

BARTON

John Henry Barton and Martha Ann Boswell

Beginnings

John Henry Barton was born 20 Jan



John Henry Barton

1855, in Salt Lake City, Utah, the son of William Kilshaw Barton and Milinda Jane Hewett. His parents moved to Manti when John Henry was a small boy. Soon

after the move his mother passed away. John Henry learned early in life to work. As a boy he herded cattle and worked on a farm. His father was very strict and did not believe in having his children idle.

Martha Ann Boswell was born 4 Aug 1860 in Nephi, Utah. Her parents are Abraham Boswell and Gerusha Hambleton. Her parents and grandparents had to undergo many trials and hardships in the early days of Utah. Martha's mother had the privilege of sitting on Joseph Smith's knee in Nauvoo. Her grandparents donated their last cow, silver spoons, and jewelry to help build the Nauvoo Temple.

Ferron

In 1886 the family moved to Ferron, Utah, where John Henry Barton was a farmer and stockman. The harvest was two to three thousand bushels of grain and tons of hay. John Henry was what they call a handyman, a good man in the community to move buildings and work at other odd jobs. They said he often had the best teams in

Ferron. He did considerable freighting to Price by team and wagon. He was honest



Martha Ann Boswell

and straightforward and had influence among young people. They loved and respected him. John Henry was a dear and kind father, loved by his family. He was a good husband. John

and Martha raised six children — Millie, Lucy, Clyda, Johnny, Hazel, and Owen.

When they moved their family to Ferron in 1886, they needed to cross the Ferron Creek. Never did Martha or her family forget how the creek looked to them. There was such high water, and they did not know how they could make it across. The town men came with horses and ropes. They came across the creek and fastened the ropes to the wagons and horses so they could keep the Bartons from going down the stream. "Mother had us all praying while we were crossing the water. Everything went fine and we were all so thankful."

Panther

The Barton's first home was a small log house on the Molen road — where Clive Killpack lived in the 1950s (about 460 East). They made beds on the floor for the children. A cup of water was usually placed on the floor by the bed for drinks in the night. One night it was so warm they left the doors open. In the night an animal came prowling for food and entered the open door. It

grabbed daughter Lucy Barton and pulled her to the open door. Lucy woke up, screamed in terror. Her father jumped from his bed and pulled his child away from the animal. From following the marauder's tracks the next day, the men decided it was a panther. This gave some excitement in this little town. For many weeks the people locked their doors and guarded their children while keeping watchful eyes for strange animal tracks.

The Bartons moved their family to a house where the Ferron park is now. Their house was located one block south from the church and on the east side of the street.

An Old Cow

Daughter Millie gave some firsthand information. "We had an old cow that we really liked. One day mother took us children and went visiting and did not fasten the door as well as she should. The wind blew it open. We had some flowers in a bucket setting on the old-fashioned fireplace. The cow walked in and ate them, and made a terrible mess on the floor. Mother cried, but we children thought it was just funny."

Diphtheria

The records indicate that diphtheria broke out among the Taylor, Phillips and Wrigley families. The Barton children had been playing with the Duncan children the day before they came down with it. The Bartons were frightened. How terrible to lose playmates. The Duncans lost five children in one week. Most of the families lost some of their children. The Barton family felt badly about it, but were blessed because the family escaped the disease.

The Barton Ranch/Johnny

Martha Ann and John Henry Barton then bought a farm one mile south of Ferron and

moved their two-room house to that location (now 990 south State Street). Owen Henry Barton, her last child, was born here.

One summer day a sad thing happened to this family. Their son Johnny, age fifteen, went on the mountain with other people from Ferron to drive cattle. Johnny's horse fell with him and he was badly injured. He was unconscious for 36 hours and then died. It happened near Willow Lake on the Ferron Mountain, July 1901.

Ferron Creek Bridge

John Henry Barton was a contractor and built the Ferron Creek bridge.

Mining Claims

John Henry Barton recorded the first four mining claims on Copper Globe mountain. The claims are recorded in the Emery County Court House. He filed and recorded the claims on February 9, 1899 at 9:00 a.m.

Characteristics

John Henry had a fun sense of humor and gave readings at town celebrations. Hazel Barton Christensen said of those who had never meet her dad that we missed a lot of fun. He had a great sense of humor that everyone enjoyed. She said her mother, Martha Ann, was a noble pioneer who taught her children to be honest and not gossip.

Deaths

John Henry Barton lived 55 years and died April 24, 1910. Martha Ann lived 67 years and died February 15, 1929, at 2:00 p.m. John Henry Barton, Martha Ann Boswell Barton, and their son, John Wesley Barton are buried as a family near the northwest corner of the Ferron City Cemetery.