

JOHN WINN
told by Celis and Flora Winn

John Winn was born the 3rd of February 1852 in Salt Lake City, Utah. His parents were Dennis Wilson Winn and Margaret Bateman Winn. The family lived in Salt Lake City until 1854 then they moved to Alpine, Utah. In 1861 they moved to Richmond, Cache, Utah and then up to Franklin, Idaho. John met Charlottie Geneva Flueitt and was married in Oneida Co. Idaho on the 13th of January 1880. They began their married life in Preston, Idaho.

In 1883 John, his wife and children, and his father and mother moved to Vernal, Uintah, Utah. They were some of the first settlers in the Uintah Basin. They owned a large sum of land. From the foothills on the east of the valley to the Ashley Creek on the south to the line the Winn home is on west and to the foothills on the north was the Winn property.

John and Charlottie had one child when they came from Idaho. As the years passed they had eleven children--John Roy, Joseph Clarence, Dennis Alfonzo, James Albert, Charlottie Geneva, Effie Rebecca, Florence Lola, William Heber, Tessie Marie, Celis Grafton and a daughter who died shortly after birth who was not given a name.

Before moving to Vernal, John would make a living by freighting cargo from Idaho to Helena, Butte, or Billings, Montana. John and his brother, Dennis Alma, would bring the supplies for their father's store. He continued this profession when he moved to Vernal. He freighted cargo from Vernal to Salt Lake and then up to Idaho. In later years he would haul gilsonite from Vernal to Price and sometimes in the winter from Vernal to Green River, Wyoming and then across the ice down through Brown's Park and back to Vernal. During this time they sold some of their land on the south for more wagons and horses.

He would tell stories about his freighting trips and how the Indians would be on the war path. On one of his trips to Butte, Montana, the Indians were after them. They got their rifles ready. The Indians wanted the freight, horses, and mules. They talked back and forth for over a day. By letting the Indians have one of their mules and one of their horses, they were able to go on to Montana. When they came back they fooled the Indians and came back on another route and left the Indians waiting.

The freight trips would have three to six wagons. They would be carrying barrels of whiskey and different kinds of liquors. Of course one of the barrels would spring a little leak before they got them to where they were going. Sometimes the men, mules, and horses would get to tired traveling, and they would have to stop for a day or two to rest. This proved to be a time to celebrate from the barrel that sprung a leak.

For entertainment they would bet money on their horses to see which one had the best pulling team. In John's early days in the valley he would work hard all day with farming or freighting. When he quit his work for the day he would take the harness off the horses and ride the last one to the town store for a drink of liquor and then come home.

When the Ashley Ward was organized in 1915, the bishopric

called John to be superintendent of the Sunday School. John's brother, Elias, was put in as a counselor in the bishopric. This turned John to religion. He always attended church after that and always tried to have his family in church with him.

In later years John with his boys, William Heber and Celis Grafton decided to go into the cattle raising business. They farmed and raised hereford cattle.