



JOHN DABB

1851–1931

John Dabb was born in Erie, New York, 7 June 1851, the sixth child of Catherine Baltzer and George Dabb. His brothers and sisters consisted of: Sarah, George, Magdalena, Henry, Elizabeth, Charlotte, Charles, and Phillip. His first home was a humble log cabin with three rooms on the ground floor and one large room in the attic. This was replaced by a new house of more modern material and design. He received a fair schooling in his youth, but he took little interest in books. Distractions kept him from concentrating on his studies. It may have been poor buildings and equipment and teachers with no special preparation that contributed to his lack of interest.

His boyhood days were mostly spent hunting, trapping and helping his father on the farm. The traps they used were mostly home made of wood. Farm work was largely done by hand. The land was covered with stumps. Their first corn was planted between the stumps by cutting through the thick turf with the blade of an axe. Then they dropped the corn in the opening and struck with the side of the ax to close the opening and packed the soil around the corn. Later, when the stumps had been cleared away, the plow and harrow, mower, reaper, and other implements were brought into use.

During the first years of his life, his religious training was almost totally neglected. The training he received was more of a moral nature than religious. When a Methodist church was organized near their home, the family joined. His parents offered family prayer, asked blessing upon the food at the table, and read a chapter from the Bible morning and evening before prayer. When he was young, John felt his prayers were answered. On one occasion, when he feared that harm might come to his beloved rabbits, he asked the Lord to take care of them and keep them from harm, and the little rabbits grew up safely.

He started the study of veterinary science at the age of twenty. However, it was not until much later, 10 June 1911, that he was awarded a certificate by the Board of Veterinary Examiners of the State of Utah, and shortly afterward received a government license. Although he never really attended a college, he was very successful in his veterinary practice.

On 13 October 1872, he married Sarah Emily Barrow in Marilla, Erie, New York. She was the daughter of Susannah Phillips Dowell and Thomas Carter Barrow. John made the shirt he wore when they were married with the Wheeler and Wilson sewing machine his parents bought, one of the first machines in their community. After their marriage, he and Emily started to make a new home on 21 acres of unlevelled land, about one acre of which was covered with timber. They lived there for about ten years during which time three children were born to them, daughters Carrie (1873), and Ida (1876), and son Howard (1880). Lucy

Jane (1883), Hyrum Moroni (1886), Cora Belle (1889), Clarence George (1892), Evert Adolph (1894), and Phillip Edwin (1901) were born later.

They joined the United Brethren Church at Williston, Erie County, New York, and for a time they were satisfied with their religion until a Mormon Elder, Mark Hall, appeared at their home and taught them the gospel. They were baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. They decided to join the saints in the west, and about three months later they were in Utah. John and Emily were soon sealed together in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City in 1882.

The Dabbs purchased a 20 acre farm from Pleasant Green Taylor and settled in Harrisville, Utah. They lived in a two room adobe house for four years and later added additional rooms. John was active in the church and a good neighbor. In October 1887, Levi J. Taylor hired John Dabb to help him fix up his house by putting on a new roof and painting. John also helped Levi in November to plow and scrape his ground and kill a couple of hogs.

John and Emily attended the dedication of the Salt Lake Temple, 10 April 1893. The next year on 11 March, John Dabb left for a mission to the eastern states. While in New York, he visited the Hill Comorah and talked with Mr. Gilbert who set the type for the first Book of Mormon. He visited Niagara Falls, Brooklyn Bridge, and other notable places. He had a difficult time adjusting to the arid conditions in Utah, having loved the wooded areas in upper New York State, his previous home. When he returned from his mission, 19 October 1894, he brought with him seeds and seedlings of many plants and trees not indigenous to the area, and he planted these on his property in Harrisville. It is believed that it was he who planted the large Burr Oak tree that still blesses the Harrisville community with its beauty (604 West Harrisville Road).

John Dabb was known as an individual with somewhat of a temper. When it flared he used vocabulary that others seldom heard. He had a sense of humor, and he seemed to possess a gift for healing sick people by administering to them. He was often called late at night and would walk through Harrisville with his lantern to answer a call for administration.

Bishop Levi J. Taylor counted John Dabb as a trusted friend. In January 1896, he assigned John to the auditing committee to examine the accounts and records of the ward. Bishop Taylor's son, Amos, received a badly cut leg in 1906 from a barbwire fence as he was riding a young horse to bring the cows from the pasture. Bishop Taylor called upon John Dabb who used his skills to sew up the wound.

John Dabb lived a very busy and productive life and passed away 22 December 1931, in Ogden, Utah, at the age of 80. His wife preceded him in death by fourteen months in October 1930. He is buried in the Ogden City cemetery next to her.

SOURCE:

Dabb, Ray. Correspondence. Undated.

Dabb, Ralph F. Written Memories. Undated.

Lowder, Ida. Written History of John Dabb. Unpublished manuscript.

Knight, Janice D. Family Records and genealogy. Unpublished manuscript.

Taylor, Levi J. *Journals of Levi J. Taylor*. Unpublished manuscript.

Baltzer, Catherine	Dabb, George
Barlow, Sarah Emily	Dabb, Henry
Dabb John	Dabb, Howard
Dabb Lucy Jane	Dabb, Hyrum Moroni
Dabb, Carrie	Dabb, Ida
Dabb, Catherine Blatzer	Dabb, Magdalena
Dabb, Charles	Dabb, Phillip
Dabb, Charlotte	Dabb, Phillip Edwin
Dabb, Clarence George	Dabb, Sarah
Dabb, Cora Belle	Dabb, Sarah Emily Barlow
Dabb, Elizabeth	Hall, Mark
Dabb, Evert Adolph	Taylor, Amos
Dabb, George	Taylor, Levi J