

Life Story Of John Foy Chidester

Grandfather Of Keith F. Barton

My grandfather, John Foy Chidester, was born in Palmyra, Utah, February 2, 1853. He was the first White Child born in this town just outside of Spanish Fork, Utah.

While still a young boy he moved with his parents to Washington, Utah where the old family home still stands (1939). During his early days he hauled freight from the railroad into the southern part of the state. He has told many stories of his encounters with the Indians and at one time was stabbed in the side by an Indian leaving a scar about twelve inches long.

His father died while he was yet a young man. He, being the oldest, assumed the responsibility of caring for the family. He was married at an early age. Four children were born to him and his first wife. His wife passed away while the children were small. On March 4, 1885 he married my grandmother, Almira Worthen in St. George Temple.

Soon after this he was called on a mission to the southern states. My grandmother lived in Panguitch, Utah. Made cheese & butter & took in sewing to help support the family.

My grandmother was just twenty-one years old but she took care of the four children and grandfather fulfilled his mission. After his return he decided to study law. He would sit up most of the night studying because he didn't have money enough to go away to school. He finally passed the bar and practiced law in Panguitch, Utah, for several years. He was elected judge and moved to Richfield, Utah, where he held that office for a number of years.

There were eleven children born to this union. Nine are still living (1939). He was always faithful in his church duties and held many responsible positions in the church. He was a personal friend of President Grant's and whenever President Grant was in Richfield he always stayed at his home. Grandmother still has a book autographed by President Grant which he gave to grandfather.

He passed away July 7, 1917, in Richfield, at the age of sixty-four years after a very useful and active life.

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