

Early Histories of Union Fort: Union Fort Camp, put together by “members of the ‘Union Fort Camp Daughters of the Utah Pioneers,’” including Edna Proctor Jensen, Thelma Proctor Hardman, Verl Walker Milne, Vera Peterson, Officers of D. U. P. 1971-1972

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REUBEN ISHMAEL WALKER

Reuben Ishmael Walker was born January 11, 1870 to John Henry Walker and Mary Ann Phillips Walker in Union, Utah. He was born and raised in the old adobe house off 1300 east about 6730 south. His boyhood days were spent on the farm that his father owned.

Reuben I. Walker married Lillie Shaw Moreton, February 20, 1895 in the Latter Day Saint Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah.

His father gave him the land and house where Reuben had been born. Lillie and Rube made it into a very comfortable home. It was here that six of their children were born. Royal Reuben, Lyle Eva and Allen John. Allen was born in the new home March 9, 1913.

Reuben had the new home built in 1910. It is the brick and cement block house that was built on the same plot the old adobe house was on and still in good order. Reuben...

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farmed the forty acres that he lived on and sixty acres located south and west of what is now “Memorial Gardens of the Valley”. He also owned sheep in a group ownership and kept them in Star Valley, Wyoming on Summer range and Ploche, Nevada on winter range.

After the sheep were sold he began to haul ore from Park City mines, to the sampling mills on second west, south of 5600 south. Later he hauled ore from Little Cottonwood Canyon, then from Maxfield and Cardiff mines in Big Cottonwood Canyon, taking ore to the same old sampling mill. He hauled Silica from the mine located on the north side of the entrance to Big Cottonwood Canyon. He had to go up a steep dugway to get the silica and come down this same dugway with the heavy load. The silica was then hauled to the brick yard west and south of Murray.

He loved horses and owned some of the most beautiful and some of the best in the Salt Lake Valley. He kept two four span (eight) in all, operating in the ore hauling business for many years. We had saddle and buggy horses also.

The Walker family Cooperatively owned a horse powered threshing machine. This was one of the first threshing machines in the Salt Lake Valley. John H. Sr., Reuben, John H. Jr., Fredric and Henry operated it for many years.

John H. Jr., was injured in an accident while hauling machinery to build the second Power Plant in Big Cottonwood canyon. He was no longer able to thresh so Reuben bought his share of the co-op threshing machine. Fred bought a farm in Louisville, Idaho, so Reuben bought his share. John H. Sr. and Henry soon sold their shares to Reuben. Reuben continued to thresh grain and Lucerne see all over the Salt Lake Valley until 1933, then he “retired” the old threshing machine to a nice shady spot in the west woods near the creek where parts of it still remain.

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He used the horse power of the machine to operate a sawmill in the late fall and early spring. The Walker family and neighbors and friends participated in sawing and stock piling wood to be used in their stoves. We always had huge piles of wood and a shed filled with kindling for the year round.

Reuben was the Recreation Leader of Union Ward for some time. He and Mother served on the "Old Folks" committee for many years. Rube never refused to donate money and assistance to any organization that asked for his help.

Reuben Walker and Horace T. Godfrey paid to get the electricity from 70th south to 6600 south on 1300 east. No one on the road would, on that strip put up any money.

Many good deeds to the needy and sick are often remembered and mentioned to his living posterity by relatives of those he generously helped. He was honest to the highest degree. He was loved by all that knew him. He was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, and neighbor. He died May 16, 1942 in his home in Union, Utah.

Retyped by a great-great granddaughter by permission of my mother, his great-granddaughter who has the story in her possession. Original spelling, grammar, and punctuation retained.