

April 6 1951

Maybe the Indian stories might interest listeners at the Museum dinner which I regret so much, because of my accident, I shall not be able to attend.

When I first came to Inyo County in 1863 I was three months old and my brother Ed Shepherd was two years old. My Mother Margaret Shepherd was 18 years old.

One day she was alone at our new home with Ed and myself during the day. The Indians were on the war path and she was filled with fear for our safety. She knelt and asked God to protect her family. Then she saw the Indians coming. Ed and I were asleep and she had great hopes would not cry nor awaken which we did not and soon the Indians left thinking no one was there.

Later my father and his two brothers were bringing wood out of the Sierra for a mining camp in the Inyo Range. The Indians appeared and scared the oxen and they started to run with the load of wood. One arrow was sent through an oxen but at last all of them stopped as they were exhausted from running so fast.

Another time the Indians saw my father and with signs asked him how many men were working for him. He held out both hands with fingers apart - to tell them there were ten. They left believing it and there was no one but himself working to get out the wood for the mine.

Another time my Mother was riding horseback with me on her lap and my brother behind her when a band of Indians approached. This was later when my father had befriended the Indians and they had grown to like our family. My mother was terrified and started to say the Our Father - Hearing the voice - they then realized it was our family - and rode away quickly and left us in safety.

This was all at Georges Creek - now called Manzanar. The old trees from our home there may be seen north of the site of Manzanar War Relocation Authority Center.

John Shepherd
When my father/died there were hundred of Indians who came to the Masonic Hall where his body was lying in state to hold there - before the Masonic funeral - their own Indian Ceremony.

I ^{hope} ~~wish~~ the Museum dinner ^{will be} ~~to be~~ a great success and that the visitors will join the Eastern California Museum - for it is very important that the early history of our Inyo County be preserved for future generations.

Sincerely