey

D: So they were all down there together then. The Swaseys, the Hambricks and the Fullers.

J: I have also found records that Sylvester Wilson lived down there. He had Wilsonville. My great grandfather bought Wilsonville. I have a record right here on the computer. Thaddeus bought Wilsonville. Sylvester wanted \$1500.00 for Wilsonville. This was after the pony express

quite running through there. And the railroad came in there and he was wanting to move to Jackson Hole, Wyoming. My great grandfather gave him \$500.00 cash and 20 race horses. I have it on record. And he bought the little town of Wilsonville. Okay, Sylvester moved to Jackson Hole, Wyoming, taking with him his son John Hambrick. And John moved up there and married Ellen Roberts.

D: Why did he take Thaddeus's son?

J: I guess he wanted to go.

D: He was probably old enough, wanted some adventure and more land.

J: He lived and died up in Jackson Hole. I have a picture of Thaddeus Clay on the wall in his military uniform.

D: Who had the land. Did the Fullers get the land from the Hambricks or did the Hambricks get the ground from the Fullers?

J: Neither.

D: Did they live side by side?

J: Neither. I would imagine that Fullers went and got their land on the Desert Land Act and told them, "Hey you better come and get some of this before it is all gone." And they came over the mountain.

But they ran horses clear down into Moab. And my mother, who is 84 years old, claims that when they ran the horses off Dead Horse Point, with the airplanes, killing them. She claims they were some of his horses that was run off Dead Horse Point. What they would do is that they would all get together and find a herd of wild horses. Once they spotted the herd, they'd find a nearby canyon and hit a narrow spot in the canyon. They might spend a couple of days then bringing in logs and dead trees and what ever they could to build a fence across the narrow part of the canyon. Then they would round up these horses and herd them into the canyon and then they would go ahead and block off the other side. They would spend days in there. Someone would bring them in supplies in an old buckboard. They'd be breakin' horses and culling them out ya know and deciding which one gets which horse and everything.

I just came back from the San Rafael. I'll show you what I found.

D: Oh good.

J: I told my mother where I found it and she told me that is where the corals used to be.

D: Oh neat. That is what you were telling me about. Do you have a metal detector?

J: Yah, a buckle off a cinch strap.

D: So you were down in Hambrick Bottoms or where?

J: Yeah we spent 3 days down there camped out. It's nice down there, even in August. We went down and set up camp. It started raining on us. So we went inside. But when that let up we finished setting up camp. By the time we were done, we were all covered with mud. So we did what any good red-necked family would do and we had a good mud fight. We swam in the river and I would climb out on the sandstone rocks and just lay there in the shade and it was August was fairly nice. We were just down there last weekend. But uh.... I thought all the time I was down there of how hard life would have been. No electricity, no running water. My great grandmother dug a ditch by herself, from the river clear over to her garden.

D: What was her name?

J: Her name was Mary Ann Barbara Brooks. She was 19 years younger than my great grandfather. She died a year before I was born. She died in 1947. My mother knew her real well. My mother is the one that has all the stories.

D: We have to go visit her too.

J: She talks about old Joe Walker. He was friends with my gr. grandfather. They all hung around together. Some of those outlaws and stuff. I am sure they weren't particular who they sold a horse to. The outlaws would come through there and need fresh horses. He'd sell to them and let them take off. Then the law would come through looking for them and he'd sell to them too so they could chase them.

D: They would build a house or cabin or a dugout? What did they live in first?

J: They had a wooden house. I was down there years ago with my great Aunt Jess. She had lived there as a child. I had a metal detector and I found a glass door knob. And I don't know what happened to it. She told me which door in the house that it came off of. So they had more than one room. There's no sign of a foundation or whatever. So I would imagine it was just set on a rocks. Rock foundation of sorts.

D: What about the Fullers? Did they have a house there also?

J: Oh yeah. The Fullers had one too. I have a picture somewhere of young Tom Fuller and my great uncle Doug. And when great Uncle John's wife Ellen.....they went on a fishing trip. I knew Aunt Ellen, my Uncle Doug. Douglas was his name. He was Thaddeus's son.

D: His children were?

J: Let me see if I can find my list. There were 12 kids.

D: Was Jess of that generation too.

J: Oh yes, Jess lived on Hambrick farms. She showed me where they used to go up Red Seeps to get water. That was better water than what came out of the river. And there was a wagon

wheel sticking up out of the ground and their dad would tell them to get the water up above the wagon wheel because there were dead bodies down there. The Indians had killed these Spanish settlers. The Spanish...that was the Old Spanish Trail.
They used to play on that old wagon wheel.

D: Wow that is an interesting story.

J: There are a lot of water stories. Like when the Castle Gate Payroll was robbed. And somebody came by there and says that it was robbed. And Joe Walker was with my great Grandfather and he said, "yes, and I got blamed for it I bet." "Yah", they said, "you were one of the guys names." But I wonder myself if he really was in on it, and the reason he was there was for an alibi because he had been out cutting the telegraph wires? He might have been out cutting the telegraph wires while they were robbing the bank and then go over to dad's place that he didn't have nothing to do with it.

D: Yah, you have to wonder about that. They were very smart guys.

J: Ya know, you wonder about these things..... what all went on. It was a rough life what they lived. Let me look real quick and see if I can't find all those names.

D: Do you have pictures of anything like their home or anything about their life on the San Rafael?

J: I don't know if my mother does or if it is my Aunt Evelyn.

D: What is your mother's name?

J: This is hard to read. I have a typed version somewhere. You can't hardly read that. It was the last letter that my great Grandmother's dad had sent to her mother when he was fighting in the Civil War. And he got killed in the Civil War. And that was the last letter she ever received from him. His name was Alexander Jackson Brooks.

Lucetta was the daughter's name by the other wife.

D: How did you get it? Does your grandmother have the original?

J: I don't know if she does. Somebody typed it up one time to make it a lot easier to read.

Okay. There was Mary Hambrick. She was born in 1880

Then Alice Hambrick. Actually it was Alice Maud...1882

William Hambrick, 1883, John Hambrick 1892

Oh I skipped some. Alexander, 1885, Margaret, 1887, Jess, 1890. She had a kid like every year. Clarence, 1894, Lillian, 1897, Eugene, 1898, Douglas Lee, 1900, Eunice, my grandmother, 1902.

Here is some more information. It will be a little mixed up. Douglas Lee Hambrick, born July the 19th 1900 in Castle Dale. I remember when he died. I used to go out and herd sheep with him. I stay at the sheep camp with him for a week at a time. He died the 3rd of Nov. 1964 in Price. It was a hit and run. We think we know who did it.

Eunice Ellouise, she was born the 22 Nov 1902. I don't have her death here. I can't remember exactly. That was my grandma.

Then we have Mary Susan. I am pretty sure she was the one married to Tom Fuller. She was born the 29th of Nov. 1880 in Mt. Pleasant and died the 18 of Dec. 1922.

Margaret Myrtle born the 29th of Nov. 1887 in Mt. Pleasant.

Alexander Jackson Hambrick that's Eck. I have his picture on my wall. He was born the 1st of Dec. 1885 in Mt. Pleasant. And he died on the 26th of Oct. 1926 at Caliente, NV.

I went down and tried to find his grave. They said a mule rolled over on him. It was a real wild town in those days. I spent the whole day talking to people in different establishments there. They had a lot of tales of how that town was so wild back in those days. There's belief that he was bushwhacked not just a mule rolled over on him.

And then there is William Thaddaus Hambrick, born on Dec. 9th 1883 in Mt. Pleasant. He died the 11th of Mar. in 1954. In Price. He was staying at the Holdaway Hotel. He was a diabetic. I used to go up and see him. He'd keep lemon drops in his pocket. I'd sit on his lap and he'd give me lemon drops.

Winnie Jesimine Hambrick. That was my aunt Jess. Born the 5th of Mar. 1890 in Castle Dale.

Alice Maud, born the 15th of Apr. 1882 in Mt. Pleasant.

Lillian Virginia Hambrick. Born the 2nd of May 1897. It says in Castle Dale, but she was born right there in Hambrick Bottoms and she died the 2nd of May. So she was born and died the same day.

Eugene Earl Hambrick born the 3rd of May 1898.

D: That is exactly a year later.

J: Hey, I figured it up and they were married 14 years before he died, and they had 12 children. How in the hell do you have time to catch horses. (chuckles)

D: The poor lady. He died on her—leaving her alone.

J: Okay Eugene was born the 3 May 1898 and died the 7th of Apr. 1901. He was just a small boy.

D: Was he buried out there?

J: No the reason Lillian is the only one buried out there is that the river was so high they couldn't get across. Somebody came down, I can't remember who my mother said came down. They'd made a casket and came down and floated it across the river and they buried her down there.

This Cheney came, who did I tell you who he was a descendant from?

D: Lucetta.

J: Yah, Lucetta. He was doing his genealogy and he goes to Hambrick Bottoms and find a grave site. Well he made up a tombstone out of rock. I have a picture of it here. A nice little tombstone made out of rock. Has a nice little horse on it and everything. He put baby M and no dates. Where on my piece of cedar I had her full name and when she was born and when she

died and everything. He took it back over to Mt. Pleasant and put it in his flower garden. And left this little stone headstone like you see in a grave yard. I wasn't very happy with him.

Okay, John David Hambrick.

D: He is the one that went to Wyoming?

J: Yeah, Wyoming. I never knew him, but I knew his wife. She was a nice old woman. She lived by a ski resort. You could sit on her front porch and see the ski resort. We used to go up there when I was a kid. I can remember going up with my mother and my dad and great uncle Doug and Ellen,....she would come down on the bus to visit then we would take her back. And her and Uncle Doug would be in the back seat just a giggling'. And you'd look back there and they'd be passing back and forth a pint of whiskey. They sat back there sippin' on a pint of whiskey. We were driving a 1956 Ford convertible.

Okay he was born (John) 18th of May 1892 in Castle Dale and died the 26th of May 1945. A lot of them other say Castle Dale too. But I am sure it wasn't Castle Dale. They were born right down there at Hambrick Bottoms.

D: Did they loose quite a few kids?

J: Now here's Clarence Franklin Hambrick born May the 28th 1894 and he died May 12th 1903. They have him born in Castle Dale and he was born at Hambrick Bottoms.

Now here is something you might want to read. Her dad of course was a Brooks. And this guy would be like my 5th gr. Grandfather and he fought for the War of Independence, he fought the War of 1812. You know to get the freedom Independence from England. He had four enlistments in the military and they gave him a bunch of land in Virginia over by Big Thompson Valley. He went in there with his wife and either 5 or 7 children on horse back and carved out a home in the wilderness. They built a big monument there to him. Me and Betty went up there. It was only 180 miles north of where we were living. So me and Betty took some time off of work and we went up there and stayed in motels and we went to Chatham Hill, Virginia and Taswell and into Burk's Garden.

Burk's Garden is like a volcano. There is a dirt road coming up this side and a paved road on this side and it is all switchbacks. And when you get up on top, you can look down into a valley that is completely surrounded by mountains. And there is still Amish people there that are driving around in little carriages.

D: You probably felt like you were in a time warp.

J: Yeah, really. And the people had their little gas station and store there. They cook you something to eat. They had a wood burning stove, chairs all around it. You'd just sit down in front of the stove, and tell stories.

D: Oh, I wanna go.

J: I guess everybody in town, beings that I had stayed there a little bit longer than what they thought that I should there was a lot of people stopping' in that store, not buying anything, just coming in to see who I was. And we stayed there for quite some time talking to those people.

And that is where my gr. Grandmother's father was born, Burk's Garden. I can't remember what battle he died in. He was in the 45th Virginia Infantry on the side of the Confederacy. He got killed one year before the War ended.

So we went to where he was buried in _____ and went to the Historical Society. And boy they were great. They kind of like dropped what they were doing started getting me books and all they could find. And they had other folks looking up stuff and when they'd find something they'd come and give it to me. They were great. But we couldn't find his grave because they had mass graves. They had it all fenced off there and it was Confederate Soldiers. They had just dug a big hole and dumped them all in and covered them up.

D: (I can't make it out for sure....I think she is talking about Gettysburg and about how it was so hot that they had to bury the soldiers quickly in mass graves. When the South wanted their soldiers back, they wrote letters. But it wasn't possible)

J: I'll tell you other things I found out in my genealogy. He actually had 15 children. I am his gr. Grandson. I have 12 children. I fathered 12 and married a woman 26 years younger.

D: Okay, I guess it is in the blood. This is so interesting. Thank you so much for all your information. So Thaddeus is the one that lived on the San Rafael. I don't know on the map.....if Fuller's Bottoms the same place?

J: Absolutely not. As you are coming out of Castle Dale, turn at the corrals and head to the San Rafael. Before you get to the Wedge, its not very far, maybe a mile. On the right hand side there is a bunch of white rocks. They come up out of the ground kind of off by their selves. A big pile of white rocks. There is a road that turns off there. If you follow that road, it winds down along the river to Hambrick Bottoms. And you will know you are there because you will find a little road that turns off and goes down into the trees. That is where the coral was. Then you will see a fenced off area and a set of wooden steps going up over the fence. And over by the river a big culvert sticking up out of the ground and it has a water pipe and water lines where they pump water out of the spring into the river for their cattle when the river is dry.

If you just waded the river, like we did, and climb the little hill, you can look down and see the other bottoms and Fuller Bottoms from there. They just had to go down the river. But by road, like it is today, you just turn by the pile of rocks. And just below Fuller Bottoms is Wilsonville.

D: I have never been to Wilsonville. Why did he buy it?

J: I don't know. I am still looking. You guys want to see a real cool picture of some Tennessee Blood Hounds.

D: I want to see anything. (they didn't take the tape recorder)

D: Do you have any copies of these pictures? Could I take these pictures and scan them and get them right back to you? Even today?

J: I don't know about this one of Thaddaus?

D: My husband frames.

J: Here is a paper. It says: For whatever reason he sold the property to Thaddaus Hambrick for \$500.00 cash money and 20 head of horses. (can't out any more for a while)

Which picture did you want?

D: I would really like to copy the one of Thaddaus.

(The little bit remaining on the tape is very hard to hear)

