

Dawson Staheli's Ancestor

By Dawson Staheli

Robert Gardner was born in 1819 in Scotland. His family immigrated to Canada in 1822. He married Jane Mckeown in 1841. He joined the LDS church in 1845. He was baptized in a pond that had ice about 18 inches thick so they had to cut a hole to get to the water. They left Canada on a trip with other Latter-day Saints to Salt Lake City, Utah in 1847. Robert Gardner and his family built and operated a saw mill in Millcreek. While working at the mill, a log hit his leg and almost broke his leg. He was very lucky but the log took off all of his flesh all the way to his bone.

On April 22, 1857 Robert left his home to go on a hand cart mission to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. They traveled clear back to Canada where they used to live. They had many hardships along the way. On November 22 1861, Robert and one of his three wives left on another difficult mission. This time they were asked to go to the junction of the Virgin and the Santa Clara rivers and build a city which was called St. George City. Shortly after arriving, he was called to be a Bishop of St. George and four other settlements of Shoal Creek, Meadows, Pinto and Pine Valley. In 1863 he returned to Salt Lake and moved the rest of his family to St. George. Robert Gardner was asked by president Snow to increase the output of lumber in Pine Valley, Utah. In 1863 he married his 4th wife and moved to Pine Valley. He was elected mayor of St. George in 1872. By 1887 Robert's rheumatism got so bad he could hardly walk. He died in 1906 in Pine Valley. I am proud of my ancestor and am glad to have learned about him.