

History of Thomas Harrison Winder
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Thomas Harrison Winder's parents (John Thomas Winder and Ida Hope Harrison) came to America from Holland on April 7 in the year 1828.

They went from the immigration center in New York City to Era, Pennsylvania. There Thomas's father made his residence. Not long after they moved to Era Grandfather was born. He was born on April 17, in 1834.

His father died when he was two years old. His mother married another man by the name of William Johnsten. They had two children, a boy and a girl. Thomas lived at his parent's home until he was 17 years of age. His mother died when he was 19 and he helped raise the children and also helped his step-father run their little store.

He later married his cousin, Hannah Shreeves. They had three children, William born at Era, Pennsylvania, and two others which were later to be born in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Hannah and Grandfather decided that they should go across the plains to the Great Salt Lake Valley. They got their belongings together and started from Era in the summer of 1858. He joined another wagon train that was heading West also. They were two years crossing the great plains. They endured many hardships and sufferings. They didn't have much trouble with the Indians on the way but they did have one little skirmish with Blackhawk and his people.

The incident took place when Grandfather and the wagon train were stopped by Blackhawk and his people. To stop the shooting and killing Grandfather stood by a white flag of truce. Blackhawk called a halt to the Indians and rode forward to see what was the matter and who was standing by the white flag. When he got there he was surprised to find his playmate and hunting partner from Pennsylvania where they grew up together. They talked about old times and how they were getting along, then Blackhawk said in the presence of every one that no man would have been brave enough to stand by the white flag than Grandfather. He also said that no other man could shoot as straight and as fast as Grandfather could.

Blackhawk told his Indians to hold for a peace and to let the wagon train alone. The Indians then left and only took a few things which Blackhawk quickly made them give the stolen articles back.

After that one incident Grandfather was then called Wild Eagle by all the Indians. Grandfather and the rest of the people knelt down and prayed to the Lord and thanked him for their good fortune. They traveled on to Salt Lake without further trouble from Indians.

Grandfather and Grandmother made their residence in Salt Lake City and had two other children born to them, Charley and Ida.

They were only in Salt Lake City for a short time when President Brigham Young asked for volunteers to go and help the settlers around St. George. The Indians had become troublesome

so grandfather and his family packed their belongings together again and traveled with some other families to St. George.

Grandfather lived down there for about two years. They lived in a little three cornered log hut at the northwest corner of St. George. He had port holes for windows on all sides of his house.

Two or three times his life was in danger because men were jealous of his marksmanship. They would knock on his door and say that he was needed at headquarters. Grandfather had left word at headquarters how to reach him so he knew that the men were lying to him. So he told the men that were outside if they didn't leave him alone he would shoot them down like saplings. Many men got what they needed in those days. The men also tried to burn his house when he wasn't home but his neighbors caught the fire in time and put it out. Grandfather always said after that, he had good neighbors. There were five families living around him at that time and they helped one another out a great deal.

Grandfather was also a good doctor. He would have graduated if he had stayed in college back East but he wanted to come to Utah and try his luck. He has helped many folks back to health when they were given up by the other doctors. Grandfather had strong faith in his Lord and that is how he healed most of his patience.

One night a man came and knocked on his door and said that his wife was very sick and dying with pain and wanted grandfather to come and help her. Grandfather thought this over for a minute and then asked the man what his wife's name was but before the man thought he said that he didn't have a wife. Grandfather quickly shot out the door with his pistol and men went yelling every which way. So with faith in the Lord his live was saved again.

In the winter of 1866 his wife was very sick when a knock came on the door. Grandfather said, "Who's there?" Outside the door came the reply, "You are wanted over at the square." Grandfather said back, "I can't go because my wife is very sick." Hannah Shreeves passed away before morning. She was buried at St. George, Utah. She left three children, William, Charley and Ida.

Grandfather stayed at St. George only a short time. He took his children back to Salt Lake City. There he let the children go to some people he knew at Springville, Utah. Grandfather helped out the best he could with the children.

Not long after that he married again to Mahala Ruth Durfee, daughter of Abraham Durfee and Ursula Curtis. They had two children, Ursula Ett, born August 28, 1868, and John Augusta, born March 21, 1870.

Mahala Ruth wanted to go to Southern Utah where her mother lived but Grandfather said that he didn't want to go back there because he had already lost one wife down there living on sorghum and corn bread. So Mahala insisted that she go so she got her things together, bundled the children together and went to live with her mother and step-father, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Kendal Gifford. She wasn't there long when she married again to Samuel Parker. They had one

daughter named Mahala Strong Parker. Mahala Ruth didn't live very long after that. She died July 9, 1875. Her mother took care of the three children.

Grandfather was quite bitter about this separation. He later married again to Mary Elizabeth (Samson) Killian. They had one son which they called Daniel Winder, born January 23, 1869.

Grandfather was always gone so much from home Indian Scouting and hunting. The last excursion he was on he was gone two years. When he came back to his home his wife had died.

He got married again to a Mrs. Caroline (Person) Olson. She had one son by her former marriage, his name was Edwin Olson, born January 23, 1866.

Grandfather and Caroline had ten children born to them. They are:

1. Hannah Eliza Winder	April 17, 1871	April 19, 1934
2. Ann Eliza Winder	May 7, 1874	10 May, 1874
3. Alice Jeanette Winder	May 7, 1874	10 May, 1874
4. David Winder	March 6, 1876	October 2, 1890
5. Thomas Harrison Winder	November 24, 1878	March 7, 1960
6. Ida Mae Winder	June 12, 1879	October 10, 1884
7. George Winder	October 30, 1880	January 9, 1947
8. Della Winder	June 6, 1882	August 3, 1883
9. Unknown Baby	June 6, 1882	June 6, 1882
10. Lewis Winder	July 6, 1884	April 5, 1933

Trouble came to his family again when his wife took ill and had to be put in the Provo Infirmary. She was there 12 years and in that time Grandfather married again to Clersey Meekham. They lived at Nephi, Utah.

Grandfather was arrested for having two wives at the same time. He was put in the State Penitentiary at Salt Lake City.

Grandfather led a colorful life after that and later came to Idaho where he made his residence at Grant in the year 1888.

Caroline Parson (Olson) Winder died in the Infirmary at Provo, Utah, on November 4, 1903, and was buried at the Grant Cemetery in Idaho. Grandfather lived a few more years after she died which he spent visiting all of his children which lived in Utah and Idaho. He had been living with his son and his wife Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Harrison and Dorbuary Jane (Wilson) Winder. Grandfather died April 14, 1914. He was buried beside his last wife, Caroline Parson (Olson) Winder in Grant, Idaho.

Here ends the colorful history of one of our ancestors Thomas Harrison Winder Sr.

Winder, Thomas Harrison

