

GEORGE CALDERWOOD

LAKE COUNTY

JUNE 5, 1994

"CHICO"

EUGENE, OR

PETE FRENCH

B-1909 LAKEVIEW, OR.

THOMAS FOSTER CALDERWOOD

BEATRICE

CALDERWOOD

Grandfather when he was 15 caught a boat from Maine to Panama then hiked across and caught a boat to San Francisco during the gold rush of 1849. Apparently his mother died when he was young and his father remarried and he didn't get along with his new mother. As far as I know he never returned to Waterburyville, Maine. He made more money running a bar and being a bouncer than during the gold season.

Ed "How did the Calderwoods end up in Lake County?"

George "Well he was a member of the CA. volunteers during the Civil War. They never got out of the area. They fought Indians during the Civil War. He was mustered out 1866. (Shows me paper)"

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George was (is) last Calderwood

" Mustered out June 27, 1866, James E. Calderwood
Stationed in Fort Bidwell. He stayed
there and I think he ran a saloon.
Gamblers. He drifted up into Warner
Valley and took land at the base of
Warner Hart Mt. where it joins the high
desert country."

Ed "Was that by the old stone bridge
crossing?"

George "Yes. I crossed that stone bridge
and it scared me to death."

Ed "Its all covered with brush and
sticky weeds now."

George "I dont know anything about
that but I do know the bridge was a
floating bridge. It was anchored at both
ends. Rise and fall during the spring
rain. The bridge would vary according
to the water level. In order to cross
there and make the bridge usable year
around they had to rise. It had an

apron on both sides that hinged, when you would go out there at high water the horses would have to jump up into the wagon. Put their front feet on the apron and then cross the bridge. Deep potholes there. Probably ten feet. Anyway the horses would get on the other end and their weight would make the bridge go down. We would have to put everything on the seat of the wagon so the water went all over the floor (wagon).

Ed "Was the actually stone bridge there when you crossed?"

George "Yes. It's still there. The approaches to the bridge on both sides were rock."

Ed "I was there in 1990 but you couldn't go across because it was so untrustworthy."

George "Was the bridge there?"

Ed "No. Just brush, stones and rattlesnakes."

George "Use to be a lot of rattlesnakes."

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Ed "Who settled at what was called
Crooks Bridge and Hart Lake, who
settled near Old Fort Warner?"

George "Gota piece of paper?"

(George drawing map of his relatives
land holdings. James Calderwood
had 5 sons. all homesteaded around
Adel, Hart Mt. and just east of Old
Fort Warner) (we are looking at his
map and explaining)

Ed
Harry
Thomas
? James
? > SONS OF JAMES

George "When they made that a Federal
Reserve (Hart Mt. Antelope Refuge) the government
stated they wanted my uncles place and
he didnt want to sell. He died during
that time probably from alcohol. My youngest
uncle Ed Calderwood took over when
Harry died. He fought the government for years
clear up until World War II and finally

had to sell. This all open range land. Before that he had married a widow, Stella McDade of Burns. She is the one in the photo sitting on Pete ~~French~~ French's lap. They moved out to Fields and started buying land out there."

Ed "I see. That's were Jim McDade (74 I contacted him) comes in."

George "Ya. He's Stella's son from a previous marriage. Only son."

Ed "You ever hear of a Vickers?"

George "Ya. Bill Vickers. I know where he is right now."

Ed "Buried out there by Quano Lake."

(George talking about graduating from 8TH grade)

George "We were riding down there by the Shuck Ranch (Quano Lake) one time

The only time I've ever been at the Shirk Ranch. Anyway as we came off the high desert and went down into the lower country he says "I'll show you something. We rode out into the brush and there were two graves. Nice headstones."

Ed "Were they cement?"

George "No they were sandstone"

Ed "This was Bill Vickers and I can't remember the other one."

George "Grunick, Jay. Vickers was an outlaw and a fellow by the name of Dunning were at the loggerheads. Vickers was indicted and wanted by the Sheriff and this fellow Dunning decided to get himself deputized and he heard Vickers was coming that way so he went out to the Shirk Ranch. He fell in with this young kid and set up an arrangement if they (Vickers) was out in the area and Vickers came to the house (Shirk) which he naturally would. Mrs Shirk was out in the backyard and waved a white flag

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So they were working cattle not too far from the ranch house so Dunning went to the ranch house and Vickers was eating a meal. They burst into the room and Vickers jumped up. They ~~shoot~~ shot both of them dead."

Ed "Who shot them?"

George "Supposedly Dunning. Dad says he knew he must have had help to doop both of them."

Ed "It was like 1887 or somewhere in there."

George "Yea. Anyway he took (~~James~~ Thomas) me out to these graves and told me the story and complained William Vickers shot such and such a date and her lies his body."

Ed "That's true George. I have a photo of their graves taken in 1934."

George "I remember it well. I was 13 years old."

Ed "About 1922. Where was Vickers killed?
In the Gluck house?"

George "at the dinner table."

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Ed "That's interesting because there is still some Vickers around. He must have been a pretty outlaw type of guy. Did you ever hear of an Indian fight. An Indian, well I don't know if you want to call it a fight. It was against some soldiers out there in 1864 around Guano or in the area around your granddads and Dad's Place was?"

George "Yes. Out east of Guano Ranch. That was while my grand-dad was a member of the California Volunteers and they went looking for this bunch of Indians and they knew where they were."

Ed "This would be James E. Calderwood"
George "Yes. Well one James E. Calderwood. Had an Uncle by that name. Anyway, as the soldiers approached the chief of these Indians was riding a white horse up by a bunch of rocks by the where they fall down off those mountains. As they approached

the chief was riding in circles and the closer they got the smaller the circle. Finally when they got real close he disappeared behind the rocks. The soldiers had breach loading rifles. Something new. I think they were ^{SP}single shots. Easier loading than the ^{SP}muzzle loaders. Anyway, the Indians would shoot and had to go back and reload because they had ^{SP}muzzle loaders and fire, reload their guns while the soldiers just put a shell in. I think they, I don't know if any soldiers were killed or not but they killed all the Indians."

Ed. "Where was that at?"

George "The best I know was at east, between the Snake Ranch and Beatty's Butte."

Ed "Do you know what year that was. Was it before Grandpa?"

George "Well he was still in the army."

Ed "Mr. James E. Calderwood got discharged
June 27, 1866. What tribe of Indians. P-6
Well I hate to ~~put~~^{write} down Indians because
they never get written about very well.
Whether Pines, Shoshone?"
George "Pines and Bannocks. Mostly
Pines."

Ed "Do you know who the leader was?
who told the story you just told me?"

George "My father (Thomas Calderwood)

Ed "The reason I asked you that is there
is a man in Lakeview who is very much
interested in the Indian wayfare on the
desert. Very little information."

(Talking about John C. Fremont's cannon
and lack of Oregon history) (Warner too)

(George had 448 acres east of Hart Lake

Talking about his kids and grand kids
and the 448 acres. Stella Calderwood
died and left all her property in Lake
County.)

(Talking about his land and Order of the Antelope.)

Ed "Did you ever find anything or relics of the past at old Fort Warner?"

George "When I was a little kid, 7-8-9 years old (1918-1919) another family the Jacobs family had two boys older than my brother and I kind of grew up together. The two families use to go up to the old post as we called it and camp on the 4th of July for three or four days and we would take a pack horse and go way up on the mountain."

Ed "You mean Hart Mt.?"

George "Ya. Way up and get some snow bring it down. Gagehens. We carried our guns. we use to go out there and relax. Plan ahead of time so we had plenty to eat. I was in 7th heaven at that time. Remember one time we found

the graves of four soldiers and some of the gump started digging. They dug down a ways and found some brass buttons. US. That's the only thing. They didn't dig down very deep."

Ed "Was there any remains of the old post?"

George "There was remains of what was once the blacksmith shop and it had, I was up there a few years ago but couldn't find it. The sagebrush had grown. I would like to go up there again. Great big logs. But anyway we found those. The pine had no limbs low. My dad said that was because the snow gets deep and they (soldiers) had cut the limbs off. Again, my Dad told me this several times. The paymaster was robbed at one time on his route in the Hart Lake section. We had come to pay the soldiers after two years. Nobody had ever thought

My dad was working for the Hunt Ranch (Caldenwoods) and one day a fellow came to the ranch and wanted to borrow a shovel. There's a trail from the Hunt Ranch about four miles. He got up in the morning took his horse and shovel and came back that night and left. Couple days later Dad went up to the blacksmith shop (FORT ^{OLD} WARREN) and in the middle was an old rusty can, coffee can, and he always believed this fellow was a soldier and served some time. Dad figured he served some time in jail and when he got out he came back to get the money. You never asked a stranger any questions. I remember in 1918 Oregon had been dry (Drinking) and California was open. There were a lot of people running booze into Oregon. We had this ranch down here (3 miles east of Adel) and my mother kept track of how many meals she served

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how many slept there. It was over 100 in a month. They came in out of the hills on a horse and mom would feed them and make a bed. They would disappear the next day."

(Looking at Georges ~~land~~ hand drawn map. He explains creeks and ~~area~~ I talk about 1990 when I was in area Hart Mt. Stone Bridge etc)
(Old Run southwest side of Hart Lake on road to Stone Bridge (1990) was Dixon Place. House gone now (1990))

Ed "Your father was Thomas Calderwood and mother's name?"

George "Beatrice ~~Scott~~ ^{SP} Dougherty)
married in 1902

Ed "Your father had four brothers"

George "Two older and two younger and a little sister but she died when she was born."

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Q "When was your father born?"
George "1874, Fort Bidwell"

WE TAKE A BREAK

1918 - J.J. Van Hulen had a store in Plush on one side the street and W.Z. Moss on the other. Old Moss took a shot at Van Hulen one time. Plush was wet and Adel was dry. Plush was at one time one hell of a town. George use to go to the dances when a hid and watch the cowboys come out of the dance hall and take a few drinks. George when watch them hide the bottle and then he would hid it up in the cowboy would really get mad curs etc.

George graduated from Lakeview H.S. in 1927

Talking about death of Governor Snell getting killed in 1947. Georges brother found plane.

Pete French

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Ed "Your father ended up in Warner Valley (Thomas & Beatrice Calderwood) who was this Chico?"

George "Chalkrata ^{pronounced} (Chico) He was a Mexican. When Pete French brought his herd of cattle up to look for a ranch he brought two Mexican boys along. One of them was called Tebo and the other Chapo. When he brought these two, about 15 years old, they stopped in Warner Valley and looked at that no he could find a better place and he did at the P Ranch. He made in his will or some how or another there was an agreement that those two kids would have jobs the rest of their lives. They would be kept on the ranch the rest of their lives."

Who was Chapo?

George Calderwood

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George "Chico married a school teacher"

Ed "what was the school teachers name?"

George "It might have been Carney. She was the school teacher at Adel in 1918. I remember it may have been 1919."

Ed "Chico was working at the MC Ranch when he met this school teacher"

George "Ya. My brother and I would after run in to some of the buckaroos on the way to school."

Ed "From your dads house?"

George "Ya. The teacher offered to teach Spanish or French to any of the students who needed it. We took Spanish. Another family of eleven wanted to learn French because they had a brother in the war and thought he would speak French when he came back."

Ed "So this at Adel school whos last name may have been Carney married Chico. When did that occur do you know?"

George " It was probably about (talking about him passing classes)

Ed " How did you know Frank "Chico" Chacarrateque?

George " He was going with the school teacher and she was teaching us Spanish and we use to take our Spanish dictionaries and we use to see Chico and meet him right in front of the school or on the way to school out in the fields. We always looked forward to meeting him because we had some Spanish phrases to throw at him. He thought that was quite interesting. Then he, I remember they would have masquerades out there and he came to the masquerade in a military uniform and fit to a T. He loved to dance. I thought how nice he looked in a military uniform. We use to have the polkas, Scottish dances. "

Ed Did your father, well first of all, Did Chico and his wife the school teacher ever have any children?"

George "Not that I know of. All I know is it was after my Uncle Eddie had moved to Fields had been there a long time. Stella and him had gotten married during World War II but I use to go hunting over there at the home ranch but they lived in a shack next to Alford Lake. You could throw a cat through it at any place. We use to go down there every year for several years. I remember one time Eddie told me Chico and his wife had come to see them and they were real old."

Ed "That would have been"

George "Long after World War II"

Ed "Chico was working with Pete French the day he was killed by Ed Oliver in 1897. How old a man do you think he was at Adel in 1918 or 1919 around in there."

George "I would say 25 or 30 years old we would have to be older than that."

Ed "If he was 15 in 1872 he would have been about 37 in 1897. Do you have any idea where he died?"

George "No. Jim McDade might"

(Talking about my trip this summer)

Ed "You don't know what happened to Chico".

George "Well, I say he died around World War II. Must have been after World War II."

Ed "Have any idea where Chico died?"

George "I would say around Burns."

Ed "What about Children"

George "No I would say off hand."

Ed "What kind of man was he. a hard working guy?"

George "Well I couldn't tell ya. He was just a buckaroo working around those ranches

(MC)

Ed "Did he ever mention to your father or to you or anybody about the death of Pete French?"

George "No. at that time I didn't know anything about it. I was 9 or 10 years old and would just see him occasionally."

Ed "Do you know if there's any pictures of Chico anywhere?"

George "No."

Ed "What about his wife?"

George "I might have a picture. I don't know. I have so much stuff."

Ed "Did your dad ever mention anything about the death of Pete French?"

George "No. We had seen Pete French once when he was a young fellow buckarooin' for the Hart Ranch. Somehow he saw him. Don't think he ever spoke to him."

Ed "Do you have any photos of early Plush?"

George "I have an 1921 maybe 1926." my sister was a teacher and postmaster at Plush. (Dead)