

Indian Capture of Daniel Milton Larrison

Copied from a handwritten letter by Martin Sheppard Fraley, who is sharing the family history of his great grandfather Daniel Larrison.

He, (Daniel Larrison) supposedly left home in 1810 *₁ with his partner named Greenwood. *₂ Their first destination was the Missouri River and their mission was of securing of wild honey. Buffalo skins was used to make containers for this product. A handsome price could be had for the honey upon delivery to St. Louis, a frontier town at this time. It must be remembered that this livelihood was one of extreme hardiness. Every precaution had to be taken least they fall into the treacherous hands of the Indians. To avoid possible capture Larrison and Greenwood kept alert during the daytime, sleep in their boats at night. One night they saw fit to remain on land. It was on this particular night that the savages crept up and captured them. The Indians remarked that they had heard the "big guns" a long time and intended to stop them. The redskins decided not to as they could use their skill to supply them with game. However, a close watch was maintained over the prisoners, to prevent their escape. At night the whites were forced to lie on buffalo robes, covered with robes with a big Indian on either side to hold the edges of the robe.

This was practiced for a long time, and then the redskins abandoned it. In the meantime Greenwood & Larrison plotted to escape. Their flight on a cold and bleak night. The weather did not matter, freedom was dear. On foot it was an ideal time for (?). On their departure the two men separated. They were to meet at a designated lake. Larrison reached the lake first. Imagine his discomfort with no shoes, and bleeding feet he passed a remarkable endurance else he could have survived. He waited the arrival of his comrade. On the distance (he) beheld a figure. It was a man. Was he friend or a foe! Larrison hid himself behind a tree. Fearing that he had saw an Indian. To his enjoyment the man proved to be Greenwood. How happy they were. From this juncture they made their way back to civilization. After having lived with the Indians, so long, two years, and eaten broiled meat with out bread or salt. Daniel Larrison moved to Tennessee about 1815. It was here that he married Miss Emmaus Greenwood, a sister to his partner. *₃

From there they drifted to Illinois where their first child, Louise was born in 1817. *₄ In 1819 Tom Larrison was born the place not being known. *₅ It was in 1821 that Mr. Larrison came to Texas. He settled in the present site of Red River County, Texas. Joel Greenwood Larrison was born here. The family remained here until 1823 at which time came to the present county of Houston. Mr.

Larrison kept a ferry on the Necthes (*Neches*) river in 1824. The next year the family moved to Mustang Prairie where Maria Jane Larrison was born.

Daniel Larrison went back to Gonzales in 1826 at which place his family remained until 1828 then moved to what is now Madison County, Texas. He settled on a creek about eight miles east of Madisonville. That stream bears his name until this good day. The section in which he lived was in his later land grant. He remained here until his death which occurred on the third of August 1845. *₅

*1 Caleb Greenwood is listed as a hunter on the daybooks of the Overland Astor expedition during their winter camp at Nodaway River from 3 Dec 1810 to 27 Jan 1811. He evidently "was one of those who became offended by the partners and refused to go on from the winter camp." P22 Caleb and Daniel Larrison were both hired as hunters for the Manuel Lisa Expedition of 1812 being listed in his books from May 1812 to Mar 1813. ,Old Greenwood by Kelly and Morgan C 1965 by The Talisman Press

It is my belief that the capture by Indians was prior to Dec 1810 and that maybe they escaped by 1810. My great grandmother, Mattie C. (Barrett) Morgan was raised by her grandmother, until she was ten, Sarah (Larrison) Barrett, Fraley, the youngest daughter Daniel Larrison. She told this same story to our family. She said that they were held captive for two years. When they made their way down river to their home, their family had gave them up for dead and were very happy for their return.

* 2 This is believed to be Caleb Greenwood, brother-in-law of Daniel Larrison, who was a trapper, frontiersman and led wagon trains to California.

*3 They were actually married in Madison County, Illinois in 12 Aug 1815, copy of marriage record.

*4 Louisa Larrison was born in Madison County Illinois.

*5 Tom Larrison's descendants state he was born in Old Miller County AR, or present day Red River Co. TX., so they probably came to Texas in 1818, when the Greenwoods came.

*6 Daniel Larrison is buried in the Larrison Cemetery on his old land grant, near Midway, Madison Co. TX.

Letter edited by Troy D. Splawn, 5th great grandson of Daniel Larrison and 1st cousin 3 times removed from Martin Fraley