

MEMORIES OF ADOLPHUS RENNIE WHITEHEAD
BY HIS SON GEORGE FRANK WHITEHEAD MARCH 1952

My father was born in London, Middlesex County, England on June 10, 1841. The second son of Francis Wilby Whitehead and Elizabeth Jarrold. My grandmother left her husband because of drunkenness and other causes.

She joined the L.D.S. Church and left England for America in 1855 and came to Utah with 4 children, Charles, Adolphus, George, and Clara.

On arrival in Utah they lived on roots and greens all making very coarse food to eat. My father herded cows and worked at various kinds of work he could find to do. He finally worked for Daniel H. Wells in a nail factory making cabinet nails on a cutting machine.

President Brigham Young established a woolen mill in Parley's Canyon and my father married Mary Goddard the youngest daughter of George Goddard on November 22, 1863. We moved to the woolen mill when I was a baby. Brigham Young moved the factory to Washington in Washington County, Utah.

After the men who first came to this county and demonstrated cotton could be successfully grown in Southern Utah, known as Utah's Dixie, Brigham Young sent east for some cotton machinery and sent my father with the teams who brought the machinery from the Missouri River by George H. Crosby and Orson Foster, and Father, mother and myself rode in the trail wagon of George Crosby's wagon driven with ox teams. We were 3 weeks from Salt Lake City to Washington. My father made a homestead entry which covered the and used for the factory and resorvire (sic) . The factory paid the fees for the entry and father had all land in the entry not used for the factory while his house was being built. When it was finished we moved to the house on the hill north west from the factory. At the time the house was built it was one of the best houses in Washington. My father acted as agent for President as the Superintendant of the factory. Both Cotton and woolen cloth was produced and my father made several trips to the Northern settlement with factory goods to exchange for flour, cheese and produce not grown in Washington. The employees of the factory were able to buy the produce at the factory. Soon after we moved to our home, father married a plural wife, Myrza Jane Alexander and a daughter Myrza to live with mother. We lived in Washington 10 years and during that time my father was active in church and civil affairs—he became counselor to the Bishop and became manager of the dances and recreation. At one time he was engaged to teach school but did not last long before he resigned.

At the election held in Aug in this county, Father was elected County Clerk and recorder and ex-officio Probate Clerk. Father purchased a small assortment of musical merchandise and he and myself rode horseback from Washington to St. George living in the 2nd floor of a building owned by WM. N. Brunch until our house was built and at the completion moved in our home where we lived until Mother and Father's death. Father became counsellor to Bishop David H. Cannon. I was called clerk at the music store, father had established while living in Washington. Nearly everyone living then was afflicted with the ague, chills and fever. I had the ague for quite a long time.

While father was clerk and recorder and as I was a fair writer I helped in the office deeds. Father paid me 25 cents for each deed I recorded for which father received \$1.50 (or more--- could not read it) each. Father was also called to work as a recorder in the St. George Temple where he worked about 6 hours a day for 3 years without any money compensation during this time father having employed some help in

the county office. After leaving the Temple he worried until late at night. Father secured the agency. He also bought a knitting machine and we knitted mens socks. He was a member of the choir and was one of the amusement counc. and had charge of the dances. He was active in Dramatics. Father married Mary Ester Wells and she came and lived with mother for some time until he bought a small home for her on the opposite side of the street and a little north of our home. On account of the Anti-Polygamy Law father was disbarred from holding political office and he resigned as clerk and recorder. Later he was employed by the County to record the County records and during that time the Washington Field Dam was being constructed and we took a contract to finish a piece of work on the canal and my brother Dolph and myself with 3 Indians finished the work and father gave us \$20.00 each in cash to help us while we thus engaged. He also paid the Indians. We had subscribed for 70 acres of water which we paid for with labor. The Deputy Marshall became so energetic in apprehending the polygamists that father took his plural wife and went to Manti. Later Father became a recorder in the Manti Temple. Later father and mother went to Salt Lake. Father secured the agency for the Life History of Heber C. Kimball and canvased Weber, Utah Counties-the books to be delivered later when they were ready for delivery. He was engaged in helping with the Salt Lake County records. George M. Cannon was the recorder. While he was thus engaged, an old friend of his by the name of Sprague, he being a deputy Marshall, arrested father and he was later bound over to appear to Beaches District charged with polygamy and unlawful co-habitation.