



Millard Andrus

LIFE HISTORY OF MILLARD ANDRUS

by Rose Andrus Brown, his youngest daughter

Millard was the oldest child of Milo and Jane Munday Andrus. He was born in Big Cottonwood (now Holladay), Utah, September 24, 1856. He married Minerva Deseret Terry in the Salt Lake Endowment House, December 6, 1875. They had ten children, six boys and four girls.

A few years after Millard's birth, Milo moved his wives, Jane, Lucy, and Adeline to what is now Crescent, Utah, where he built and established the "Half Way House," an early hotel, where the stage coach and pony express riders stopped for fresh horses and for meals. Millard's job was to care for those horses; and by so doing, he developed a very great love for horses, which he kept to the last days of his life.

When Millard was twelve years old, his father, Milo Andrus, sub-contracted from Brigham Young to build the roadbed for the Union Pacific Railroad through Echo Canyon. Though young, Millard drove team and scraper and helped with the building of this roadbed. This early experience helped set Millard's vocation in life. He became a contractor for the construction of railroads and canals. With his three brothers, Milo Jr., Marlon, and Lewis, they undertook and completed many contracts of such a nature.

When the railroads, the Union Pacific and the Denver and Rio Grande, were making plans to build roadbeds through the Jordan Narrows or "Point of the Mountain," Brigham Young realized that a system of bringing water from Utah Lake to Salt Lake Valley must be made first. He contacted his committee of experts at that time consisting of Bishops Sheets, Cahoon and Hunter of Salt Lake City. They looked over the land and reported that because of loose light soil, that a canal could not be built and made usable. Later he had Milo Andrus, Bishops Joseph Rawlins and Henry of Draper look over this land. They agreed with the report of the committee, but they found a strip of clay through the rock and devised a way to put the East Jordan Canal through. This canal was built and Millard had a prominent part in building it. It is still in use today (1957).

Millard was hired by Colonel Dadge to build the roadbed through the Jordan Narrows. Also, with his brothers before mentioned, he contracted for the railroad up American Fork Canyon to near the head of the canyon. Mineral was hauled on this railroad from the mines in Alta, Utah. He took and completed many contracts on his own.

Along with this work, he also did farming and had sheep, and for years he owned and operated a threshing machine. Not only did the threshing

machine thresh the grain in the fall, but it was the favorite and best place to "hide" the Easter eggs before Easter. The many little recesses and doors were just perfect for that. It had better be stated here that it was the custom in those days for the children to hide a few eggs for their own special Easter coloring, as they were gathering them for their mother. Of course mother knew that they were doing it and it was understood that they might do it. The thought that we hid them was the fun.

Millard met Minerva while they attended a school in Draper which was taught by John R. Park. Both took advantage of all the school available at that time.

When he was planning to be married, Millard went to Cache County, Utah, and took up land where the Sege Milk factory now is standing. He sawed and hauled enough logs for a home, and even built the house to the square. However, Minerva's mother lived in Draper and Minerva liked Draper and her mother, so they were married and lived in Draper.

Here Millard built a home for his bride. He made the adobes and built the first room of this home himself. Later as the family grew and "Mother" lived with them, more and more rooms were built. When he died, the home was left to his youngest child, Rose. She and her husband have remodeled it; and it still stands warm, comfortable and sturdy.

Millard was active in the church and community. He was in the presidency of the first Y.M.M.I.A. in Draper. In those days the officers wore a badge to denote their standing; he wore his with pride. He was in the superintendency of the Sunday School for many years. He was the town constable. He held many other positions in the church and community. He loved to sing and was a great lover of music. He often sang as he worked.

His love of horses stayed with him from childhood until his death. A familiar sight in Draper was Millard riding his fine single-footer, followed by his beloved dog "Scottie." Three days before his death, he held the plow and instructed his son-in-law in plowing a head ditch at the top of the lot.

At the time of his death on May 5, 1936, he was a High Priest in his stake, the East Jordan Stake. He was buried on May 8, 1936, at Draper, Utah.

There was a total of twenty-three missionaries sent out from this family up to the year of 1957-- three children, eighteen grandchildren, and two of the in-laws.