



MARTIN HENDERSON HARRIS

1820-1889

Martin Henderson Harris was born 29 September 1820 in Windham Township, Luzern, Pennsylvania. He was the son of Emer Harris and Debora Lott. Martin Harris, was one of the three witnesses to the LDS Church's *Book of Mormon*, was his uncle. Martin Henderson Harris was baptized a member of the LDS Church in September 1842, near Nauvoo, Illinois.

Martin Henderson Harris served as a member of the Nauvoo Legion and as a body guard to Joseph Smith in Nauvoo. He witnessed the laying of the cornerstone of the Nauvoo Temple.

After the expulsion of the Saints from Nauvoo, Martin found work at various places to earn money for supplies to go west. In 1850, he went to Kanesville, Iowa. He crossed the plains with the William Snow Company and arrived in Salt Lake City on 23 September 1850. From there he moved to Brown's Fort for a short time before locating in Ogden Fort.

Martin Henderson Harris was the first permanent settler in Harrisville. Martin built a house west of the Four Mile Creek, and he began farming. He opened his home to use as the first school in the settlement and was also involved in public enterprises. In 1868, when Weber County officials organized the area into a precinct, they named it "Harrisville" in his honor.

Martin married Georgeanna Marion Aldous on 18 January 1855, in Bingham's Fort. They had one child named Emer. Georgeanna died on 30 October 1858, from blood poisoning after cutting her hand while helping Martin skin an ox that had suddenly died. On 3 April 1859, Martin married Louisa Sargent in Ogden. They were the parents of six children: Leander Sargent, Louisa Georgeanna, Nathan John, Martin Dennison, Louisa Priscilla, and Ida Ellen.

Martin had many interests. He was a horticulturist, and in the spring of 1876 he planted a grove of one hundred shade trees to commemorate the nation's centennial anniversary. He played a fife in the Ogden City Marshal Band. Martin served as the road commissioner for eleven years and skillfully laid out most of the public roads north of the Ogden River using only crude instruments.

Martin Henderson Harris was an active member of the LDS Church. When church officials organized the Harrisville settlement into a branch, he was called as a counselor to the branch president. He was the first superintendent of the district Sunday School and served as district ward clerk for many years.

He served two missions for the LDS Church. In 1857, he traveled to the Salmon River Idaho area, and in 1877, he served in the Eastern States. He came home from the second mission in ill health. Martin Henderson Harris died on 14 February 1889 and is buried in

SOURCES:

Martin Henderson Harris a Utah Pioneer, Life, Labors and Posterity. Harrisville, Utah: Martin Henderson Harris Family Organization, 1951.

“Martin Henderson Harris.” *Find A Grave.* n.d. Web. 7 Jun 2012.

Aldous, Georgeanna Marion	Kanesville, Iowa
Brown’s Fort	Nauvoo, Illinois
Harris, Debora Lott	Ogden Fort
Harris, Emer	Salmon River, Idaho
Harris, Martin	Sargent, Louisa