

Puffer... Part 1

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had gone down with the Ship.

Puffer made his way to the mining camps. He said that men were "as thick as flies.". He made agreements to keep some of these camps supplied with venison. There were no laws at that time against killing deer and no license was required.

While at San Bernardino, he noticed that the American Flag was not waving and was told that they dared not put it up, The Spaniards, had warned them not to attempt such a foolish thing. Jim told the men to "produce the flag" and He would raise it to its glory, Which he did by taking a chance, His courage along with his pistol's served the purpose.

While in California, he also attended a celebration going on in one of the smaller towns near the Mexican border where the Stars and Stripes had been hoisted. Several men began to make light of the flag and were preparing to take it down. At this moment Jim Puffer walked slowly out of the tense crowds. He stood erect, with both hands on the pistols he carried at his belt. All eyes were on him as he said, "The first man that makes a move to lower that flag. I'll shoot him down." From his looks and the tone of his voice they knew he meant it. "Old Glory" remained flying in the breeze.

While there at San Bernardino he met and married Eunice Clinda Twitchell in 1850. In 1860 she and her two children (Ephriam and Melissa) came to Beaver, Utah, with her parents, Ephriam and Phebe Melissa Knight Twitchell. Jim came about two years later.

(to be continued)

History of James Monroe Puffer

Part Two

submitted by Marsha Dalton

Last week's story ended with James Monroe Puffer and his family moving to Beaver in 1860. The story continues.

At the time President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated some of the men in Beaver (probably those with Southern sympathies) were running up the flag, celebrating, and going to fire a salute. Jim Puffer disapproved of this, so he drew his six-shooters and dared them to do it, saying, "There will be no celebration or salute fired, and keep that flag at half-mast." His daring and patriotism again won his desire, made him friends, and the men crept away without further arguments. By these incidents we can see how Jim loved his country and the American flag.

I feel this history would not be complete unless I tell how that beautiful lake in our Beaver

Mountains came to be called, "Puffer's Lake." Jim was very fond of the mountains and spent a lot of his time hunting bear, deer, and mountain lions. He killed several bear., The Beaver Press of October 17, 1947, had the story of one of these killings written by George W. Woodhouse. It was called, "Jim Puffer and the Bear," under the heading Black Powder Days. It is a very interesting article; all should read it. He was a professional hunter and a crack shot, having been employed by the Provision and Supply Company in California during the Gold Rush.

Now on with the story of finding this beautiful lake. One day while Jim Puffer, Jim Hoopes,, and Jim Hutchings along with Ancil Twitchell were camped at what is now Three Creeks. They all took off at daybreak for their day's hunt on horses, Puffer had wandered from the others. He had wounded a deer late in the afternoon, he tracked it down across the country for a long way. He then came out of the trees into an opening on a high ridge.

Jim looked down across the country and to his

surprise he saw the most beautiful breath-taking lake. It was one of the prettiest he had ever seen. It being late and nearly dark and wanting the other men to witness his find, he decided to go to camp and return to the lake in the morning with the others. Jim Puffer was declared the first white man to ever see the lake that bears his name, "Puffer's Lake," one of the most beautiful lakes in all the West.

He, Mr. Hutchings, and Mr. Hoopes helped to build the first road to this lake. Jim did the planning and helped build the first boat to ever put on the lake. It was about 30 feet long. It had two oars on each side and one on the stem to steer with. The bottom was round like a lifeboat. They named it the "Maid of the Peaks." The front was in the form of a dove. Robert Keyes and sons did most of the building of this boat in Beaver.

Between 1886 and 1894 C.E. Woodhouse Jr., James Hutchings, and Jim Puffer put the first dam in Puffer Lake.

About 75 years ago in 1878, James Monroe Puffer, acting as guide for a group of men includ-

ing Captain Rogers, John Muir (the world-famed naturalist) and Frank Olmstead returned from an ascent of Mount Baldy. This was the first party to ever reach the summit of Mt. Baldy. They declared the peak to be 12,120 ft. above sea level, which is near the estimate accepted today.

Jim Puffer was well acquainted with Kit Carson and Matt Cullen (the millionaire) who called Jim the "Kid." Matt liked horses and was interested in them as was Jim Puffer. He gave Jim Puffer a race horse called "Jim".

When the Indian problems were severe, Jim was foremost among those who helped to quell the riots and save families from danger. His bravery and daring served many times to promote peace with the Redmen.

He was not a religious man, and he enjoyed a little drink now and then, but never alone. He was a great scout in many ways. One of his outstanding traits was his courage to stand up and fight for the things he believed in and knew were right. He would not stand idly by and see a man mistreated

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Puffer...

continued from page 1 and injustice given him.

Jim was an excellent waltzer and could waltz with a glass of water on his handsome head.

James Monroe and Eunice had seven children. Eunice died 25 years before Jim died. At the time, Jim said a Methodist Priest here in Beaver came to see if he could take care of the funeral arrangements for his wife. Jim said, "No. She has Mormon friends who will have charge of the funeral."

The descendants of this, great man are very proud of their heritage.

If Jim Puffer could have his life's story told, it would command the admiration and love of his family and his countrymen. Jim died at Rock Springs, Wyoming, January 27, 1923, age 92. He died at the home of his daughter, Linda Allred.

Part 2

'History of James Monroe Puffer

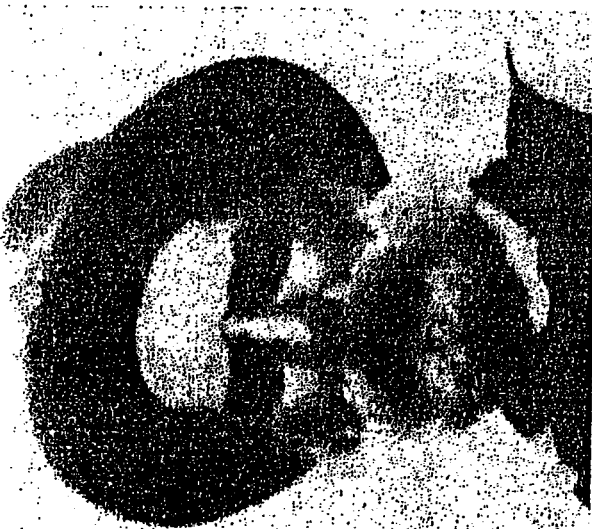
Submitted by: Marsha Dalton. Based on material by her grandmother Winnie Puffer

James Monroe Puffer was born at North Adams, Massachusetts, on March 30, 1831. He was the fifth child of a family of ten. Five boys and five girls. The parents were Tisdale and Rosina Alcega Amidon Puffer. The Puffer family first emigrated to America in 1619-1622.

The last time Tisdale saw his son James Monroe he was running through the orchard at North Adams, leaving home to escape punishment from his Dad who carried a buggy whip' in his hand. At that time James was nine years old.

After seven long years his mother received the first letter from him, and this letter was kept in her trunk for many years, until a fire destroyed the home and all belongings.

Immediately upon leaving home, Jim (he was big for his age) secured a job as cabin boy on a



James Monroe Puffer, called "Jim" was an early pioneer of Beaver. At the recent Beaver's Birthday celebration his name was entered into Beaver's Pioneer Hall of Fame.

ship called the "Coast Schooner" (a vessel have two or more masts and fore-and-aft sails). After working at this job for two years he joined the U.S. Navy and became a great sailor. He helped to survey and charter the Bering Straights for Uncle Sam. He made several trips from Alaska to the Hawaiian Islands. At night while the boat was anchored near the island, Jim would roll his best clothes into a bundle, strap them on top of his handsome head and swim to the shore. Here he would dance with the "Kanacca girls" until the wee hours of the morning, and then swim back to the boat ready to report for work.

He spent some time aboard a whaling vessel. On one occasion Puffer threw a harpoon into one huge, lumbering old whale, and, somehow, the rope caught and tangled so that it caught and neatly amputated his fore-finger. This put him off duty for nearly three months.

After five more years, in the later part of 1849, he heard of the Gold Strike in California. He bought a ticket to San Francisco on an old vessel. All his belongings, the result of seven years' work

were locked in his sailor's chest aboard the vessel. This included two suits of clothing, two pairs of shoes, two pistols, other necessary clothing and \$800 in gold. When the ship drew near the Golden Gate harbor they could see a terrible storm ahead of them. The sailors asked the captain several times not to venture into it. The captain, being a very stubborn, determined, and half-drunken man, gave no heed to their advice and warning. In only a short time after entering the stormy waters, the boat seemed to be falling apart. The waves were too dangerous to think of turning back. Soon they lost control of their ship, which was filling fast with water. The realized they must each try and swim to shore. Under these conditions, Jim escaped into the water. He was an excellent swimmer, a large, strong man, and by keeping calm and using every means to survive, he made it to shore, bare-headed and bare-footed. All he owned in the world were the clothes on his back and two white-handled pistols fastened on either side of his belt. His savings of seven years

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