

History Question of the Month

What early resident of Cottonwood Heights homesteaded 80 acres of land in the upper Creek Road area of today's City?

Answer

Christen Johnson was from Denmark. He immigrated to Utah where he married Johanna Marie Eugenia Huldqvist, from Sweden, on August 10, 1874. Christen became a U. S. Citizen on September 28, 1876. He and his wife settled in Big Cottonwood (Holladay.) In December of 1880, he applied for a 160 acre Homestead Grant. This included 80 acres located between 2300 East and 2700 east and 7800 South to 8000 South, in what is now the upper Creek Road area and 80 acres in the northwest corner of Danish Town.

In April of 1885, he applied for a patent (deed) on his property. He had managed to cultivate about 20 acres of his land, build 2 stables, 2 corals, a stockyard and a granary. He also planted an orchard. Besides farming, he also worked for a short time on the rail road.

About 1890, he sold about 40 acres of his property in Danish Town to Joseph Newman. During 1891, he sold the property located on upper Creek Road to Edward Kollicker, Chris Hemmert and Joseph Bissenger. Sometime prior to 1892 he moved his family to Salt Lake City. About 1895 he sold the rest of his farm in Danish Town to August Hauptfleisch.

After leaving the area, Christen obtained work as a coal miner in Winter Quarters, Utah, where he was killed on May 1, 1900, along with 200 other miners in what was for many years the most deadly mining accident to happen in the states. He left a wife and 7 children. The Winter Quarters Mine was located in Winter Quarters, Utah, a once bustling mining town until the mine closed in 1922 and the company moved operations to Castle Gate. By 1930 the town was deserted. It is now a ghost town located west of Scofield, Utah.

Published December – Gayle Conger