

HISTORY OF EPHRAIM DENISON

BY HIS GRAND DAUGHTER ELDA BENNIN

*Elda Nelson Cornell Behm*

Ephraim was born March 19, 1852. On the ship "Benjamin Adams" Just three days before reaching New Orleans. The Parents Hans and Johannah Christofferson Denison were coming to Utah from Denmark for the sake of the Gospel.

They reached Louisiana in the Spring of 1853. They came across the plains and settled in Manti, Sanpete Co., Utah. There Grandfather spent his boyhood days, hearing cows and helping his father.

Times were pretty hard as the Indians were mean and would cause trouble, food was scarce too they had to eat most anything they could find.

He grew to manhood and fell in love with Mary Ellen Johnson and married her my Grandmother 12 Jan. 1873, they went to Sterling to home stead.

They found a place close to what is now called the Gunnison Reservoir and started to work.

He hadn't yet built a house so his neighbor told him another fellow wanted that spot and had gone to town to get lumber and he better hurry up he wanted to beat him. So Grandfather got his team and wagon and went to Manti got some lumber and took a short cut back. He arrived and was just in time. He looked and saw this other mans horses heads coming over the ridge. So he saved his land.

He built a little one room log house with one door and one window. But had nothing to make a door so they used a quilt.

It was quite trying. they had to make a ditch along the hillside to errogate the land and the earth was quite crumbly and water would seep out and brake the ditch and cause trouble all the time.

He had to go up in the mountain and cut logs to build with. They had very little food, maybe just dry bread. He could not raise enough grain or potatoes to have seed for another year so had to borrow for several years.

He wanted to take his family to the Temple but couldnt seem to pay tithing so he went to the Bishop and asked him if he could go. He said that he would pay tithing from then on, But couldnt pay nay back tithing.

The Bishop said yes. So he started to prepare, his wagon and horses. They were very poor and sickness came, it seemed like everything was agenst him. Finaly he just said we are going and loded the wagon and started out to St. George, on the way they lost their water barrel and had to go back quite a few miles to get it and it took one week to get there. but they went and had their sealing done.

After that he seem to prosper and he built a nice home for his family, He had a good orchard and raised hay, grain, Potatoes in abundance.

He was elected first Counselor in the Bishopric of the Stirling Ward from 1893 to 1910. He is the father of 10 Children.

He died at his home in Stirling.