

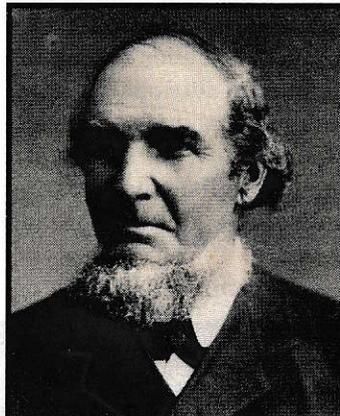
William Carter, First Plowman In Utah

By Joyce Carter Wilson

The men and women who tamed the West were full of faith and fortitude. Overcoming challenges, they forged ahead serving one another and God, leaving a rich heritage. William Carter and his three wives exemplify industry and integrity by working together in unity and love.

William Carter, of Ledbury, Hereford, England, converted to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1840. Coming to America he married Ellen Benbow in Nauvoo, Illinois. In the Vanguard Company, William traveled west with Brigham Young in 1847. He successfully plowed the first

half acre of ground in the Salt Lake Valley, Utah turning water onto the dry ground first. (Others had broken



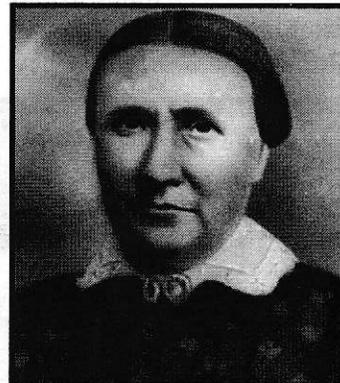
William Carter

their plows trying to plow.) Thus, William Carter became the Father of Modern Irrigation in America.

In 1861 William was

called to the Cotton Mission in Southern Utah. In St. George his Pioneer Plow dug the first ditch supplying water to the camp. As foreman of the St. George Temple foundation project, William's crew pounded lava rock in the bog making firm ground.

Ellen Benbow emigrated from England and married William Carter in Nauvoo. Ellen drove her own ox team across the plains in September 1847. Ellen had three children. Ellen managed the home and farm. As the



Ellen Benbow Carter

family doctor Ellen was particularly good at setting bones. When William married again, Ellen welcomed the new wives. The women shared friendship, faith, and their heavy responsibilities.

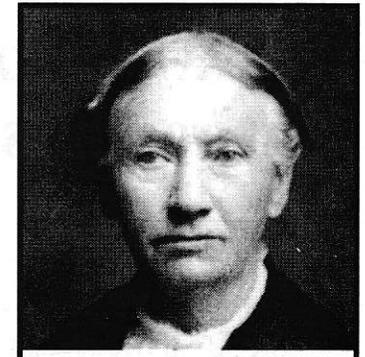
Harriet Temperance Utley came from Alabama



Harriet Utley Carter

with her family to follow their new faith. Six in the family died from measles and cholera before arriving in Salt Lake in 1852. Harriet and little Gabriel survived. Harriet married William Carter in 1853. They had eight children. Harriet taught others to card, spin, and weave the cotton they raised.

Sophronia Turnbow was six years old when her



Sophronia Turnbow Carter

Alabama family joined the pioneers. Ten years later she married William Carter in Salt Lake City. Sophronia had nine children. In St George she managed a silk worm business and served as Dixie's Community Nurse.

A 200th Birthday Celebration for William Carter, First Plowman in Utah, will be held in St. George, Utah July 24, 2021 at 9am St. George Tabernacle. Elder Jeffrey Holland, a descendant of William Carter and his pioneer plow to be placed in downtown St George.