

## EARLY SETTLERS OF HIGHLAND – CHARLES T GREENLAND

My Grandfather by Charles T Greenland

Charles T Greenland was born in Cwm Celyn (a suburb of Blaenavon), Monmouthshire, Wales April 13, 1864, the sixth child of Henry Eates and Hester Ann Tapper Greenland. His father worked at various jobs, including agricultural laborer, ostler (one who takes care of animals down in the mines), brickyard worker, iron worker, and coal miner. They moved around a lot, which is evidenced by the fact that each of their children were born in a different place.

Charles began school at the age of three and went to work in the coal mines at the age of eight. His father would carry him on his back to work. A law was passed making it illegal to work in the mines until you were twelve, so he went back to school until he turned twelve.

The Greenland's were baptized into the LDS Church in the early 1860's and Henry came to Utah in 1881. He worked diligently and sent for Charles and one sister in early 1882 and the remainder of the family came in late 1882 and they settled in Winter Quarters, Utah where they worked in the coal mines.

On of the pastimes of Charles and his friends was to go to the train depot when the trains came in so they could see the new emigrants. One time they were there when the Potter family arrived and when he saw their daughter, Rachel, he told his friends "she is the one for me". They were married within a year or so.

Rachel Potter was born February 1, 1864, the second child of Sampson Edgar and Sarah Chatterton Potter in (according to her birth certificate), Slack Brow, Kersley, Farnworth, Bolton, Lancashire, England. Her family was quite mobile also, but didn't move very far from her birthplace. She began working in a weaving factory at the age of nine. She was so small that they had to put her on a stool so she could reach the loom. She worked part-time and went to school part-time until she was thirteen then worked full time until she was twenty.

The Potter family was baptized into the LDS Church in 1879 and sailed to America in 1884, settling in Winter Quarters also. They crossed the plains by train and at more than one stop they heard fellow travelers remark "there go some more wives for Brigham Young".

Charles (he was always called Charlie) and Rachel were married December 2, 1885, traveling to Logan, Utah, about 250 miles in winter by horse and buggy. They then set up housekeeping in Winter Quarters. They had two sons, born in 1886 and 1888, then three daughters, born in 1891, 1892 and 1895 that all died in infancy. They later had two more sons and three more daughters who all survived to adulthood. (ed note: Winter Quarters is a short distance from Scofield and in the Scofield museum there is a hand-drawn map of Winter Quarters and one of the homes is identified as "Greenland")

They had several encounters with Indians which scared Rachel, but nothing serious happened. One time (in 1901) she was bathing her baby when an Indian woman appeared at her door wanting to see the white baby. After a few minutes of admiring the baby, she took her own baby from her back,

held it out to Rachel and said “trade, trade”, a word the Indians all knew. Rachel quickly and firmly told her no and sent her on her way.

Charlie was working in the Scofield mine at the time of the tragic explosion on May 1, 1900. He describes it this way: “I hope I never have to see anything like that again. There were two hundred men killed in the explosion (ed note: actually 217) and one was my brother-in-law, Matthias Patterson. I was not down in the mine at the time, but was working as a weighman on the tipple. My job was to keep a record of the cars of coal that came from the mine. A short time before the explosion, I got writer’s cramp in my hand and rather than stay home, as we needed the money, I went to work inside the mine. I had just returned to the tipple a day or two before the explosion. I was very thankful that I was not down inside at the time or I would have been killed too.”

After the explosion in the mine, Charlie lost enthusiasm for mining and tried farming in areas of Emery and Carbon county. Then in 1906, they moved to Highland and purchased thirty acres on the west side, where Freedom Elementary now stands and south from there to 10000 N, where he farmed and raised chickens, cows, and pigs.

There were two homes on the property, one where the school is and the other at what would be approx 6730 W 10133 N, with barns, coops and stack yards across an irrigation ditch to the east of the home. Charlie and Rachel lived the remainder of their lives in that home. Charlie died in 1937 and Rachel in 1945.

Five of their seven children have made Highland their home at one time or another. John was the proprietor of “Johnny’s service station and candy store” on the corner where CVS Pharmacy now stands. Nephi, Rachel, and Henry all lived for shorter lengths of time and Clarence, my father, married in 1920 to Maud Miller and occupied the home where the Elementary school stands then built a home at what is now Paradise Circle, 6570 W 10400 N.

Charlie and Rachel were active in the LDS Church all their lives and participated in the Ward organization in 1915 and he was involved in the music-leading the choir, etc. Rachel worked mostly in the Primary Organization and they both sang in the choir and also sang duets. Clarence became Ward Clerk in 1919 and held that position until 1956. The Highland Historical Society museum, in the Highland Community Center, contains many artifacts from their home.