

JOHN ADAMS



John Adams was born July 22, 1858 in Tooele, Utah. The son of John Adams Sr. and Mary Price Howells. He died April 23, 1934.



Anna Bell Warburton was born Sept 5, 1860 in Tooele, Utah, to Richard Warburton and Emily Aikin. She died June 23, 1911.

John and Anna Bell were childhood sweethearts, and were married 5 Sept 1880 in Tooele, Utah. They settled in the Oakley Valley in the late spring of 1882. They traveled from Tooele, Utah to Oakley, Idaho by horse and wagon. In crossing the desert between Oakley and Tooele John records "the desert was so hot it could burn a lizard, and in places the condition of the trail was such that the clay-like formation would gather on the wheels of a wagon until they could not turn until they were chopped out.

In John's diary he describes the Oakley Valley: "It was a beautiful valley covered with sage brush. The valley was some ten miles wide near its head widening out to some thirty miles on the North. It is about twenty-eight miles long. It is extra well adapted for farming. It has a fall of water that would follow a plow furrow the whole distance. There are a few cattle ranches on different streams....These are the resources of the country: cattle raising, a whirl of wild hay...and some grain. We have beautiful building rock and timber...The mountains are covered with juniper or cedar for wood posts. Deer, sage hen, and antelope are very plentiful. Some fish; a few geese and ducks...We came to the Oakley valley for better social and business conditions...a progressive people demanded it."

When John and Anna Bell arrived in Oakley, they brought with them their new born son, John Fredrick, born 14 May 1882. On 15 September 1884 Mary Emily (Mae) joined the family. On 23 September 1886, William was born. He passed away the same day. Romelyn (Rome) was born on 21 November 1887; Florence (Flossie) was born 4 February 1891 and Goldie was born on 1 January 1893. Their last son, Ross, was born 15 Aug 1900.

John built a log cabin on the forty acres of land he acquired from his brother, Herbert Adams. Herbert had come to Oakley at an earlier date. John and Anna Bell grubbed sage brush from the land and acquired water rights. They helped build ditches and canals for irrigating the soil. After they became settled in their one room log

cabin, which John had built, he records in his diary: "We lived fairly (well). Many times my wife and I sat down together to a meal of dry bread...and thankful to the Lord for the same." However better times were ahead. The land obtained from his brother was some of the best in the valley. It produced well. Sugar beets, grains, hay and potatoes were grown. A large orchard was planted. John was well known as a horticulturist and his apples, grapes and produce was highly regarded throughout Utah and Idaho, always winning first prize on his produce. Anna Bell canned up to 600 quarts of fruit and gallons of preserves and juice each fall. Hundreds of bushels of apples were stored for sale throughout the winter. Some milk cows, pigs, range cows and honey bees became part of the farm. John provided the honey for Cassia and Twin Falls County and as far as the Boise Valley.

It was decided that a larger home was necessary. In 1897 John started to build a two story Victorian style house. A large granary and honey house joined the milk sheds. Raspberries and flowers were in abundance. Again from John's diary: "We have the finest ranch in the valley, at least we think so...We pride ourselves in having one of the best vegetable gardens and flower gardens in the valley. Fruit from our orchard has been eaten in every state in the Union and in Holland. Flowers from our garden have been placed on nearly all the caskets in meek respect to our loved ones and never did we take a cent for any. We have never charged a man for a meal or bed...and there have been many of them. I have never known of a widow or a fatherless child who were in distress but I helped them."

Apparently John Adams was one of the few men who stood down Diamond Field Jack, who drew his pistol at a dance to shoot Ormus Tuttle, when John walked up, handcuffed him and took him out of the room. He said John was the only man that ever took a gun away from him. John said "Diamond Field had a kind and loving heart and his love for children was wonderful." He highly respected

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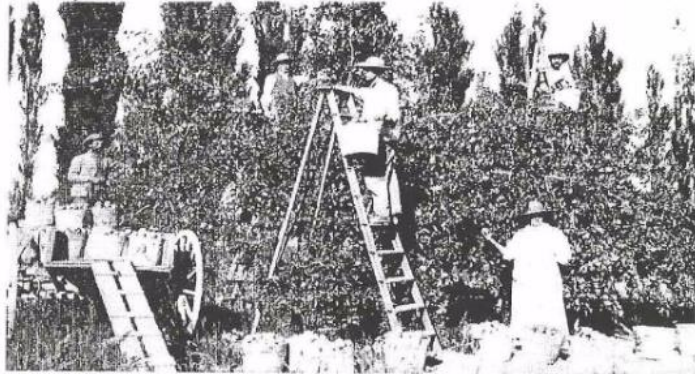
Mary Jane Phippe Harper was born Jan 8, 1873 in Cedar Fort, Utah, to Joseph Freeman and Eliza Jane Phippen Hudson. She married John Harper, who died in 1890. Mary Jane married John Adams July 22, 1913, following the death of his first wife Anna Bell. Mary Jane died July 25, 1963.

and appreciated John Adams. John took many prisoners home for food and lodging on their way to the county jail in Albion. One prisoner, Jim Cross, sent John and Anna Bell art and a bone cane from prison in appreciation for their hospitality. The cane is on loan at the museum.

On 23 June 1911, Anna Bell died of a heart disease. From an article in the Oakley Herald we read: "...It has been said that the home of John Adams stands pre-eminently above any farm in this county, and Anna Bell Adams did her share in making it what it is today, a home of trees, of fruit, of flowers, lawns, grasses and such other adornments the Lord has given with which to dress and beautify the earth... She had attended the sick at times when her health was such that she ought to have remained at home, but her devotion to those who needed help impelled her to do things that her physical condition should have refused."

John married Mary Jane Harper two years later. To them a daughter was born on 21 August 1914. They named her Opal. This union brought many blessings to the Adams family.

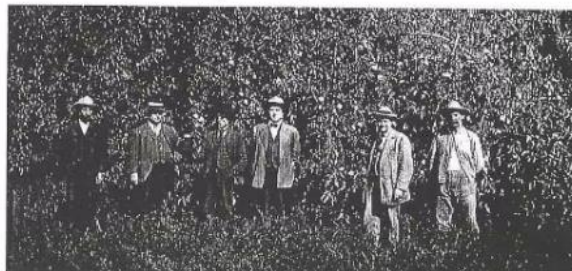
John Adams died 23 April 1934 from pneumonia. The following words were given by one of his friends at his funeral, "...he (John) has gained, as fruits of his efforts and his kindness, many friends, a beautiful home and a prosperous farm... He has been outstanding as a social and political worker. He has been the U.S. Government Weather Observer for the past 40 years. In 1931, John said, "I have a record of each day, month, and year of precipitation since 1894 and at 6.43 inches precipitation, I have never seen the valley so dry. For 5 years he served as a director of the Farmers' Com-



Working in orchard: Richard, John A. Ellison, Ross, John, and Annabell

mercial and Savings Bank... he was Cassia County Commissioner for his district... Deputy Sheriff for two terms... and Bishop of the Oakley Third Ward for eleven years.

Today the John and Anna Bell Adams' farm is still in use today. The house has been remodeled and is in use today. In 1990 the house and farm were recognized by the State of Idaho as an "Idaho Centennial Farm". This recognition was given to those farms of 20 acres and over that had been in the same family for 100 years.



Gentlemen from Twin Falls looking over Adams Orchard.

