

HISTORY QUESTION OF THE MONTH

What prominent Butlerville resident was killed instantly August 12, 1918, by accidentally putting his hand on a highly charged live wire while attempting to turn on a switch with defective wiring?

ANSWER

Leander Neri Butler was employed by Utah Power and Light Company and was readjusting the wiring of his barn, assisted by Mr. Taylor, the Superintendent of the power plant, when the accident occurred. As Mr. Butler attempted to switch a light, he came in contact with a live wire. Two of his sons, Clement, age 14, and Henry, age 10 were present when their father was killed.

Leander Neri Butler was the son of Leander and Eliza Butler, one of the original families to live in Butlerville. It was his father, Leander, who sold 20 acres of land to the Deseret News Company in 1881 on which they built the Deseret News Paper Mill.

As an employee of Utah Power and Light, L. N. Butler lived in one of the four houses owned by the company to house their employees. It was located on Big Cottonwood Canyon Road, east of the "Old Mill." In 1894, on the birth of his daughter, Eva, he planted a cedar tree which is still standing today. It is one of the oldest trees planted in our area that is still standing. L.N. Butler was survived by his wife Effie Wagstaff Butler, and children, Gerald, who was in the United States Army at the time, Eva Butler Israelson, (for whom the cedar tree was planted and she lived to be 105 years old), Merlin, Clement (both of whose families lived in Butler), Ciella and Henry Butler.

Gayle Conger

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