

*B. Abbott Sparks*

7528 BAXTERSHERE • DALLAS, TEXAS 75230

November 27, 1984

Mr. & Mrs. Leland J. Sparks  
40704 Robin Street  
Freemont, California

Dear Lee and Pat:

It was a real pleasure to have an evening with you in San Francisco. I certainly enjoyed the time together.

I mentioned that I would send you some items of interest, and they are attached.

One is a summary of the Martin Van Buren branch, which was written a few years ago for a book by my daughter's mother-in-law. Also, here is a copy of Lee's great-grandmother's obituary the way it was written up in the Lampasas newspaper.

Another is a brief summary of our branch of the Sparks family as developed recently by Mary Sparks Matthews. When we were together, we spoke about Mary, who is the daughter of Fred Winchell Sparks, who was a professor in the Math Department at Texas Tech for many years. (He has nearly 30 books in the Library of Congress that he wrote on different math subjects.) Mary lives at 377 No. Catherine Park Dr., Glendora, Calif. 91740, phone number is 213-963-7278, and you and Pat should try to get together with her, as she is doing some very professional research and genealogical work that has been and will be extremely helpful to our branch of the family.

I have so many other things that I don't know where to begin, but can send you more later -- or hopefully one of these days you can get to Dallas.

Within four weeks I will send you a copy of the paper on John Sparks that I will give to the Society of Range Management in Salt Lake City on February 12. Please don't release this material to anyone else, as it will be the property of that Society until the paper is given.

I am very eager to get a look at the big box of material you have. I know it will add a tremendous amount of important information to that which I have already developed. As I said by phone, I think I should get into that with an eye toward a bibliography as soon as I can. But I feel at least 3 or 4 days (possibly a week) in one area would be required to handle that and a couple other leads.

YOUR S.F.

*B. Abbott Sparks*

7528 BAXTERSHIRE • DALLAS, TEXAS 75230

-2-

Thanks again for sending me the material I requested by phone, and let's keep in closer touch while we continue our efforts on this family project.

All best wishes,

*Abbott*

AS/lbl  
enc.

*P.S. - also - a brochure  
about my former company.*

## SPARKS Family Rescued -

By Wesley Sparks Matthews

The immigrant of this branch of the Sparks family is believed to be William Sparks who is mentioned in Book 6, page 90 of the Index of Early Settlers, Maryland 1633-1680 as being the servant of George Richardson who demanded land for his transportation from England to Maryland in 1662. At that time, each freeman who came to Maryland was given fifty acres of land for himself, fifty for his wife and twenty acres for each child under sixteen. He could also receive an allotment for each servant he brought with him. The servants were usually farmers, mechanics, masons, carpenters, shipbuilders or even educated clerks or teachers, and they were obligated to work or in some manner pay for their transportation. The term of indenture usually lasted from two to six years. At the end of that time, a male servant was given fifty acres of land, an ox, a gun, two hoes and a modest amount of clothing. A female servant was given a skirt, waistcoat, apron, smock, cap, shoes and stockings and three barrels of Indian corn.

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 -The Sparks Quarterly. vol XVIII, No. 4, December, 1970, Whole No. 72, p 1362

Beginning July 17, 1672, the name of William Sparks appears frequently in the records of Kent, Talbot and Queen Anne's County, Maryland. Kent County was officially created in 1642. In 1661, Talbot County was cut off from Kent and then in 1706, Talbot County was divided to form Queen Anne's County. This branch of the Sparks family lived in that portion of Talbot County that became Queen Anne's County.

It was the custom at that time for the first owner of a piece of land to assign it a name. William Sparks gradually acquired nearly 1,000 acres of land on Island Creek, a tributary of Southeast Creek, which was itself a tributary of Chester River. The medium of exchange used to purchase land was frequently tobacco, so it is assumed one of the main crops in the area was tobacco. Among the tracts William Sparks owned were those named "Adventure", "Sparks Choice", "Sparks Oune [Own]", "Sparks Outlet", "Sparks Enclosure", and "Wright's Choice".

There is still a road in this area named Sparks Mill Road.

William Sparks was a member of the Anglican faith, and in 1696 was elected a warden of the St. Paul's Parish which included a lower part of Queen Anne's County and the upper part of Talbot County. In December, 1696, both William Sparks and his son William Sparks, Jr. signed a statement of loyalty to the King of England, William III promising to support him against the late King James II. William Sparks was listed with the twenty nine "Civill Officers and Magistrates" of Kent County while his son is listed with the sixty two "Military Officers of Kent County". From this it is assumed that the Sparks lived at that time in or near Kent County.

William Sparks died in 1709 leaving his widow Mary, sons William, George, John and Joseph. A daughter who married a Mr. Hynson preceded him in death.

In 1728, St. Paul's Parish was divided, and a new parish called St. Luke's which included the town of Church Hill was founded. The descendants of William Sparks were members of this new parish, and for the next twenty years, records of the family can be found there.

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The Sparks Quarterly, Vol. XIX, No .1, March 1971, Whole No. 13, pp1381 - 1389.

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William Sparks' son John was born about 1680, probably in Talbot County, Maryland. Prior to 1704, he married Cornelia (possibly Curtis). Like his father, John Sparks was of the Anglican faith. He was a parishioner of St. Luke's Church, Queen Anne's County. At the time of his death, John and his wife Cornelia owned several tracts of land including "Sparks Choice" and "Sparks Enclosure" purchased from Augustine Thompson which his brothers George and Joseph had inherited and sold. He also owned "His Lordship's Manor of Queen Anne".

John Sparks died April 19, 1737 leaving his wife Cornelia, five sons, George, John, Millington, Absalom and Caleb, and four daughters,

Sarah, Mary, Rachel and Cornelia. A son William had died in 1731.

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The Sparks Quarterly, Vol XXII, No. 4, December, 1974, Whole No.,  
88, pp 1699-1701

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According to St. Luke's Parish Records, Millington Sparks, son of John and Cornelia, married Mabel Ruth February 9, 1740. Millington was probably born between 1710 and 1720. After his father's death in 1737 and his mother's in 1738, his name appeared as of of the nearest of kin on the inventories and supplementary reports of their estates. In 1744 Millington and his wife Mabel sold part of their share of "Sparks Enclosure" and "Sparks Choice" and then sold the rest in 1752. As late as 1757, he paid taxes on "Sparks Oune". and in 1767 made tenant payments on "Queen Anne's Manor". In 1772, he witnessed the property inventory of his brother Absalom.

Millington Sparks and his brothers Absalom, Caleb and John served in Captain William Hopper's Company of the Maryland Provincial Militia in 1748.

Recorded in the records of St. Luke's Parish is the birth of a daughter Rachel to Millington and Mabel Sparks in 1747. Births of their other children are not recorded, but from the 1776 special census of Maryland, we can assume they had at least two sons and one other daughter. In the special census of 1778, Millington Sparks appears as Millington Sparks, Senior and also are listed as heads of households Millington Sparks, Jr. and John Sparks of Millington. Because of the similarity of the name, it is assumed that Millington, Jr. was the son of Millington and Mabel Sparks, but, at this time, no definite proof of this relationship has been found. Millington Sparks, senior, did not appear on the 1783 special assessment of Queen Anne's County, so it is assumed he died before that time.

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Land Records Queen Anne's County, Maryland  
Census Records, Queen Anne's County Maryland

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cc ✓ 1882  
Mrs  
Gordon  
Ret to SRM  
Recup file  
(name)

Very little is known about Millington Sparks, Jr. In the assessment of Queen Anne's County in 1783, his property is listed as one horse and "other property" worth about twice the value of the horse. He may very well be the Millington Sparks listed as head of a household of three females in the Queen Anne's County Census of 1790. He does not appear in the Queen Anne's County Census of 1800.

(OK  
John?)  
↓

The third Millington Sparks, William Millington Sparks was born in Maryland probably about 1777. Because of his name Millington, it is assumed that he could be the son of Millington Sparks, Jr. and grandson of Millington and Mabel Ruth Sparks. He was married in Kent County May 25, 1797 to Rebecca Brooks, daughter of Esau Brooks and his wife Mary [Wyatt]. Esau Brooks served as a private from Maryland in the Revolutionary War.

In the 1800 census, Millington Sparks is listed in Queen Anne's County with three children under ten years' old and two slaves. About 1800, his brother-in-law Samuel Wyatt Brooks and his family moved to Wilkes County, Georgia. About 1804, the Millington Sparks family also moved to Georgia, but it is not known how long they stayed there. Rebecca Sparks died January 5, 1807, and Millington married Ann Swanway May 12, 1808. They were listed in the 1830 census of Lauderdale County, Alabama, He has not been found in the 1840 census, and by 1850 his wife was living with their daughter Rebecca in Lauderdale County.

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The children of Millington Sparks were listed in the Family Bible of Samuel Wyatt Brooks. Millington and his first wife Rebecca had Millington, twins William and Mary, and twins Samuel Wyatt and ELiza (Eliza lived only two months). With his second wife, Ann Swanway, Millington had John Wesley, Rebecca and LLOYD.

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Samuel Wyatt Brooks Bible, Bible Records, Volume One, 1960, Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Society

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Samuel Wyatt Sparks was born July 7, 1803. He married Sarah Deal, daughter of John Deal from South Carolin, in Tuscaloosa County, Alabama January 21, 1829. In November of 1834, the Sparks and Deal families moved to Noxubee County, Mississippi where the two families obtained

land very close together. This territory was then occupied by the Creek and Choctaw nations of Indians. They were friendly to the white settlers supplying them with deer, wild turkeys and other game which was plentiful in the area.

By 1839, the Sparks family had moved to neighboring Winston County, Mississippi where they are listed in the 1840 census with five children under ten years and two slaves. In 1844, they moved to a farm just north of Fountain Hill, Arkansas in what was later to become Ashley County. This move was made with Sarah's brother LeMarcosDeal and his family.

Samuel Sparks was a farmer. He and his family were all loyal members of the Baptist Church. He and Sarah had ten children, Frances Emeline, Eliza Jane, Elizabeth, Martin Van Buren, Samuel Wyatt, Thomas, John, Atelia, William Lloyd. William and Lloyd died in Arkansas and the three older girls were married there.

By 1856 the urge to leave their "worn out plantations" and move to Texas began to reach many people in the community. Elizabeth and her husband Shadrack Denson had already moved to Williamson County, Texas, and the rest of the family was eager to join them. In 1857, the Sparks with Frances Emeline and her husband Dave Sims, a teacher, and Eliza Jane with her husband, Ambrose Bull, a farmer, moved to Lampasa County, Texas with the Sparks settling 3½ miles east of the town of Lampasas. Dave Sims died before 1850.

Lampasas County had been founded in 1856, and by 1860 there were 1028 people living there. It was on the frontier, and Commanche Indians were at times quite a problem to the settlers. The buffalo were still plentiful in the area, and many of the early settlers brought cattle. In later years John Sparks spoke of handling cattle from the age of fourteen, his age when the family moved to Texas.

While the Sparks were not large slave holders, the census records indicate they had a few slaves. When the Civil War broke out, most of the young men in the family joined the Confederate cause. Shadrack

Denson served as captain., Martin Van Buren and Tom Sparks as sergeants and J.M. Bull (Eliza's step son) as a private in Company D of the 17th Texas Regiment. This regiment served in East Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas. The youngest son, John, was a member of the Home Texas Rangers attached to Norris Regiment State Troops. They were detailed to guard the citizens from the Commanche Indians. John served four years.

The practice of driving Texas cattle to market had begun before the Civil War. At that time the herds were driven to the Texas ports, to New Orleans and to points in Missouri. During the war, the northern states received no Tēxas cattle , and by the end of the war there was a shortage of cattle there. At the same time, the Texas herds had greatly increased in number, and so in 1865 the practice of driving herds up the cattle trails to market began. Several cattle trails passed through Williamson County near Lampasas. Cattle from Lampasas County were taken by short cut trails to meet the Chisholm Trail.

At the end of the Civil War, John Sparks immediately entered the cattle business, at first employed by others. In 1868, he moved from Texas to Wyoming Territory near Cheyenne continuing in the same business. In this period he took a large herd from Texas to Virginia. In 1872 he returned to Texas to marry Rachel, daughter of Dr. D.F. Knight of Georgetown, Tēxas. The young couple settled first in Lampasas and in 1872, John and his brother Tom Sparks drove cattle to Wyoming. In 1873, the John Sparks home in Lampasas was destroyed by flood. He then bought a ranch on the Chugwater in Wyoming and settled his family there. He also purchased a large herd of Cattle in Texas and drove them to Wyoming. In the years 1874-1878 he bought and sold several large ranches in Wyoming Territory and in 1878 returned to Texas settling his family in Georgetown where he built a fine home. Georgetown became his Texas headquarters, and he maintained a home there as long as he lived. Between 1878 and 1883 he bought a great deal of acreage in Williamson County. With M.E. Steele he owned the Steele and Sparks Bank in Georgetown and through it handled the cotton crop grown in a large section of the state.



Rachel Sparks died February 14, 1879 and is buried in the Southern Presbyterian Burying Ground, Georgetown. Beside her are buried the bodies of three children, Deal, R.A. and R.K. Sparks. A small daughter, Maud, survived. Early in 1880, John Sparks married Rachel's half sister, Nancy Elnora Knight with whom he had three sons, Benton, Charles and Leland.

SOME  
CONFUSION  
HERE.

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Sarah Deal's obituary, The Lampasas Record, November, 1897

Marriage Book A Ashley County, Arkansas April 4, 1856

Letter M.V.B. Sparks to Elizabeth Denson,

1860 Census, Lampasas County, Texas

Relighting lamplights of lampasas County. Jonnie Ross ELsner

Consolidated Guide to Confederate Service Records (Microfilm)

John Sparks personal history dictated to Hubert Bancroft

Texas, the Story of the Lone Star State, Hester, Nunn, Henson

*B. Abbott Sparks*

7528 BAXTERSHIRE • DALLAS, TEXAS 75230

January 28, 1986

Dear Lee and Pat:

You will recall I told you I was going to send copies of some of the letters we dug out of your old family data to Mary Matthews. You will recall that Mary Matthews was the daughter of Fred Winchell Sparks, who would have been a nephew of Lee's grandfather John. Fred was a prominent professor at Texas Tech, and he wrote over 20 math books which are in the Library of Congress.

The material I sent to Mary has been forwarded on to a friend of hers at the Williamson County Historical Society in Georgetown. And as you will see from reading the attached letters, they provoke considerable interest.

Mary has asked, "Do you mind if the Williamson County Historical Society prints them in its Quarterly?" I feel sure you do not, but please advise either Mary or me, giving permission. This will also introduce you to the nice group of ladies in Georgetown. And you will recall I had suggested that when you do go to the Texas and Lampasas area, the Georgetown portion might be the most interesting to you because of the work that has been done and the remnants of John Sparks' early history (including some of his furniture) are in that area.

Do let us hear from you.

Best wishes,

*Abbott*

AS/lbl  
enc.

cc: Mary Matthews

Mr. & Mrs. Leland Sparks  
40704 Robin Street  
Freemont, Calif. 94538

From - *Elsie Walker, Georgetown*  
(*Mrs. John Walker*)

*see & not*

19 January 1986

Dear Mary,

Those letters are great! A real find. I want Clara Scarbrough to see them. We are in exercise class together and I will take them there Wednesday. I want her to help identify the places mentioned.

If the Dave that Dr. David refers to his son David F., he would be about 17 at that time. Remember that Midge James didn't remember that her Dad had a brother David F. but she had a brother David Faulkner.

Dr. David also mentions Rachel and John who would be his daughter and John Sparks. Right? The letter is interesting and full of bits of news. You said something about using the letters in the Chisholm Trail. Could we- when it talks about a hanging, a shooting, and a surprise baby. Prince(Print) Olive was bad and his family was told to leave Williamson Co. They went to Wyoming or Montana. Our W.K. Makemson got him off from at least one killing. There is a book written about his life, RIVERS OF WATERS, that tells all this but makes the family victims of the times.

*see  
of Marsha  
Knight  
Makemson*

The Houston letter was harder to read. It was written to Nancy (Nannie) Elizabeth Houston when she was 12 years old. Nannie grew up and married J.C.S. Morrow, my great grand mother Sarah Knight's first cousin. When my grandfather Hallie Knight, <sup>her</sup> Cousin Nannie, as they called her, came to Sterling City and stayed out at the ranch with Daddy and his brothers. She had some strange ideas that Daddy remembered- he was 12 years old. One was that it was bad luck to sweep over the door sill after dark. In those days people swept the dirt out on the ground.

I am enclosing some Houston information for your files. Also several pages from LONE STAR by T.R. Fehrencach to show what real historians thought of Sam Houston.

The article on Mary William Houston is interesting to us. She married Sarah Knight's brother John Simeon (Sim) Morrow. You will see them on the roll of the Presbyterian Church. Also J.C.S.(Styles) Morrow, Nannie was a Methodist and a character. For some reason I think someone told me that Nannie lived with the Sparks for a while. JCS traveled as a salesman.

Sue is home and seems to be doing fine. We will see her Friday when she goes back to S. Antonio for a check-up and spends the night here.

Thanks again for the letters.

Love,

*Elsie*

(over)

*Baxter Enterprises*

P.O. Box 50089, DALLAS, TEXAS 75250

January 27, 1986

Dear Lee and Pat:

Note the attached. Gene Gressley is a very important guy in the western history field. In fact, he is President of one of the leading associations at this time. Also a very nice person.

He has asked me to turn over to him my records, papers, memorabilia from Petroleum Engineering Publishing Company, which I may do eventually.

In this letter he mentions he would be very interested in the storehouse of John Sparks data you have. If you have interest, it would be a good place for it, as they would take care of it, file it, and all that sort of thing. (I feel that Nevada would also be interested, but I don't know the best man to contact if you were, although it could be the Manager of the Nevada Historical Society.) I don't believe there would be any money involved in either case.

These people are performing a valuable service, which is principally one of getting data for universities and future reference. In many cases they can get you a tax deduction, but I would imagine that's about all. I'm not suggesting anything, but merely advising you of possibilities as I see them.

Just returned from a ten-day trip and am pretty well covered up for the moment. Will be back in touch whenever I have anything of interest.

Warm best wishes,

*AmBON*

AS/lbl  
enc.

Mr. & Mrs. Leland Sparks  
40704 Robin Street  
Freemont, Calif. 94538

## ABBOTT SPARKS

January 2, 2009

Hey Leland!

Great to have word of you and your son - what a trip to Alaska. By the way, Vicki and I have a granddaughter recently married and living in Haynes, Alaska. Leland, I have always been sorry that my work on your Grandfather's book had an overseer who was an "earth-hugger". The young lady at Utah State University had essential control over what was printed, and John Sparks was a far more interesting, colorful, and substantial leader than the book reflects. Later wished I had "gone to the mat" with her principles, but there were "too many cooks."

Always appreciate hearing from you, Leland, and the fact that we have been able to be in touch and maintain some linkage between our several Sparks generations. I now have two great-grandsons living in California, one in Palo Alto, and one in Los Angeles. We have some fairly "hardy" genes. All the best to you and your son Tony.

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d HNY t/BBOTT

*Baxter Enterprises*

P.O. Box 50089, DALLAS, TEXAS 75250

June 8, 1988

Mr. Leland Sparks  
40704 Robin Street  
Freemont, Calif. 94538

Dear Leland:

Hope things are going well with you and Patty and your gang.

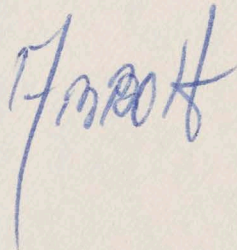
Since the Charter from the Governor of Wyoming Territory to John Sparks is temporarily astray, I thought you might like to have the enclosed copy. As I told you, we had Xeroxed the original when we had it, so we made you a slightly reduced size copy of the one we have.

Things going fairly standard here in Dallas with us, although we're trying to get away for a few weeks in Arizona in July. I imagine this letter may catch you all in some similar summer fun pursuits, I hope.

Still hoping you'll have a chance to get together with Mary and Kermit Matthews out there one of these days. She is really an excellent genealogical researcher. I'd love to have the opportunity, with her, or for her to be able to go through the mystery basket you have maintained and were kind enough to let me see and look through in part.

Be back in touch.

Best wishes,



AS/lbl  
enc.

FROM THE DESK OF

*B. Abbott Sparks*

3/7/85

TO: Mr. & Mrs. Leland Sparks

Dear Lee and Pat:

The talk in Salt Lake City went very well, and there is a great deal of interest in your granddad.

The Salt Lake City paper ran a story, and I'll enclose a copy for you.

I will remain eager to come up there and research that box of mysteries you have, and will be looking for a chance to do so. Meanwhile, all the best to you and yours,

*Amot*

AS/lbl  
enc.

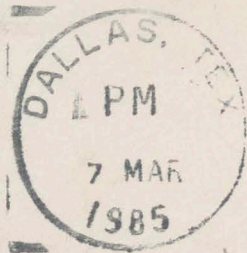
Energy Communications Inc.  
P. O. Box 50089  
Dallas, Texas 75250  
U.S.A.

FOR KID TO READ

THEN

PUT IN

SPARKS DESK DRAWER



Mr. & Mrs. Leland J. Sparks  
40704 Robin Street  
Freemont, Calif.



FROM THE DESK OF

*B. Abbott Sparks*

4/21/86

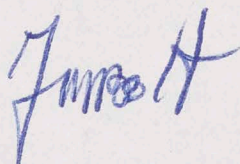
Dear Lee:

I certainly appreciate your sending me the old photographs of the Washington area. Many of them look like they were made in the 30's.

I don't have an idea for them at present, but maybe something will arise.

Hope you all are getting geared up for a pleasant summer.

All best wishes,



AS/lbl

Mr. Leland Sparks  
40704 Robin Street  
Freemont, Calif. 94538

FROM THE DESK OF

*B. Abbott Sparks*

3/19/86

Dear Leland:

Just a quickie.

I know that Maud Sparks was married to a McKinsie (?), and you told me he was a golfer. I heard somewhere that Pebble Beach was designed by a Scot by that name.

Do you know if he is the same guy?

Best wishes,

*Abbott*

AS/1b1

*JAMES ALLEN MACKENZIE*

*HE WAS SON OF IMPORT CLERGYMAN  
(PRESBYTERIAN) IN N.Y. ? ALSO  
SISTER NAME JEAN - MISSIONARY IN  
ARRICIA*

*B. Abbott Sparks*

3/27/86

Dear Lee and Patty:

At long last we have copies of "Cattle in the Cold Desert."

As I told you, Dr. Young's approach was in the interest of scientific and scholarly use or reference. The essential story came out of his career in range planning and land utilization. He wanted to wrap up his experience in a meaningful way for his contemporaries and scholars of present and future. John Sparks came in by way of helping tell that story through the experiences of one of the leading actors in the "grand pageant" of the development of the intermountain ranges.

And as you know, I have more than enough material for a separate book on John Sparks, which I think could be made much more interesting to the average reader. All I need is the six months a year it would take me to do that!

Once again, thanks for all your help.

AS/lbl

FROM THE DESK OF

*B. Abbott Sparks*

P.S. There was one boo-boo that upsets me. They picked up my original Acknowledgments page, instead of the one I had edited for final and ~~actual~~ use. The rough, which they printed on that page, contains some errors, some oversights, and the first sentence is not even a sentence! At any rate,

All best wishes,

*Abbott*

*B. Abbott Sparks*

7528 BAXTERSHERE, DALLAS, TEXAS 75230

May 11, 1982

Dr. James A. Young  
Range Scientist  
United States Department of Agriculture  
920 Valley Road  
Reno, Nevada 89512

Dear Dr. Young:

The current period is a very busy one for me, as I have been out, or will be, most of the current two months. That means when I am in the office, I'm usually playing catch-up. So I've had very little time to pursue possibilities regarding the publication of your book.

I had a nice letter from Mr. Harrell, and will attach a copy for your interest. I'm very pleased that he may be able to send me a copy of "Diamondfield Jack," as he indicated. And in view of that possibility, I'm going to go ahead and return yours. I certainly do appreciate your letting me have it. Have made several efforts to buy one, but have had no success whatever. So you'll want to take care of this copy you have, as it would bring a pretty price in a collector's bookstore.

The same is true of "Only the Mountains Remain." Several inquiries have been returned. I'm also going to return your copy of that book (and will insure both of them to make sure they reach you safely).

While I was in the archivist's office, I took a picture of the picture which is on his wall. I'm now having this framed in the same size, with a copy for my wall and one for my son. However, I will attach one of the snapshots for you. I have wondered whether the young man on the front right might be Henry Harris. He looks as though he could be negro and a little bit like the older pictures of Henry that I've seen.

I have a list of about 40 "follow-up items" that I want to take care of, but I'm afraid they're going to have to wait for some weeks. (I) I'm supposed to be in Europe on business the first ten days of June, and will be quite busy until I leave.

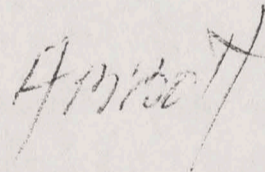
The other material you have sent me I've now dispensed to my father, Uncle Van, and Fred Sparks' daughter Mary in California. They are all most appreciative and asked me to convey their heartfelt thanks to you. I have also talked on the phone with Leland Sparks, who is the grandson of Governor John Sparks. His address and telephone number are as follows:

Leland Sparks  
40704 Robin St.  
Fremont, Calif. 94538  
415-656-1310

I have told Leland about you and the work you have done, and they are quite interested. He and his wife have eight children, and the names of three of the boys are John, Tom, and Lloyd, just as with John Sparks' brothers.

Just a note to tell you I'm still around, and to return your books. All best wishes to you and more word when I can get it.

Sincerely,



AS/lbl

Twin Falls, Idaho  
April 28, 1982

Baxter Abbott Sparks;

Dear Sir:

Was certainly appreciative of your call concerning your relationship with John Sparks. I have some old correspondence between my father and John Sparks and had a copy made of one to send you as I thought you might be interested. This letter was written by John from Ogden to my father and hope you can make it out. My father Louis Harrell came to Northern Nevada and the Southern Idaho country in the 1870's with a drive of cattle from Texas for his uncle who was the Jasper Harrell, that was the partner of John Sparks in the Sparks-Harrell Cattle Co. My father was a range foreman for the Co. during their existence and of course knew Sparks real well. He had his eye put out as the letter states when he was roping horses with a Rawhide Riata which was the only ropes available at that time before grass ropes in the area and they were made by Mexican brothers over in the Jarbidge, Nevada area, and dad said they used to buy about two per year, but this one got a little old and broke and when they do break they fly back quite rapidly which this one did and caught him in the eye, the nearest doctor being in the Salt Lake area at that time and Dad had to go to Montello Nevada to get the train to Utah having to get over there which was quite some distance from where the accident occurred on Horseback. He did make it to Salt Lake to save the sight of his other eye as when one is badly injured and has to be removed as his was, if it is not removed and taken care of it will effect the other eye and cause it to go bad and blindness results. John Sparks wrote him this letter in regard to his eye operation and the Co. taking care of the bill.

My father worked for his Uncle and Sparks until he went into the Cattle business on his own. His first time was in 1889 he said he had saved enough money out of his wages to buy a few cattle, and of course the following winter of 1889-90 was the real bad winter when the Sparks-Harrell Co. lost practically all of their cattle and had to reorganize. Dad said he lost every one of his and went back to work for wages again.

I was too young to know Sparks myself but did know Henry Harris, the Negro cowboy that Sparks brought from Texas, primarily to be his personal valet but who became so proficient in the art of riding and roping and the cattle business that he became a first class cowboy and ran a wagon for Sparks-Harrell and later for the Vinyard Land and Cattle Co. the Co. that took over the Sparks-Harrell Co. He was fired in 1916 by the Foreman for that Co. a Mr. Beeson and went to work for my father and worked for him for 18 years until 1934, And of course I grew up and worked and rode with Henry a great deal and really admired him. However now I see where I should have found out more from him concerning Sparks and also Henry's background.

MAY 3 REC'D

In fact Henry bought him a new saddle in 1917 and gave me his old one at that time and I was only 7 Years old but I never did buy me another saddle and used that one all the time I rode and still have it, of course it has had to be recovered, and relined but still has his initials on the back of the cantle. It is a D.E. Walker saddle made in San Francisco. I wrote to the Company to see if they had a record of the saddle, as to when Henry had bought it but they did not. But was more lucky with a gun of my father's it was a colt single action pistol that he had bought at Browning Brothers in Ogden in 1897 and I have the gun and the receipt from Browning Brothers when he bought it having paid \$14.00 for it, also wrote to the Colt Firearms Co. at Hartford, Connecticut and they still had the record of the gun and had shipped it to Browning Bros. some 3 or 4 months before he bought it.

There was a book written about a Diamondfield Jack who was somewhat of a desperado who worked for Sparks-Harrell ~~and~~ when they were having trouble with the Sheepmen encroaching on their range. This book is very good and tells most of the history of Sparks-Harrell and later Sparks as Governor of Nevada and his association with Jack later on as they were quite close friends. The 1st printing of the book has been sold out and I do not know if it will be reprinted or not, however I was able to obtain another copy of it to send you as thought it would be of great interest to you, but thought maybe I had better write you and send this letter first to be sure I have your correct address and you get this first as I wanted to be certain I have your correct Address and the book did not get missent and you wouldn't get it, let me know about this and I will then mail the book out to you.

Tom Sparks also was in the area to the East of here around American Falls and remembering readin about him being with another cattle co. in that area and fording cattle across the Snake River but I would have to reread about that. Believe it was in one of the books concerning the early cattle drives into this area.

Well Hope you can make this out with all the mistakes as my old typewriter is quite old. I bought it 1925 when I was taking typing here in High School it is a No. 5. Underwood and I paid \$105.00 for it then so in comparison to some things a typewriter was more expensive then then some other things, about like th old Fabric Auto tires on <sup>Atuos</sup> then that were quite expensive and if you ever hit an object such as a rock or something it was the last of the tire.

Very Sincerely:

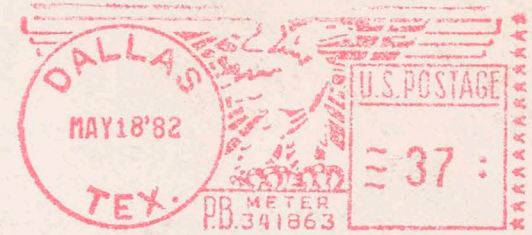
*Newton T. Harrell*

Newton T. Harrell  
334 Blake Street North  
Twin Falls,  
Idaho. 83301



**HBJ** ENERGY PUBLICATIONS

A Division of Harcourt Brace Jovanovich  
P. O. Box 1589  
Dallas, Texas 75221



Mr. Leland Sparks  
40704 Robin St.  
Fremont, Calif. 94538

*B. Abbott Sparks*

7528 BAXTERSHIRE • DALLAS, TEXAS 75230

February 18, 1986

Dear Lee:

The copy of "We Pointed Them North" is all yours, permanently. I think it will be great if some of your boys read it.

Also, I have my eye peeled for "The Log of a Cowboy." It will show up one of these days.

Yes, I sent a copy of the Diary to Helen, and also to the other lady whose name you gave me in that same area.

Regarding copyright. As I see it, you have nothing to lose by giving permission to people to print, or reprint, various specific items or letters. In fact, anything you could do would help to build a little interest. At this point in time, in the southwest, relatively very few people know any of the story of John Sparks -- who left Texas in his 20's, and was almost entirely overlooked in Texas history, as well as state files.

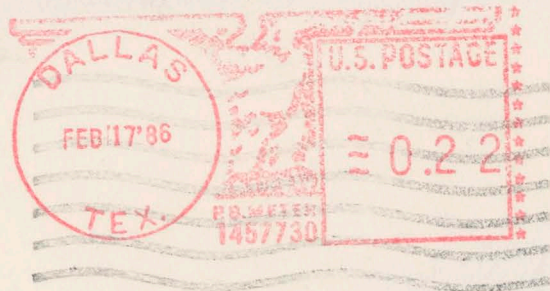
Writing original material, such as by you or any of your family, is *under* almost no threat of any copyright problems. Any original material is yours until you have it printed and copyrighted. And think how many stories you've seen, with some personal variation, on similar subjects. At this point, it would be my feeling that anything you can get produced, or printed anywhere, would build a little interest in the subject. You and your eight kids could all write different stories, or books, without any direct copyright conflict. And if you don't take steps to get some of it into the public domain, it will likely never see the light of day in any appropriate way.

Start exercising those fingers, so you won't have writer's cramp when you write the first five chapters!

Best wishes,

*Annex*

AS/lb1



Mr. Leland J. Sparks  
40704 Robin St.  
Fremont, CA. 94538

*B. Abbott Sparks*

7528 BAXTERSHIRE • DALLAS, TEXAS 75230

FROM THE DESK OF

*B. Abbott Sparks*

2/3/86

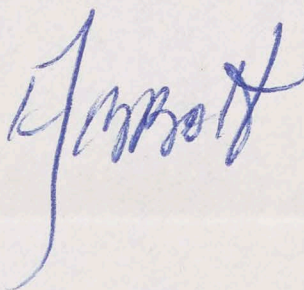
TO: Leland Sparks

Dear Lee:

The copy of "We Pointed Them North" is all yours to keep. Sure, have your kids read it. Be a good idea.

Do let us hear from you about the permission to use the letters as mentioned in my last note.

Best wishes,

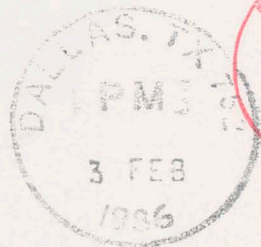


AS/lb1



**energy communications, inc.**

P. O. Box 50089 Dallas, Texas 75250



Mr. L. J. Sparks  
40704 Robin St.  
Fremont, CA 94538

*B. Abbott Sparks*

7528 BAXTERSHIRE • DALLAS, TEXAS 75230

December 4, 1985

Dear Pat and Lee:

I certainly did enjoy all your and your family's hospitality over the Thanksgiving holiday. It was something unusual to spend Thanksgiving with four of your generations of Sparks, from Allie to Colleen.

From Alabama I have sent you a little family bread-and-butter remembrance, which should be arriving in the next ten days or so. And as soon as we can get to it, Leta and I will dig out and copy to send to you the following:

- . Sunset Magazine story
- . Sally Deal eulogy
- . Family tree
- . Elnora's diary (which Leta has been kind enough to type to make it much more readable for all of us.)

The other items you let me bring to Dallas will take a little longer to sort out, copy, and return.

The head of the Nevada Historical Association is:

Phil Earl  
State Historical Society  
1650 N. Virginia St.  
Reno, Nevada 89503

A more beneficial contact might be Guy Rocha, the Nevada State Archivist, whose address is as follows:

Guy Louis Rocha  
State Archivist  
Nevada State Library  
Carson City, Nevada 89710

*B. Abbott Sparks*

7528 BAXTERSHERE • DALLAS, TEXAS 75230

-2-

But I doubt that either one of them will have any "commercial" ideas.

Thanks again for everything, and I know that you and your prolific family will enjoy a great Holiday Season!

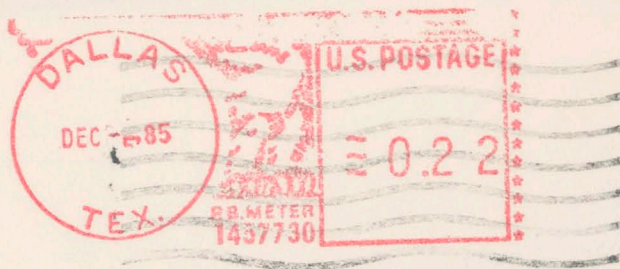
With every good wish,

*John & Vicki*

AS/lbl

Mr. & Mrs. Leland Sparks  
40704 Robin Street  
Freemont, Calif. 94538





Mr. & Mrs. Leland Sparks  
40704 Robin Street  
Freemont, Calif. 94538

*B. Abbott Sparks*

7528 BAXTERSHIRE • DALLAS, TEXAS 75230

*B. Abbott Sparks*

7528 BAXTERSHIRE • DALLAS, TEXAS 75230

January 14, 1986

Dear Lee and Patty:

Thanks for your note. We had a rather quiet holiday season, which was most welcome.

There is a book I am going to send you when I can find a copy. The title, I believe, is "Over the Mountain." It was written by a lady who lived on the Sparks ranches after they were taken over by the owners following Sparks & Harrell. I think you would enjoy reading it, and will keep my eyes open for a copy.

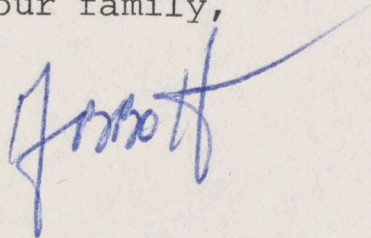
Don't worry about the pictures, as they are in good shape but have not yet been reproduced properly. We will return them in good shape when that is completed.

One of the letters and copies that I returned to you could be of some value. It was written by Sam Houston, and I'm still not sure of his relation to the family. Do you, or would your mother know? The letter you have is an original in his handwriting and should be valuable. But I don't know where to suggest you check into that. You might try a letter to the Texas State Capitol (Austin) to the State Genealogist, and mention that you have that letter, and see whether they have any suggestions.

My book collection has an extra copy of a book I will enclose, which might interest you since you were speaking of the one titled "A Diary of a Cowboy." However, this one has nothing to do with your Grandfather John, except that it was contemporary with his years.

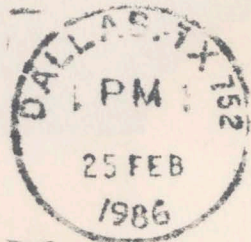
How are things going with your job search? I have wished I could be of more help in that matter, and hope you are having some luck. Let me know how you are coming along in that department.

All best wishes to you and Patty  
and your family,



AS/1b1

P.S. I will certainly call or write Helen Sparks at some point. I would like very much to talk with her at some opportunity.



Mr. Leland J. Sparks  
40704 Robin Street  
Freemont, Calif. 94538

*B. Abbott Sparks*

7528 BAXTERSHIRE • DALLAS, TEXAS 75230

*B. Abbott Sparks*

7528 BAXTERSHIRE • DALLAS, TEXAS 75230

February 25, 1986

Dear Lee:

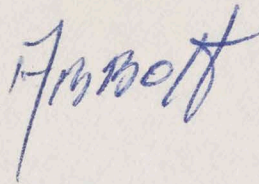
Thanks for your letter, and I sure understand you've had a wet season out there.

Thanks also for the newsletter from Dean Witter. I see several of these, but had not seen that one. What will happen to OPEC is yet to be seen. They still have the product and the leverage to control the price, whenever they decide to get together. Hamilton Oil is, I believe, a Canadian and English oil operator. They always have been a relatively strong company.

I have passed your permission to reprint the several items regarding John Sparks to Mary Matthews and the lady in Georgetown. This covered the Sam Houston letter and the David Knight letter. I would suggest it's better to give them clearance for specific items in this way. From time to time other things will be requested, and the owner or originator thereof ordinarily clears them specifically rather than generally.

Delighted to hear you may be able to get a degree in telecommunications management. That and the retroactive check are great news. Keep up all the good work.

Best wishes,



AS/1b1



MR. AND MRS. LELAND J. SPARKS, JR.  
40704 ROBIN ST.  
FREMONT, CALIFORNIA

94538

Mrs. Irving M. Cumbie  
468 Spiller Lane  
Austin, Texas 78746

B2



Mrs. Irving M. Cumbie  
468 Spiller Lane  
Austin, Texas 78746

10-3-82

Dear Patti & Lee -

You probably think us ungrateful Cousins for not writing sooner - It seems that two weeks away, threw me more than two weeks behind - Just unpacking took time, as you can imagine - Ha! Not sure I've found everything yet -

Now and I can't thank you enough for the wonderful trip and visit with you and yours - It was so kind of you to meet us and drive us through beautiful California and Nevada - (the Sierras etc) We appreciate your making reservations and scheduling so much into our time there. Also, having us in your home and meeting your children and families - Quite a treat. I am truly grateful for having made your acquaintance and it was a thrill tracing history of the Sparks! When you come our way we'll try to show you the small bit we have in Texas - I plan to organize some of the Sparks' memorabilia in this box soon -

The jury trial last week involving Joe's murderer ended before it began, as the

guy pled guilty to voluntary man slaughter  
 for which in Texas the prison sentence is  
 only 20 years - his helper in the robbery  
 part of the crime received only 5 years -  
 so that's it - We thought they got off "light"  
 so called "justice" is difficult to accept  
 at times - It was such a worthless tragedy.  
 I'll enclose a write up from last year  
 Tex. Arch. publication w/picture of Joe.

this week-end I finished the last of the  
 roll of film in the camera - Made myself  
 label and mount in albums all others.  
 I know my 2 sons will enjoy the snapshots  
 and post cards from Nevada plus pictures  
 of "Sparks Cousins" -

Aside from the thrill of meeting all of  
 you Sparks, we found Reno such fun  
 to share with you - that was good  
 planning you all did -

Patti, I want you to know that I  
 appreciate your interest in our ancestors!  
 I really can't express my good feeling  
 in having made this connection with  
 you and Lee and your family. Meeting  
 Helen - being with Nancy & Fred and  
 a visit with Allie, too - All was great -

I'll close for now and write  
 Nancy - Besides, if I get this mailed -  
 maybe you'll answer - Ha!

3.

Thank you again and again for being so hospitable and so generous with Iris and me. Give our regards to all of your children. Please thank Kathy and all for having us over for the delicious dinner. Do let us hear about George's adventures. We've wondered about him. Try to write us soon.

The wine has been good, but haven't drunk much of it - We're saving the champagne for Iris's 1st real grandchild's birth.

We'll hope to hear from you from time to time and hope our visits can be frequent. Let us know, when you can come to see us.

Love to all -

Rosalie

Feb. 28, 1981

Dear Mr. Sparks,

My husband and I own the Alamo Ranch house and watertower that was once your grandfather's.

We have had it listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and just yesterday I recorded protective covenants to the title.

We plan to restore the buildings as much as possible to their original appearance and setting.

Although we have a Special Uses permit for a "bed and breakfast", we also hope that Alamo will once again be a working self-sufficient ranch.

Please feel free, any of the family, to visit us when in Reno. Our

phone numbers are:

HOME 849-0672

RAUL AT WORK 323-2241

LESLIE AT WORK 825-1620

Perhaps you can be of help to me in my historical research. And does anyone remember what kind of figure was on the fountain in the solarium? Or was that added later?

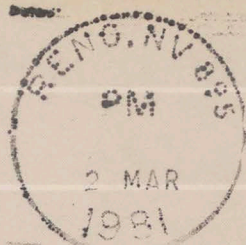
I will be in the Bay area March 5-9 and I'll call you if I can get any time away from the seminar.

My brother is buried at Mountain View and the next time I go up there I plan to visit your grandfather too.

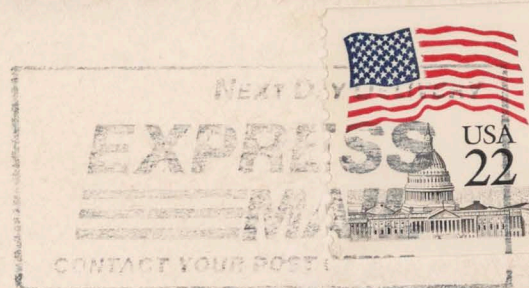
Thank you for your note - we are looking forward to meeting you.

Leslie

ALAMO RANCH  
R. + L. HERNANDEZ  
20205 S. VIRGINIA RD.  
STEAMBOAT, NEVADA 89511



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40704 ROBIN ST.  
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*B. Abbott Sparks*

7528 BAXTERSHIRE • DALLAS, TEXAS 75230

BB

681



*B. Abbott Sparks*

7528 BAXTERSHIRE • DALLAS, TEXAS 75230

October 7, 1987

Dear Leland:

Certainly appreciate your nice letter of the 20th and all the interesting photos.

Remembering that turkey dinner I had with your family makes me sorry I missed the one you had last week!

I really enjoyed the pictures, some of whom I had never seen before. Yes, I feel sure the watercolor was done by Auntie Maud. I remembered that she had some art training, in Europe as I recall. Also the clay models are interesting. And yes, I am delighted to see how the house sits on the golf course. I have played that hole at Pebble Beach many times, but had no idea that house belonged to a relative. I find that amazing, and wish I could have known it before.

I am glad to hear Patty is getting along well, and certainly hope she gets a good report at Stanford.

We had a busy and interesting summer. Vicki, Ryan, and I spent three weeks at our cabin at White Mountain Country Club. Then I took a little trip up in southern Colorado to see friends I had not seen for 40 or 50 years. It was most rewarding. We then went to Boston for a week for the IPLCA meeting we attend every year, then had four nice days in Vermont.

As I look at these pictures, I am very interested by the one of your cousin Benton. His appearance is mindful of my dad and myself and other pictures I have seen. Auntie Maud was a rugged looking character, wasn't she -- and I'm not surprised I understand Uncle Jim was running around a bit. I'd appreciate if you would identify Alfred for me. Where does he come in?

Have you spent any more time with the mystery box lately? I feel sure it has some more goodies in there, and wish I could piddle through it now and then.

I don't know when I'll be coming again to northern California, but do appreciate your invitation. I want to keep the pictures long enough to show them to all the family, but will return them in due time.

All best wishes,

*ABSparks*  
207

AS/lbl

2/6/01

Dad,

I wanted to say Thanks one more time, for the loan for Benton's Tutor. You came through for us at a needed time. Also, because I didn't write earlier, Thanks for the gift checks you sent us at Christmas time.

I hope Shirley is recuperating well. I was on a school field trip today down at the Monterey Aquarium. I thought of you, both as the bus drove through Castroville and I saw all of the fields covered in plastic. Watsonville has a similar look probably.

Let me know 3 Things:  
1. Let me know if you want to go with me

to do the other gate at  
Nancy Jo's

2. Let me know what  
That realtor says about  
the interested client up  
in Sheep Ranch.
3. Let me know when you  
are ready to start  
work fixing up the cabin.

and along the line  
of thought with fixing  
up the cabin - maybe  
we could arrange a plan  
where I could work  
off some of that  
3 grand I borrowed.

I told you I'd work up there  
free - and I will. But I'll  
also work for pay.

But NOT at \$40/hour.

It's something for you  
to think about.

Be well,

George.

5/4/01

Dad,

I obviously should have sent  
This letter earlier.

I'm not even going to re-read it.  
I'm sure its all out dated.

Still you might as well get it.

Tony mentioned you bought a  
time share. That sounds interesting.

Are you going to travel The  
world? or just The U.S.?

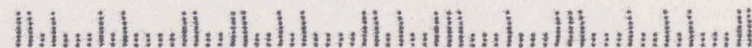
George

GBS  
1684 Noreen  
95124



Lee Sparks  
6308 Blauer Lane  
San Jose, CA 95135

95135+1407



GOLDEN CHAIN

HWY 49 GRASS VLY

~~1362~~

13363 HWY 49

GRASS VLY

916/273-7279

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CONFIRM #

051315 ~~76~~

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✓ IN 200

By 900 PM

PHONE

