

John Bond 1871

By Carson Eagan

John Bond my great great grandpa the son of Stephan Bond and Sarah Clark (emigrants from England in 1855 and 1860- who settled in Heber City Utah in 1865) He was born July 29, 1871 in a one-room log house with a dirt roof built of green cottonwood logs. He worked at herding cows in the hills north of town for 2 cents per day for a number of years. He also did odd jobs which included gleaning wheat for food for themselves and their chickens and pigs.

John's father died December 28, 1875 leaving his mother with six children (four boys and two girls). His father died of pneumonia from exposure while serving as a guard in the Black Hawk Indian war. John was 4 and a half years old. He began attending school at age 8, and it was about this time he became interested in painting. He had \$3.50, which he had earned herding cows. His mother took him to Salt Lake as he walked down the street with her, he looked in the window of a photographer who also sold paint supplies. He saw all those tubes of paint and paint brushes, and he said, "That's for me." His mother let him buy them and he began painting as a hobby. He attended the Wasatch Stake Academy in Heber completing the 8th grade.

He worked while yet a boy on the Heber Moulton farm for three years. Then he learned the photography trade in Wm. Willes studio for one year receiving \$30 a month. Next he worked in Mark Jeffs' store as a delivery boy, clerk and bookkeeper. It was there He met his wife Mary Elizabeth Jeffs, who also was a clerk. They were married in the Manti Temple by Anton H. Lund on May 24, 1892. He continued to work in the store and in 1892 with Mary's help built the red sandstone house at 55 E. 2nd North Street in Heber.

Henry Aird told John he thought he could pass the State Teachers Examinations and teach school, thus giving him the opportunity to get better wages. He did so and taught in Heber one year for \$40 a month. The town of Wallsburg, Utah offered him \$60 a month so he taught there two years in a one —room log schoolhouse with 100 pupils, including two of the Trustees.

John was called to serve a mission to the Southern States in 1895 for the L.D.S Church serving primarily in South Carolina where he worked with purse or script until April 1898. Mary joined him in 1897 and spent five months as a missionary. After coming home, he went east and learned Undertaking and Embalming. On returning home he practiced this trade until 1907 when he moved to Duchesne, Utah and homesteaded 160 acres. He stayed one year. And because Mary's health failed they moved to Salt Lake City. He worked in Heber City as a carpenter for ten years during which time he built the Heber High School of pot rock stone which Mark Jeffs had contracted.

John moved his wife, Mary and eight children: John Wallace, Orvilla, Gladys, Velda , LeRoy, Emma, Mark, Ted and Ila to Mesa, Arizona in 1917 driving a new automobile. He continued to work as building contractor and helped build the Arizona Temple. He constructed many homes in Mesa and Phoenix. His hobby as artist made him lots of money. He sold his oil paintings about as fast as he could make them. He has painting hanging all over the world. His most impressive work was his desert landscapes. He never

had any formal training and was completely self taught. He stated once that he was not an artist, he just painted what he saw and what like to see. Most of his paintings were on scraps from his carpenter trade because he could not afford a canvas. Many of his children and grandchildren still have some of his paintings hanging on their wall today.

John like watching sports he would walk three miles each nigh to the city park in he later years to watch softball and base ball. He made an annual trek to Salt Lake City for the Church softball tournament where he was guest of tournament official. He also carried a card from Mesa school officials admitting him to athletic events. He fell through a bleacher seat at one of the games and but his let. He said, "They wanted to put me to bed with a book, but I couldn't let them do that, I'd get stiff so I couldn't walk, then I Couldn't see the games couldn't have that."

Twice John was pronounced terminal for Cancer only to get better, He once even had to cut of the bottom half of his ear with a straight razor to cure the problem. When he was 94, he fell while crossing railroad tracks. Before he could get up, a locomotive and about five cars past over him! When the train stopped, he crawled out and walked home! Police worked several days before identifying him as the victim, and by then he had recovered from all the cuts and bruises suffered from the accident.

John's wife Mary died from a stroke on November 12, 1964. In 1947 John married Ezel Stephenson, a widow from Holden, Utah with four children.

John was a Choir Director and band leader in several L.D.S wards. He served in Mesa First ward on the Stake Sunday School Board and as a ward chorister for a number of years. He also served as a Temple Guide several years conducting tours of the Temple grounds. He loved chocolates and always had a box hand when visitors came by. He would say, " Come over and we'll open up a kef of nails" (which meant a box of chocolates.) He passed away following a brief illness at the ripe old age of 96.