

## Robert Dansie 1825 – 1896

Robert Dansie was born February 5, 1825 in Boxford, England to James Dansie and Sarah Chenery. He married Charlotte Rudland on April 8, 1849. They joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints shortly after their marriage. Their families and friends did not approve of their joining the church, so they moved to Barkin, Essex, England seven miles east of London. They had seven children, two of which died very young. Robert and Charlotte decided to join the saints in the Great Salt Lake Valley. They traveled 200 miles by train and horse and buggy to board a ship in Liverpool, and sailed for America with their five children on May 12, 1862. When they arrived, they were taken in by the Ansel P. Harmon Co. to go across the plains. It was also known as the 4<sup>th</sup> Church Co., which consisted of 48 wagons and 500 people. It was a long hard journey, and ended in sorrow when Charlotte and her newborn infant died during childbirth near Pacific Springs. Robert put a strand of blue beads around Charlotte's neck and covered her face and body with the top of a large trunk they had their belongings in. He placed a large rock over her grave as a marker. He left in silent anguish of soul with his remaining five little ones at his side. Robert loved Charlotte dearly. Robert entered the Salt Lake Valley in 1862 as a widower with five children. The Dansie's later found her grave, and was granted permission from the government to fence the area and put a marker on it.

Jane Wilcox was in the same company and helped Robert with his little ones. He married her on Dec. 1862, and they eventually had 10 more children. They first lived in the Cottonwood area. She raised Charlotte's children as if they were her own. Robert was about 5 feet 9 inches tall and had medium dark hair and light blue eyes. He had a high forehead and was rather stock in build. He was a combination of both strong and gentle qualities. Even though his face carried an expression of firmness and very businesslike, he was rally very mild and gentle.

Robert and Jane lived in Bingham Creek while Robert herded sheep for Jane's brother-in-law. Jane washed and mended clothes for the miners and gold dust panners, for which they would pay her with gold dust. Her earnings, along with Robert's and the older boys, were used to buy property in Herriman. Robert Dansie was the first to build so far west outside of the main Fort settlement in about 1867. He first built a one room dug out, and then a log cabin was built over it. Eventually he built a two story rock home in 1869 that still stands today. He was engaged in the sheep business, was a skilled gardener, and introduced alfalfa to Herriman. Robert was a personal friend of Brigham Young. When Porter Rockwell became drunk and rowdy, Brigham Young had Robert bring Porter to Robert's home in Herriman. Porter really struggled, but Robert could handle him.

Robert is known for his friendly manner to all, his kindness to the poor and needy, his honesty in his dealings, his great faith, and his devotion to his family. He was one of the directors of the first Herriman Water Co. in 1892, a stockholder in the Herriman Irrigation Co. when it first incorporated in 1893, and a member of the 9a3rd Quorum of Seventies. He served a mission to England in 1879, but due to heart problems he was only there for five months. He was Bishop of the Herriman Ward from 1887- until his death in 1896. He was a steady man who held fast to the goals he set for himself and followed them through to accomplishment. The urge within was greater than his physical power; hence he worked beyond his strength and drove himself far more than the second mile in seeking for the betterment of his community, his family and his church. His legacy lives on in Herriman today with many of his descendants still living in Herriman and the surrounding area.