



KEITH ELWYN HARDY

1933–2009

Keith Elwyn Hardy was born 30 March 1933 in Harrisville, Weber, Utah, to Mildred Rosetta Romrell and Harvey Bradford Hardy in their adobe house at 1138 North Harrisville Road. Keith was raised in this home which had been built by his great grandfather Levi James Taylor for his wife Josephine. The home did not have all the modern conveniences so an old galvanized tub near the stove was filled with warm water for their baths.

Keith is a descendant of Pleasant Green Taylor, an original settler of Harrisville. He was fortunate to live surrounded by family members and distant relatives all of his life. His grandfather, Hyrum Romrell, and Uncles Leonard and Roland Romrell lived across the street at 1193 North Harrisville Road. Keith built his home at 1156 North Harrisville Road, next to the home of his parents. After his sister Maxine married, she and her husband, Raymond Grange, built their home at 1153 North Harrisville Road. Keith's Uncle Leonard and his wife Della Romrell built a home at 1155 North Harrisville Road.

Keith's life was centered in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Continuing family tradition, he was baptized on his eighth birthday in the Harrisville church (1300 North Harrisville Road). The concrete font was located beneath the floor and accessed through a trapdoor. Because of high mineral content in the water, it appeared to be a dirty brown.

As a youth, Keith was involved with the ward's annual Youth Leadership Week each year. He also performed mimes with a group to recordings of "The Inkspots," a nationally popular quartet. The group consisted of Darwin "pretzel" Costley, Ralph Taylor, Ben Maxfield Jr., and Russell Godfrey. Al Dickamore substituted occasionally. Lena Maxfield played piano for their entrances. The group performed for ward reunions and other area groups.

When Keith was young, the streets were not plowed after winter storms and the roads were packed hard with snow. The young people could ice skate from home to the brickyard pond or ski behind cars while holding onto ropes attached to the car bumper.

Each fall Alvin Taylor ordered a couple of train cars full of coal which was delivered to a railroad siding near the brickyard. Many families living in the area purchased several tons of coal each fall to heat their homes. They generally transported the coal on two-wheeled trailers or beet wagons drawn by horses. Men and boys of the Harrisville LDS Ward hauled enough coal to fill the enormous bin near the boiler in the basement of the church building. When the bin was nearly full, Keith and other teenage boys crawled inside with shovels to ensure the back corners were filled and the coal was packed tight from floor to ceiling so

there would be enough fuel to last all winter.

Keith attended his first three years of school in the two-story, four-room Harrisville School house located just south of the LDS Church house where eight grades were taught, two grades per room. During Keith's third grade year, students moved into the new Wahlquist School on 1200 West in Farr West. He attended Wahlquist through the ninth grade. Anticipating the future need for a new chapel, Keith's father, bishop of the Harrisville Ward, purchased the old four-room school for the church. Before the school was removed, it became the place for spook alleys at Halloween and storage for the ward.

Keith attended Weber High School located between 11th and 12th Street on the east side of Washington Boulevard. He also attended Weber College when it was located between 24th and 25th Streets on Jefferson Avenue in Ogden. Later, when the old Weber College gymnasium was converted into the Deseret Gym, he became a member of the gym and regularly exercised there until several months before his death.

During the summers of his youth, Keith did farm work for neighbors and relatives. At about eight years of age, he tramped hay on horse-drawn racks. From eighth to tenth grades, he worked for Porter Gooch hoeing corn, cleaning chicken coops, and doing other farm tasks. He worked three years at an animal hospital on Riverdale Road. During the hospital's long lunch breaks, he would race to Washington Boulevard, catch the bus, and ride to downtown Ogden, watch a movie at a nearby theater and return in time to work the afternoon shift. Keith worked about two weeks at the Harrisville Brickyard before he was hired at Paramount Ice Cream Company, located beside the Washington Boulevard Bridge over the Ogden River. He bottled milk, made ice cream, and was a relief delivery driver to stores from Brigham City to Salt Lake City. Three years later he was hired by the Federal Post Office and worked at the mail terminal in Ogden Union Train Depot. He worked there for nearly a year and then left to serve two and one half years in the Swiss Austrian Mission for the LDS Church.

During his mission, Keith learned to speak German fluently and interpreted for a visiting authority, Elder Spencer W. Kimball. Several years later, Elder Kimball ordained Keith a High Priest when he was called as bishop of the Harrisville 1st Ward. Keith's other church service included ward and stake superintendent of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association, bishopric counselor, high councilman, and first counselor in the presidency of the newly established Harrisville Stake. He also worked five years as an officiator in the Ogden Temple and served a senior mission in Birmingham, Alabama. He was active in the Boy Scouts of America and was awarded the Silver Beaver Award.

Keith joined Reserve Officers' Training Corp during high school and was proud to serve in the U.S. Army after his mission. He was stationed in Berlin where he worked with civilians. He attended a German branch of the LDS Church during his two years of active duty. While there, he and a few other soldiers provided financial support for a young German sister to serve a mission. He helped convert a fellow soldier, and he taught M Men classes in the church Mutual Improvement Association. While in Berlin, he met Sister Patricia Lois Caffey, a missionary from

California. He corresponded with her after she left Berlin and returned to California. He proposed to her via mail, and they were married 3 October 1958, in the Los Angeles LDS Temple after his release from the Army.

Keith returned home and was employed at the U.S. Post Office. He later transferred to Hill Air force Base where he eventually moved into logistics. He retired from there at age 58.

The first and only home he lived in after he married was at 1156 North Harrisville Road. It was originally the top floor of an Army barracks that he had moved onto a foundation. Keith and Patricia remodeled it into a nice home where they lived and raised their children: David Keith (1959), Allan Bradford (1960, Lynette (1962) and Carolyn (1964). Pat died 15 September 2000.

Keith was active in the community. He served on the Harrisville City Council for ten years including Assistant Mayor, and on the Mosquito Abatement District for 11 years serving two years as president. He was on the Harrisville City Board of Adjustment for nine years, and he oversaw the construction of the Harrisville City Bicentennial Cabin at 725 West Harrisville Road.

The church at 1300 North Harrisville Road was remodeled and enlarged twice during Keith's lifetime. The last remodel was in 1980, when Keith was the bishop. When church officials decided to replace the church, Keith watched as the church was demolished in 2004. When Keith and his second wife, Marlene, returned from a senior mission, the new meetinghouse had been completed at 435 West Harrisville Road, east of the original church site.

Keith met Marlene Liddell Peterson while square dancing in September, 2001. On 2 February 2002, they were sealed in the Ogden Temple. They lived in Marlene's home in Roy before they moved into Keith's Harrisville home in 2004. The next year, they left to serve in the Alabama Birmingham mission for 18 months.

Keith enjoyed gardening and raised a variety of vegetables which he shared with family and friends. After a courageous battle with leukemia, he died 30 October 2009, at his home at the age of 76. He is buried beside Patricia in the Evergreen Cemetery.

SOURCE:

Hardy, Marlene Liddell Peterson. Personal information. July 2011.

Caffey, Patricia Lois	Kimball, Spencer W.
Costley, Darwin	Maxfield, Ben Jr
Dickamore, Al	Maxfield, Lena
Godfrey, Russell	Peterson, Marlene Liddell
Gooch, Porter	Romrell, Hyrum
Grange, Maxine Hardy	Romrell, Leonard
Hardy, Alan Bradford	Romrell, Mildred Rosetta
Hardy, Carolyn	Romrell, Roland
Hardy, David Keith	Taylor, Alvin
Hardy, Harvey Bradford	Taylor, Josephine
Hardy, Lynette	Taylor, Levi James
Hardy, Marlene Liddell Peterson	Taylor, Pleasant Green
Hardy, Maxine	Taylor, Pleasant Green
Hardy, Mildred Rosetta Romrell	Taylor, Ralph
Hardy, Patricia Lois Caffey	