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FREIGHTING EXPERIENCES OF

GEORGE WASHINGTON SEVY

Born February 25, 1832, Leroy, Genesee County, New York
and his son

JOHN LOWE SEVY

Born January 11, 1859, Spanish Fork Utah

In 1849 my father, George Washington Sevy, started for the gold rush in California. On arriving in Utah he became stranded and stopped to get work. He drifted to Spanish Fork where he became converted to the Gospel of the Latter Day Faith and joined the Church. He married my mother, Phebe M. Butler December 5, 1854.

In 1861 George W. Sevy and family were called by Brigham Young to move south. They located at New Harmony, Washington County. About 1865, my father would go to Pioche, Patison and Eli, Nevada and take loads of produce for sale. One Mr. Patison, at Patison mining camp about forty miles north of Pioche, who was in the mercantile business, induced my father to set up a store at New Harmony. He would furnish the goods and take his pay in produce and livestock. This was the first little store in that part and gave the people a chance to exchange produce for merchandise.

One trip Father decided to take two teams. I drove a pair of large mules which did not need much driving. This load was a hay rack built for three decks of live chickens. On top of this rack I wired a box and took three cats. Mr. Patison bought the cats at \$1.50 each or \$4.50 for all three. This being the first money I ever had I felt quite rich.

When I was nine years of age my father and Joseph Hunter of Cedar City trailed 200 beef cows and steers from Harmony and Cedar City to Salt Lake City, grazing all the way and coming on the west of Utah Lake. Arriving, we corraled them in the tithing yard just north of where the Hotel Utah now stands where they were sold. It took thirty days to trail them but we had good grass all the way.

My father built a water power saw mill at New Harmony and got timber from Pine Valley Mountain in Main Canyon. In 1871 he was called to take charge of the resettling of Panguitch, also to be Bishop. When Panguitch Stake was organized he became first counselor and continued to be the Bishop. In 1878 he went to Escalante to help settle that section.

Now I will give a little record of my own experiences. I had very little opportunity for schooling compared to this day. The most I got was a schooling of experience. From the age of eight until I was twenty I learned to do all kinds of work. I learned to ride a horse when I was five years old and up and to drive a team from ten years and up. When I was thirteen I drove a yoke of oxen from Panguitch to Pioche, Nevada. My brother two years younger took a horse team with a load of barley, I took 1000 feet of lumber. We were with some of our neighbors. At Panaca we sold the barley at 7¢ a pound. There my brother and I were left alone to take the lumber to Pioche, about twelve miles up in the mountains. Neither of us had been over the road to Pioche, however we landed there and sold the lumber for \$100.00 which was paid to us in gold, \$20, \$10, \$5, and \$2.50 pieces. Our feed bill was \$2.50 but I gave the man a \$5 gold piece. He gave it back to me and said, "Give me the \$2.50 piece." Here I found an honest man, this being the first money for me to handle, I did not know the difference between a ^{5.00} \$4 piece and a \$2.50 piece. However, I have always known the difference since that time. On this trip of 150 miles we hobbled our teams and turned them on the range for grass as there was no hay to be had. Who today would send two boys of this age with such outfits on such a trip.

until I was twenty
From the age of twelve I did all parts of the lumbering and hauling of lumber to Pioche, Frisco, and Silver Reef, all mining camps. During these years I associated with all classes of people, freighters from all parts of the country. Some of the most profane men of all my experience were Mormon raised boys. I also dealt with some outsiders or Gentiles who were the most

... my experience. During this time I worked in the United Order at Panguitch. My father put all he had into the order. During this period I irrigated 150 acres of hay and grain. Dew Inlay and I ran a combined mower and self-rake machine and cut 400 acres each fall. I was sent on several trips to Manti, Sanpete County, with lumber to get flour for the United Order. A Board of Directors was elected who had no property. They sold the saleable property and used the money. When the Order broke up the men of means were left with experience. I worked two years and got a few pairs of overalls, also a few pair of cowhide shoes. Other than this, in my boyhood I learned to do horse shoeing, also shoeing oxen which was quite an ordeal. The ox would be put into a heavy frame, then a clamp was put on the neck with a wide rawhide belt under the belly attached to rollers, pull them off their feet, then lash each foot to the frame, then put on the shoes.

On one trip from Manti with a load of flour I found the Sevier River was very high. We ferded the river ten times from Junction to Panguitch. I was alone. At one of the fords in Circle Valley Canyon I found the water would wet the flour. I unloaded and chopped cotton wood limbs and filled the wagon bed, then put the flour on the limbs and thus kept the flour dry. On one trip from Salt Lake with a load of merchandise I found the river frozen ever so as to hold up the load. In one crossing the ice gave way and wet the load doing much damage.

From 1887 to 1939, fifty two years, I have been through a variety of experiences. My hobby has been to develop the country and make the world bigger and better for people to live in. Twenty-five years ago most people thought land and water were the best of security. I have spent all the money I have made along these lines. Today no one seems to care to have this kind of property.

On December 24, 1879 I married Mary Hannah ^{Heywood} Heywood in the Saint George Temple. My worldly possessions were a fine, well matched team, and a $3\frac{1}{2}$ wagon. My mother had made most of the clothes I had had up to this time. My first suit I bought at Silver Reef the day before the wedding. I peddled dressed chickens for the suit. Most people do not believe this. I tell them I have two witnesses-- my father-in-law and my wife. On our way home we had a heavy snow and were four

days from New Harmony to Panguitch with eight teams in the company. Snow at Bear Valley was three to four feet deep.

The housekeeping stuff was purchased second-hand for one cow. We had an extremely hard winter. Food supplies were scarce, however we had plenty of very choice potatoes. We had meals of roasted potatoes in the ashes, salt and water. In a short time we had plenty of good milk and butter; however, we had some pioneering.