

The oldest home in Highland and some of its occupants
By Charlie Greenland

The oldest, continuously occupied home in Highland is located at 10595 North 5600 West. The name on the mailbox is Wignall but they wouldn't talk to me so I couldn't verify their occupancy. The home was built in 1910 by Boise and Emma Miller Wells. Boise (pronounced Boyce) was a prosperous sheep rancher who had a number of herders working for him, and the herd manager was Charlie Parker. Emma hired her niece, Luetta Miller to keep house for her and she and Charlie met, courted and were married in 1915 and built a two room cabin in the orchard on the farm.

On October 23, 1918 the flu epidemic took Charlie, leaving Luetta with 2 young children. Boise then asked his brother-in-law, Martin George Miller, (Luetta's father) to take Charlie's place, and by Thanksgiving he had moved his large family in with Boise and Emma. In a few weeks Boise moved his family to American Fork and the Miller's remained in the home until 1923 or 1924 then moved to a home on the Alpine highway (5340 W 11200 N) and lived there until 1934. Luetta moved her cabin to a ten acre farm next to her parents.

The Miller family had traveled long distances before they settled in Highland but was an integral part of the community once they arrived.

Martin was born in Mt Pleasant, Utah Territory on December 17, 1868 to Martin and Christinia Peterson Miller. When he was three months old his family moved to Lehi, Utah where he grew up. In the spring of 1889 he had a job in Salt Lake working on a canal. Ephraim Williams was the contractor in charge and he had a daughter named Emily Lavina and they soon met and were married July 3, 1892. Emily was born August 15, 1872 in Mill Creek, Utah Territory to Ephraim Henry and Almira North Williams.

The couple lived in Lehi for their first nine years then they moved to Magrath, Alberta, Canada where the government had opened up land for homesteading. George, his father and brothers all took their families and went to take up land.

By 1910 they decided they'd had enough of harsh weather and failed crops so moved to Salt Lake County, living in various places in Mill Creek and Holladay in the vicinity of Highland Drive and 3900 South. George went to work for the Salt Lake Brick Company. In 1917 he quit work and took up farming full time, then in 1918 came to Highland, as above.

The Miller family was diligent in the LDS Church, filling many, varied positions-Emily was Relief Society president for five years, 1922-27. They had eleven children, Luetta being the oldest, then Fern, Jessie, Myra, Eugene, Maud, Della, Lloyd, Ruby, Grant and John. Eugene, Grant and John died as infants. Six of the children lived in Highland after they married. Myra was the fifth missionary to be called from the Highland Ward, serving in the Central States in 1921-1922. Maud married Clarence Greenland and lived the remainder of her life in Highland. Fern (Kirk), Della (Hatch) and Ruby (Wight) lived here for shorter lengths of time.

The Millers moved to American Fork in 1934 when George's health began to fail. He battled cancer for a while and succumbed to it April 9, 1937. Emily died in American Fork April 13, 1962.

Other occupants of that home have been Ephraim and Alta Adamson Nash, Oscar and Nida Adamson Hall and Ellsworth (Bud) and Lucille Hardy (who moved there in 1946).