

## HISTORY OF JOHN ADAMS

John Adams was born at Haycrest, Shropshire, England, July 23rd 1830. His parents were Thomas and Margaret Williams Adams. At the age of 12, John left fatherless to shift for himself and served an apprenticeship as a horticulturist. Two weeks was his limit of school room training, but he lacked not a whit in native ability and acquired wisdom from his contacts of life which eventually made no task confronting him an impossibility.

Being a true blooded Israelite, the teachings of the restored Gospel reached his ears and sank into his heart. Within a few days of his twenty first birthday, he accepted baptism under the hands of Elder Richard Howells, a brother of the young lady who later became his wife. It was following this baptism that the courtship of John Adams and Mary Howells took place. This acquaintanceship culminated in their marriage at Salt Lake City, Utah two days after the arrival of Sister Howells in 1857, he having come three years previously. Following baptism, three years were necessary to prepare for the trip to Zion. Both happiness and sadness filled his bosom as he set sail from his native country on March 12, 1854 on the sailing ship "John M. Wood," in company with a group of other saints. Landing at New York, he proceeded west to Council Bluffs where he joined the ox team company under the captaincy of Dr. Richardson, arriving in Salt Lake City, Utah, September 29, 1854 and coming directly to Tooele. As was practiced in those days, Brother Adams was re-baptized by Elder John Shields on March 10th 1855. He was ordained a member of the 43rd Quorum of Seventies by James Bevan, Sr.

At the exodus of the Saints to the south in the spring of 1857, under orders from President Brigham Young, due to the Johnson Army invasion, John Adams was left in Tooele as one of the four men to water and take care of the farms or, on the other hand, at a moments notice to watch for and to obey a smoke signal which was to come from a point on the Cquirrh range, if given, was the command to destroy by fire all local dwellings and every vestige of property. The latter order was given in case Johnson's Army violated its peaceful entrance agreement in passing through Salt Lake City. The fire was never set, but due to the faithfulness of these four men, the local crops were the best of any year up to that time. Such a sight was cheering to the returning Saints. The previous two years had been a devastating period, wrought by the grasshoppers and crickets.

It was one day during this cricket invasion period that Brother Adams relates how he became so hungry that in walking down the street he had to support himself by the fence. In passing the home of Henry Green, Sr., sister Green, who was later affectionately called by all "Granna Green." noticed his condition and asked him if he were sick. No, he said, "I am hungry." and Sister Green took him in her home and gave him a meal of bread and milk, which actually remained with him his entire life. This was truly the bread of life.

Brother Adams went to work for Eli B. Kelsey a few days after his arrival from England. His employer was developing the first local orchard and the young man was trained for such work. At his marriage to Mary Howells, September 14, 1857, two days after her arrival from England, John Adams started off on his own resources and knowledge, which resulted in his growing on of the State's finest orchards.

The first orchards planted here were from seeds brought across the plains as prize treasure. Later, nurseries were established to improve these strains. Brother Adams was an expert at tree grafting and budding and so developed many of his own strains of fruit which were considered the choicest in the State. Some of his trees, through grafting, bore as many as four varieties of fruit from the same branches, including plums, apricots, peaches and cherries. He also demonstrated that almond, hazel and walnuts could be grown locally as he successfully nurtured these trees. Peanuts were also grown abundantly in his garden as well as berries of all kinds. Grapes were his specialty.

As a side issue to his orchard and garden, he had fifty stands of bees from which he extracted from 95 to 100 gallons of honey every eight days, with the harvest lasting from the first of May to the last of August. His annual contribution to the widows and needy of the Community was headed with a 60 pound can of honey, supplemented by a large piece of beef or mutton and a grist of flour. The bishop would furnish him this list of needy each year upon the request of the kind hearted donor. Brother Adams was a typical pioneer, manufacturing his own bee hives and frames and during the winter months would keep himself busy making his own fruit baskets from the native willows still found along the ditch banks of our local streams. He also made his own broom from broom straws grown in his own garden. Robert Meiklejohn, at this same time was growing broom straws and manufacturing brooms for the entire community. Brother Adams cradled and flayed his grain crop in the usual pioneer fashion.

In the fall of 1889, Brother Adams experienced a high point in his life. On the morning of September 7th at 10:00 A.M, he left in company of Evan G. Morgan for a visit to his boyhood home in England. After a most interesting and enjoyable trip, he arrived home on November 18th, 1889.

Brother John Adams was always a faithful member of the church and a citizen of the highest order. He was never gifted with the ability to speak in public, but was always relied upon as a stable thinker and served as City Councilman for several terms.

At his death, May 6th 1899, he had been a member of the High Priests Quorum of this Stake for a number of years.