

MILLEN DAN ATWOOD

Written by: Cora W. Atwood
daughter-in-law

Spouse
SARAH WANLASS

Millen Dan Atwood was born on the 16th of May, 1853, just two and one half years after his parents, with members of his father's family, emigrated to Utah. His parents were Miner Grant Atwood of Mansfield, Connecticut and Mary Delilah Guile Atwood, born in Plainsfield, Connecticut. His parents were baptized in 1849, and left the following year for Utah. They arrived in October, 1850.

Millen Dan's father was always busy in civic and church callings and was one of the first handcart missionaries, laboring in his native state of Connecticut.

When Millen was nine years old, his father left for a mission to Capetown , South Africa and was gone for three and a half years. His mother now had five, children. four girls and one boy, and had to work hard to support herself and her family while her husband was gone. She made quilts, soap and candies to supply the necessities of life.

Millen was the only boy, a brother and a sister died as babies. Millen and his sister, Isora, used to herd the cows upon the foothills, where the Salt Lake Cemetery is now located. one day the let the cows get down into a man's cornfield and he refused to let them have the cows until their father had paid five dollars for damages. Money was very scarce and hard to get but the five dollars was paid. No doubt the children watched the cows closer after that.

Millen grew up like other pioneer boys. He learned early in his youth to be frugal and saving. His mother related this little incident of the Lord's goodness to her. It was while her husband was on his mission. Millen was very sick an she had not bee able to make candles and the last one had burned out. She was holding her little boy Millen, in her arms by the fireplace, in the darkness. All of a sudden he went stiff and she thought he had passed away. She raised



up and sprinkled shavings on the fire to see if he was still alive. He was, He was, and she thanked her Father in Heaven for sparing her only son.

When Millen grew older, he went to work in a lumber business which was owned by Romney and Armstrong. He worked here until he moved to the farm in Pleasant Grove. It was while working for Armstrong that he became acquainted with Sarah Wanlass. She too was employed at the Armstrong home.

Their friendship ripened into love and they were married on the 8th day of October 1877. On the 13th day of June, 1878, they were sealed for time and eternity in the old Endowment House.

December 1885, Millen Dan bought an 80 acre farm in what is now the Manila Ward, in Pleasant Grove. He purchased it from life brother-in-law Moroni Preece. This land was patented on February 10, 1883 by Cyrus Hawley who sold the 80 acres to Moroni

MILLEN DAN ATWOOD

Preece, on the 16th day of October 1883.

In October 1887, Millen and his wife with their three sons, Millen William, born the 4th July, 1878, Francis Dan, born 12th June 1882, and Lawrence Miner, born the 4th March, 1886, moved from Salt Lake City to the farm.

Only 20 acres were cultivated at that time., The house was of logs, two rooms with a lean-to at the back, which was used for a kitchen and, an upstairs where the boys slept. The ceiling was of a factory material which sucked up and down when the winds blew.

Three other children were born to Millen Dan and his wife Sarah. They were John Leslie, born 26th May, 1889, Sara Delilah, born 15th March 1892, and Ardena Jane, born 5th March 1898.

His son Lawrence, in writing his own autobiography, tells instances of his early childhood, one of which will be included here as it gives a picture of their early family life on the farm.

“My mind often turns a to the times when Father and we boys would sit around the family hearth of the kitchen stove and he would tell us of old Prince and Dandy, his team, and how he started the box car with one mule. Of his days in Cottonwood Canyon, and as he did so he would lift the lid off the stove and add more wood to the fire, which he had provided in the absence of coal, which was looked upon as a luxury. I can see Father now after he had been up to the mouth of the canyon hunting water and chopping ice on those wintry days, when the steers were in need of water and he hated to turn them down to the spring because they would run the fat off which he had worked so hard to put on.

His beard would be full of ice and the disappointed expression on his face made even we small boys feel that all was not well”.

Farm life was quite different from living in the city, but he was used to hard work and made a success of it.

He was prominent in helping to build up the community and country in which he lived.

The only public building here at that time was the one room red school house which was just south of the farm. Here they held Sunday School, and dances and special occasions, as Millen mentions in a small notebook which as survived the years. This little book also has the accounts of the school board at that time. He was a Trustee for five years. It was during this time that the Central School, now converted into the 3rd and 6th Ward Chapel, was built.

He mentions that they started to take the Deseret News on December 10, 1889 and on nickel Sunday they collected \$4.90. Under the date of 1891 he has men's work records at the time when they began to build the meeting house so he probably was in charge of the work. He donated the ground on which the church is built. He also participated in the erection of both the erection Fork and Pleasant Grove tabernacles.

Millen was a good hard worker. Besides farming his ground he pastured some cows and horses. He also went into the livestock business. As the years went by and they became more prosperous, plans were made for a new brick home.

The east part of the house which was built by old man Hill and his son, two English bricklayers, consisted of a large kitchen, a closer, a pantry and one large room on the south which was used as the parlor. The house was built of the best material to be had. The log house was still used for bedrooms. The woodwork in the parlor was very fancy and later it had an exminister carpet, an organ and when the electric lights came out a nice chandelier was put in the center of the ceiling.

Four or five years later when he had saved up some more money, the old log he se was moved out north for a barn and three more large brick rooms were added in its place. The brick of this part was laid tip by Paulson brothers and the carpenter work done by Swen Monson. The house still stands on the hill today and has been occupied for the last 45 or more years by his son Lawrence and his family. The high ceilings have been lowered and some other changes made inside, but the house outside still stands the same. It is 60 years or more since it was built.

Millen Dan as a man of large stature, He stood 6 feet

MILLEN DAN ATWOOD

4 inches in his stocking feet. Tall and straight not fat but weighed around 220 pounds. All his adult life he wore a mustache and beard. He always kept it well trimmed and his appearance was very stately. He had a disposition which endeared him to all who knew him.

When laboring in the Alpine Stake as a Stake Missionary, he won the love and admiration and lasting friendship of all the people he visited. He was a good speaker with a strong deep voice and could easily be heard. I've heard his wife tell how he'd go outside and call to the neighbors, a half mile away, and invite them over for supper.

I never remember seeing him wear an overcoat. In the coldest weather you would see him in just a sweater and that seldom buttoned up. His wife had poor health and when I was 13 or 14 years of age I used to go down and help her. He would jokingly tell me "Cora, you can have any boy I've got." He liked to jest with the young people. When he was in the Bishopric he never forgot to call on the young people when he conducted the meeting.

He served in many church capacities. While living in Salt Lake he was 2nd Counselor to Joseph Coulam in the 9th Quorum of Elders.

counselor in the Ward Bishopric. This position he still holds. When the Alpine Stake of Zion was organized in 1901, he was set apart as a member of the High Council in said Stake by Apostle Heber J. Grant. Elder Atwood has followed the avocation of stock raising and merchandising, and acted for a number of years as vice-president of the Pleasant Grove Mercantile company.

LDS Biographical Encyclopedia, Andrew Jenson, Vol. 2, p.26

Atwood, Millen Dan, first counselor to Bishop Charles P. Warnick, in Manila, Utah county, Utah (Alpine Stake of Zion), is a son of Miner G. Atwood and was born in Salt Lake City, May 16, 1853. He was baptized when about eight years old by his father and ordained an Elder, in 1878, by Bishop Alexander C. Pyper. In 1887 he removed to Pleasant Grove, Utah county, where he still resides, and where he filled the position of Ward teacher for many years. He has also been a diligent Sunday school worker and been a home missionary both in Utah and Alpine Stakes. In 1898 he was set apart as second counselor to Bishop Charles P. Warnick of the Manila Ward by Apostle Reed Smoot, which position he held until 1902 when he was promoted to the position of first