

History of Andrew Hill Burt

Andrew Hill Burt was born in Dunfermline, Fifeshire, Scotland, October 21, 1828. He was a son of Andrew and Isabella Hill Burt.

His father was a sheep man & Andrew & his father also worked in the coal mines.

The family heard the Gospel preached in their native land and were converted to its principles. They were all baptized. Andrew being baptized by his friend and companion, John Sharp, in May 1848. Soon after their conversion it was the desire of the family to come to America, and to Zion. So, in the fall of 1849 they left Scotland and set sail for America. They landed in New Orleans and then sailed up the Mississippi River to St. Louis where they stayed about a year and a half. He worked in the Coal mines there during that time. Then they joined the Company of James Monroe and arrived in Salt Lake in September of 1851. He worked in the Church quarry under Bishop Sharp for a while and then settled in Brigham City where he remained until 1856. Then at the time of the Echo Canyon war, Andrew was called by Brigham Young to be Major over a picked company of 60 men. He served on many expeditions for the protection of the people.

In the meantime his friend, John Sharp, had become City Marshall and he appointed Andrew Burt Chief of Police in February of 1862. John Sharp, after a short time, retired, and Andrew Burt was elected to the office of Marshall. He was also Fire Chief and Inspector of Provisions.

About this time the City was growing rapidly and the 20th ward was becoming so big that it was deemed advisable to divide the Ward. So, on July 5, 1877 the 21st Ward was created and Andrew Burt was sustained as Bishop,

On April 13 1867 he married Mary Ann Lucas, in the old Endowment House. There was born to them 7 daughters and 1 son. The last one, Hazel was born 6 months after her father's death.

Andrew Burt also had two other wives, and my Grandmother was the third wife.

He-- had a total of 24 children.

When he was appointed City Marshall he moved his wife, Mary Ann, and their children to the 2nd floor of the old jail on first south, where my Grandmother did all the cooking for the inmates of the jail and, was responsible for them all being fed.

Andrew Hill Burt died on August 25, 1883, at the age of 55. He was Marshall at this time and his untimely death came at the hands of a negro assassin who shot him down on Main Street, This shooting, as far as we know, caused the first and only lynching in Salt Lake City.

The story of his death and subsequent lynching of the Negro is recorded on microfilm copies of the Salt Lake Tribune, Deseret News Weekly, in the Brigham Young University Library.

About noon a colored man named Sam J. Harvey, went into the F. H. Grice Restaurant and drew a revolver on him. Mr. Grice got the man out of the place and telephoned to City Hall for officers to come and arrest him.

.. Marshall Burt and Charles H. Wilkins, Water master, were the only officers there and so they started down the street to the restaurant. Mr. Grice saw Harvey standing on the street with a gun in his hand and he pointed him out to the officers. Harvey saw them and raised his gun and shot. Mr. Wilkins jumped forward and caught Harvey who fired again, the bullet passing through Wilkins left arm. Harvey was about to fire again when others came to the rescue, took the gun and got the man down. While this was going on few people realized that Marshall Burt had been shot, and had struggled into the drug store and had fallen dead on the floor. A short time later his body was brought out of the store and the remains sent to the residence of his family. The appearance of the body on the street caused great excitement and people became

possessed with the thought of lynching the assassin. However, the police officers arrived and, took Harvey off to City Hall. The crowds followed: and. their numbers swelled by the hundreds . When they reached the jail, they shouted for 'the prisoner to be brought out so. they could lynch him. The' jail door opened for Some of the officers to- come out, and the negro stepped out also and was knocked down kicked, and stomped on and was beaten . A long rope was: found and put around his neck. He was drawn up and hung until dead.

My grandmother and her children all stood watching all this without knowing that the man had shot and killed their father. The funeral for Marshall Burt was: one of .largest. in the City and was held in the Tabernacle. Joseph Smith, John Taylor and John Sharp spoke at his funeral.

In closing I would like: to relate a short story. A day or two before this all happened Marshall Burt related to some of his officers a dream he had had the night before. He said I thought there 'Was a disturbance somewhere on the street and went to see about it. On the way to Main Street, Charlie Wilkens caught up with me and went along. We went to the corner and a big black man came at me to shoot me. Charlie made a jump to save me but didn't succeed and. when the fellow shot a sensation passed through me, giving me a shock which woke me up."

Marshall Burt joked. about this dream to Mr 'Wilkin. making good natured remarks about his not being able to save him.

My Mother told me, that even though Andrew Burt was Marshall, he never carried. a gun, which proved to be true, on this occasion, as he went to arrest this armed man without carrying any kind of a weapon.

His faith in God was implicit. and he never set out to perform his duty that was thought to be hazardous, without imploring for divine protection, which he always got until the afternoon of the shooting when for a wise purpose, the power that gave him life suffered it to be taken by the hand of an assassin.

Andrew Burt was the first Officer killed in the line of duty in Salt Lake.