



MARTIN DENNISON HARRIS

1866 - 1953

Martin Dennison Harris was born 4 May 1866, in an old Harrisville homestead. He was a son of Martin Henderson and Louisa Sargent Harris.

He began herding sheep at the age of six. He and his eight year old brother were responsible to tend sheep in the open country between Harrisville and North Ogden. When he was only ten years, old he walked from Harrisville to Preston, Idaho, helping a man by the name of Gray drive his herd of sheep.

He remembered that after wheat had been threshed in Harrisville, the Indian squaws would come to glean the wheat that had been left in the field. The bucks would come to the house and ask for food.

Dennison played the bass horn and E flat cornet in a brass band for about twenty years. He recalled the dances, plays and parties that were held in the old adobe school in Harrisville. Dennison enjoyed taking part in the plays and was manager of the Drama Club. These plays traveled from place to place even to Eden and Huntsville. In the winter, they traveled by bobsled and on one occasion they were snowed in and had to remain in the church until morning.

He married Lillie Rosetta Hayes on 4 February 1890 in the Logan Temple. Their children included and Lillie Lura (1891), Emma Etta (1893), Fern Rosetta (1895), Martin Henderson (1898), and Alma Richard (1901). Three children died in infancy, Louie Gracie (1891), Priscilla Ellen (1897), and Albert Dennison (1911).

Dennison always wanted an education. Even after he married, he traveled by horse and buggy into Ogden to attend the Weber Academy.

He was an active member of the LDS Church serving in the YMMIA and Sunday School. At the time of his release as President of the Seventies, he received a letter of appreciation from B. H. Roberts and Golden Kimball for his many years of service.

Dennison held many political and community positions. These included road supervisor, justice of the peace, deputy assessor, secretary treasurer, director and water commissioner in the Western Irrigation Company.

He and some other men owned and operated a threshing machine that was very much in demand. He drove the horse for this horse-powered machine, threshing from early morning until dark. It was sometimes necessary to spend the night to finish the job the following day.

The family who hired the men provided meals and boarding.

In September 1916, Dennison was part of a party that hiked to the top of Lewis Peak. They carried cement, pipe and other essentials to construct a flag pole, and the remains of cement are still there.

His farm provided most of his necessities to live, and he was very upset when the federal government condemned his property to be used for an army base, Utah General Depot. He and his wife Lillie purchased a home on 31st Street in Ogden where they lived the remainder of their lives. He died 15 December 1953.

SOURCE

Garner, Marilyn. Martin D. Harris. Unpublished manuscript.

NewFamilySearch.org. "Martin Dennison Harris." 2011. Accessed 24 Oct 2010.
<www.familysearch.org>

Harris, Alma	Harris, Martin
Harris, Emma	Harris, Martin Henderson
Harris, Fern	Hayes, Lille Rosetta
Harris, Lillie	Lewis Peak
Harris, Louisa Sargent	Sargent, Louisa