

Martha Hull and John A. Dunkley

John was born in Franklin on the Dunkley 17-acre plot of land to Joseph Dunkley and Margaret Wright on 21 April 1871. Shortly thereafter the Dunkley family moved to a farm north of Franklin on the Cub River where John spent his early childhood. His schooling was in Franklin, Idaho, and at the Oneida Stake Academy in Preston, Idaho.

John was baptized and confirmed a member of the Church on April 21, 1879, the day he was eight years old. This was done by Elder Joseph Dunkley, his father. He was ordained an Elder on April 18, 1895 at Whitney by Elder George T. Benson.



John Dunkley

During John's early years the Dunkley family was very well off financially, homesteading what is now known as the Wickham farm. However, because of financial reverses and the big-heartedness of father Dunkley, it was necessary for the family to go into debt. Not liking to be a debtor to any man, father Dunkley sold his farm, cleared his debts and moved to Whitney. Mother Dunkley hated to leave the farm

in Franklin, and John, seeing his family's dilemma with financial problems, made up his mind to do all that he could to ensure that he and his family would never have to worry over such matters.

John must have had a happy childhood, as all the brothers and sisters were congenial to one another.

Their English and Scottish heritage must have been a good combination because they seemed to have a close knit family. Ruth, his daughter, never heard her father speak negatively of any of his brothers and sisters. In fact, he always tried to speak well of any of his associates.

John married Martha Isabelle Hull on 24 February 1897 in the Logan Temple. Martha is the daughter of Robert McClellan Hull, Sr. and Mary Ann Chadwick.

She was born in a little two-room log house that stood just east and across the road from Roy Hull's barn. She was blessed by William Pratt on December 7, 1876 at Franklin. She had dark brown hair and dark eyes. She looked more like her mother than any of the other girls.

Martha

Martha learned to ride a horse while young, as this was almost the only way of conveyance. She was quite an expert horsewoman. She was also very apt at milking cows. In fact, anything she undertook to do, she did it quickly and well. She held various positions in the Church and community, being postmistress at Whitney for a time. Her first office began when she was 14 years old in 1890 and was that of assistant secretary of the Sunday School. She served in this calling to her brother, Robert M. Hull, in the Whitney Ward for three years. She was ward choir organist from 13 November 1896 until 1900 and ward organist for years afterward.

She was selected 28 May 1897 as second counselor in MIA to Barbara P. Ballif, president, and first counselor to Amy C. Ballif. She held these positions until she was chosen president of YW MIA on 16 November 1899 and held that office until she left her home in Whitney for her first mission in November

1902. She was again sustained as president of YW MIA in 1905 until December 1916. She was also a teacher in Sunday School during most of her time.

John and Martha became the owner of "the old rock home," which is now one of the oldest standing homes in Whitney (owned in 1990 by Pearce family). It was probably built by John and later (a little after 1910) sold to his brother, Lester Dunkley. According to the book, *The Trail Blazer*, Whitney had some very productive farming land, most of which was used for sugar beets. "The first beets in Whitney were planted in the spring of 1899, and John shipped the first load to Weber County, Utah, and received \$4.25 per ton. The first car on which the beets were loaded held 15 tons, the weight was estimated by John and the agent."

John purchased an interest in a section of land on the sand ridge west of Fairview, Idaho. He sold that section of land and bought a farm west of Preston (west of Bear River). He then traded this farm for a herd of fat, Durin cattle which he sold in Ogden. The buyer asked John to buy more cattle and bring them there for sale, an event which was to provide an opportunity for John to become one of Whitney's wealthiest businessmen. John became a full-fledged cattleman, buying cattle in Cache Valley, Gentile Valley, and Star Valley in Wyoming. At times, he purchased a whole trainload of cattle, costing as much as \$50,000.

As the cattle business became more prosperous, John purchased two farms in Whitney, one farm in Weston, a dry farm in Blue Creek, and a cattle farm in Cub River. John amassed a fortune of about \$100,000, which considering the times, was an immense sum.

William Poole states, "Now Uncle John, I think, was as honest a cow buyer as I've ever been with. I have even been with him riding up to Soda and he'd say, "William, we should go right over there to that house because I owe him a little money." So, we'd go over and he'd get the man out and he would say, "Here, I made just a little more money than I figured I would on your cattle, so this is the difference I want to give

you." I have been with him many a time when he's given the cattlemen back some money. He used to say, "I buy enough cattle, so if I make a dollar a head clear, that's plenty of money. So, Uncle John would take some money back to a person that he really didn't owe."

With all of the responsibility which fell upon John's shoulders in caring for his large business enterprises, he never lost sight of the spiritual needs of life. John's leadership and organizational abilities were of great value in the building up of the Church in these early pioneer days.

John and Martha served in many different positions in the Church. They presided over the YM MIA and YW MIA in the Whitney Ward several years. John was a High Council member in the Oneida Stake and after making his home in Logan, was president of the High Priest Quorum in the Logan Fourth Ward. At one time the Mutual presented them with a ring with the MIA initials engraved on it. Much of the well-known musical talent of Whitney had its foundation in the early ward choir, which won first place in a choir contest, including all of Cache Valley. John was president of the choir and a participant at the time. He loved to sing. Martha Evans remembers him singing all the time and he especially enjoyed singing "When You and I Were Young, Maggie" and "Swanee River."

John and Martha filled two, two-year missions, one to Butte, Montana for six months, and one to Kansas. Martha was considered to be the first lady missionary to leave from Whitney.

On their second return to the mission field they stopped over in Kansas City, Missouri, where President Bennion took them to revisit places of interest and some of their old friends. They also had the privilege of speaking in the new chapel at Independence, Missouri. They visited Niagara Falls on the way out of New York. On arriving at headquarters where President Walter Monson presided, they were assigned to labor in Baltimore, Maryland.

On May 21, 1917 while in the Eastern States Mission, John received a letter of appointment from President Monson stating that he was to preside over the Maryland Conference. At the inauguration of President Woodrow Wilson in Washington, D.C., Senator Smoot presented them with tickets admitting them into a house where they and 20 other missionaries watched the four hour parade.



John and Martha were not blessed with a family of their own, so they wanted to adopt a child. While they were in the mission field they were trying to adopt a little boy, but something happened and it didn't work out. They were so thrilled to finally find a baby girl to adopt, which they did and they named her Ruth. Ruth was born March 19, 1922 in Salt Lake City and was their pride and joy. She was adopted four months after she was born on 27 July 1922. She was blessed with the same time as Lucy Tanner.

John and Martha lived in Whitney all their married life until, in 1923, they moved to Logan, Utah, where they resided and were active in Church work. She was president of the religion class in Logan Ninth Ward until the religion class joined with the Primary association in 1929. She was also active in genealogical work in the ward, being on the committee there for a number of years. John died at the age of 61 in Logan, Utah, December 9, 1932.