

# Charles Bennett Maxwell

By: Boston Hulet

435-531-9482

breehulet@gmail.com

Fiddlers Canyon Elementary

Mrs. Linford/Ms. Du

Charles Bennet Maxwell is my 4<sup>th</sup> great grandpa. He was born April 5<sup>th</sup> 1875 in Lincoln County, Nevada and died of a heart attack on July 10<sup>th</sup> 1950 at the age of 75 in Cedar City, Utah. Charles started his life with tragedy and trials. His father James, was shot in the back and killed while retrieving a stolen steer from a neighbor's property by the thief when Charles was 1 year old. His mother,

Elizabeth Degraw, died by the time he was 5 years old while giving birth. This left Charles an orphan bouncing around living with his step dad, aunts and uncles from Panguitch to Glendale Utah and Arizona.

At the age of 8, he was living in Arizona with his cousins and worked in hot cotton fields all day and had corn bread and water sweetened with molasses for supper. His stomach really hurt him from not eating well. That winter he had a chance to go to school for only 3 months. There he learned to read. He would read every scrap of paper he could find. Later in life he became a well self-educated man of faith and loved reading the scriptures. By age 9, he went out on his own to support himself and never went back to school. I think he had had enough of being made fun of for being a "move in" being small and not favored in his living situations with aunts and uncles. One day, 9 year old Charles and his half brother 10 year old Gene, left Glendale, Utah. They loaded up their horses which they inherited from their father and set off for Castle Valley, Utah 300 miles away to where several of Charles aunts lived. Their journey took about 2 weeks and they asked people for food for themselves and their horses along the way. Sometimes, strangers would let them spend the night. Others times they would have to pull out their saddle blanket and sleep out in the open and often they would not be given food for them and or their horses. Charles went to Castle Dale and refused to live with his aunts and worked around for other people. He was shepherding by the age of 13. At 14, he was hired to haul lumber (mostly mine stalls) with a four-horse team off Scofield Mountain. He was to receive half the profits from his work but never did. That winter he was so poor he owned only a denim jumper and not even a coat.

Charles was very smart and had natural mathematical abilities that he could teach college trained students math. He loved to read and learn. He was a kind family man, and was very responsible.

Charles married Josephine Anderson and together they had 9 children. Charles was doing well and sold his nice home he and his family loved so much to move to Kanab, Utah to help support his brother Jim financially with his large family. Charles couldn't find a place to rent or a home so he purchased a lot, put up two large tents and put floors in them and filled the sides with dirt and mud

and lived like this for over a year. He got a job at the Kanab Dam and worked his guts out. So much that he never had any free time. He eventually built he and Jim a home then sold his and returned to Cedar near the Bulloch farm. His home in Cedar was so nice and even had full indoor plumbing the first in his whole life.

Charles dreamed of owning a farm. He sold everything and bought 160 raw land acres near Milford and started to work the land and building a small frame home with no indoor plumbing where you had to carry water in buckets in from the well. He planted hay and the crop and grain was very good. In an attempt to increase the value of the crops he purchased with money from the bank 131 head of feeder cattle. The cattle were making good gains and future profits were looking very exciting and then they were finally ready to sell then the market crashed starting the Great Depression. He sold the cattle the next day at a huge loss and lost the farm and his home and most all of his personal items to pay back the bank.

Years later, he started all over again using his family to help him get a loan to build another home. Charles had a sense of humor, loved his family deeply, and could play many musical instruments. He was not a man of wealth but had great relationships with his friends and family.

Learning about my great grandpa Charles, I learn that I can be strong and do hard things, serving others is a way to a happy life and to always follow your dreams even if it is difficult. Learning about Charles' life makes me want to be a better person. He also teaches me the importance of families and how I should work hard to provide for my future family and others, and be independent and responsible for my actions. I am proud Charles Bennet Maxwell is a part of me!