

# John Walker 1840 – 1886

## *Citizen of Legacy 2006*

John S. Walker was born March 4, 1840 to Elenor (Ellen) Walker when she was 19 years old in Sommersetshire, England. John was raised by his mother. His grandfather, William Walker, was like a father figure to him until his mother married a gentleman by the name of John Long. Ellen, John Long, and her two sons emigrated to the Salt Lake Valley when John was 14 years old. John and Agnes Ann Farmer were married on the 9<sup>th</sup> of February, 1866, and moved to Herriman into a two room cabin that they had built. Eventually John and his father-in-law, a skilled stone mason, built a rock home. The rock came from Cottonwood Canyon and a small quarry on Shaggy Peak. The Walkers worked very hard at farming and raising a family. Most of the things they raised were used to feed their family and their animals. Working hard to raise a family brought much heartache and disappointment to John and Agnes. Of the 15 children born to them, only six lived beyond their youth.

John was made an assistant in the first Sunday School in Herriman in 1867. When the ward was reorganized in June of 1877, James Crane, then bishop asked John to be the Ward Clerk, a position he held until his death. He had a beautiful singing voice and was also called to be the Ward Chorister. John was very talented in music and played the bass fiddle in the ward orchestra.

John established a saw mill in Butterfield Canyon about 1875. This allowed the citizens of Herriman to use split logs and rough-sawn lumber to replace dirt floors. John worked for the Herriman Sheep Co-op as a business manager. This Co-op became very successful some years later as Herriman was the home of some of the largest sheep operations west of the Mississippi. It has been said that the Herriman Ward was one of the largest tithing paying wards at this time. This helped the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to pay off a large amount of debt that they had suffered with for many years. No doubt John's influence as business manager played a big part and helped to this end. Because of his service in the Church, together with his business experience, John was able to make a significant contribution to the community of Herriman.

John had an asthmatic condition that grew worse with all the continued hard work. He was plagued with coughing spells and was known to stop to catch his breath while walking. He died of a lung hemorrhage, due to complications of his asthma, in the street in front of his house on September 30, 1886.