

A History of the Rise of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Utah

Sources:

“Life of Archibald Gardner” by Delila Gardner Hughes, Alpine Publishing, 2nd Edition, 1970.

“Robert Gardner Jr. - Self History/ Journal as updated by Reed M. Gardner”
“The Living Community of East Millcreek”, Thesis by Maurice J. Wilkinson, January 1957.

“Settling East Mill Creek”, Paul L. Swensen

“Descendants of Pine Valley Pioneers” by Mary Esther Staheli, The Art Press, 1980.

*Anyone with historical information about the rise of the Church is invited to share that information by sending it to this website and it will be added.
Thanks. Hal Pierce*

Archibald Gardner

Archibald Gardner was simply one of the greatest of men to ever live on earth and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints owes a great deal to him and his relatives for its survival and its current size. He filled a role that had to be filled by a strong and talented man when the Saints arrived in the Salt Lake valley and his influence extended to other places where they settled. Hundreds of his descendants and relatives have served missions for the Church. His brothers **William** and **Robert** and other siblings and relatives were equally talented.

Much could be said about Archibald’s years in Canada but only his escape from Canada from a Sheriff and mob will be included here: The Sheriff and mob tried to prevent his leaving Canada supposedly because he had a contract with a man named **Garish** that he hadn’t completed. The

truth was he was being persecuted because he was a Mormon. He had completed much of the contract and not been paid anything. He had asked the man to let him out of the contract so he could leave, which Garish would not do.

Hearing that the Sheriff and mob were after him he left by night and walked 30 miles to the St. Clair River above Detroit Michigan. The river was over 1 mile wide and the ice had begun to break up and flow on the river as it was now March when he left. He started on the ice while going toward where it was flowing and was able to jump to a large block of ice. Some on the American side had tried to reach him with poles but he was able to reach ice he could walk on near the American side. For a time many people on both sides were screaming for him to go back for no one had been known to survive doing what he did. This harrowing experience can best be appreciated by reading his own account which is in his biography and reading his brother, Robert's biography.

When he reached Nauvoo he found the town deserted and continued on via St. Louis looking for his family.

Even the Salt Lake temple owes much to this great man for its existence. In Salt Lake City and surrounding areas he was responsible for starting many saw mills, shingle mills, flour mills, woolen carding factories, tanneries, mattress factories and broom factories. He and his brother Robert started the first commercial saw mill operation in Utah. He was responsible for the digging of canals to run the water powered steam driven mills. He also built several bridges over rivers and established roads. He dug canals for the flooding of land to allow agricultural crops. For a time he had a contract to create railroad ties as the railroad came into the area and he supplied the lumber for a six mile snow shed over the tramway of the railroad. During his lifetime he employed over 1000 people. Many women, usually from his family, kept the working men fed and clothed.

Initially his brother Robert worked with him but Robert was called by Brigham Young to go to southern Utah to help establish a cotton growing industry and thus he helped establish St. George and Pine Valley Utah in those very hot, very cold and difficult climates.

Because Archibald was a polygamist he at times had to try to avoid the federal agents who tried to hunt him down and imprison him. For a short time once, he even went to Mexico and St. George to avoid the lawmen and eventually helped settle the Afton Wyoming area in the Star Valley near the Idaho border, to avoid the federal lawmen. This resulted in his talents, services and some of his large family also going to Star Valley.

During the Johnston army fiasco brought on by a gullible and biased

President **James Buchanan** most Saints were required to move south from the Salt Lake area and many went to what is now Spanish Fork Utah where homes and mills were built which required Archibald's services and family members. This area had an abundance of Indians and some could be difficult to deal with at times, especially if they got their hands on liquor. A beautiful young Indian woman lost her nose to a drunk Indian man and she was taken into the Gardner family and loved as one of their own. Another Indian girl that had been stolen by one tribe of Indians from another tribe was taken into the family at age 10 years. She would quickly disappear if Indians came near her.

The Johnston army invasion resulted in a great blessing for the Saints because of its affect on the building of the temple. Archibald Gardner's biography states that after the army left and the foundation stones of the temple were uncovered, cracks in the stones were discovered which required a different approach to the construction. Without the invasion and the cessation of construction at that time a very large disaster might have occurred.

According to the Archibald biography, **Brigham Young** had set down at the construction site and stated he would not leave until the Lord gave him a revelation of how to handle the problem of foundation cracking. Archibald Gardner appeared and told President Young that the problem was a result of mortar being used between stones that did not properly fit together. The solution would be to tear out all the original foundation and replace it with stones that were cut to match perfectly without the necessity of the weaker mortar.

Brigham Young stated that Brother Gardner's advice was his revelation and he instructed builders to proceed in that way. Enormous effort was required to replace the foundation but that was done and the building stands today as a testimony of that solution.

Saving the Salt Lake City Temple Foundation

*The information contained herein is primarily based on "Life of Archibald Gardner", 2nd Edition, by **Delila Gardner Hughes**, page 133, Alpine Publishing, October 1939. Delila Gardner was a granddaughter of Archibald Gardner and received this information through Clarence Gardner of star Valley Wyoming. Clarence Gardner was a son of Archibald Gardner.*

"June 16, 1855, the work of laying the foundation was commenced at the southeast corner stone and it was completed July 23, 1855. Some years later it was discovered that the foundation was not solid enough for the immense building to be reared thereon, and the whole was taken out and reconstructed." (*From pamphlets in Church Historian's office*).

It was when the defects of the foundation were noted that the following occurred. **Clarence Gardner** of Star Valley relates it:

I have always said that revelations often come through natural sources. This premise is borne out on this occasion. I have heard father relate this story several times to his family in Star Valley. As I understand it the foundation formed the walls of the basement.

Work had proceeded on this substructure until it had reached a height of two feet above the surface of the ground. Then the cracks in it were discovered and other defects noted. After serious consideration by President Young and his advisors, it was decided that the foundation would not sustain the tremendous weight to be placed upon it. What should be done? Could the defects be rectified? President Young dismissed the workmen, and sitting down on the foundation said, "Here I will remain until the Lord reveals to me what I should do next."

He had not been there long when father came into view. President Young motioned him to come to him. "Bishop, sit down," he said, and he then told him of his perplexing problem.

Note: It should be pointed out here that Archibald Gardner with his brother Robert were the premier builders in the early history of the Church in the Salt Lake Valley. Together, with their work crews, they had built sawmills, grain mills, wool carding machine factories, homes, Church buildings, logging raceways, irrigation raceways, roads, bridges, and later, trestles for railroad lines, etc. Some of these machines were driven by water wheels and some with steam engines obtained from the east.

Continuing Clarence Gardner's report:

Together they went carefully over the matter in hand. They examined the foundation, the materials, the manner in which it had been put together. Then President Young said, "Bishop can you tell me what to do?"

"Yes President Young, the trouble has arisen through the use of too much mortar. The resultant settling has caused walls to crack. It will be necessary for you to tear out the entire foundation and start over again. This time instead of using mortar, have each and all of the stones in the entire building cut to exact measurement and place stone upon stone with precise fittings. This will prevent cracking, settling or spreading in any way."

President Young brought his hand down on father's shoulder and said, "Brother Gardner, you are right. That is my revelation."

"He had the workmen return. The entire foundation was torn out and rebuilt according to father's instructions. The walls were built in like manner. Very little if any mortar was used unless it was for pointing. Why did this revelation come through father? Because he had spent his life

working out problems along practical lines. His past experiences made him equal to the occasion.”

*Comment: Many have suggested that the effort to replace the temple foundation was because the temple construction was begun with sandstone rather than granite, this obviously contradicts that suggestion. Sister **Gerry Avant**, Church News editor, has said that sandstone was available and stated: “there was plenty of sandstone available. The exteriors of the Cathedral of the Madeleine and the Presbyterian Church, both just blocks from the Salt Lake Temple, were constructed of sandstone. The cathedral's sandstone came from Carbon County; the Presbyterian Church's came from Red Butte Canyon.” However, from this history it can be seen that the temple construction was always with granite only.*

I feel this history as related through Archibald Gardner’s descendants adequately clears up the puzzle of why the Salt Lake City temple foundation was torn out and rebuilt, with great effort and time.

Johnston’s army was so called, because it was led by U.S. General **Albert Johnston**. Johnston later went to California and was encouraged by some to help lead and create a Pacific Nation. However, when the Civil War started he was anxious to get into the fight on the confederate side partly because of his disdain of General **Ulysses S. Grant**. He was killed at the battle of Shiloh on 6 April 1862.

Johnston’s campaign in Utah was to put down the supposed rebellion against the United States government by the Mormons. He died on the 32nd anniversary of the founding of the Church while he himself was in rebellion against the United States government.

Archibald was well known for his kindness and generosity. Many people over the years found a sack of flour or other foods at their door that he had left there.

One man who went to his mill and tried to buy flour was turned away because he had money and could buy his flour at the store. Archibald simply said he was saving his flour for those who couldn’t pay. The next day the man observed Archibald having to buy hardware on credit because he didn’t have money to pay for it.

Archibald served as the West Jordan Ward Bishop for 32 years and was very proud that all his descendants at the time near his death had remained faithful to the gospel. He also served two terms in the Territorial Legislature.

Brigham Young was an extremely busy man and as such had little time for diplomacy. He once chastised Archibald in public and then said, I

suppose now you will apostatize from the Church. Archibald explained that this is the Kingdom of God and he had as much right to it as Brigham did.

Gardner Village in the West Valley of the Salt Lake area which is a fun place to eat, shop and visit was named after Archibald Gardner.

For a greater appreciation of the sacrifices this man made to build up the Church one must ponder his life's biography written by his granddaughter, Delila Gardner Hughes.

Robert Gardner, Jr.

Robert like his brother Archibald was born in Scotland and was taken to Canada by his parents at an early age. Robert came with his mother some months after his father and other siblings had gone earlier. He said he only had 3 weeks of formal schooling and was concerned he might show his ignorance at times. He said he wanted only to work hard and live in peace with his neighbors. He married **Jane McKeown** from Ireland in Canada.

When Robert learned of the Gospel restoration in Canada he was very excited to take a trip to Nauvoo in June 1845 to see Church headquarters and get more familiar with the Church and its people. He had little money to make the trip but a great amount of faith. He left home with a large sack of crackers and sometimes used them for money and spent only \$5 for the entire trip while working out his transportation part of the time. Sadly Joseph Smith had lost his life one year earlier but he did have a short conversation with Brigham Young.

His report to his small Branch when he got back was that he had become familiar with **Archibald Hill** who was running a hoisting winch at the temple construction site and he invited him to sleep with his children and have something to eat at his house. He accepted the bed but didn't have the heart to take food because everyone was so poor. The temple workers were working without pay and many were assigned to guard the temple at night. He said he was able to buy a 3 cent loaf of bread each day and got along "first rate."

Robert stayed in Nauvoo for 2 weeks, received his patriarchal blessing from William Smith and when he left he looked back and wept for "his heart was now with the Saints."

During the winter of 1846 **John A. Smith** came from Nauvoo to Canada and asked the Canadian members to quickly join with the Saints in their trek to the Rocky Mountains. Selling property and leaving was a difficult activity because of the persecution of Mormons. All of the Gardner family and some of the families they had married into accepted the gospel.

William Gardner (Robert's brother) was required to leave a young son behind with former in-laws because his wife had become incapacitated and died. The boy grew up in Canada and never became a member of the Church.

Robert was among an early group of pioneers to travel to the Salt Lake Valley, a distance of approximately 1030 miles. This group included 143 men, 3 women and 2 boys. They were able to hunt for some of their food along the way.

A very sad accident occurred on the trip when Robert's 5 ½ year old son, also named **Robert**, was kicked under the wagon wheel by an ox that then pulled forward running over the boy. That afternoon the boy ran beside the wagon but later collapsed as he was injured internally. For the next 500 miles his father held him and drove the oxen while the father was shaking with symptoms of malaria. The boy after much suffering became skin and bones before he died and was buried on the banks of the Platte River. A year later Robert's Brother William and William's son **John** checked on the gravesite and found that wolves had scattered the bones of the boy so they gathered them and reburied them more securely.

Robert's Comment about trying to survive during the first year in the valley:

"This looked very discouraging, one thousand miles from any supplies our provisions fell short on account of taking on one of the pioneers whom we found without any provisions. So we fell from half ration to quarter ration. We tried to help out with weeds and what I could with my gun, hawks, crows, snipes, ducks, ranes and wolves, and thistles, roots and rawhide. I had no cow for I had to kill the only one I had the fall before and we had no milk. I took the dry hide that come of my cow. I scalded it and boiled it and eat it. And believe me this was tough. I have known my wife, Jane, to pick wild onion and violets when they first come up on the hillside for hours at a time, and boiled them and thicken them with a rich gravy made of two spoonful of corn meal that would make just what would lay on a small plate. This made a meal or a dinner for my wife and me and three children, but we were blessed in one thing; our children never cried for bread, and that was a thing I often dreaded, lest a time might come when my children might cry for bread and I have none to give them. But all was quite contented and we enjoyed good health ."

One terrible experience Robert had was early on a cold morning he attempted to climb a mountain where logs were being harvested and a raceway down the mountain had been created to slide the logs down the mountain. Believing he was the only one on the mountain at that early hour he attempted to avoid the walk in the snow by walking up the raceway.

A log coming down the mountain overtook him and took a large piece

of flesh out of his right calf all the way to the bone. The men who found him with severe bleeding had no way to get him down the mountain and to a home other than to drag him, and then eventually getting him to a sleigh with just rough logs on it. The bottoms of his trousers were completely gone when they arrived at a house and a large amount of snow pushed up into his shirt in the back. The men eventually got him to his home and Porter Rockwell (the famous gun fighter) attempted to sew the flesh and skin back on his leg but had to quit because he didn't have the heart to do it. Then with Porter threading the needle Robert was able to get into a position to sew the flesh himself.

Robert said his immediate concern was that he would not be able to go on a mission he had been called to in his old home area of Canada during the coming spring (April 1857). He eventually served that mission with other men pulling handcarts. He also was able to retrieve money his brother Archibald had left there in his quick exit. **Charles Shumway** became Robert's missionary companion in Canada.

He served as President of the Mill Creek Ward at the time of the accident and because of 3 women being so kind to him while he was hurt he jokingly told all 3 that he blessed them to have twins, which all had soon afterwards and were the only sets of twins in the valley that year. He promised to be more careful with his blessings in the future.

After returning from his mission he and his 3 wives and all children were living with him in one house with each wife having their own rooms and taking turns with the household chores. His mills were doing well and he considered that period the happiest time of his life.

The gristmill in East Millcreek was created and run by pioneer **John Neff** at the request of Brigham Young immediately after arriving in the valley. Robert worked primarily with his brother Archibald on a saw mill except when he was on his mission to Canada. That first mill produced its first whole wheat flour on 16 December 1848 and its first white flour on 16 February 1849. John Neff's daughter, **Mary Ann**, became a wife of **Porter Rockwell**.

Robert's life was soon disrupted with a call to go help establish another settlement in the south and set up a cotton growing area. He said when he heard of the calling he spit, took off his hat and scratched his head and said, all right. He left in November 1861.

This calling would eventually put him and family member's lives in danger for lack of adequate food and shelter with conditions of heat and cold that at times would even cause the animals to cease working.

Apostle **Erastus Snow** was the leader of the southern or "Dixie"

settlement efforts and he asked Robert to take control of a saw mill in Pine Valley as there was great need for lumber in the new settlements. This area also supplied the wood for the construction of the Salt Lake City Tabernacle organ as the wood there was determined to be the best for that purpose by the organ builder, **Joseph Ridges**.

The mill was doing little work except in the spring when sufficient water was flowing. Robert was greatly impressed with the springs, trees, fertile soil and cool climate of Pine Valley.

He was ordained Bishop of St. George which took in 5 settlements and included Pine Valley. He served in that position until 7 November 1869. When he was released he was called as the first counselor to the new Bishop. He at one point drove a large cedar stake into the ground designating the southeast corner of St. George during a survey.

During the fall of 1863 he went back to Mill Creek in Salt Lake City and sold his farm and half interest in a mill he had with his brother Archibald, to **Brigham Young**. He sold the property for \$8000 worth of stock, wagons, a stove and “anything Brigham had to spare.”

He asked Brigham to give him \$500 in money to help him establish a home in the south and Brigham said he would not give him one red cent in money. Robert said he always found Brigham to be as good as his word so he then paid \$500 tithing, \$200 to the emigration fund and started back south in November.

Crops in the south mostly failed during 1864 and people in that area were dependent on friends and family in Salt Lake City for their sustenance. Robert’s brother **Archibald** and some others sent them 1600 pounds of flour and had it delivered to Cedar City which they had to pick up. Many times the people in the south suffered from lack of food and poor housing that left them exposed to the weather and to poor health conditions. There were some deaths from these conditions.

During March 1872 Robert was elected Mayor of St. George and served for 4 years, being elected twice.

The St. George temple site was dedicated 9 November 1871 and took over 4 years to build by men from the large geographical area.

Beginning in 1872 Robert served for 5 years in the Stake Presidency.

Brigham Young asked people in the area to volunteer to join a United Order and Robert became the President of the group. This was intended to unite the people in temporal as well as spiritual affairs.

During his life Robert was ordained as a High Priest, Seventy and Patriarch. He served as a temple worker in St. George from 1883 to 1887.

After long and dedicated service to the Lord and His people Robert

Gardner died on 3 February 1906. His many descendants continue his example by building the Church in our day. Below is a picture of the statue in St. George that shows Robert Gardner driving a stake into the ground to designate the beginning of St. George, Utah.



Pine Valley

Going into Pine Valley Utah during the summer is like walking into an air conditioned building, so cool and so pleasant with a cool mountain stream flowing and multiple cool springs of water. It is generally accepted that cattlemen **Bill Hamblin** and **Isaac Riddle** found the valley when Riddle tracked a stray cow there.

Names of some families who lived there include **Robert Gardner** who with his brother Archibald built the first sawmill in Utah near what is now Highland Drive in Salt Lake City during the first year the saints were in Utah. He had been called to the St. George area by President Brigham Young because of his skills and faithfulness. Many other families were also called to the area of St. George in an attempt to find a suitable area for growing cotton. Cotton was a highly valued fabric that the saints needed and perhaps could sell if produced in a large enough quantity. Crop failures, heat and malaria eventually worked to make the project unsuccessful.

Some other names of those who lived in the valley during early pioneer days include **William Snow, George Beacham, Peter Beckstrom, James Bracken, Joseph Burgess, Stanley Calkins, Henry Jacobson, Hyrum Jacobson, John Hawley, George Hawley, I. Hatfield, William Slade, Isaac Riddle, John M. Moody, Robert L. Lloyd** and **Sylvester Earl**. During the 1890s a son of early Apostle and apostate **Lyman Wight, Orange Lysander Wight**, moved into his daughter's, **Harriett Wight Earl**, house there.

The priesthood leader of the St. George area was Apostle Erastus Snow and he asked Robert Gardner to make the existing saw mill in Pine Valley work which was having trouble because of a lack of sufficient water flow. By April 1862 **Eli Whipple** reported the mill was capable of producing 4000 to 5000 feet of lumber every 24 hours. There were intentions of attaching a shingle and lath mill soon. During 1862 the saw mill burned but was rebuilt larger than the original.

Branch President of the church during 1862 was John Hawley. The Branch was under the jurisdiction of the Santa Clara Ward. Religious meetings were held in a log school house located near the saw mill that had been built during 1859. A new school building was erected during 1865 and John Hawley became the school superintendent.

This area also supplied the wood for the construction of the Salt Lake City Tabernacle organ as the wood there was determined to be the best for that purpose by the organ builder, **Joseph Ridges**. Robert Gardner and his son **William** found the right yellow pine trees, cut the lumber and had it transported to Salt Lake City.

Irrigation farming was begun during 1864 without a noticeable effect on water flow downstream. The amount of farming was later increased. The St. George city council was controlling the water usage of the Santa Clara Creek.

During 1865 a town site was created in Pine Valley and some families from St. George moved there.

During 1867 a Pine Valley Ward was created with William Snow as Bishop. Also a road between St. George and Pine Valley was begun.

Bishop Snow asked **Ebenezer Bryce**, a ship builder from Australia, to design and build a chapel. He said he would if they would accept an upside down boat for construction but it would look like a New England Chapel. They agreed and a two story chapel was built using wooden pegs and green hide for bindings. The lower floor became a school and recreation center with the upper floor becoming a chapel. The attic does indeed appear as ship rigging.

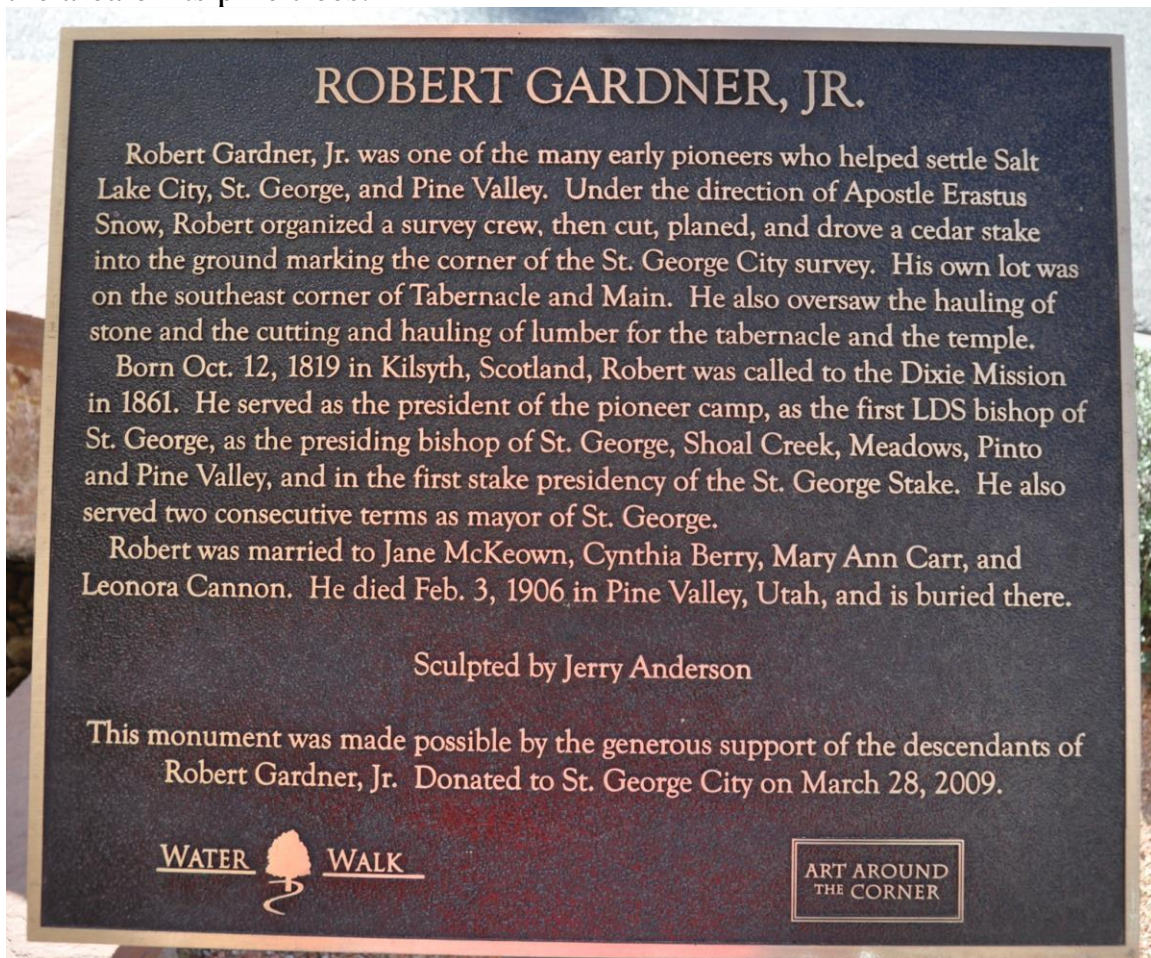
A copy of this building was placed near the "This Is the Place" monument in Salt Lake City around the end of the twentieth century.

The Pioche and Silver Reef mines created nearby by gentiles created a problem for church members as the mines were able to pay cash for grain, meat and lumber while the church members were left to barter or deal in local currency which was less desirable. Church leaders admonished members in Pine Valley to give the saints priority over the gentiles. Pine Valley residents generally prospered from their dealings with miners.

For a time the valley became a hangout for undesirables who were hiding from the law. Pine trees that surrounded the valley were essentially depleted in a few decades which caused a reduction in population. Cattle, both for beef and milk, were brought into the valley to increase the economy but the decrease in population drove families away because of their need for better schooling and stores.

Approximately 200 saw mills were eventually involved in stripping

the area of its pine trees.



East Millcreek

East Millcreek gets its name from the mills that were created there after the Saints came into the Salt Lake Valley. A short distance west of 2700 East and Evergreen Street is where the first gristmill was located during early 1848 by **John Neff**. Other mills were created near what is now Highland Drive where the creek runs.

Archibald Gardner received the first permit to leave the Fort by the Church's High Council and his first attempt at creating a saw mill during late 1847 was at a place called Warm Springs north of the city but he didn't get the water flow desired and dismantled it and moved it to Mill Creek where his brother Robert and Robert's sons had begun to create a saw mill near Highland Drive in the East Millcreek area. The Gardner brothers established housing a short distance northeast of this location.

Many mills would be created later by Archibald and his brother **Robert Gardner**. Gardner Village, as we know it today, in the valley, is one

of Archibald's largest creations which and was built during 1877, the year Brigham Young died.

Sometimes it was necessary to dig canals to control water flow to satisfy water demands and direct the water where the porous soil wouldn't soak it up.

The stream coming from Millcreek Canyon was an excellent source of water flow for constructing the much needed sawmills and gristmills that would provide flour and lumber for the newly arriving Saints.

John Neff had been a miller in Lancaster Pennsylvania and was wealthy by the standards of his day. During 1846 he gave up his home and mill site in Pennsylvania and traveled to Nauvoo Illinois and then on to Winter Quarters Nebraska. That mill was eventually taken all the way to Mill Creek. He had 9 children and one son, **Cyrus**, died at Winter Quarters, which is now named Florence Nebraska. He gave \$2500 to erect a flour mill at Winter Quarters and left one son, **Franklin**, there to run the mill which provided flour for the Saints who remained or came into the area in the coming months.

John Neff arrived in the Salt Lake Valley in the **Joseph B. Noble** Company of fifty on 5 October 1847 and spent the winter in what became known as the Old Fort.

1848-1849 was a mild winter that did not produce as much snow and runoff as desired. Millstones or burrs, was a quartz monzonite that came from Little Cottonwood Canyon. Others placed mills on City Creek but were only able to produce less desirable whole wheat flour.

Neff's mill produced the best and most desired white flour and some came from long distances to get their grain processed by him. He used a fine silk filter or bolting in his production. When whole wheat flour was produced the floor sweepings and shorts and bran were sold and eaten. Neff later converted to a turbine and his mill operated until the 1890s.

He charged 6 cents per pound for his flour or 10 % of the grain brought in for processing. Gold miners heading west sometimes offered him \$1 per pound of flour but he would not sell to them as he preferred to sell to local people because of their need and sometimes gave his flour to very needy people.

John Neff also created a road up what became known as Neff's Canyon for purposes of obtaining the logs needed for building. For a time he charged a toll for use of the road.

John Neff's property was initially claimed under "Squatter's Right" and later deeded to him under the United States Homestead Law.

John Neff's daughter, **Mary Ann**, married **Orrin Porter Rockwell**,

the gunfighter, and for a time the couple lived with the John Neff family when Porter was in the area. At that time East Millcreek was considered the safest area in the Salt Lake Valley because no one dared challenge Porter Rockwell by coming into his area.

Families that soon moved into the area were named **Daniel Russell**, **Alva Keller**, **Stillman**, **Seely**, **Rider**, and **Osguthorpe**. Initially they were all from Pennsylvania except the Gardners who were from Scotland by way of Canada. Nearby was the **James Maddison Fisher** family at 2300 East and 2960 South and the **Capson** family.

The John Neff family raised an Indian girl named **Leah** and an Indian boy named **Pete**. They had been stolen by one warring tribe from another and sold to the Neff family.

Daniel Russell planted an orchard with fruit and berries at the mouth of the canyon. **Uriah Smart** created a tannery just south of 3900 South at Hillside Lane. Later two blacksmith shops were created.

John Cahoon established a very successful brick manufacturing operation between 1000 East and 1300 East on 3300 S. He purchased the property from **Edward Helmsley** during January 1891 to be near a large supply of good quality clay. He built a mansion, using his brick, in Murray. Helmsley had originally established a brick making operation on the property that he called The Brickyard, and John Cahoon originally had a brick making operation in Murray at 4th W and 53rd S.

A Ward of the Church was created in the area 18 July 1877 and **John Neff, Jr.** served as the Bishop for 35 years. Populations in this community were 371 during 1880, 387 in 1890 and 442 by 1900.

A one room log school house was built during 1853-1854 at about 2940 East and near the creek. \$1 was charged for each student. It was used for 23 years before being sold to **Moses Wilkinson** who moved it and used it as a home.

Inventor **Nathaniel Baldwin** lived at Mill Creek and created the world's first headphones with his first order of 100 coming from the federal government during 1917. He built a factory to produce them, producing as many as 200,000 during 1922 and providing excellent employment opportunities for many of the residents. The former Brigham Young Academy professor lost favor with the church by not accepting the church's position when it banned polygamy and building 12 bungalows for his factory workers, many who lived in polygamous marriages. Another notable employee was **James B. Lansing**, inventor and founder of JBL speakers, who worked at the factory around 1925.

Nathaniel Baldwin built hydroelectric plants in Mill Creek and Heber

City when electric lighting came into existence and many people enjoyed coming to the area to see the lighted homes and parties that were there.

Nathaniel later spent 2 years in prison for mail fraud and went bankrupt.

For a time **Philo T. Farnsworth** worked on his television invention in the Baldwin Radio factory.

Church members attempted to produce silk and planted Mulberry trees to feed the silk worms on the Neff property at 2661 Evergreen Avenue.

President **Gordon B. Hinckley**'s parents bought a 5 acre farm and built a house in the area when Gordon was a child and hoped it would improve his health. Their residence was still in Salt Lake City. He remained in the area of Mill Creek as an adult.

O. C. Tanner owned a beautiful acreage in Mill Creek and his land was always decorated with beautiful shrubbery and flowers.

A Park City millionaire named **Susanna Bransford, Emery, Holmes, Egeria, Delitch, Engalitcheff** was a flamboyant woman that traveled worldwide and entertained extravagantly, had four marriages, and a \$100 million fortune and a home in Mill Creek. She inherited her initial fortune from her first husband, **Albion Emery**, who died while holding other people's interests in Park City silver mining. She then continued to build on the fortune he had left her. She owned a home at 2610 Evergreen where she gave some of her parties but mostly lived in the city at the Gardo house when not traveling. The electrically lit parties were a fascination to residents.

The Gardo House in Salt Lake City





Baldwin Radio Factory 1922

St. George Utah

The southern Utah area that became St. George became an important area of settlement to the Saints.

During late 1850 Apostle **Parley P. Pratt** led 50 men to the south under direction of Brigham Young to investigate possible places of settlement and they visited this area where the Virgin and Santa Clara rivers merged. The Virgin River begins in Zion Park and the Santa Clara River begins in Pine Valley.

By 1855 **Jacob Hamblin**, who became a great friend to the Indians in the area, was trying to grow cotton on a river flat. The cotton grew successfully but was soon washed out by the floods that came. His activity likely piqued **Brigham Young**'s interest in cotton production there.

There were several Indian tribes in the area but the most prominent tribe was the Paiutes. One of Jacob Hamblin's first encounters with an Indian involved each of them trying to kill the other without success. The Indian couldn't hit Jacob with his arrows and Jacob's gun repeatedly jammed. It seemed to be obvious that they should be friends.

Jacob built a home and raised cattle there and later moved to Arizona.

He was a tall man and usually wore a red bandana and the Indians were told by their chief to respect him. He always treated the Indians fairly and learned to speak their dialect.

During 1859 Brigham Young visited the area and had a vision of what the area would eventually become. During the October 1861 Church Conference Brigham called 309 families to the area to settle it and hopefully to establish a place for the growth of cotton, which the Saints greatly needed. **Robert Gardner** was among the first group called.

It was impossible to get an adequate amount of cotton from the east because of the Civil War during the war and became relatively easy to get after the war and the creation of the railroad. Heat, Malaria, flooding and other issues made it very difficult for the Saints to produce cotton.

Apostle **Erastus Snow** became the priesthood leader in the area and Robert Gardner became a great leader in St George and Pine Valley. 200 families were called to the area a year after the 309 families first were called. Brigham Young, Erastus Snow and Jacob Hamblin all built homes there.

It is important to note that Brigham's home had a mulberry tree and grape vines. The mulberry tree would have been used to feed silk worms as they continued to try to develop silk as a fabric. The grape juice would have been used to produce wine. **Louis Pasteur's** work that allowed the pasteurization of grape juice to prevent fermentation for drinking, and in saving the silk worm from microbes that were destroying them were not as yet known to the world but soon would be known.

The St. George temple became the first temple completed in Utah and was dedicated during April 1877 just prior to Brigham's death in August 1877.

Pine Valley was eventually stripped of its great pine trees and pine was brought into the area from Arizona. Church builders became very skilled at painting pine wood to look like granite and other woods for furniture and building columns.

Orrin Porter Rockwell

Orrin Porter Rockwell was born 28 June 1813 in Belcher, Massachusetts and moved with his family to Manchester New York during 1817. Their home was about 1 mile south of the **Joseph Smith** home and they became friends. Porter, as he was generally known, was 7 ½ years younger than **Joseph Smith, Jr.** and grew up hearing Joseph's stories of being visited by angels and seemingly never doubted the stories. He once said of Joseph that he was the only friend he ever had.

Porter was one of the first people to be baptized into the church after its organization in April 1830 along with members of his family. During early 1831 the teenage Porter was with the group led by Joseph's mother, **Lucy Mack Smith**, as they traveled from New York to Kirtland Ohio.

Porter's family soon moved on to Jackson County Missouri and established a farm about 12 miles west of Independence. He was still a teenager when he fell in love and married **Luana Beebe**, on 2 February 1832. His sister, **Electa**, married a Missourian from Clay County during January 1837.

For a time he operated a ferry service on the Big Blue River. During the forced exodus of the Saints from Jackson County to Clay County in November 1833 it was generally believed that Porter was responsible for sinking a boat on the Missouri River that cost seven Missouri mob members their lives.

Porter and Luana's first child, **Emily**, was born 31 January 1833 in Jackson County and their second child, **Caroline Stewart** was born during 1836 in Caldwell County.

During 1838 Porter was among a band of men, about 60, who went to Crooked River from Far West to save two church members who had been convicted by a mob and it was believed they were to be executed the next day. This battle cost Apostle **David Patten** his life.

During the fall of 1838 Porter was in Far West prepared to defend it and to protect Joseph Smith from a very large Missouri Militia when Joseph and some other church leaders surrendered which avoided the coming fight. Joseph was later taken to Liberty jail where he remained until the spring of 1839 when he was allowed to escape to Illinois. If there was a fight, Porter seemed to always be in the middle of it.

Porter regularly supplied food to Joseph and 4 other church leaders in Liberty jail. At least once he was involved in an escape plan.

A son was born to Porter and Luana in Illinois on 26 October 1839. Also in October 1839 he was given a church assignment of being Joseph's bodyguard.

Porter was with Joseph on his trip to Washington D.C. to seek redress for their losses in Missouri through an appeal to President **Martin Van Buren** and Congress.

When Luana was about to give birth to their fourth child she insisted she wanted to visit her parents in Independence and the family left in February 1842 although Porter knew it would be dangerous and indeed the trip cost him dearly, which included his freedom and his marriage. Shortly after returning to Nauvoo without his family it was announced that Missouri

Governor, **Lilburn W. Boggs**, who lived in Independence, had been shot but not killed.

Porter was accused of shooting him although he wasn't in the immediate area at the time. He picked up the nickname of "destroying angel" at that time implying that Joseph Smith had ordered the killing. Joseph and Porter assured everyone that because Governor Boggs was still alive was proof that Porter didn't do it.

Luana Beebe, the original wife of Porter Rockwell who had four children by him before leaving him later married **Alpheus Cutler** who was the President of the High Council. They led a group of apostates to Iowa before Cutler died on the way to Minnesota. Luana continued on to Minnesota after his death but eventually moved to Juab County Utah.

After Luana left Porter and took the children he traveled through several eastern states looking for employment without success and became depressed and tried to return home when he was picked up by a bounty hunter in St. Louis.

While in a second floor jail in Independence he was known to attach a pin hook with bait to a string and hang it out the window in an attempt to catch pukes. Pukes was a derogatory name for Missourians.

Porter was successful in getting out of jail after an escape attempt and being taken to the Liberty jail twice for hearings before a judge. He arrived at the Joseph Smith home in Nauvoo on Christmas Eve during a party and looked so ragged they thought he was drunk and almost threw him out. Joseph was thrilled to see his old friend. Joseph began the construction of a new home for Porter just across the street from where he lived but never was able to complete it.

A blessing of Porter by Joseph Smith at this time was: *"I prophesy, in the name of the Lord, that you — Orrin Porter Rockwell — so long as ye shall remain loyal and true to thy faith, need fear no enemy. Cut not thy hair and no bullet or blade can harm thee."*

An event in Lehi on 25 June 1873 is evidence of the effectiveness of the blessing. Loren Dibble came at Porter with two guns blazing and emptied both trying to kill him. After no bullets hit Porter and both guns were empty, he emptied his guns at the feet of Dibble causing him to dance trying to avoid being hit. Porter later told him he would have killed him except for the fact that he knew who his real father was. It was later revealed that Dibble was likely Joseph Smith's son through a polygamous wife. Hollywood movies highlighted this dance routine many times.

Porter was involved in the destruction of the Nauvoo Expositor newspaper after it was declared a public nuisance by city officials.

Just after being arrested by a posse and before being taken to Carthage Joseph sent Porter on an errand to apparently to get him away from possible conflict.

The first day Joseph was in Carthage Porter learned of a pending attack on Nauvoo by people from Illinois and quickly warned the citizens which prevented the attack when it was seen that the citizens of Nauvoo were prepared.

On a trip to Carthage to check on Joseph, Porter learned of Joseph's death from a church member who was being chased by a small mob who asked for his help. He began shooting those that were chasing the member and they quickly backed off.

Later Sheriff **Backenstos** of Carthage who was trying to keep the peace was also being chased when he encountered Porter and John Redding and demanded their help in the name of the State of Illinois. Porter quickly shot one of the men, **Frank Worrell**, out of the saddle even though he was still a long distance away. Frank Worrell had been one of the leaders of the mob that had killed Joseph.

Porter was a member of the Council of Fifty that was a select group of people who had the job of determining where the Saints should move to get out of the jurisdiction of the United States. Texas had been under serious consideration at the time they were organized.

As the saints left Nauvoo Porter was assigned to be a messenger between the wagon trains in Iowa and Nauvoo. He made 5 trips during March and May 1846 in this role. On his last trip to Nauvoo he was arrested for the killing of Frank Worrell. This was partly brought on by his intentional harassment of apostate **Chauncey Higbee**. After 4 months in jail he was acquitted.

As he left Nauvoo he encountered Joseph Smith III who was 13 years old and excited to see him. **Joseph III** described Porter as absolutely fearless but he cried hard when he saw Joseph III, no doubt remembering the great friendship with his father, Joseph Smith, Jr.

Porter was then assigned as a messenger between the many wagon camps across Iowa and as a bodyguard for Brigham. Porter's skills and freedom from familial responsibilities at that time made him extremely valuable to **Brigham Young** and the pioneers.

During the spring of 1847 he was with the advance group who would travel to the Salt Lake Valley. He was a scout and chief hunter for the group. The group was fascinated by all the buffalo they saw and killed for food and had some frightening encounters with small groups of Indians, who had rifles, and lost some horses to Indians.

At one point Brigham lost his valuable spy glass that could have been anywhere over a large desolate area and Porter left for several hours and came back with it.

Porter entered the valley on 22 July 1847, two days ahead of a very sick Brigham, and two days behind **Orson Pratt** and **Erastus Snow**. Porter then started back east with Brigham and others and for a time his rifle and skills kept them alive with food and helped fight off some Indians. He was released in Wyoming and returned to Salt Lake Valley.

In Salt Lake he was the only person permitted to trade with the Indians at will.

In November Porter and others began a trip to California to purchase food, supplies, and particularly cattle. This being exactly a year since many in the **Donner-Reed** Party had lost their lives trying to go to California from this area. However Porter's group took the southern route through the area that would become Las Vegas rather than straight west over the Sierra Nevada Mountains as Donner-Reed had done.

After a very difficult trip Porter chose not to return with the group but instead stayed in California long enough to negotiate a contract to deliver mail to Salt Lake City. He returned to Utah in June 1848 with 25 battalion members, a wagon and 135 mules.

Porter was soon busy placating Indians and killing predatory animals that had been killing livestock.

During 1849 Porter went back to California to pan for gold with some success. He opened a Saloon and Inn with his money but left in September 1850 for Utah. His reputation as a gun fighter was so wide it was necessary for him to use an alias name while there. The former Governor of Missouri, Lilburn Boggs, and his sons were now in California. It is said he killed one Indian on the return trip for a proper reason of defense.

During 1852 he officiated in the Endowment House doing temple ordinances. On 3 May 1854 Brigham Young performed his marriage to **Mary Ann Neff**, the daughter of John Neff, the gristmill owner. Porter and Mary Ann saw little of each other as Porter was frequently busy performing work, frequently assigned by Brigham Young.

However, Mary Ann gave birth to **Mary Amanda Rockwell** on 11 March 1855, Porter's fifth child. Another daughter was **Sarah Rockwell** born 5 August 1856. On 23 October 1858 after moving to Lehi, Mary Ann gave birth to **John Orrin Rockwell** and on 19 February 1860 Mary Ann delivered **David Porter Rockwell**, also at Lehi. A fifth child, **Letitia Rockwell**, was born to Mary Ann in Lehi on 4 August 1864.

On 28 September 1866 Mary Ann lost her life from problems

associated with giving birth to their sixth child, **Joseph Neff Rockwell**, who himself died less than 2 months after his birth.

Porter later married Christina Olsen. Luana Beebe, Porter's first wife was now in Utah with some of the children from the first marriage. Porter was not polygamous as some writers said he was.

Don Carlos Smith, a brother of Joseph, died in Nauvoo (1841). Porter saw Don Carlos' widow in California during 1855. She had been sick with typhoid fever and lost her hair. At this time Porter cut his hair to make her a wig in spite of being told in a blessing not to do it. He claimed he was more prone to sin without his hair but the hair soon grew back.

An immoral former Associate Justice of the Territory of Utah named **W.W. Drummond**, in an attempt to promote himself, made many claims against the Church and its leaders that weren't true but were spread to a gullible citizenry in the east that caused the federal government to feel they needed to get control of the area of Utah.

The military was instructed to take control of the government in Utah and end a supposed rebellion of the Church and its people, feeling that they might join forces with Mexico against the United States. During 1846 the U.S. Government had hired 500 of the best of the Church's young men to help fight Mexico, known as the Mormon Battalion. Salaries paid to the soldiers were greatly needed by the Mormons to help them recover resources that had been stolen from them in Missouri and Illinois, with no apparent concern by the federal or State governments.

When the United States sent a military force to Utah under a foolish and poorly informed President **James Buchanan** during 1857, Porter and others such as **Lot Smith** and **Bill Hickman** were front and center in a hit and run tactic that completely frustrated the military. Brigham Young had informed them to avoid bloodshed.

Some of their tactics involved running off animals at night, burning supply and transport wagons and removing cotter pins from wagon wheels. (Brigham at one point was concerned that the Church might have to feed the soldiers through the winter to prevent them from starving).

Other activities included preparing large stones to be rolled down into canyons, burning grass around campsites and destroying animal feed. U.S. General **Albert Johnston** who led the force stated that next year a much larger force would be brought from the east.

Two forts that the military might have used for housing during the winter were burned to the ground. They were Fort Bridger and Fort Supply in southwestern Wyoming. Both forts were owned by the Church. Fort Bridger had been purchased from **Jim Bridger** and Fort Supply had been

constructed by the Church.

Many soldiers in the military deserted and were brought to live in Salt Lake City. Almost every day there were Mormon spies in the ranks of the U.S. Military.

The winter of 1857-1858 brought extreme snow and cold in the mountains while the Salt Lake Valley enjoyed unusual warmth and gentle rains. This was obviously an act of God to the Saints in their warm homes. The military tried to winter in the general area of the burned out Fort Bridger. Many of their animals were lost to cold and hunger which meant there was an inability to move their wagons.

The resultant ineptitude of the military and the expense to the United States government for this fiasco quickly turned public opinion in the east against the invasion. However, the invasion sped up the development of what became Spanish Fork Utah as many from the Salt Lake City area moved there at this time.

One of the most positive aspects of this war or invasion was that a great deal of money, animals, wagons, iron, clothing goods etc. were brought into the Utah area by the army which greatly benefitted the Mormons, as much of it fell eventually into the hands of the Mormons. The army tried to destroy guns and ammunition to keep the Mormons from getting it.

Some soldiers were involved in activities that upset Porter. When he warned them to stop doing something (usually under threat of death), they paid close attention to what he said and the thing was stopped.

One sarcastic comment by Bill Hickman as hundreds of the soldiers left the area to join the civil war in the east was, "They had come here, spent a great quantity of money, and went away without hurting anyone – a victory of course."

The invasion also helped expose a defect in the construction of the temple foundation which was corrected afterwards. (See Archibald Gardner's biography)

Johnston's army was so called, because it was led by U.S. General **Albert Johnston**. Johnston later went to California and was encouraged by some to help lead and create a Pacific Nation. However, when the Civil War started during April 1861, he was anxious to get into the fight on the confederate side partly because of his disdain of General **Ulysses S. Grant**. He was killed at the battle of Shiloh on 6 April 1862.

Johnston's campaign in Utah was to put down the supposed rebellion against the United States government by the Mormons. He died on the 32nd anniversary of the founding of the Church while he himself was in rebellion against the United States government.

It is not possible to enumerate much of the multitude stories of Porter Rockwell's activities in his later years. He was renowned for his unique ability to track animals and his insights into personalities of thieves and dishonest people. He was generally considered to be the law in the west and no one with good sense would challenge him.

The federal government was quick to call on Porter if they needed help with a difficult situation such as Indian problems or mail delivery. Once during 1863 while the Civil War was raging in the east federal troops were sent from California to put an end to Indian attacks on pioneers going west and Porter was called on for help. These contracts with the U.S. government tended to make Porter financially well to do.

The Indians had been attacking wagons, raping and killing and stealing everything they wanted. This particular effort cost the Indians several hundred lives and some of the military. The attack came in northern Utah and although the Indians knew it was coming they thought they were well prepared and ready. It came in the cold of winter with much suffering on both sides. A good number of Indian women were also raped and killed by the federal soldiers and some Indian children lost their lives.

Porter was occasionally seen coming back from a tracking episode with a dead body hanging on his pack horse or would simply say he left them dead somewhere. Many people have thought to kill him only to disappear themselves. Anyone who thought they might come through the area, rustle cattle or steal horses would just never be seen again.

One story says that a very foolish young man came from Arizona just to kill him. He followed Porter from town and rode up to him in an isolated area with his gun drawn and announced he was going to kill him. Porter laughed at him and told him he would need to load his gun first. As the young man looked down at his gun he was blown out of his saddle.

It would be fascinating to know all the things that Porter did to protect the Saints and defend the Prophet. He certainly had a talent and calling to do so.

Porter once defended his killings by saying, "I never killed anybody that didn't need killing."

Porter died of natural causes on 9 June 1878.