

"Bah-Vanda-Rava-Kee" - "Boy who ran away"

Indian George Hanson - "Panamint George" - always said they were Shoshone Paiute - small branch - probably no more than 100 scattered in Death Valley and surrounding territory small camps of individuals - no towns or community - subsisted on berries - mesquite beans - rabbits etc - George would say "we eat - when we catchum" when we asked if they ate as we did - 3 meals a day. Father & Mother's names not spoken - "my father - he good man - no kill" George born some where in Panamint Mts. about 1844 - would say - "about 5 years old when 49'ers came through - I've written that before & when about 16 guided & worked with Dr. (S) J. George - and made his first trip into Cozo Indian country - a brave adventure for him in 1860. About 1864-²⁸ he married Panamint Tom's daughter and when Tom died George assumed the name Panamint - from the district Tom had a brother Joe - also called Panamint - a small white haired man in his 80's when I first knew him in 1900 - when they would come to our place - Millsbaugh - Tom was 90 or so when he died about 1905 - George & his wife had 3 sons and one daughter - Ed... Bill Johnson and Mike & Isabelle... Consumption (TB) took Bill early in 1905 and Ed around 1910 - in Panamint Valley winter home Warm Springs. The family came each summer to camp on Junction Flat - La Motte Springs and Tennessee Spring which is up from the Junction, north 4 miles at base of Matarango (South) there are 3 Matarangos - main one - about 8000' - middle Matarango & little at South end - head of Shepherd's Canyon - Ed & Bill born early 80's and Isabelle 1882

1883 probably.

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and died Big Pine June 3rd 1964 - a lovely Indian woman
her daughter "Molly" born 1902 & died 1938 - we all loved
"little Molly" - she was a delight. Mike born about 1895 - died
Feb 23rd 1947 - about 1910 his horse fell on him injuring
his leg - it never healed properly - we induced him to go to
a doctor in Los Angeles - he continued to ride and tuberculous
of the bone set in & by 1920 he was on crutches for the rest of
his life. early 1900's he was in Lone Pine - quite a wild
young man from reports we heard - but when Bill & Ed died
he came home - In 1896 (some of the early dates are confusing
as we figured them in the 1900's - my later dates are correct
as I obtained them for our school) about - he married
Annie Gregory - Coso Indian - daughter of George & Mammie Gregory
and first child - Logan born Feb 5th 1897 - Addie born 1900 -
died Jan 3 - 1969. Chrissie born 1902 - died 1918 during our
flu epidemic. Addie had Buster Hanson Aug 29 - 1923 -
(Dugan Nov 5th 1925) ^(Mike's youngest son) Leland June 14th 1927 - Buster was
in World War 2 - severely frozen feet - lives in Lone Pine.
Leland was in Korea - Cpl. 32 Infantry 7 Division Infantry
killed in action Jan 18th 1952 - born June 14th 1927 - a military
funeral in Darwin - Addie had Joan March 6th 1929 - he
was killed in a car accident in Montana 1975 funeral
held Oct 25th - ^{Bishop} died Oct 19th - 46 yrs old. born March 5th 1929
in Olancha - left 3 sons - Walter Hanson of Billings Mont.
Warren Pueblo of Bishop and Michael Hanson of Ridgecrest
2 daughters - Gayle Johnson, Yerington Nev. Joan Hanson
of Billings - one brother Buster Hanson of Yerington - all
at time of his untimely death & 2 grand children - Mike Jr. married

3) and baby girl. March 1968 he was wounded in Vietnam and back there in '69. Jimmie Hanson graduated High School May 1968. - was 18. I do not know him - all had left Darwin by then - Dugan has done well for himself - Civil service job at the Base and last I heard is living in Bakersfield - Mike was proud of him & Dugan realised he had to get out of Darwin in the 40's & make "some thing of himself" - a fine young man. for years they relied on me - if letters to be written or any thing I could do for them - some I helped with dates kept so they could get their old age pensions. These are the last of a fine family. In 1910 Charlie Walters (white) and Silas Reynolds had a partnership in a band of Angora goats - Charlie ran them in the Panamint Mts & Valley and gave a couple kids to Isabelle & Molly and from them she raised a band of a hundred or more & would bring them up to Junction flat in summers & ranged them from Tennessee Springs and made a good living on the mohair - In the '30s sometimes the Government improved her stock - sold them about 1960 and too ill to care for them alone - Molly had died and she was alone at Warm Springs - I'm doing my best to make all this clear? for you. In 1912-14-15. We ran our stock with Mike's and would round up about May each year - I took the enclosed picture as they sat against the yucca tree post of the corral at the Junction May 1916 - "talking it over." "Happy Jack" was a "cousin" of Mike's - as close as they figured relationship - George Gregory (Coso Indian) helped that time - next is a friend who was visiting us, Alf Faulkner. we put him - a "green horn" to driving the team & wagon with camping equipment etc. next is Mike & my husband Milo - then

George & Mike's son Logan - still camera shy. (evil eye) I had sent films to Roberta Starry - Randsburg - author - she was writing of the Panamint Indians also. back in 1964 and she had these 2 pictures enlarged for me - they are rare and the one of George with his burro & camp is fine of him 1910. and I feel the Museum should have them with others enclosed at the time Mike was branding the colts his leg was in bad shape - but he rode fast and hard just the same as we gathered the horses - from head of Mt. Spring Canyon - & towards Cole Spring - where ever the horses ran - wild & free! This about does it for Indian George and his family. It was a privilege to know them.

The Coso Indians were few - rather hostile in 1800's and when the Mexicans & whites came into Old Coso country theirs - to prospect & mine at Old Coso - who built a fort on the brink of a hill over looking a wash & spring where they worked their arastras - some still there in 1900's when we kids explored & found old rifles etc and buttons off the uniforms of the soldiers who were stationed briefly there in early 1860's we did not realize their value - In 1900's when I went to school in Darwin & boarded with Mrs. Loughrey & her family there were only a few Coso Indians left. and they camped mostly at Indian Gardens - as we called it - and at Old Coso - which always had some miners & prospectors living there in the old stone cabins - Two of the women - that we called "old Viega" (old old) and daughter Mary, about 80 yrs & 60 yrs. old then, would walk into town 6 miles or 8 if from Old Coso at 6 in the morning - have breakfast and wash - iron clean house - all day for 1 dollar. and late afternoon head

5? back for home - stopping at the store to get a pound package of coffee - mostly chicory and the name simply will not come to mind! will pop in when I'm thinking of something else - 35¢ a pound - prospectors & "batchalors" used it - was widely used then. Mr Brierly may remember the name - a can of tomatoes & peaches - treats to them & walk back home - did this every Monday morning - heat or cold - (I wish the name of that coffee would come to mind - aggravating)

George Gregory - old Coso Indian - born about 1869 - 70 died July 2nd 1955 - buried Darwin. wife Mamie - their daughter Annie married Mike Hanson as I've written above - The few Coso Indians left - moved into Darwin around late 1900's - first in the wash lower end (east south) just below the old road that leads out of Darwin into main wash & branches to Coso, right - & on left to Junction (old Modoc etc. further to left & on to Argus range - (Pink Mts.) later they built a nice camp - houses - west of road at edge of Darwin. and lived in apparent harmony with the few from Saline Valley Indians. who moved to Darwin in late 1900's - some had worked for years at the old original Soda works in Keeler. (north end of town where the Monument is) Pete Ram (medicine man) daughter Esther Ram Chico born 1909 - died May 10th 1949 a step daughter Rosie Nobles - born about ~~1864~~ ¹⁸⁹⁰ Saline Valley Hunter Ranch country - died Oct 19 March 12 - 1967 - came to Darwin 1908 - lived the rest of her life in Darwin - a fine woman. Charlie Wrinkle and wife Mary Wrinkle came about same time 1900's Pete Ram born 1864 Saline Valley - died Oct 1949 - Mary Wrinkle died Sept 9th 1940 - Charlie died April 22 - 1946 - all buried Darwin - daughters Lalla & Mary. still living last I heard - Lalla died Darwin June 9th 1975 - 75 yrs old, she had Harold Bever 1924 →

Evelyn Dec 7' 1929 - Helen 1933 -

May Uncle Davis had

Marion Jan 8' 1931 Dorothy May 13' 1933 - David March 21st 1929

Shirley 1934 - Esther Sam Chico had Melvin July 18' 1930

Hazel 1932 - Frances 1933 - Your best source of information on Saline Valley Indians is Silas Ness - Olancha - But please do not tell him I gave you his name - might displease him and I do not want to loose a friendship of 67 years!

This about does it and I hope makes sense - when you get it all segregated! I just can't copy it all over and please share it with Burrell C Dawson of Lone Pine - as he is also interested in my Indians and "up home". Thank You. - I'm telling him that you will, as I am sending him an article by George Pixson 1973 on Joe Peterson's place and asking him to share with you and return - I came across it while looking up dates - the reason I've been so long getting this to you. Sincerely

Elizabeth R. Mechem

I'll remember that coffee eventually!
will send pictures I mentioned
seperately, show to Mr. Dawson and
then give to our Museum to keep

Elm