

The art of silver smithing among the Navaho commenced soon after the return from Fort Sumner. That a few individuals knew the craft of blacksmithing before that date is recorded in Richard Van Volkenberg's "History of the Navaho People". He attributes this knowledge to ~~an~~ Captain Henry L. Dodge, the first civil agent to live in the Navaho country. Captain Dodge was a veteran of the Washington expedition of 1849, and he both understood and sympathised with the Navaho. Following his appointment in 1853, Captain Dodge built a house on the eastern ~~side~~ ^{side} side of Washington Pass not far from Sheep Springs, commencing his work with a Congressional appropriation of \$5000. One of the first things he did was to bring a blacksmith, George Carter, an ex-soldier, to teach smithing to the Navaho. He also brought a Mexican silversmith and two Mexican servants. But Captain Dodge's career as agent was of short duration for he was killed from ambush by the Chiracuhua Apaches south of Zuni in November of 1856 while on a hunting trip with a group of Navaho Chiefs.

One of the first Navaho to learn the blacksmith's craft was Atsidi Sani, who became known as a maker of ~~bits and blades~~ ^{bits and blades} bridle bits and knife blades. Whether he learned his trade from Captain Dodge's teacher or whether he learned at Fort Sumner is not ~~definitely~~ known, but soon after the return from exile, Atsidi Sani was plying his trade. Then he learned the art of silversmithing from a Mexican craftsman, Nakai Tsosi who lived near Mount Taylor. This might have been the man who was with Captain Dodge, and who, following the death of the Captain, moved to that area.

In his authoritative book THE NAVAHO AND PUEBLO SILVERSMITHS, John Adair tells of Atsidi Sani going to the Mount Taylor ^{area} ~~area~~ to learn silversmithing from Nakai Tsosi. ^{who lived near Mt Taylor.} There seems to be no record of any silver work by the Navaho prior to the exile to Fort Sumner, ~~as~~ ^{as} it must have been after the return in 1868 that the craft began to be practised.

The art of silver smelting among the Navaho was commenced soon after the return from Fort Sumner. That a few individuals knew the ~~art~~ craft of blacksmithing is recorded in Richard Van ~~Vol~~ Volkenburg's "History of the Navaho People." He attributes this to Captain Henry L. Dodge, the first civil agent to live in the Navaho Country, ^{Cap. Dodge} ~~who~~ was a veteran of the Washington expedition of 1849, and he both understood and sympathized with the Navaho.

Following his appointment ~~as an Agent~~ in 1853, Captain Dodge built a house on the eastern side of Washington Pass and commenced his work with an appropriation of \$5000. from Congress. One of the first things he did was to bring a blacksmith, George Carter, an ex-soldier, to teach smithing to the Navaho. He also brought a Mexican silversmith and two Mexican servants. But Captain Dodge's career as agent was of short duration for he was killed from ambush by the Chiracuhua Apaches south of Zuni in November 1856 while on a hunting expedition with a group of Navaho Chiefs.

One of the first to learn the blacksmith's craft was Atsidi Sani, who became known as a maker of bridle bits and knife blades. Whether he learned his trade from Captain Dodge's teacher or whether he learned at Fort Sumner is not definitely known. But soon after the return from exile, Atsidi Sani was plying his trade. Then he learned the art of Silversmithing from a Mexican craftsman, Nakai Tsosi (a Mexican). This might have been the man who came with Captain Dodge, and who, following the death of the Captain, moved to the vicinity of Mount Taylor.

In his authoritative book THE NAVAHO AND PUEBLO SILVERSMITHS, John Adair tells of Atsidi Sani going to ~~the vicinity~~ the Mount Taylor area to learn silversmithing from Nakai Tsosi. There seems to be no