

In 1849, a company of Latter Day Saints were called by Pres. Brigham Young to settle the town of Tooele, Utah. Among those who went to Tooele were the Adams, Warburtons, and Tolmans.

Each family was industrious and wanted to make a lovely home. Pres. Eli B. Kesley of the Tooele Branch aroused in the people an appreciation of the value of trees and shrubs and it wasn't long until the town was beautiful. --- It was here that my father and mother were born. Father John Adams Jr., was born the 22nd July, 1858 to John Adams Sr. and Mary Price Howells. Mother Anna Belle was born 5th of Sept. 1860 to Richard Warburton and Emily Atkin.

These two children grew up as playmates in Tooele, attended the schools, church, and entertainments together.

Grandfather Adams and Warburton were hard working men and good farmers, so my father became schooled in the raising of fruits and farm produce.

Grandmother Atkin Warburton had a good English education and knew the trade of dress making and millinery. Under the wise, guiding hand of this lovable mother, my mother, Anna Belle learned to sew and make hats. John and Anna Belle became sweethearts and on Anna Belle's 20th birthday, the 5th of Sept. 1880, they were married in her mother's home by Elder Hugh S. Govens. Then on the 10th of March, 1881, in the Old Endowment House, they were sealed for time and eternity.

This happy couple decided to remain in Tooele for the winter. Father worked in the coal lines for five dollars a day, but most of the time the company was broke and no pay.

Food and clothing were hard to get in those days, and I have heard father say that his bed was made of sheep hides and while he was herding sheep he carried a sharp stick to dig Sege and Wild Onions for a portion of their food. He said also how sore his feet would get as they were wrapped in gunny sack.

Because of the need for better social and business conditions, and because of being a progressive people, Francis M. Lyman, then Pres. of the Tooele Stake, explored the Oakley Idaho Valley in 1879, and felt it a wonderful valley for the Latter Day Saints to make their home. The Valley was covered with huge sage brush, and when standing at the head of the Valley, one could see it was about ten miles wide. You could see the Valley before you, widening out to some thirty miles on the north and running about twenty eight miles long. It was extra well adapted for farming and growing of fruits. It also had a fall of water which would follow a plow furrow the whole length of the Valley. There was already a few cattle ranches on the different streams, Cotton Wood, Land Ranch, Trapper Creek, and Warm Creek.

In the Spring of 1882, father and mother along with the McCrustion family left Tooele expecting to settle in Oakley, but Uncle Richard Warburton was at Grouse Creek so they decided to go that way and stay for awhile.

The McCrustians had two horses and father a yoke of oxen. They had 500 lbs. of oats and about the same amount of potatoes and some corn for the horses and oxen, and all their belongings were piled onto their wagon. Before leaving they were instructed to be true to their fellow men and to their God.

They had many hardships in making the journey. The oxen, unable to go farther, had to be unloaded of some of the belongings, and then the men went to the nearest town or Grouse Creek and got help. They finally arrived at Grouse Creek and were heartily welcomed by the Warburtons.

Father said it was the happiest winter of their lives; building castles for the future.

Mother Adams left in April of 1882, to return to Tooele, to be with her Mother, where she expected to soon become a mother.

While mother was in Tooele; Father decided to move to Oakley, Idaho and have a home started for mother's return. Father loaded all their belongings on a wagon, and since the road was snow bound between Grouse Creek and Oakley, he took the road by way of Terris, Muddy Park Valley, and Albion. His team was exhausted on reaching Albion, so he sold them and sent word to Uncle Herbert Adams in Oakley, and he came with a good team of horses.

Father said it was like changing from a Model T. Ford to a Cadillac.

Father was thrilled with the country, and at that time the Desert Act and Homestead covered the territory and these were divided and subdivided until all people had homes and plenty of land.

The land father expected to file on was all taken. Uncle Herbert Adams had filed on a very choice one hundred and sixty acres and said father could have forty acres to live on, until he secured a patent and then he would deed it to father.

The beginning of the settlement was small but grew rapidly. George Grant, brother of Pres. Heber J. Grant, who was accidentally killed while on a rabbit hunt the 13th of January 1885, had a small store, Jerry Riblet had the Post Office and they were three quarters of a mile apart. The first meeting house, school and dance hall combined was one and a half miles from the Post Office and one half mile from the store. William C. Martindale was the Presiding Elder. Pres. Horton D. Haight of Farmington came in 1882 to preside as Bishop. Kelton, Utah was the nearest Railroad point. The Oregon Short Line was being built, and the country in general was good. In 1883 a Coop Store was organized. Father relates they had no place to do business, so two land owners were negotiated with for land to build a town on and this was secured and plotted; a town soon started. The sheep and cattlemen for miles around came here to get their supplies. Father said some rough necks would drop in but as a whole they were good fellows with big hearts.

father, on landing, secured a water right for his land and then went to the mountains to get out logs for their home. Soon father had one room built and returned to Tocoale, Utah for mother and the dear son that was born to them on the 14th of May, 1882. They named him John Frederick Adams.

The journey home was long and tedious, as mother had not gained her strength and with a small babe nursing, the scorching heat and the rough road was almost more than mother could endure. But ere long they were in their one room home, grateful to be together again.

The years following, 1883 to 1885 were difficult, as the land had to be cleared of the huge sage brush. Only tools they had were a grubbing hoe and ax. During spare time father worked on the canal for they were anxious to have water for the thirsty land that they might have a good crop.

The only neighbors were Uncle Herbert and Emm. The next year, George Craner, who had married father's sister Polly, came from Granstville, Utah and settled one mile south of father's land.

Father Adams loved nature and everything he and mother planted grew. They went to the Land Ranch and other creeks and got starts of willows and sent for fruit trees and grape vines to plant. They soon had a lovely orchard and vineyard started.

On Sept. 15, 1884 another babe came to gladden the home, a little girl and they named her Mary Emily. This called for more room, so more logs were hauled and one more room and a shanty was added. The logs were laid one upon the other and the cracks between the logs were filled with mud; this made it warm. Mother was an excellent home maker, so she lined the walls with factory, a thin white material, and then papered it with newspaper. The windows always had a white curtain, oft time made from white factory, the very cheapest material known to us today. Each window had wide sills that held flowers in abundance. I cannot remember it being without blooms from Geraniums, Fushsias, or Begonias.

In this lovely home was born the following children; William, born 23rd Sept. 1886; Romelyn, 21st Nov. 1887; Florence, 4th Feb. 1891; Goldie, 1st Jan. 1893; and Ross, 15th Aug. 1900.

The family lived in this three room house for a number of years. Father later got logs out and had them sawed on all four sides. These were stood on end side by side which made a two story stockade home. Then it was covered with siding, had eight rooms, two front porches, and a back porch that had entrance to a large basement. This was filled every fall with all kinds of vegetables, apples, cured pork, a barrel of corned beef, a barrel of sausage, a barrel of home made cane mollasses, and some apple cider vinegar.

Father was an active citizen and kept abreast of the events of the times. For years he kept the Weather Bureau, each night the temperture was recorded and at the end of the month was sent into the government.

Father was a hard working man. He always had a large exhibit of fruit and vegetables at the county fair where he most always took first prize.

Father served as Bishop of the Oakley third ward for 12 years. He passed away at his home in Oakley, the 23rd of April, 1934, at the age of 75, of pneumonia.