

ROBERT WILDING WIDDISON

Robert Wilding Widdison was born 13 May 1877, in Salt Lake City, the third child and the second son of William Livingston Widdison and Mary Alice Wilding. Robert lived in Salt Lake and attended school there until he was eleven years old. In the fall of 1888 his parents, along with others, were called to settle the Snake River Valley country. Robert and his brother William, rode horseback all the way and drove the loose cattle, the remainder of the family riding in a covered wagon. Camping each night to let the cattle rest, they were more than two weeks on the way.

Robert's father took up land on the Teton Island under the Timber Act. So many trees had to be planted and there are still a few of the trees on the old Widdison farm, that were planted then. Canals had to be built, fences put up and sagebrush grubbed from the land before it could be plowed and irrigation ditches dug.

One of the first things to be done was to dig a deep well to draw water for themselves and their stock, although the first winter they melted snow for their use. Robert, with his father and brother Will, had to go to the hills and cut down logs, which they hauled to the farm, to build their first home. It was a two room log house with a dirt roof. They had to cut, trim and saw the logs. After the house was built, they hauled logs for stables and poles for fences. Each load took several days.

After they had cleared the land in the spring and plowed it, the grain had to be sowed by hand. This Robert helped to do. He was now twelve years old. That first year, the work on the canal hadn't progressed far enough to get water to their grain. The seed had come up well but it burned badly, and they had a light harvest.

Robert had a good tenor voice and sang at the community entertainments. His father played the violin and their home was a popular meeting place for the young folks. They would roll back the rug and dance to the violin music.

Robert helped to haul the logs for the old log meeting house and school house and attended school there. He also attended Ficks Academy for a short time. He was a Deacon, Teacher, Priest and served in the YMMIA. He was a High Priest at the time of his death.

On 11 October 1899 he married Elizabeth Jane Berry, daughter of James E. Berry and Elizabeth Grace Doull. They were married in the Salt Lake Temple. They built a home on the forty acres now owned by Leland Widdison. This was their home for sixteen years, when they acquired a dryfarm and traded the farm in Hibbard to Lewis Bird for a home in Newdale.

Robert Wilding Widdison was a farmer, Marshall of the town of Newdale, and the latter part of his life was spent herding sheep. He died at the Dee Hospital of a heart ailment 31 July 1958 at the age of 81. Elizabeth Jane Berry Widdison passed away at the Dee Hospital, following a stroke 25 November 1962.

Children born to this couple were:

Robert Preston	born 14 July 1900	married	Gaynel Maud Neibar
Flora Elizabeth	" 9 August 1902	"	Wallace Hansen and Lee Stoddard
Thomas Newel	" 25 July 1905	"	Mina Salome Clark
Ruth Berry	" 28 November 1907	"	Philemon Ray Clark
Rulon B.	" 1 April 1911	"	Marie Rider Holman
Ardine	" 18 February 1914		Died 8 May 1914
Ienna	" 24 August 1916	"	Alton John Hull
Max Berry	" 12 January 1921	"	Vera Jane Suiter