

## EUNICE MELVINA DAVIS DANA

In 1860 when Utah was still in its infancy, Johnston's Army was still in Utah, the last year for the arrival of the Handcart Companies, the beginning of railroads, missionaries being sent to Europe, and a time of trial and stress for the Latter-Day-Saints; Eunice Melvina was born the 25th of February at Farmington, Utah to Alma Davis (son of Danial Coon Davis, Captain in the Morman Battalion ) and Lucy Ann Perry (daughter of Gustavus Adolphus Perry )

Eunice Melvina was the third child and had the following brothers and sister: Sophronia Elizabeth, Eliza Ann, Miriam Amelia, Sarah A., Alma G. , Mary Jane, Daniel Coon, Jesse Wells, Rosalia Emeline and Henry.

While still a small girl her family moved to Perry, Utah. Her sister Mary Jane was born here. Then the family moved to Bennington, Idaho where her early girlhood days were spent

Little is known of those years of growing up, but there was the sorrows over the deaths of a sister and two brothers and surely the joys and games played with family members. Attending school until she was qualified to be a teacher. Through this time of her life, she was developing the strengths and talents that would help her through the great problems and struggles of life ahead.

The attractive, blue eyed teacher met and accepted young Roswell Root Dana's proposal of marriage.

At this time the spirit of colonization was strong within the church. The Dana family with several other families were called to go to Arizona to help establish another new settlement.

In October of 1878, the group left Bear Lake by wagon train for the long trek to Arizona. Roswell persuaded Eunice Melvina to go with them and on the way the young couple stopped at the Endowment House in Salt Lake City, Utah. They were married on October 25, 1878.

It must have been hard for Eunice Melvina to leave her parents and brothers and sisters in Bennington. With winter on its way there must have been some trepidation's and concern as they left what comforts they had, to go start their lives in Arizona. One wonders what the conditions were as they traveled 97 days in wagons and trailing livestock to reach their destination on the 16th of January 1879 at Mesa where, one house was all that was there.

Ross and Melvina homesteaded a place one and a half miles south of the town sight and built their first home, a one-room adobe house.