

J. Matt Anderson Pays Tribute to Pioneers



(By J. Matt Anderson.)

We turn over a new leaf, 1927! The old pages are worn and soiled by many. Others have kept the pages of the book clean. We all write and make a book of record whether we use a pen or not and we are read by all mankind. So we need to turn another page for 1927.

Some of our older people have written quite a record and the younger ones too. We should appreciate what is bestowed upon us in Idaho by the pioneers. Idaho has become one of the greatest places for long life of any state in the union. We have more people over 70 years of age than any country to my knowledge. We have 75 or more men and women above 70 in and around Meridian, 15 more past 80 years and a few crowding 90 very close.

Talk to the Old People.

Wouldn't you like to read the pages they have written? God alone looks on these records, but if you sit down for awhile and let them take you back into the 40's, thru that awful hand-to-hand war, to make what we have to-day, they will give you history that you cannot read. Take time some day and see what a source of inspiration these old patriarchs are to us. They are still writing.

I always could learn from an elderly person. We have quite a goodly number living in and around Meridian who appreciate kind attention.

Idaho was one time "in the rough" Someone had to combat the Indians, clean the sage brush and fight jack rabbits, and burn sage brush for fuel, eat jack rabbits, and wait many days for the freighters to come in. Some of them are here yet. They have lived to see Idaho blossom as the rose the dry parched deserts (like our lives that were in sin) were given the water of life.

Now we have abundant crops of all kinds, the best twelve-month climate to be found, people living from ten to twenty years longer.

Just One Better Place than Idaho

Just now while I am writing a storm started in Alaska and extended to south Texas, many states suffering, recording deaths from exposure while

we have had a warm autumn until Dec. 12th. Flowers have been blooming outside, grass green, some gardens have young lettuce growing. This is fine. No wonder people don't want to leave here. We ought to be so well contented in Idaho that we would be found here until our good Lord issues the last summons to come to a place prepared for us according to the way we have taken care of our stewardship. If we want to find a better place than Idaho, seek salvation and live in Idaho.

A Favored Climate.

I came to Idaho in 1901, and land was cheap. On the bench near Boise sagebrush land could be had for \$12 per acre. The land this side of the Fairview bridge was homesteaded after I came here. Many have come from every state. They have in turn told others and they have also come. Just like Heaven, when our loved ones go ahead of us that increases our interest there and we continue to go until many broken families are joined together again.

Some of Those Who Helped.

Those who helped to make Idaho and who have passed on include the following pioneers:—

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Hudson, Dave McMullen, Mr. and Mrs. John Willburn, John Griggs, Thomas Briggs, George Rogers, Wm. Gess, George Whitlock, Mr. Stanton, George Gregory, Elizabeth Onwiler, Mrs. S. D. Anderson, A. R. Stalker, S. M. Burns, Milt Burns, L. K. Deck, D. L. Badley, Ham Badley, Isaac Daly, John Daly, James Daly, Calvin Jones and wife, Sarah Jones, Mrs. S. E. Havener, J. J. Jones, George Frazier, Mr. Vickers, and other old-timers. They live on in our memory.

Many Still Living Around Meridian.

We have a large number of pioneers—very interesting people—still living among us, including:

Mrs. George Gregory, Mrs. John Griggs, John Hudson, Miss Eva Hudson, Woodson Parker, Dave Kiggins, John Barber and Lee Barber, Joseph Grice, Joe McMillen, Mr. Snider, Robert McKinnis and wife, George Parkin, S. D. Anderson, George Yost, W. N. Yost, F. Weigel, Frank Helm and wife, Bush Helm and wife, Roy Adams, John Beery, Homer Tolleth, John Eaton, John Pfost, John Clark, M. Z. Davidson, Colonel Marsters, M. A. Ragon (Boise); George Rowel and Mrs. Rowell; George Deck, H. B. Powers and wife; John Beery, Dan Barker and wife; Mrs. Boyers, Allen Jones, Mrs. Whitlock, James Colbern and wife, Mrs. Anna Burns.

The older of these people have been here for a long time and have seen many changes. We have many old people who came here many years later, however, who are fine people. Space forbids giving all their names, but they are appreciated and not forgotten as they have shaped the destiny of a favored land.

J. MATT ANDERSON.

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