

HISTORY QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Who was responsible for a fire that destroyed a shed and hay in Butlerville on November, 3, 1887?

ANSWER

A very destructive fire destroyed sheds, a wagon, thirty tons of hay, straw, chaff, etc., which belonged to William McGhie Jr., the Justice of the Peace and Postmaster of Butlerville.

The fire was started by two careless or thoughtless neighbor boys, one of whom was his own grandson, who after kindling the fire beneath one of the sheds, left it and went to his home without saying anything about it. The McGhie farm was located on the Butler Bench (on the south west corner of what is today Fort Union Boulevard and Wasatch Boulevard) and his house was some distance away, located on the banks of Big Cottonwood Creek on the "Old Mill Road." Consequently, by the time Mr. McGhie was aware of the fire it was totally beyond control.

This was very devastating for Mr. McGhie as he made his living cultivating gravelly ground, and that which was consumed constituted a large share of his crops for the season.

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