

24. THE BARLOWS

In the last chapter, Jeanne and I were poised to take over the Ferree Ranch.... but before we continue, I thought we'd meet some of the former colorful inhabitants.

James C. Barlow (1833 - 1919), arrived in Livermore in 1871 with his wife, Sarah (1830 -1902), and two children, George and Clara.

One would think that James had had enough adventure for one lifetime – a three-year east Africa whaling voyage, and two stints in the Civil War. He survived the Battle of Bull Run and then re-upped only to incur a serious hip wound at the Battle of Antietam in 1862 for which he was discharged.

He built a house and shop near a spring on the west bank of Stonewall Creek that turned out to be on Union Pacific Railroad land – Section 21, T10N, R70W.¹ What remains of that house, sometimes referred to as the “Stagecoach House”² is below the North Poudre Livermore Canal just east of the old highway bridge that crosses the canal about 200 yards west of the current route of US 287 (opposite page).³

Apparently undaunted, Barlow moved to government land, just over the line to the west on Section 20, T10N, R70W, where he filed a homestead claim (patented in 1897) and either he or his son, George, built a second house (opposite page), which is said to have been moved to its current location, perhaps because it was in the construction path of the North Poudre Canal. He may have continued to use the first house and shop, which was conveniently located next to the wagon road between La Porte and Tie Siding,⁴ where he plied his primary trade as a wheelwright and blacksmith.

Both houses were built using variations on traditional *wattle and daub* construction: The first using sandstone set in adobe mortar, and the second, a kind of crude adobe/cement rubble, called *grout*, both

with wood timbers let into the masonry for anchoring siding on the outside and lath and plaster on the inside.

The Barlows built a steep road to the top of “Barlow Hill” in Section 8, T10N, R70W to access juniper and ponderosa for posts and timber. The “Barlow Road” can be seen to the west of US 287.

James Barlow and his son, George (1856 – 1944) planted an orchard, of which several varieties of apples survive today. They also built a large greenhouse where they are said to have grown strawberries, vegetables, apple and cottonwood saplings for local markets, including Laramie and Cheyenne.

From an 1894 article in the Fort Collins Express: *“The Stonewall Greenhouse...The building is 195 feet long and 24 feet wide. The north wall is of grout and is ten feet in height. The roof is common sheeting or canvas dipped in linseed oil. The south side is of glass, it being arranged in sections so that any portion may be easily removed. It is heated by hot air which is conveyed in flues the hot air comes from four fires which are kept burning constantly.”* (see photo, opposite). The location of the greenhouse is uncertain, but the saplings in the background suggest that it may have been just south of the current buildings.

George Barlow filed a homestead claim bordering his father's on the south (patented in 1891). He must have built yet another house there as a homestead requirement, if so, no trace seems to have survived. In addition, George filed a timber claim for which he was awarded an 80-acre patent in 1893.

Timber claims were unusual in this area, but there were at least two others in the Livermore Valley. David Harned (Barlow's neighbor to the west) got an 80-acre timber claim patent in 1894, from which there are several surviving trees near the Livermore Canal. William Calloway attempted a timber claim near Rabbit Creek but the trees died.

Many of the cottonwoods and apples in the Livermore Valley (including the timber claims) were

planted prior to the 1904 flood (Chapter 3) and likely came from Barlow's greenhouse/nursery.

Like many of the first generation of settlers in Livermore, the Barlows were restless. James and George sold their property in 1897 and apparently joined the Klondike gold rush.

James' wife, Sarah (1830 -1902), died in Juneau. In 1907, he remarried in Sitka and ended up in Buffalo, Wyoming. His oldest daughter, Clara, and her husband, Marcellus Sawin left Livermore and homesteaded again, near Sheridan, Wyoming (we saw Clara and Marcellus married in Chapter 5).

As far as I can tell, life's bank shots took George first to Alaska, then Wyoming, Florida, Seattle (another greenhouse), Alaska (again), Oregon and Los Angeles, leaving six or eight children in his wake.

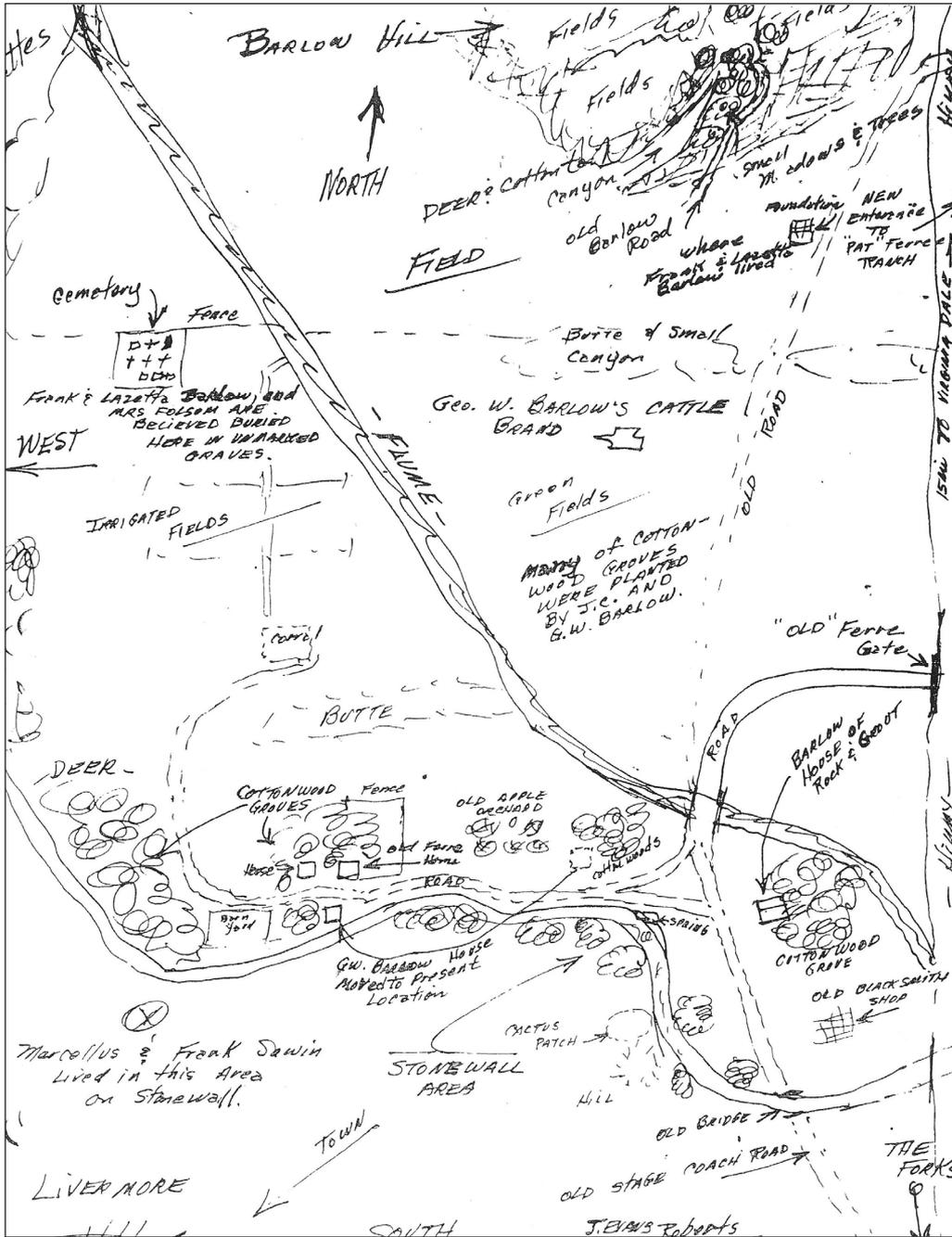
Thanks to Susan Hoskinson, Anne Peterson, Ray Sumner and Wayne Sundberg for their help with this chapter.

¹ At the suggestion of William Calloway (1837-1891), who had already settled about two miles west on the North Fork below the mouth of what is now known as Phantom Canyon. Ironically, Calloway had committed the same error. He built his house on Section 19, T10N, R70W – also Union Pacific Railroad land (more about this later).

² The “Stagecoach House” is a misnomer, as the last stage apparently passed that way in 1867, more or less concurrent with an Indian raid that torched the Ten Mile or Stonewall stage station a few miles to the north.

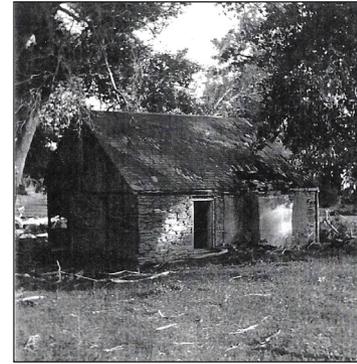
³ There is limited agreement about what, when and where the Barlows built, but build they did. The map drawn by Evan Roberts (opposite page), in which north-south morphs seamlessly into east-west near the Livermore Cemetery, provides a suitable metaphor for the *Barlow uncertainty principle*.

⁴ Both Barlow's first and second houses have benefitted from serious preservation and restoration efforts by Larry and Anne Peterson, who purchased most of the Ferree Place lying south of the Cherokee Park Road from our partnership, Phantom Canyon Ranch Co., in 1989.

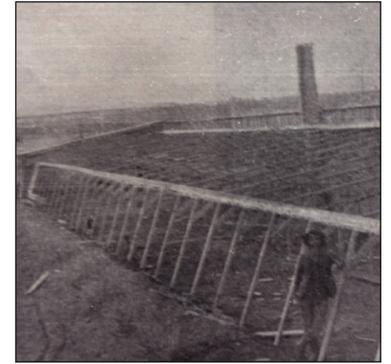


Map drawn by Evan Roberts
(Anne Peterson)

Graphics and layout by Nina Judson



Stagecoach House, 1978
(Anne Peterson)



Barlow Greenhouse, 1894
(Fort Collins History Connection)



Second Barlow house, 1981



James Cobb Barlow and Sarah (Stone) Barlow, ~1890
(Anne Peterson)