

(Son of Miner Grant)
Miner Heber Prisbrey

St. George, Utah
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Washington County Historical Society
St. George, Utah

The following information is a history of the landmark home located at 295 So. Main Street (facing west) in St. George, Utah. It was built through the efforts of Miner H. Prisbrey and his sons, through the years of 1913-1914. The information in relation to the sources of building materials and laborers is from memory of the writer and notes by the late Grant M. Prisbrey, who worked with his parents from the planning to the end of construction. It can be noted here that Miner learned to drive an ox team when he was only 10 years of age to help support his home family. Through the years he became a Master in the art of horses and carriage transportation. It was his method of economy. He bought the original pioneer home and the 45 acre farm along the Santa Clara Creek-near the bank of the Green Valley Community, while hauling ore from the Apex mine located south of St. George.

Late in the summer of 1901 Miner purchased the original adobe pioneer home which was built by Pioneer Henry Miles. There was a new wood stove, six kitchen chairs and new rug carpets for the two frontroom rooms. Children, Glenn, Maudeen, and Lillian, were born in that house. In the summer of 1913 the farm produced enough hay to pay for the bricks, purchased from William Marshall, who owned a brick yard where part of the Dixie College campus exists. The red brick were fired in a kiln in the Washington field, hauled and stacked in the back yard. During the early fall, Miner and son, Grant, with two Duncun men drove 84 miles to Parashuant on the Arizona Strip, to Wallace Mathis ranch. From there they cut logs on Trumble Mt, hauled them to a saw mill in that area to pay for the use of the mill and lumber needed to build the house. Early in the spring Miner and son, Grant, made a trip south for the first load of lumber. The second adventure involved four

horses and two wagons. They endured many hazardous and dangerous experiences related to that journey. A particular event about one of the borrowed horses during the night, pulled the stakes holding his hobbles and jumped away, following a band of wild mustangs. Tracking him through wooded country and recovering him was dangerous and delaying in time.

Finally after more credit for hauling in various areas, the wood kitchen on the rear of the old house was manipulated to the north side of the grainery and used for a kitchen. There were steps up into the big room above and to the cellar below, enabling the family to get by fairly well. On a Monday morning the demolishing of the old house began. By Saturday evening the rubble was all cleaned away. Miners brother, George Prisbrey, laid the black rock foundation and later did all the plastering on the interior of the inside walls. Joseph Worthen and sons did the masonry work while Albert E. Miller and Wilford Bleak carpentered the wood floors and framing, including a winding stairway to the second floor. A load of freight hauled from Lund for the Cottam brothers had paid for the dry wall and plaster. Loads of building sand were gained along the creek banks to the farm. ^{a load of} Wood for Ed Christian paid for the needed lime. Grant Prisbrey carried most of the mortar for the brick and plastering.

During the day before Thanksgiving 1914, an extra effort was made to install the remaining doors and windows. The sky darkened and a heavy storm was imminent. The big wood burning range was hoisted into the kitchen and living in the new house began. The rejoicing was dimmed by the serious illness of little Maudeen, afflicted with yellow jaundice. She gradually recovered through the watchful care of mother Sadie and grandmother Sophia Mathis. Arlo Prisbrey was born in the newer home and later built the home adjoining

on the north. He was a special little boy. A blessing to his parents when the older five were gone from the home. Miner passed away November 10, 1943 age 71 in California, where he had gone for medical treatment. He was ever proud of his accomplishment in the home. He enjoyed the comfort of the spacious rooms, to rest from toiling on the farm or returning from the arduous strain of commercial hauling. He and Sadie were loved and respected by all who had the privilege to know them and to share in their generous giving. To us who had the blessing to be born to them in the circle of the St. George Valley, will to the end of our days, wherever we may be, with reverence revere our parents for their love and everlasting integrity!

The aged mulberry tree standing like a sentinel in front of the home is nearing the century mark. It is like a guardian umbrella sheltering the land and sturdy walls ^{that} and it protects. Several generations have enjoyed its cooling shade and a drink of fresh water from the barrel at the base of the trunk in days gone by. Could it tell its history, it could tell of happy times and sadness. This writer recalls that on one occasion on August 14, 1914 the workmen, neighbors, and passers by had gathered in the front yard. The news had come that Germany had invaded France. After much discussion pro and con Ab Miller summed up the situation and said, "Well, one thing is for sure, we are too far away to ever become involved in the fracas. Get back to work boys!" It is just as well they could not visualize the future of turbulent history down to the present day. After father Miner passed away mother Sadie lived in the home until a little cottage two doors north was built for her. The old home was eventually purchased by Author Bruhn. Mrs. Lorna Bruhn and her son Mike continue to live there. Lorna maintains the yards with beautiful lawns and flowers just as mother would have it, worthy of the landmark on South Main Street.

Grace Priscilla Mitchell