

Transcribed from *Pioche Daily Record* April 17, 1973

Peter Shirts sworn—I now reside in near the iron works in Iron County,, Utah; first visited this mining district March 19, 1864; came with Box, Sherwood, and Vandemark, arrived at Warm Springs in Meadow Valley, march 15, 1864; on the 16th started out and happened to strike and old Indian trail, which leads down to what is now Meadow Valley street; found Sill on the ground, while up there I made a location, I peeled a tree with my knife and wrote a notice on the tree, and went back to camp, the day I came up there was no one there but Sill; still put no name but my own on the notice I wrote on the tree.. On the 18th of March, 1864, I think there was not a single claim but my own on the Shirts', I never drove a stake on the ground, I had nothing to do with taking the record book to Salt Lake; I was confined to my bed, and was not able to get out; after getting well they sold some claims; I don't know how many, they wrote something like certificates. (Some papers were here shown to the witness, who said he did know Sherwood's writing). ... Shirts then said that I was at the Miner's meeting at the Warm Springs, where the laws were passed; Mr. Sherwood had a copy of the laws; we adopted them, except in some little necessary alterations; Sherwood was appointed Recorder; we then started back to Salt Lake and were about two weeks or more on the road; On the way back while camped in canyon below Dog Valley, we agreed to segregate our claims; I was to have from the Discovery to No. 6 on the Shirts lode and they were in on both sides; I was to come next to them on the Panaca South; it would be No. 5; nothing more was done on the journey; when we were within five miles of Salt Lake I left the party for my house, I got hurt and kept bed for two months; when I got to Salt Lake I found they had peddled off some of the claims to raise money to come out here to work; Box was then trying to trade for a team; I believe her got it and came out; I understand that it was a portion of the Panaca he was peddling; I wanted to get some one help work my claim, and Box took to Howard Livingston; I don't think I ever furnished Sherwood with a copy of my notice on the Shirts' lode; I was put on the Panaca No. 26 South, I was astonished at being struck off at the No. 26, and a little angry; came back to Salt Lake about the 10th to 15th June; stayed here twelve to fourteen days; I have belonged to the Church for forty-one years (Witness then described the peculiar views of the Mormons relative to mining etc., which caused some considerable amusement.) I know Kanawa (sic) (*Kanarraville*), it is 90 miles east of this. Had a conversation with Hamlin there in the summer of 1871; could not say what month; I was interested in the conversation, as I wanted to find out if my claims were likely to be worth anything. Hamlin told me that they had sent a man to New York; had a man months there trying to sell the claims, but without any success, and thought they would not be worth anything, I lived at that time at the iron works. I have traveled over the country almost as much as any white man, and in Southern Utah in 1865, and was not troubled by Indians; know of no white man killed in Southern Utah in 1864-5; according to the best information I could gather they did not intend to kill white men until four or five Indians had been killed, and then there were some threats; I heard Pulsifer say that he worked the Panaca for lead; don't recall any one else saying so; I never saw anybody here who professed to me to be a surveyor; I followed the stakes both ways up to a point on the hill, saw Shirts' point where the line crossed the mountain; it would be 300 or 400 feet east of the reservoir; the north line of the Panaca would cross the head of Main Street directly; it was surveyed out and measured with a compass and chain; I did not see it done; Mr. Hempstead did it; it took me clear over into the flat a mile or a mile and a half; I was at the Mammoth location immediately it found, and I was to have the fourth claim.

Cross examined: Iron county is a bout 70 miles from here, very nearly, has a conversation in 1867 with Hamlin; there was no one present, in the summer between June and September—it appears to me it must have been here in June—it took place where the settlement is now; I wanted to know whether my claims would be worth anything; they had been working there for lead, and Hamlin said he had been trying to sell it in New York; Vandemark had been there and spent five or six months in that effort; Vandemark took some ore; they had worked it some; Hamlin stayed over night, and the next morning went north; I saw stakes on the ground in June 1964; didn't county how many; more that a dozen each way on the Panaca ground

Re-direct—I followed the stakes individually; I understood they were put there by Hempstead, and I followed then to No. 26, which was mine; a compass used to run the line; the way it was done, there were three holes dug. One at the Panaca shaft, which was seven or eight feet deep; then one was dug on the north, and found a little ore, and one the south; this was done to get a the wall of the ledge; I don't recollect the point of the compass; was not here when they were run; I followed the stakes over.

Transcribed from the *Sacramento Union* April 16, 1873

The Raymond and Ely Case.
Pioche, Nev., April 16th

Peter Shirts, an old Mormon, 68 years of age, was called. He testified that he came to Meadow Valley with Box, Sherwood and Vandermark in March, 1864 ;arrived at Meadow Valley on The 16th of March. At Clover Valley he had met Hamblin, who agreed to come on and show the Panaca location. Shirts was the first one to find the Indian trail from Warm Springs and arrive at the Panaca location. Here he found Daniel Sill, who explained that he (Sill) and Hamblin bad not come on immediately with be Shirts party, because Sill and Hamblin had not staked their claims aud they feared the Salt Lake party would deceive them and steal their claims. Shirts reassured Sill, and pointing up the mountain, said that there was enough silver in the neighborhood to buy out all the rest of the United States. Shirts then went up the mountain and blazed a tree with his knife, not having any paper, and cut out a location notice on the tree of the Shirts ledge; then went back to cam. Sherwood and Vandermark came back from an ineffectual effort to find the Panaca location, discouraged and damning the country. Then Shirts displayed some of his ore and revived their hopes. Next day Shirts kept camp while Sherwood, Vandermark and Box went up to Panaca. Shirts denied that he ever located more than his own claim on the Shirts lode or ever authorized Sherwood to put thirty or forty or fifty names of locators in the Shirts lode; said he must have been asleep if he ever gave Sherwood authority or directions to locate on what Sherwood had testified. The party had come here agreeing to divide equally everything found and located, but on their way back to Salt Lake City, at Dog Canyon, a meeting was somehow called, at which it was agreed to separate the interests. Shirts was told that be was to be No. 5 in the Panaca lode, instead of which be was put away over the hill in No. 26. He was subsequently appointed in No. 4 or No. 7 on the Mammoth location, but found out that his really recorder] number was 17. He considered he had been treated perfidiously by Sherwood and Box. He lived five miles from Salt Lake City; went there while the others went directly to Salt Lake; was crippled and laid up in bed at home for two months. Knew nothing about the getting up of the record book in Salt Lake; when he got out and came to Salt Lake, Sherwood was peddling out claims. Coming back to the first visit, Shirts described the first miners' meeting as other preceding witnesses. Witness had belonged to the Mormon Church for forty-one years; knew that the church was opposed to Mormons mining in 1864, from Brigham Young down to the lowest officials; had been whipped (in language) repeatedly by Bishop Snow for coming here to locate. Bishop Snow's location was made, as Snow had told him, to keep out outsiders. At Canara (sic) (*Kanarraville*) in southern Utah, Wm. Hamblin told Shirts that the Panaca claims were not worth a farthing; that mining was against the rules of the church; that the locations on Pioche Mountain were good to keep out strangers, and for nothing else. Box had been rebuked for making locations there, and told Shirts that be did not work on Panaca from 1866 to 1870 on account of the interdict of the church. The Indians were not dangerous in this vicinity in 1864 and 1865; he had traveled all over southern Utah on foot and unarmed in those years; no threats from Indians until after five or six Indians bad been killed by the whites.

The Panaca claims were not worked because the church forbid it, and not on account of Indian hostilities; had followed the stakes of the Panaca claim after the survey by Hempstead. They ran north and south, nearly. The Mámmoth ledge ran nearly east and west, or at right angles to the Panaca; was recognized as an entirely different and distinct thing; the Panaca claim would strike 300 or 400 yards east of the water reservoir. In the cross-examination he said that Hamblin told him Vandermark had made ineffectual efforts in New York to get capital invested on the Panama claims. The work on the claim had been, he knew, in part for lead. He considered his claims abandoned, and understood that it was the same with all his associates. Adjourned at 5:30. Judge Fuller is presiding.