

MAXWELL WAS REAL KING OF U. S. SECTION

Ruled Absolute Over Two
Million Acres New Mexico Land.

BUILT UP AN EMPIRE

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

CIMARRON, N. M., Sept. 10.—This little mountain town of a few hundred inhabitants was once the headquarters of one of the greatest estates that ever belonged to one man in America—the famous Maxwell ranch, and the remains of the original dwelling from which it was administered, still stands here.

In old books you can find facts about the Maxwell ranch, and from old-timers hereabouts you can learn a good deal more. Indeed, there are few persons in this vicinity who can not tell you something either from hearsay or from direct knowledge about Maxwell and his doings.

But to the world at large he and his great estate are forgotten.

And this is to be regretted, for it would be hard to find a more significant and dramatic passage in early southwestern history than the story of this bit of land.

Maxwell was really an absolute monarch, ruling over a domain larger than many of the states of the union, and several times as large as some European states that have flags and crowns.

Furthermore, he was evidently a born ruler and organizer. He was one of the first men to gather and hold land in the great southwestern wilderness, to organize and to make other men work for him.

In a word he was one of the first American capitalists in the west. The establishment of his little kingdom marked the beginning of the transition from the pioneer days, when everything was free to everybody, to the system of private ownership upon which industrial America is based.

That whole transition was fought out on this bit of soil.

MISSOURI.

Maxwell was a penniless and adventurous young man from Missouri who joined the Fremont expedition to the west. He was discharged and paid off at Taos, New Mexico, and became a member of others, one of whom was Kit Carson, the famous scout and Indian fighter.

Maxwell and Carson were friends as long as they both lived.

In Taos lived some old Spanish families who owned wide lands granted them by the Spanish king. They did little or nothing with these lands and had only the vaguest idea of their boundaries.

In addition to their lands these Mexicanos had large families, including beautiful daughters.

Nearly all of the discharged members of the Fremont expedition, Carson and Maxwell among them, promptly fell in love with señoritas, and both of these young adventurers were soon married.

Here the story begins. Carson, a born fighter and womanizer, deserted his wife and family in an adobe house and left them there, while he went out to make a place for himself in history as an Indian fighter and explorer.

He never gathered enough property to hamper his movements. But Maxwell took his bride, who was Luz Bauben, became her husband, and, with some of his own savings, he bought a ranch in the mountains, and settled here on the Cimarron, which was within the Bauben and Miranda grant.

The Spanish owners had done little with this great plain of land. It was a rugged wilderness filled with wild Indians; they preferred to stay in Taos.

But their Yankee son-in-law from Missouri proceeded to do much with it. He built a house, a barn, a corral, and a stable, he planted corn and wheat.

He did not heroically fight the savages; either; he made friends with them. Thus he displayed one of the first principles of capitalism, which is never to compete when you can co-operate.

A STROKE OF GENIUS.

The greatest stroke of commercial genius came later when New Mexico was being surveyed by a government surveyor-general. The deputy surveyors were paid by the mile of line they ran.

It was therefore to their advantage to survey as many miles as possible. The boundaries of the Baubens and Miranda grant, of which Maxwell had now become owner, were vaguely defined by natural landmarks.

The surveyors were easily persuaded to choose landmarks which allowed for a very liberal grant, in fact, astonishingly liberal. Most of the Spanish grants were about 100,000 acres each, and there seems to have been some Spanish law limiting the extent.

Maxwell managed to have included within the boundaries of his grant about 2,000,000 acres, and his right to this enormous territory was confirmed by congress.

Thus he came into possession of an estate about sixty miles long and thirty miles wide, including some of the best cattle ranges in the state, several fine arable valleys, and a section of high mountain range where were gold, coal and other minerals, and fine forests of pine and spruce.

Gamblers abounded, and the streams swarmed with trout. Here, truly, was a domain worth owning.

He was at the height of his glory as a land holder in the year 1867. He had a great house, which must have contained about forty rooms, for less than half of it stands now, and that part contains nineteen rooms.

And this was no crude pioneer dwelling. The walls were tastefully papered, and it is said, elaborately furnished. Maxwell had 500 men working for him.

He had a thousand sheep, cattle and horses, a four mill and a saw mill.

Emmett and Margaret Reese, 109 South Newell, and Lillian May, 2025 S. Meridian, boy.

Frederick Hops, Fl. Wayne.

Margaret Phillips, 44 S. Hawthorne pl. 20

desired amount in bills, which he reluctantly tendered to his host.

With a gesture of incomparable grandeur, Maxwell touched a match to the money and lit his pipe at the flames, then tossed the charred remains away. The incident was closed, and that was one of America's earliest plutocrats.

St. Joe T. B. Hospital Is Approved by U. S. S.

Special to The Times.

SOUTH BEND, Ind., Sept. 10.—Health

win hospital, St. Joseph county's free

tuberculosis sanatorium, is approved

by a government health bureau report

of one of the best institutions used

by the government.

There are forty-four year risk in-

surance bureau patients included among

the 120 persons cared for at the insti-

tution.

The hospital has taken care of all the

peculiar patients in the county to

date, and has been approved for admis-

sion of thirty-two children suscep-

tive to the disease, into the summer

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Liquor Without Value Now, Tax Board Says

NEWARK, N. J., Sept. 10.—Wines, gin and cordials have no value today, according to the Essex county board of taxation.

The board made this ruling on appeals from two tax assessments, one of Captain A. Miller of Irvington, whose inventory showed a stock of liquor valued at \$1,000.

The executors appealed on the ground that while the liquor might be known on the inventory at that sum it was really worth nothing because the alcohol act prohibited its sale.

The board agreed.

At the time of the hearing on the

appeals, the board said that the

executors were right in putting

on the nominal value of \$1 on them.

There are seven men on each team.

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