

Orrin Alonzo Perry (KWJT-3CG)

Early History of Perry, Utah

Contributed By [CoryStimpson](#) · 2013-03-18

Perry, located in eastern Box Elder County, directly south of Brigham City, Utah. The Bear River Valley, in which Perry is located, is one of the prime agricultural areas of Northern Utah. Perry is bordered on the east by the Wasatch Mountains and on the west by the shoreline of the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge. It was an area of about 9 square miles with a population of 1,550 in 1992.

In 1851, the same year that Box Elder (now Brigham City) was being settled, Orrin Porter Rockwell and his brother, Merrell, laid claim to some land lying about 2 1/2 miles southwest of the center of Box Elder. It was adjacent to a large spring known to this day as Porter Spring. The Rockwell's made no improvements on their land, although they claimed it for a number of years. The reason they never occupied the land may have been the danger of Indian raids. Porter Spring was a great camping place for both emigrants and Indians in those early days.

Early in the spring of 1853, Mormon pioneers began to settle on the land in the area. William Plummer Tippetts and his family, Lorenzo and May Wray Perry, along with Gustavus Perry and his family set claim to land in which became the center of town.

Three Mile Creek was the name given to early day Perry as it was just three miles from the center of Box Elder to the small stream which furnished water for the settlers.

While surrounding communities were building forts to protect themselves from the Indians, the residents of Three Mile Creek made friends with them. The Indians would bring wild game and trade it for what was called "white face bread" and they taught the settlers to cure and tan deer hides to make covers for their feet.

There was a small settlement of Welsh people midway between Three Mile Creek and Box Elder. Among the first settlers were Benjamin Jones, Kidwalendar Owens, David Peters, Thomas Mathias, and John Roberts. They chose to meet with those living in Box Elder in 1868 when the two communities joined together and organized a Sunday School.

Thomas C. Young Sr., Robert Henderson and Alexander Perry, known as "The Scotch Boys," settled to the north of the Tippetts and Perrys.

The first brick school building in Box Elder county was built in Three Mile Creek in 1874. It was erected ostensibly for a meeting house, but was used for school purposes also.

In 1899 a new meeting house was erected, a two story building 32 X 60 feet with a tower and large double doors on the west. The building was constructed under the direction of Bishop James Nelson at a cost of \$5,000.

This building has seen several additions and when a new LDS meeting house was built in 1874-1975, it was sold to a theatrical group and is now home to the Heritage Theater. Live productions delight people throughout northern Utah each month.

From the beginning, lack of water kept back the growth of Three Mile Creek, as there was much more land than water. In the fall of 1894 a reservoir was partially completed at the head of Three Mile Creek Canyon. Before the project was completed, frost stopped the work and winter set in.

The next year no work was done to finish the dam, but being a low water year, nothing happened.

In June 1896, a rain storm before the snow was all gone, caused a heavy flow of water into the reservoir which resulted in a terrible flood. Homes were lost and farms were covered with mud, gravel and trash, but no lives were lost. In 1923 a series of cloud bursts caused a second flood out of this same canyon. Damage was not quite as great this time.

When the railroad passed through the western part of Three Mile Creek in 1868-1869, it brought much needed revenue to the residents, who hauled timber and telegraph poles from the canyon. Some men made as much as \$30 a day. The railroad also paid high prices for goods. Hay sold for \$50 a ton. Grain, eggs, and butter were also very much in demand.

In May 1898 the name of Three Mile Creek was changed to "Perry" in honor of O.A.Perry who had served as an LDS Bishop for almost 20 years.

Population at the turn of the century was 261 souls, (50 families).

In the spring of 1905, residents of Perry built their own electric company with Vinson F. Davis as president, at a cost of \$2,399. They erected their own lines and strung their own wires. The company was purchased by the town in 1912. In the winter of 1950 it was sold to Utah Power and Light.

Water, or lack of it, continued to be a major problem. In 1902 the Three Mile Creek Irrigation Company decided to pipe water from the mouth of the canyon to the settlement for irrigation purposes. When the Pine View Canal was built from Ogden to Brigham, farmers could increase their orchards and plant row crops. Hundreds of acres of arid land was then reclaimed.

Agriculture consisting of family dairies and fruit orchards was the leading industry in Perry City. A creamery was built at the Barnard White farm and 1910 a cannery was established to take care of the counties summer harvest, peas, tomatoes, carrots, beets, etc. Facilities were also set up for shipping the excellent fruit grown in this region to all parts of the United States. This improvement gave work to those in the community and surrounding areas.

In 1909 the Inter-Mountain Nursery was established on 40 acres of the Brigham Nelson Property. Growing and grafting to make a better variety of fruit trees: pears, peaches, and apple, the number of trees reached a half million, supplying trees for many orchards in the area. F.T. Troxell was president with Brigham Nelson and M.J. Thorne as vice presidents, E.M. Tyson, secretary-treasurer, and E.F. Whaley as superintendent.

A culinary water system, providing water to each home was put into operation in 1911. The water came from mountain springs and later from wells.

Population in 1958 was 500. At that time Perry City's growth began, orchards giving way to housing areas, and dairy farms becoming fewer in number. The character of the town changed from a rural community to a suburban community whose residents commuted to Ogden, Brigham City, Thiokol, Morton International, and other areas of employment.

With this growth, the small three-room school house built in about 1910 was enlarged. In 1961 six classrooms, along with a multi-purpose room and kitchen made it a modern school.

The modern day Perry City is a progressive community, looking to the future in it's development. In 1973, a sewage disposal plant was begun and in 1981 an addition was made to accommodate the growth.

The city has three parks, one with ball diamond and a bowery, one with a children's play area and small bars and the third is a nature park with a horse riding arena and in the winter an ice skating rink.

Andrew Jenson, Encyclopedic History of the Church...

“That part of Box Elder County now included in the Perry Ward was first settled by Orrin Porter Rockwell in 1852. He laid claim to some land lying 2 1/2 miles southwest from the center of Brigham City, but made no improvements. Hence the real settlement of the locality did not take place until the spring of 1853, when William Plummer Tippetts with his family arrived and built a small log house. Other settlers arrived later, and the place first became known as the Welsh settlement, but later as Three Mile Creek. The early inhabitants belonged to the Box Elder (later Brigham City) Ward for a number of years. In the spring of 1854 Gustavus A. Perry was appointed president of the branch; he was subsequently succeeded by Asahel Thorne, who in turn was succeeded by David Osborn, who was succeeded by Henry E. Perry, who died May 19, 1875, after which Orrin Alonzo Perry took charge of the little settlement until Aug. 19, 1877, when the saints at Three Mile Creek were organized as a ward, with Orrin Alonzo Perry as Bishop. He was succeeded in 1896 by James Nielsen, who in 1905 was succeeded by Morris R. Peters, who in 1914 was succeeded by Heber W. Perry, who in 1924 was succeeded by Leroy D. White, who presided Dec. 31, 1930. The Church membership of the Perry Ward on that date was 282, including 48 children; the total population of the Three Mile Precinct was 341 in 1930. On March 5, 1901, the name of Three Mile Creek Ward was changed to Perry Ward.”

Nancy N. Tracy, Autobiography, BYU Special Collections, Writings of Early Latter-day Saints, p.22

“As I said, we took tip our march towards the rising sun. It stormed continually. Our outfit for the journey was a meager one. It consisted of one horse attached to the two wheels of a wagon with bed sheets for a cover. The box was seven feet long; so sometimes at night we could make a bed in the cart by taking things out. But we would make our bed outside when the weather would permit. It was tedious traveling. When we got on the Mississippi bottom, it was terrible. It was 9 miles across and took two days to cross. At last we landed in Quincy, Illinois, and found the people very hospitable. They seemed willing to do all they could to alleviate the condition of the Saints. We traveled on up the river about 40 miles and stopped to see what we should do. This was in Adams County. There, five families of us, 3 families named Tippetts and Gustavus Perry and ourselves stopped. We found some empty cabins which the owner let us go into. The place was sparsely settled, but we were glad to get shelter. It was 7 miles to the little town where there was a store and other public buildings. The Saints in general traveled on up the river, but we stayed here one year and raised corn, turnips, and other garden stuffs. Brother John Tippet's wife died here in child birth. Her babe also died, which cast a gloom over us. She was a good woman, and we sadly missed her. I suppose her grave is still alone and unmarked to this day.”

From Susan Easton Black Compilation of Saints prior to 1847

Perry, Gustavus Adolphus (Male)

Birth: Perry, Gustavus Adolphus (Male) Date: January 4, 1797 Place: Wilton, Hillsboro, NH, USA

Parents: Perry, Gustavus Adolphus (Male) Father: Perry, Abijah

Mother: Tippets, Elizabeth

Death: Perry, Gustavus Adolphus (Male) Date: May 28, 1868 Place: Three Mile Creek (now Perry), Box Elder, UT, USA

Marriage Information: Perry, Gustavus Adolphus (Male) Spouse: Wing, Eunice Date: 1816

Children: Perry, Gustavus Adolphus (Male)

Name: Birthdate: Place:

1. Perry, Orrin Alonzo September 11, 1817 Lewis, Essex, NY, USA
2. Perry, Rosalie Alvira November 1819 Lewis, Essex, NY, USA
3. Perry, Melvina Amanda September 11, 1822 Lewis, Essex, NY, USA
4. Perry, Lorenzo May 8, 1824 Lewis, Essex, NY, USA
5. Perry, Henry Elisha August 24, 1827 Lewis, Essex, NY, USA
6. Perry, Lucy Ann May 20, 1839 Hancock Co., IL, USA
7. Perry, Cornelia

Marriage Number 2 Perry, Gustavus Adolphus (Male) Spouse: Jenkins, Sally

Marriage Number 3 Perry, Gustavus Adolphus (Male) Spouse: Wray, Elizabeth

Church Ordinance Data: Perry, Gustavus Adolphus (Male) Baptism Date: 1832

Ordained High Priest Date: 1834 Place: NY, USA Officiator: J. F. Boynton

Temple Ordinance Data: Perry, Gustavus Adolphus (Male) Endowment Date: January 28, 1846
Temple: Nauvoo, Hancock, IL, USA

Endowment Date: January 20, 1846

Endowment Date: March 14, 1960

Sealed to Parents Date: November 15, 1933

1860 Census Box Elder Utah

Name	Age	Sex	Occupation	Place of Birth
Augustus Perry 6?		M	Farmer	N.Y.
Elizabeth	6	F		England
Thomas	26	M		England
William	25	M		Michigan

Sarah	25	F	Michigan
Elizabeth	20	F	Illinois
David	17	M	Illinois

Some Web pages with info.

<http://www.RichardPYoung.org>

Invitation to 200 birthday reunion for Gustavus and Eunice

You are invited to attend a reunion of the descendants of Gustavus Adolphus Perry in commemoration of his 200th birthday and the 200th birthday of his wife Eunice Wing to be held at

PERRY CITY PARK, PERRY, UTAH Friday July 11, 1997 5:00 p.m. picnic Lunch-bring your own- and get acquainted 7:00 p.m. Meeting at which Elder L. Tom Perry will be the featured speaker.

A record has been compiled containing over 9,800 descendants of Gustavus Adolphus Perry and with spouses the number totals over 13,000. Your family appears as indicated on the attached family group sheet. If there are any corrections, please advise Ted S. Perry 1032 North 200 East Logan, UT 84341

Perry City Park is located one block west of the old Perry Church now a theatre at about 2500 South on Highway 89 in Perry. Orrin Alonzo Perry's old homestead is located just west of the Park and Henry Elisha Perry homestead is just south of the Orrin Alonzo Perry homestead. Gustavus Adolphus Perry homestead is about one and one half blocks west of the Park on the North side of the road.

Lorenzo Perry homestead is over near the old canning factory south of Gustavus Adolphus Perry homestead and directly west from Perry Canyon. Porter Rockwell Springs are about one block north of Gustavus Adolphus Perry homestead on the east side of the old street car right of way.

^ Gustavus Adolphus Perry is buried in the Brigham City Cemetery.