

## **History of the Danish Road Area**

The Danish Road area was originally settled by Andrew Hansen Sr., a Danish convert to the LDS Church, who immigrated to Utah in 1871. In 1872, he moved his family to Granite (later, the area would become part of Butlerville) where he received 160 acres in Section 35, as a Homestead Grant from the United States Government.

As other Danish immigrants arrived in the area, Mr. Hansen sold property to them or they obtain homestead grants. Since everyone in the area was Danish or had married someone that was Danish, the area became known as Danish Town.

Living conditions in Danish Town were very harsh. The land had to be cleared of rocks, sagebrush and scrub oak before crops could be planted. Due to the lack of water, the first crops were dry farm crops of grains and hay or alfalfa. The closest sources of water were Little Cottonwood Creek which ran below the hill and Little Willow Creek, which ran through the town of Emmaville. Emmaville was a half way stop between the mines in Little Cottonwood Canyon and Salt Lake and between Alpine and Salt Lake. It was located at the south end of Danish Road where the road turns east up to Wasatch Boulevard. The town flourished during the 1860's but by the end of the early 1870's was deserted as the town moved about a mile and a half closer to the mouth of the canyon.

Many of the new settlers to the area lived in dugouts until they were able to build log cabins. They gathered drift wood from the Little Cottonwood Creek for their fires. Due to the harsh conditions and lack of water, many of the first residents didn't stay in the area. During the late 1890's, the five settlers remaining in Danish Town, along with six settlers living along Wasatch Boulevard, dug a ditch, by hand, from the mouth of Little Willow Canyon, now renamed to Deaf Smith Canyon, and diverted the waters of Little Willow Creek into an upper and lower ditch to provide water to the farms west of Wasatch Boulevard and Danish Town. In 1900, these eleven men formed the Big Willow Irrigation Company claiming rights to the water and apportioning it to the users according to the amount of time each had spent digging the ditches. The ditch company is still operating today providing irrigation water to several users in the area.

With irrigation water now available, crops of fruit and vegetables were also planted and the area became well known for the quality of its produce. During the 1930's many of the farmers replaced their dry crops with orchards. During the 1950's, Mink ranching became the primary source of second incomes for the residents.

By the late 1910's, there were only three of the original settlers and their children left in the area. It wasn't until the mid 1940's before someone other than a descendant of the first settlers purchased the farms in the area. There was little change in the area, with only two families moving into the area until the 1960's.

Danish Road was nothing more than a dirt lane, serving those that lived along it, until

1950 when the road was graveled and oiled. The road was officially named Danish Road about 1956.

The first mail delivery was a rural route from the Sandy Post Office. Mail was delivered to mail boxes located on Wasatch Boulevard. After the road was paved in 1950, the Post Office began delivery of the mail along Danish Town Road.

Phone service was not available to the nine families living along the road until the mid 1950's when a rural line was run by the telephone company. All nine families shared the same line.

The water diverted from Little Willow Creek not only provided irrigation water for the families in Danish Town, it was their culinary water source also and continued to be until the last user was able to connect to the city water line in 2000.

The early residents attended elementary school at Butler and high school at Jordan.

They attended Church in Cottonwood and then a combined Granite, Butler Ward for a few years before the ward was divided and they became part of the Butler Ward until 1956.

The Danish Road area remained relatively unchanged until 1970 when the first subdivision was built at the south end of Danish Town. Since that time, farms have been sold and homes built until very little of the original properties are still owned by descendants of the original settlers.

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