

History Question of the Month

When and where was the first school built in our City?

Answer

Education is a high priority for those living in Utah. The same was true of the early settlers of our City. By 1850, those settlers had built a log school house, located along the Little Cottonwood Creek bottom lands (east of today's 1300 east.) Silas Richards, one of the first settlers and a farmer taught school with between 30-35 students in attendance. He did this during the school years from 1850 – 1852. In 1852 the Salt Lake County Court created school districts in several of the existing communities. Union became School District 23. While the schools in Utah professed to be public, they were mostly parochial in nature. In 1854 a new two-story school and meeting house was erected within the Union Fort. The old school was used as a house by the Forbush family.

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