

Family Profile of
Louise Victoria Seals & John Parmley Gibson

Mildred Gibson Stanfield

(daughter)

written before 1975

#2856

Jimmet Faye

John Parmley Gibson

The Ephriam Gibson family moved from Tennessee to Texas in 1853, settling in Coryell County where they raised several children, one who was named John.

Another family named Seals moved from Mississippi to Bell County, Texas. They had a daughter named Lou.

John and Lou met and married in 1889, moving to Erath County where they raised 4 sons and 4 daughters, Ross, Horace, Hester, Jim, Faye, Clyde, Mildred and Hazel.

John always had a longing to go West. In 1910 he bought land in Dickens County, built a comfortable home, and moved the family out by train.

The relatives they left behind were SURE John, Lou and family would be scalped by Indians, roped by wild and reckless Cowboys, or eaten by wolves!

Ross and Horace were in school at John Tarlton, Stephenville but soon joined the family in Dickens County. After drilling 9 wells trying to get good water, using cistern water and hauling water for the livestock for 6 years, John decided to go prospecting farther West.

He scouted around in Dawson County and found what he wanted, a section of land southeast of Lamesa in a community which is now called "Midway". He bought the land from a family named Lyons and moved his family out in 1917.

The furniture was brought by train, and the livestock driven by the boys on horseback and a covered wagon coming by Post, Texas. The rest of the family came by car as they were now proud owners of a Model T Ford. Arriving in Lamesa after dark, they spent the night at the Kelly Hotel.

Horace had married and lived in Spur, Texas. Hester was married also and lived on a farm near Spur. She and her husband, Jim Hinson, soon followed the family out to Lamesa.

Ross, who had been in Simmons College at Abilene, came out with the family. He served in the Navy during WWI and after returning home was a rural mail carrier on Route A until his retirement in 1960.

NO crops were made in 1917, a very dry year. It was a trying time for all the family as they thought this was the biggest mistake Dad had ever made.

In 1918 a severe blizzard froze the feet off the chickens and killed some livestock, so the family STILL thought it had been a bad move to come out West. Having left friends and relatives behind made it harder on everyone.

As time went on, with good crops, making new friends and a place for themselves in the church, community and county, also the plentiful supply of good water, it looked like a good place after all.

John always took an active part in community and county affairs wherever he lived. He was a deacon in the Baptist church, a school trustee many times, helped get good roads built, telephone lines and numerous other things, as he was always interested in progress. He often said, "I would like to know how things will be 100 years in the future."

Lou was a homemaker who made her children's clothes and cooked good nourishing meals for her family. She spent much time piecing and quilting quilts, crocheting, and gardening - but most of all she liked to grow lovely plants and flowers, as anything she planted would grow.

Clyde and Mildred were members of the first 4H Club organized in the county by C. P. Watson who was the first County Extension Agent.

Faye attended Baylor College at Belton for a while and Hazel graduated with a degree in music at Tarleton College, Stephenville.

Jim farmed the home place with Dad. He had a son named John who now farms part of the Gibson land along with his sons.

The family never did get scalped by Indians, roped by cowboys (although they saw plenty of cowboys in the earlier years), or eaten by wolves. The wolves were coyotes that liked chicken better than people!

John and Lou died in the 1940's and only ²three of their children are living in 1980, Ross, Hester ~~Hinson~~ and Mildred Stanfield.

The land John bought is still owned and treasured by the surviving children and the heirs of the ones who are gone.

Mildred Gibson Stanfield