

HISTORY QUESTION OF THE MONTH

What Butlerville resident owned a brewery and hotel in Butlerville, and Mill A in Big Cottonwood Canyon?

ANSWER

Philander Butler was born in Randolph County, Indiana, March 18, 1841. He came to Utah with his father, brothers and sister in 1857. They settled in South Cottonwood. Philander who was the oldest of the brothers worked for Phil Margetts for several years before moving to an area at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon in 1869. At this location in 1871, he was granted a license to sell liquor and soon built a place for those working in the canyons to stop and rest and get something to eat and drink. The newspaper, referred to this place as the Butler Hotel. He also built a brewery on the property. About 1874, he purchased Mill A in Big Cottonwood Canyon, but only ran it for about one year when on the morning of March 18, 1875, a gigantic avalanche came rushing down, denuding the slopes and crushing the mill and surrounding buildings. Seven people were staying near the mill and were rescued, but the mill was completely destroyed and never rebuilt. In 1881, he sold the property where his brewery was located to the Deseret News Company for \$800.00. He moved to Oregon where he was also in the lumber business. He returned to Salt Lake in 1900. In 1901 he sold 130 acres of land in Butlerville, to William W. Sanders for \$5000. The property was located near the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon. He lived in Salt Lake City until he died August 10, 1925.

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