

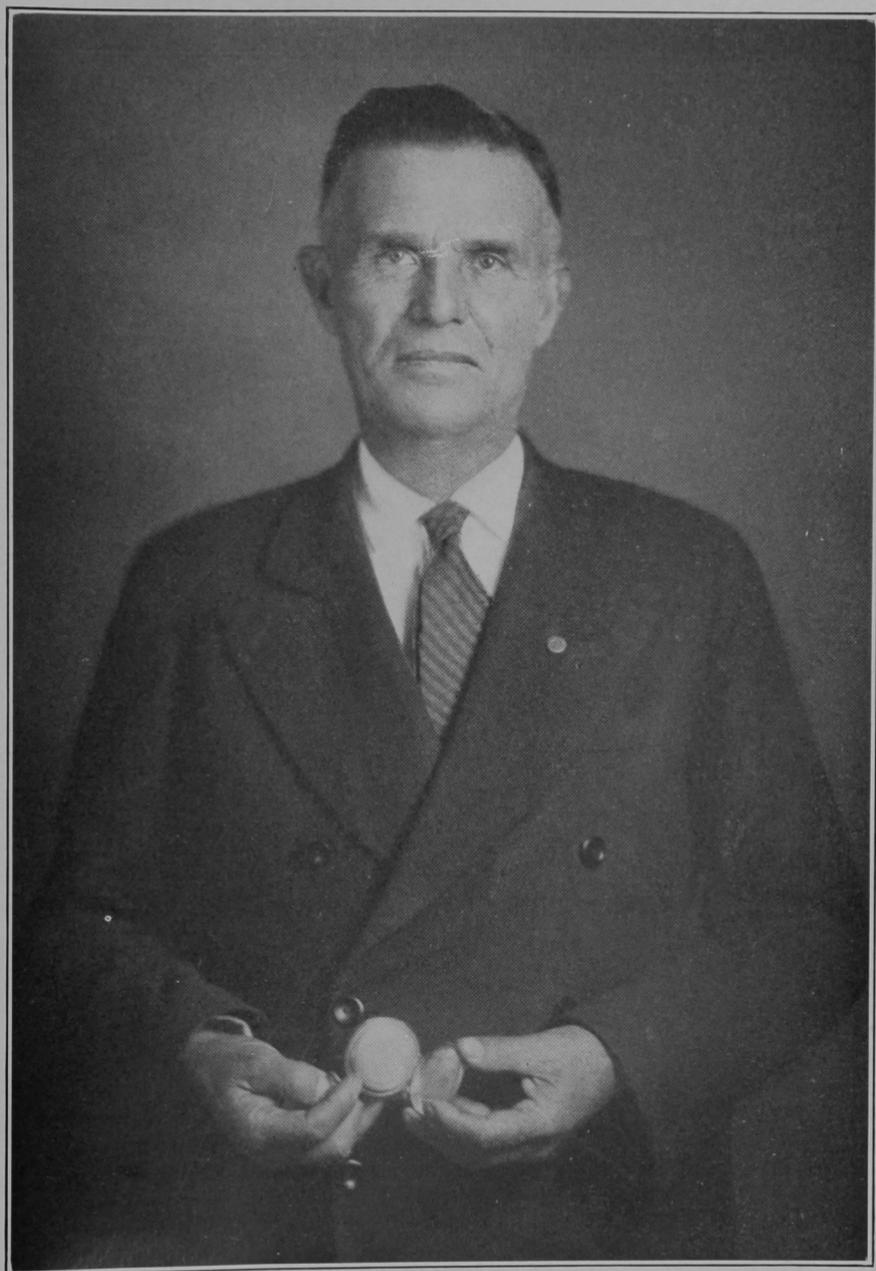
ARIZONA MUSEUM NOTES

(By ELIZABETH S. OLDAKER)

The recent gift to the Arizona Museum in Phoenix of a watch once the property of Jacob Hamblin, recalls one of the most admirable characters in Arizona's history. Jacob Hamblin's relations with the Indians of Northern Arizona have been likened to those of Father Kino with the Pima Indians in the southern part of the state. He was the first American to go among the Hopis and Navajos as a missionary. He became their trusted friend and councilor, although he was never able to do much toward converting them to his religion.

Hamblin was born in Ohio in 1819. He embraced the Mormon religion in Wisconsin in 1842, and later joined the Saints at Nauvoo, Illinois. With his wife and family he crossed the plains to Salt Lake in 1850, and in 1855 settled at Santa Clara on the Virgin River, five miles from St. George, Utah. His first mission to the Hopis was in 1857, at which time he crossed the Colorado River at the old Ute Ford, better known as "the Crossing of the Padres," near the site which in recent years has been called Lee's Ferry. He was the first Caucasian to cross the river at this point since Father Escalante and his companions had passed that way in 1776. Many times after this he crossed the Colorado on various missions to the Hopis and Navajos; and many times his life was in great danger; but his honest dealings and his total disregard for personal danger always kept him from harm. He was confident of the assurance given him by the Lord that if he would never thirst for the blood of the Lamanites, as the Mormons called the Indians, he would never be killed by them. Once in his life he came near to killing an Indian, but his gun missed fire. He was very thankful for this all the rest of his life.

Hamblin befriended and guided many pioneers on their way across Southern Utah to California in the years following the discovery of gold in that state. He was of great assistance to Major J. W. Powell and his men in their survey of the country north of the Grand Canyon. In 1871 he accompanied Powell across the Navajo Reservation to Fort Defiance, where a great council of the Navajos was held and where he negotiated a famous treaty between the Navajos and the Mormon people. Hastele, the chief of all the Navajos, was a wise and good Indian and a loyal friend to Hamblin and the Mormons. Sometimes it was difficult, however, for the Indians to distinguish between



Photograph by Russell

Watch of Jacob Hamblin, gift to the Arizona Museum,
~~Gift from Jacob Hamblin, Jr.~~

the Mormons and the Gentiles who would occasionally make trouble. At such times Hamblin would not hesitate to go right into the camps of the hostile Indians to explain and settle the difficulty amicably.

His son, Jacob Hamblin, Jr., in his autobiography tells us that when he was a boy about ten years old, his father sent him to trade a horse to a Piute chief for blankets (the Indians were always glad to trade blankets for horses. The Piutes got their blankets from the Navajos). The chief gave him a bundle of blankets, but wishing to make a good trade, young Hamblin asked for more blankets. The chief gave him more with such alacrity that he thought he probably was not yet receiving enough, so again he asked for more and received them. On returning home his father told him he had cheated the chief and sent him back with the extra blankets. When he came in sight of the chief's wickiup, he saw him standing, shading his eyes with his hand and looking in his direction. When he returned the blankets, the chief said: "I knew that I had given you too many and that your father would send you back with some of them."

Jacob Hamblin with his family moved to Arizona in 1879 and settled in the vicinity of Springerville where his children have had a prominent part in the upbuilding of that section of Arizona. He died in 1886 and is buried in Alpine, twenty-five miles southeast of Springerville.

At the recent dedication of the Grand Canyon Bridge, which connects Arizona with Utah near Lee's Ferry, Jacob Hamblin, Jr., represented his father in a pageant which was enacted in celebration of the occasion. It is to be regretted that the bridge was not named for this great man who figured so prominently and admirably in the early history of that section.

The watch, which has been presented to the museum by Jacob Hamblin, Jr., is one of the most treasured possessions of the museum. It was sent to Jacob Hamblin, Sr., by one of Major Powell's men several years after the party had left Arizona. It is engraved on the inner cover with the name and date: JACOB HAMBLIN—1880.

COLLECTION OF RARE VALUE SHOWN AT THE MUSEUM

The E. D. Osborn collection of prehistoric pottery, fabrics and jewelry from the Mimbres Valley, near Deming, New Mexico, has been on exhibition at the museum for the past month. This collection consists of over two thousand pieces. Most of the

pottery is decorated with either geometric, conventional or realistic designs. Many of the mortuary bowls are decorated with well-made pictures showing interesting features of prehistoric life in that valley. One bowl depicts a hunter snaring birds; another represents a prehistoric game of "stick dice;" another shows fish designs; one shows a parrot, and yet another shows the plumed serpent, so much used by the Indians and Mayans of Southern Mexico.

The late Dr. Jesse Walter Fewkes, of the Smithsonian Institution, in commenting on Mr. Osborn's discoveries in the Mimbres Valley, says in one of his publications: "While superior to the Casas Grandes and all other prehistoric Indian pottery in variety and the accuracy with which human and animal figures are drawn, it shares enough with it to hold a place in the same group."

R. B. Kenyon, who has the disposal of the collection, is making every effort to negotiate its purchase for the museum.

STUDIES PICTOGRAPHS IN ARIZONA

An interesting recent visitor to the museum was Hosmer McKoon, of San Diego, California, who has broken away from the routine of business life in order to tour Arizona. With his camera, he has made a large collection of pictographs while traveling over the state. At the museum he exhibited some particularly interesting ones from the locality of Canyon de Chelly, in Apache County. One group of deer was especially realistic, while many other animals were distinguishable. Mr. McKoon intends to spend more time studying the pictographs in the mountains surrounding the Salt River Valley before leaving for the southern part of the state.

Dr. Byron C. Cummings, Arizona's foremost archaeologist, who for many years has been in charge of the work of the State Museum at the University of Arizona, has also accepted the title of Field Director of the Arizona Museum in Phoenix. Much good for the cause in Arizona is sure to result from the cooperation of these institutions.