

Pioneer Irrigation
Upper Snake River Valley

Compiled and Edited by
KATE B. CARTER

ASSISTED BY CLARA B. STEELE

DAUGHTERS OF UTAH PIONEERS

1955

augment our income I raised thoroughbred horses, broke them, and sold them in teams.

The Dilks Canal, which has served some of the people of Labelle for many years, heads in my property and I helped to build it.

—D. B. Harrington

LOWDER AND JENNINGS CANAL COMPANY

June 1, 1890 decree

The name of Gabriel Lowder will live as long as the "Lowder Slough" remains a landmark of pioneer history. This slough, often spoken of in canal history, was no small affair for in high water months the only way to cross was to ford the stream. Mr. Lowder's homes were located a hundred yards back from the natural channel that came to bear his name, a channel that carried the overflow waters of the Snake.

Heading from this point one of the earliest canals on Butler Island had its beginning starting at first as the Lowder Canal and later to be known as The Lowder and Jennings Canal Company. Jasper Jennings purchased a portion of the Lowder homestead and thus the two pioneer names were linked in the title name.

The first settlers on the eastern end of the island came in 1880 and on. They proceeded to divert water to their claims with no thought of recording their rights or filing a decree. Because of this they lost their early decree rights and did not secure a recorded decree until June 1, 1890.

Those early settlers: Abram Woolsey, David Park and sons, Byrd and John Whitman, Dan Ross, Hyrum Scott, and others, pitted their skill and strength against the cunning Snake River. Year after year the river would wash out their headgates or chart a new channel and leave them dry. These settlers along with Hyrum R. Moss and sons, Hyrum T. and Alma, Gabriel Lowder and his sons, Reece, Phil and Simon, and others, waged a determined battle to hold in check the Snake River.—*Norma Morris*

THE LITTLE FEEDER

In the year 1893-94, during the flood season of June and July, the river began to cut its way through the north channel. This was a critical time for all the settlers who depended on irrigation water coming out of the Dry Bed. With the river changing its course the water supply in the Dry Bed was greatly reduced.

A group of farmers, mainly those on the Parks and Lewisville, North Rigby, West Labelle, and Rigby canal systems formed the "Little Feeder Company." These settlers placed a headgate in the

river above the Lowder Slough Channel and ran the water directly out of the river down through the natural Lowder Slough Channel and dropped it back into the Dry Bed. This point was near the headgates of the Parks and Lewisville Canal.

For possibly ten or twelve years this proved successful. Then the tricky Snake decided to change her course which left "The Little Feeder" on the low side. With crops burning for want of water the settlers were forced to buy into The Great Feeder.

The settlers were reluctant to buy into the "Big Feeder" due to water costing \$5.00 per share at the time The Great Feeder was organized. At the time The Little Feeder failed the farmers' water was down to 75 cents. So all of the canal systems in this section bought their water rights in The Great Feeder.

Nearly every settler on the canals mentioned above, along with settlers on the East Labelle and Island Canals, worked on the Little Feeder. Their names are found under these canal headings.

One must not overlook the fact that when these men and boys were not working on their own ditches and canals, they were working on The Little Feeder or The Great Feeder, for these projects were progressing simultaneously.

This material was secured by Mrs. Elizabeth Harker of Lewisville from Dave Lee.

INDEPENDENT CANAL SYSTEM

June 14, 1895 decree

Flowing down into what is locally termed as "The Deer Parks" in the lower part of the Menan section is The Independent Canal. This canal heads out of the North Fork of the Snake River in Jess Blodgett's field in the Annis section of Jefferson County.

It is unique in that its water supply increases as it flows rather than to decrease. The canal is fed by waters from the slough which follows an old, old river channel, and from the waters of The Long Island Canal. The canal branches out into two main branches, The Independent, and The Deer Parks. Both serve the extensive section of the once termed "Poole's Island," to irrigate over 7,000 acres.

Orson C. Raymond is secretary of The Independent. Ole Hansen is secretary of The Deer Parks. Both men are descendants of original pioneer families who came to the Menan settlement.—*Norma Morris*

A CANAL MAN

I, John Francis, am the son of George Eastman Lufkin and Hannah Hopkinson Hansen. My grandfather, George Washington Lufkin and grandmother, Mary Ann Townsend, were pioneers who came into