

History Question of the Month

What early Union resident served 6 months in prison for cohabitation before moving to the area of Union known as "Poverty Flats.?"

Answer

Charles Denney Jr. was born in 1849 in London, England. He joined the LDS Church when he was nine years old. He went to work for his grandfather at nine and saved his money so he could come to Salt Lake City. He finally made it to Utah in 1866. In 1867, he got a job as an apprentice type setting for the Deseret News. He married his first wife in 1872 and took a plural wife in 1876. After the passing of a federal law in 1882, prohibiting plural marriage, Charles was arrested and sent to prison for cohabitation. After being released from prison, Charles and his plural wife agreed to separate. Charles and his first wife moved to the area of Union known as "Poverty Flats" and also the "hill". Charles opened the Union Cash Store. In 1904 he was called on a mission to England returning in 1906. He spent the rest of his life in the Merchantile/sales business.