

Forsyth Scout and Beecher Island Newsletter

Welcome to another edition of the Forsyth Scout and Beecher Island newsletter. Due to extensive amounts of overtime at my job the last several months of 2008, there were no newsletters published for November or December, 2008. Hopefully I am back on track for a while.

Since the last newsletter several descendants of Scout Sigmund Shlesinger have been add to the mailing list along with a descendant of Scout Eutsler. Several months ago, a descendant of Scout Elijah Gilbert (also known as Louis McLaughlin) joined our readership.

This month we will cover Scout Eli Zigler, the last man on the list of scouts alphabetically, and one of the youngest. Hopefully next edition we will cover his brother-in-law, Thomas Alderdice, the first man on the list alphabetically.

Eli was born in or near Rootstown, Ohio (some say Wayne County), the son of Michael and Mary Maderson Zigler (sometimes spelled Ziegler or Zeigler). I will use the Zigler spelling as that is what is the spelling on his cemetery marker. I believe that Eli was a contraction of Elias, as he was listed in the census of 1850 and was then about 1 month old.

When was Eli really born? Some researchers list him as being born in 1852 as does his grave marker. The 1850 census says he was 1 month old in August of 1850, the 1856 Iowa census says he was 6, thus born in 1850. In the 1860 census he was listed as 10, again indicating he was born in 1850. The 1865 Saline County, Kansas census says born about 1851. The 1870, Lincoln County, Kansas census indicates he was born about 1849. In the 1880 Antelope County, Nebraska census, Eli was listed as still being younger, born in 1854. The 1900 census in Linn county, Oregon, shows a birthdate of June 1852. In 1910 Eli was counted in the Marion County, Oregon census, and was listed as born about 1853, but he had to have been born in June of 1850, to be in the census taken in August of that year.

From Ohio the family is known to have moved to Poweshiek County, Iowa, before 1856 and were there as late as 1858 and by 1860 they were living in Texas County, Missouri. Shortly after being enumerated in Texas County, Missouri in 1860, they apparently moved to Clay County, Missouri, because in October of 1860, his sister, Susanna, the future Mrs. Thomas Alderdice, there married her first husband, James Alfred Daily, who died in the fall of 1864. By 1863 Eli, his parents and siblings who were still single, his widowed sister, Susanna and several married sisters were living in, the then small village, of Salina, Kansas. About 1868 most of the Ziglers moved on west to the area, just south of where eventually Beverly, Kansas would be.

After coming to Kansas, Eli is known to have had at least three confrontations with the Indians.

The first, and most famous is of course, is the battle at Beecher Island with the Forsyth Scouts in September of 1868. He escaped from this battle unscathed. On September 25, 1868, Eli and Scout Fletcher Vilott, a neighbor from the Saline River Valley, left the Island and were out looking for signs of Indians and any type of game to replace the putrid horse meat that they had been subsisting on since the battle began on September 17. To the south they saw movement. They hurried back to the Island to prepare for another assault, only this time the movement was not the Indians returning. It was Scouts Peate and Donovan, and a portion of Carpenter's relief column. A few minutes later Peate rode onto the Island, Donovan stopped to visit with some of his friends. Both Peate and Donovan started passing out hardtack and bacon. The relief column's arrived, the famished scouts were fed, the wounded treated, Scout Lewis Farley was buried and all was made ready for the return to Fort Wallace. Soon after returning to Fort Wallace, Eli went back east to his father's home on the Saline River.

His second encounter was on January 30, 1869. This encounter is known in Lincoln County history as the Mulberry Scrap. In Elizabeth Barr's 1908 history she says that the Mulberry Scrap occurred on February 2, 1869. This date is slightly incorrect, as period newspaper articles indicate the fight happened January 30. Along with Eli on this venture were known to be his brother-in-law, John Alverson, and Scouts Chalmers Smith and Edward Johnson. The incident started when the Indians "stopping at Tom Skinner's home, compelled Mrs. Skinner to cook for them." This must have been on January 28 or 29. Thomas Skinner was a brother to Scout Darius Calvin "D. C." Skinner, who was also with Peate and rode to the relief of Beecher Island. After leaving the Skinners, the Indians went east or southeast and had camped on Table Rock Creek, which would put it near the Lincoln – Ottawa County line. He would have been a few miles south of the homes of former Scouts Morton, Tucker, Herington and Clark. The Indians then went to the home of George Martin, who was one of the earliest settlers near what would become Glendale, Kansas. The fight with the Indians occurred at a cave, which today the location is uncertain, but which I believe lies south of I-70 about a mile west of the Tescott-Glendale-Brookville road. This would have put the fight in Saline County, about 3 miles southwest of Glendale. Here are a couple of period clippings.

Galveston Daily News
Galveston, Texas
Saturday, February 06, 1869

FIGHT BETWEEN CITIZENS AND INDIANS. From a special to the Missouri Democrat; we learned Governor Harvey received the following telegram on the 30th ult: Saline (Salina) Kansas, January 30 -- The citizens of the Saline River had a fight with the Pawnee Indians, 14 miles from here, on Mulberry creek, yesterday, in which seven Indians were killed. The Indians were trying to run off stock and had robbed some houses, on the Saline, which caused the trouble. There were no whites killed. The Indians fired first.

(Signed) D. E. WAGSTAFF, Sheriff, Saline County.

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St Joseph Herald
Saint Joseph, Michigan
Saturday, February 13, 1869



The West

Thirty of the citizens on the Saline River had a fight with the Pawnee on the 30th ult, on Mulberry Creek. Seven Indians were killed. The Indians were trying to run off stock and had robbed some houses on the Saline, which caused the trouble.

Adolph Roenigk also wrote about the Mulberry Scrap, here is a link to his story:
<http://skyways.lib.ks.us/genweb/archives/statewide/history/roenigk/chpt17.htm>

Eli's third encounter was four months after the Mulberry Scrap. On May 30, 1869, Eli and brother-in-law, John Alverson, (husband of his sister Mary) had left the area of his father's farm and were heading up beyond the Danish community, near present day Denmark, Kansas. On the way they passed the home of his sister, Susanna and brother-in-law, Thomas Alderdice. Later in the day Eli and John Alverson were attacked by the Indians of Tall Bull's Dog Soldiers. They abandoned their team and wagon and traveled on foot down the Spillman Creek to the Saline river and back home. Eli's story can be found here: <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/genweb/lincoln/stories44.htm>

This is when his nephews were shot and killed or wounded and left for dead and his sister, Susanna and infant niece, Alice, were taken captive, to eventually be killed. The rest of Susanna's story will be told along with Scout Alderdice's story in the future.

Sometime after 1885, Eli's parents and some of his siblings moved on to Oregon, living there the rest of their lives. Eli and his family ended up in Oregon also, but they went by a much longer route. By 1880 Eli and family were living in Antelope County, in northeastern Nebraska, near his wife's parents. By 1890 Eli's family was living at Rosita, Colorado, which was near present-day Westcliffe. In 1898 the family lived in Fort Collins Colorado. Here is a period clipping:

Fort Collins Weekly Courier
Fort Collins, Colorado
Thursday, October 26, 1899
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Mr. Eli Zeigler has sold his place on the corner north of Inverness' farm and will go to Oregon for his wife's heath. Mr. Zeigler is one of the survivors of the memorable fight with the Indians in September, 1868, at Beecher's Island in the north fork of the Republican River. He belonged to General Forsyth's company of scouts which was attacked September 17, 1868 by a force of 1,000 Indians under Roman Nose, the famous Sioux (Cheyenne, my note) Chief, and driven to a small island in the river. Here the small band of fifty one scouts defended themselves nine days against the attacks of the redskins, without shelter save the rifle pits dug in the sand, without food except horseflesh, which they had to eat raw. Several of the brave band were killed and a number seriously wounded, among them General Forsyth, who was hit three times by Indian bullets, one in the right thigh, once in the left leg, breaking the bones below the knee, and once in the head, fracturing the skull, and causing a painful scalp wound. Mr. Zeigler escaped unhurt. On the ninth

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day the band of heroes were rescued from their perilous position by a detachment of troops sent out from Fort Wallace, 120 miles away. The thirty first anniversary of this memorable affair was celebrated on the 17th of last September at Beecher's Island by all the survivors within reach, including Mr. Zeigler. The G.A.R. has taken the matter up and will erect a monument on the Island to commemorate the life and death struggle which took place there thirty one years ago. Mr. Zeigler's reminiscences of the siege and suffering of the little band of scouts who laid there on the Island nine days without food and shelter, all the time surrounded by hostile savages, are truly interesting.

Of Eli's other siblings, his sister, Sophia married Dennis Kendall Norton. They lived in Iowa, Lincoln County Kansas, and later moved to and died at Drewsey, Oregon. They had a large family.

Eli's brother, William H. Zigler, married, and I believe had two sons, Frank "Elmer" and Clarence Alvin. I believe they lived in Marion County, Kansas, and later moved to Oregon. Earlier he may have been a buffalo hunter in western Kansas. His wife appears to have died early on, as his sons are at times found with other family members.

Eli's sister, Martha, married Bernhardt Blau in Salina, Kansas in 1864. They had one child and Martha and the baby, William, apparently died within a few years. Bernhardt ran a sawmill for W.A. Phillips, one of the founders of Salina.

Mary married John Alverson in 1863 at Salina. They moved on northwest and died at Tacoma, Washington. John was with Eli at the Mulberry Scrap and when attacked at the start of the Spillman Creek raid in May of 1869. They had a large family.

Susanna married James Alfred Daily and following his death, she married Scout Thomas Aldredice.

His sister Angeline Zigler appears to have died in the early 1860s.

Sabra Elizabeth Zigler, married Huston (or Houston) A. Anglin. They had a large family. She died in Lincoln County and Sabra and Huston are buried at the Spillman Cemetery, Lincoln County, Kansas.

Eli was the next in the order of birth, followed by Lunetta "Netta" Zigler. She is not found after 1865.

Ellen Zigler lived with her parents and moved to Oregon with them. She was mentally handicapped. Following her parents deaths, she lived with siblings and nieces. She died in 1922.

Franklin Mills Zigler was Eli's youngest brother. He married Alice and had four children, two living to be adults. He later moved to Riley County, Kansas, where he lived until his death but was buried in the Spillman Cemetery in Lincoln County, with his wife and 3 of his four children. His daughter, Mary Zigler, (Mrs. Harry Ellsworth Edwards) unveiled the

Indian Raid Monument on the Lincoln County courthouse lawn in May of 1909. It was dedicated to the victims of the 1864 and 1869 raids.

The Eli Zigler Family - Generation One

1. Elias "Eli" Maderson Zigler was born JUN-12-1850 in Rootstown, Portage County, Ohio, (son of Michael L. Zigler and Mary Maderson) and died APR-05-1916 in Salem, Marion County, Oregon and is buried at the Stipp - Macleay Cemetery, Fruitland, Oregon.

He married Isadora "Dora" Dell Goble, SEP-25-1875 in Lincoln Township, Isabella County, Michigan. She was born AUG-10-1858 in Bushnell Township, Montcalm County, Michigan, (daughter of Enos H. Goble and Caroline B. Vernet) and died JAN-13-1914 in Salem, Marion County, Oregon and is buried at the Stipp - Macleay Cemetery, Fruitland, Oregon.

Children:

- i. Verda Augusta Zigler was born AUG-16-1879 near Jessup, Antelope County, Nebraska, and died AUG-28-1951 in Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon and is buried in Riverview Cemetery, Portland, Oregon.

She married Hollie Russell Orchard, ___-__-190_ in _____, _____ County, Oregon. He was born APR-08-1880 in Albina, Multnomah County, Oregon, (son of Hence W. Orchard and Emma J. _____) and died JAN-30-1923 in Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon and is buried in Riverview Cemetery, Portland, Oregon.

2.
 - ii. Caroline "Carrie" Zigler was born JUN-28-1882.
 - iii. Nina Belle Zigler was born DEC-__-1883 in Sherman Precinct, Antelope County, Nebraska, and died MAR-10-1967 in Beaver, Tillamook County, Oregon and is buried in Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery, Portland, Oregon.

She married Myron Cecil McFarland, AUG-10-1912 in _____, Multnomah County, Oregon. He was born NOV-10-1887 in Agnew, Lancaster County, Nebraska, (son of Lucus B. McFarland and Anna L. _____) and died OCT-25-1967 in Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon and is buried in Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery, Portland, Oregon.

3.
 - iv. Evelyn "Eva" Zigler was born MAY-22-1885.
 - v. Lottie May Zigler was born and died ___-__-188_ in Sherman Precinct, Antelope County, Nebraska.
 - vi. Bertha Zigler, was born and died ___-__-1888 in Sherman Precinct, Antelope County, Nebraska.

- vii. Luella Ida Zigler was born NOV-02-1898 in Fort Collins, Larimer County, Colorado, and died OCT-20-1992 in Milwaukie, Clackamas County, Oregon and is buried in Lincoln Memorial Cemetery, Portland, Oregon.

Generation Two

2. Caroline "Carrie" Zigler was born JUN-28-1882 in Sherman Precinct, Antelope County, Nebraska, and died JUN-29-1955 in Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon and is buried in Lincoln Memorial Cemetery, Portland, Oregon.

She married Archie Ralph Harrison, DEC-31-1911 in _____, Marion County, Oregon. He was born FEB-03-1880 in Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, (son of John Harrison and Annie M. _____) and died MAR-28-1955 in Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon and is buried in Lincoln Memorial Cemetery, Portland, Oregon.

Children:

- i. Lyle A. Harrison was born JUN-20-1916 in Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, and died APR-12-1997 in _____, Washington County, Oregon.

He married Mathilde Vesta Baker, ___-__-19__ in _____, _____ County, _____. She was born FEB-14-1923 in _____, _____ County, _____, and died OCT-21-1994 in West Linn, Clackamas County, Oregon.

3. Evelyn "Eva" Zigler was born MAY-22-1885 in Sherman Precinct, Antelope County, Nebraska, and died DEC-14-1932 in Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon and is buried in Lincoln Memorial Cemetery, Portland, Oregon.

She married John Hatfield Brennan, NOV-27-1919 in _____, Multnomah County, Oregon. He was born APR-14-1878 in _____, Canada, (son of Joseph Brennan and _____) and died AUG-07-1933 in Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon and is buried in Lincoln Memorial Cemetery, Portland, Oregon.

Children:

- i. Mary J. Brennan was born ___-__-1922 in Canada and came to the United States in 1925.
- ii. Leona M. Brennan was born ___-__-1924 in Canada and came to the United States in 1925.

Somewhere there are probably still living descendants of Eli Zigler.



Odds & Ends and Miscellaneous

An interesting Lincoln County tidbit: “Soon after the probate court went into operation in the county with D.C. Skinner presiding as judge, a marriage license was issued to Edward G. Tozier of Ottawa county and Elvira J. Bishop of Lincoln. Judge Skinnner performed his first official duty in issuing the license which is dated Jan. 13, 1871. He also married the couple.” Source: <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/genweb/lincoln/probate1951.htm>

It would appear that the first licensed marriage to occur in Lincoln County, Kansas, was when Scout Edward Tozier was married by Scout D. C. Skinner. Both Tozier and Skinner were with Peate, and missed the battle but were with the relief column. Other marriages had occurred earlier, but the license was issued from Saline, Ottawa or Ellsworth counties.

Below is a photograph provided by Kerry and Jane Peterson of the former Howard Morton home near Tescott, Kansas. Thank you Kerry and Jane, for sharing.



Until the next time, hopefully next month,
Happy Trails.

Mike