

Jared Riley Porter 1848 -1938

Sawmill and Family 1878-1937, Escalante, Utah

In the spring of 1878 Jared Riley Porter came with his family to help with the sawmill. He brought his wife Alice Griffin Porter, daughter Inez and son Joseph. They had nine more children after coming to Escalante. Emily, Hyrum, Edith, Alice, Delia, Parley, Emerson, Leland and Roland. They had a total of eleven children. Jared Riley Porter work for the first sawmill in Escalante. The sawmill was built by Henry J White, it was built in 1876-1877. The sawmill was located in White's Creek, a tributary of North Creek which is located about 16 miles north west of town. They used an up and down saw that was water powered and a flutter wheel.

Another sawmill was brought in a year or two later by John Allen it was also located in North Creek. This was operated by J.R. Porter. This sawmill had a circular saw, powered by water. The Porters lived at the sawmill for the first year they were in Escalante.

There was a Third sawmill owned by Andrew P. Schow the located at the Greens in Main Canyon until it burned down in or about 1908.

In 1904 another sawmill was bought by Pole Roundy, Vern Lyman and T. H. Alvey. Roundy and Lyman sold the sawmill to Alvey who operated it for about ten years. Alvey sold the sawmill to J.R. Porter and his son Hyrum Porter in 1916. The sawmill was in the Upper Valley area above the rangers station. They moved it to left hand Allen's Canyon. In June 1919 it was destroyed by a fire. In 1916 J.R. Porter and his sons leased a sawmill from John Spencer and Vern Lyman. They moved this sawmill to Allen's Canyon. Then J.R. Porters son Leland continued running until 1937 and Leland moved it back to Main Canyon 1937.