

## Augustus Poor Hardy

Augustus Poor Hardy was born 2 March 1831 in Georgetown, Essex, Massachusetts.<sup>1</sup> He was the oldest son of Samuel Brocklebank Hardy and Caroline Bacon Rogers. The family joined the Mormon Church in 1842 and immigrated by ox team with the Wilford Woodruff company in 1850. Augustus was age 19.<sup>2</sup>

The family settled in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah Territory.<sup>3</sup> Augustus was sent on a mission to Parowan in 1851 by President Brigham Young, to assist in building a fort. In 1852 he was sent to Fillmore to assist in building the State House.<sup>4</sup> In 1853 he was scouting and guarding in the Walker Indian War as a private in Hardy's Company.<sup>5</sup>

In March 1854, Augustus married Elizabeth Ann Capener; they eventually had ten children together.<sup>6</sup> In April that year, Augustus and 24 other men were called on church mission to work with the Indians. These missionaries were carefully chosen, not only for their gospel zeal, but for their knowledge of Indian language and psychology, and their ability as frontiersmen. Augustus considered the Indians of a fine character, describing them as trustworthy, hospitable, upright and honest, and their chief as very intelligent.<sup>7</sup>

During this time, Augustus help to lay out a permanent settlement on the Tonaquint, or Santa Clara River.<sup>8</sup> Today Tonaquint is a ghost town, just north of Santa Clara, but it was upon visiting this location in 1861 that Brigham Young made his famous prophecy about the St George valley and the temple.<sup>9</sup> Augustus stayed on his mission until 1856 when he was released on account of sickness and returned to his family in Salt Lake City.<sup>10</sup>

In 1858, Ephraim K. Hanks and Augustus P. Hardy were the first settlers in Mountain Dell, where they established a trading post in the canyon for the accommodation of travelers. At their hotel meals cost from \$1.00 to \$2.50, and a hundred pounds of sugar sold for \$125. Augustus left the canyon before 1860<sup>11</sup>, when he and his family were listed on the 13<sup>th</sup> Ward Great Salt Lake City census.<sup>12</sup> They moved south again in 1861, living at Virgin City, Washington, Utah.<sup>13</sup> The family moved to Grafton, Utah (now a ghost town) in 1862.

Augustus enlisted in the Utah Militia in August 1866, where he started as a lieutenant and an adjutant under Captain James Andress during the Black Hawk War.<sup>14</sup> He later bore a commission as a major in the 3rd Infantry Regiment. The family then moved to St. George in 1867, where Augustus was appointed bishop of the Indians by President Erastus Snow. He was also appointed a colonel on

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<sup>1</sup> Utah Death Certificates; Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel database; Utah, Veterans with Federal Service Buried in Utah, Territorial to 1966.

<sup>2</sup> Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel database; United States Census, 1850.

<sup>3</sup> United States Census, 1850.

<sup>4</sup> *Washington County News*, 26 December 1912.

<sup>5</sup> Utah Applications Indian War Service Medals, 1905-1912; US General Index to Indian Wars Pension Files.

<sup>6</sup> See *familysearch.org*

<sup>7</sup> *Washington County News*, 26 December 1912.

<sup>8</sup> Mormon Colonization in Southern Utah and Adjacent Parts of Arizona and Nevada, by C. Gregory Crampton, 1965, p. 64.

<sup>9</sup> Comprehensive History of the Church, by B. H. Roberts, Vol.5, p. 122.

<sup>10</sup> *Washington County News*, 26 December 1912.

<sup>11</sup> Our Pioneer Heritage, Vol. 15, pp.274-275.

<sup>12</sup> United States Census, 1860.

<sup>13</sup> *Washington County News*, 26 December 1912.

<sup>14</sup> History of the Iron County Mission and Parowan, 1965, pp. 94-95; Utah, Veterans with Federal Service Buried in Utah, Territorial to 1966; Utah Applications Indian War Service Medals, 1905-1912; US General Index to Indian Wars Pension Files.

President Snow's staff.<sup>15</sup> Augustus' militia enlistment ended in 1870, and he was awarded the Indian War Veteran Medal in 1905.<sup>16</sup>

The family was living in St George on the 1870 census,<sup>17</sup> and Augustus built a big beautiful house there in 1871. The extended Hardy family lived in the house until the 1930s when the property was traded for another property in St George.<sup>18</sup> Over the years, it served as a jail, boarding house, a motel, and several different restaurants. For a long period, it was abandoned. In 1976, the Utah State Historical Society helped remodel the house. It stands today in Ancestor Square, St George, as a restaurant.<sup>19</sup>

The family was living in their grand home in 1880, and Augustus was serving as sheriff of St George.<sup>20</sup> He built a little stone jailhouse. It was a one-room, black lava rock building near his home. It still exists on Ancestor Square, with the original bars in the windows.<sup>21</sup>

In 1880, Colonel Allen of the Stormont Mining Company in Silver Reef, Utah, gave notice that the miners' wages would be reduced. The union refused to accept the news, put out the fires at the reduction works, and stopped work at the mines. Colonel Allen left for Beaver to appeal to the court for an investigation. The Federal Grand Jury found indictments against forty miners or so, who had participated in the outrage against Colonel Allen and issued warrants for their arrest.

US Marshal Arthur Pratt who called on Sheriff Hardy of to raise a posse. About 25 men were assembled at Leeds. An unusual snow storm was raging at the time that screened their movements, so that no hint of what was about to take place reached Silver Reef. They rode to Silver Reef, early in the morning, taking the camp completely by surprise. As the jail was small, the large stone dance hall was commandeered to hold the 36 men under arrest.<sup>22</sup>

In October 1880, Superintendent Johnson Vivian of the Stormont Mining Company asked mine foreman Michael Carbis to fire Tom Forrest, a mine agitator. Forrest was angry, and waylaid Carbis later and stabbed him. He died later that day. Carbis was admired and there were open threats of lynching. The camp was in mourning and all mines were closed the afternoon of the funeral. As the vast cortege moved slowly to the cemetery, Forrest was taken from the local jail and lodged in the county jail at St. George.

That night a body of armed men rode the 18 miles from Silver Reef to St George and demanded the jail key from Sheriff Hardy.<sup>23</sup> He refused, but a few bullets shot into the house changed his mind (the bullet hole can be seen in a door in the living room today).<sup>24</sup> The mob dragged Forrest a block east of the court house and attempted to hang him on the arm of a telegraph pole. Failing in that attempt, they dragged him to a large cottonwood tree in front of George Cottam's home, where he was hanged on a limb, the loose end of the rope being secured to a nearby honey locust tree.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> *Washington County News*, 26 December 1912.

<sup>16</sup> Utah Applications Indian War Service Medals, 1905-1912; US General Index to Indian Wars Pension Files.

<sup>17</sup> United States Census, 1870.

<sup>18</sup> *Henderson Home News*, 28 August 1980, p. 9.

<sup>19</sup> [Augustus P Hardy](#), by Kent Thompson, 2013.

<sup>20</sup> United States Census, 1880.

<sup>21</sup> *Henderson Home News*, 28 August 1980, p. 9.

<sup>22</sup> *Utah Historical Quarterly*, Vol 3, 1934, pp. 110-111.

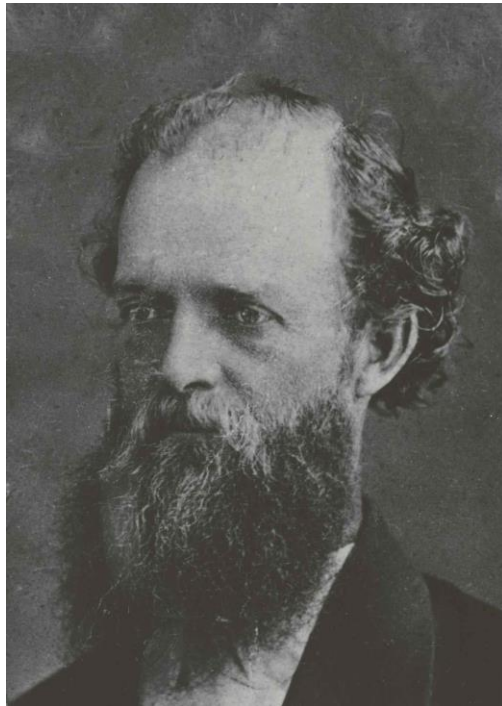
<sup>23</sup> *Ibid*, pp. 117-118.

<sup>24</sup> *Henderson Home News*, 28 August 1980, p. 9.

<sup>25</sup> *Utah Historical Quarterly*, Vol 3, 1934, pp. 117-118.

In 1900, August is listed as a farmer in St George. In 1910, Augustus and his wife are living with his son Gilbert and his wife and children. Augustus was a quiet, unassuming man with a kindly and hospitable disposition. He was averse to much publicity, even though he had served as the first sheriff of Washington County<sup>26</sup> (he served as sheriff for eight years), one term as assessor and collector<sup>27</sup>, and one term as a US Deputy Marshal.<sup>28</sup>

Augustus Poor Hardy died 23 December 1912 in St George, Utah.<sup>29</sup> His wife Elizabeth died in 1918.<sup>30</sup>



Augustus Poor Hardy (image from familysearch.org)

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<sup>26</sup> *Salt Lake Herald*, 11 October 1883, p. 7.

<sup>27</sup> Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Nevada, Wyoming and Arizona Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1884, p. 383; Edmunds Act, Reports of the Commission, 1883, p. 114.

<sup>28</sup> *Washington County News*, 12 December 1912.

<sup>29</sup> Utah Death Certificates, 1904-1964; Utah, Veterans with Federal Service Buried in Utah, Territorial to 1966; US Index to Indian Wars Pension Files.

<sup>30</sup> Utah Death Certificates, 1904-1964.

"St. George, March 15, 1881.

Bro. **Augustus** P. Hardy:

"We understand you have summoned 20 men from this city to form part of a posse to assist you in the service of writs on certain parties at Silver Reef; and take the liberty of offering the following suggestions: Be careful of yourself and those thus summoned. In making service of your writ or writs, do not have all your men go in at once, have enough around to watch that no person being served or their friends have opportunity to draw arms and use them.

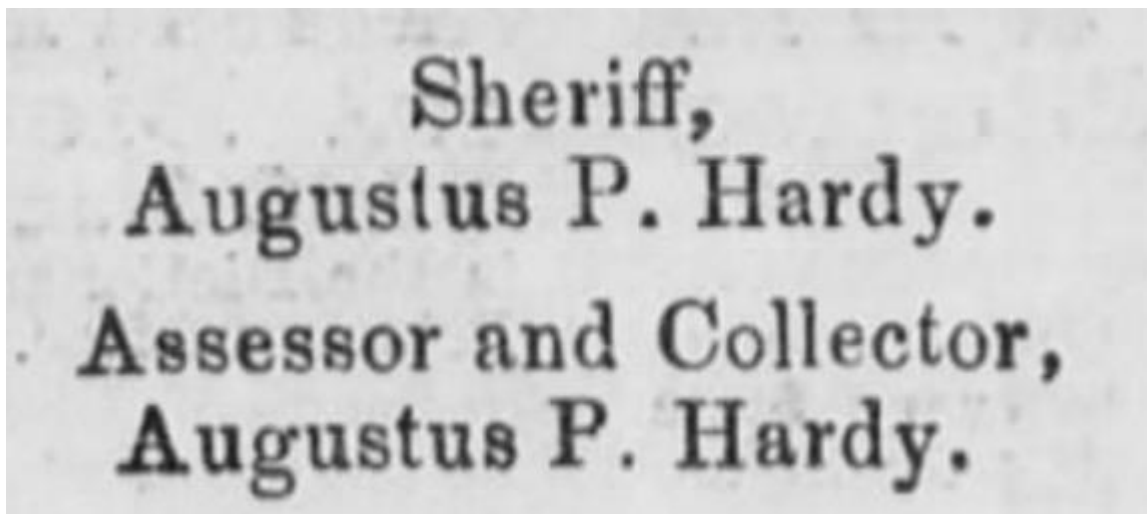
"Have total abstinence from anything intoxicating strictly observed in your posse. Should the brethren be fatigued, a cup of coffee is recommended.

"Do not stroll away from each other, nor visit saloons or gambling halls. Keep together and be on the watch. All attend to your prayers in the morning and at night before retiring.

"Do not forget your God and He will not forget you.

"John D. McAllister."—(L.D.S. Library).

A cautionary letter written to Sheriff Hardy as he led a posse to Silver Reef  
(Image from *Utah Historical Quarterly*, Vol 3, 1934, p. 111).



Sheriff,  
Augustus P. Hardy.  
Assessor and Collector,  
Augustus P. Hardy.

(Image from *The Union* [St George], 31 July 1883, p. 2)



Church Arch., Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Salt Lake City: P 500-79-3. Fig. 6. Mormon baptism of Shivwits Southern Paiutes. Performing the baptism is Daniel P. McArthur, President of the St. George Stake. The White man standing on the right is **Sheriff Augustus P. Hardy**. Nearly 200 men, women, and children were baptized in the pool at Mount Hope (Alter 1944:67). Mormon settlers provided work and welfare and tried to convert Indians through missions, schools, and other means. Photograph by Charles R. Savage, St. George, Utah, March 1875.

(Image from The Handbook of North American Indians: Great Basin, by William C. Sturtevant, 1978, p. 510)