



RICHARD DUNWELL MAXFIELD
AS A YOUNG MAN

Richard Dunwell Maxfield

From History kept by Helen A. Maxfield

Richard Dunwell Maxfield, the second son of Sarah Elizabeth Baker and John Ellison Maxfield was born 5 May 1831, at Wilmot Creek, Bedeque, Prince Edward Island, Canada. He was undoubtedly christened after his great grandfather, Richard Maxfield of Full Sutton, Yorkshire, England, and his Uncle Richard Maxfield.

During his schooling he became proficient in the science of mathematics which was later to be of value to him in his production and sale of lumber. He gained practical experience in the lumber business, while

a youth, as his father owned a sawmill on the Island, which at that time was densely covered with

various kinds of trees.

Richard left Prince Edward Island in 1850 with his father's family and his uncle's Richard's and William's families for the Great Salt Lake Valley.

While crossing the plains he and his brothers delighted in riding swiftly after the buffalo and when near it, they used a large knife to hamstring it, thus saving their ammunition. They were able to secure game and fish in goodly supply so that with the provisions they brought with them, they did not lack for food on the journey.

Richard helped his brothers build the first road into Big Cottonwood Canyon, where they owned four sawmills. The mills bore the following designations:

Mill "A"

Mill "B"

Mill "C"

Mill "D"

The territories where the mills were located are now U. S. Forest Reserves, but they still carry the same names.

He owned Mill "B" and also one at Argenta.

Argenta was at that time (1860), a milling and mining town of several hundred people. It was located near the Maxfield Mine, on what was known as Argenta Flat.

It is recorded that in 1856 the snow was five feet deep at Mill "B" and the previous week on December 14, 1856, an avalanche of snow carried the large double log house that was near the mill downhill 150 yards and pitched it into the mill pond.

He became so expert in measuring lumber that it was possible for him to look at a load on a wagon and without pen and paper correctly estimate the total footage. He was requested by Brigham Young to select logs to be converted into lumber for the Salt Lake Tabernacle.

When word came to the Saints who had assembled at Brighton for a gala time that Johnston's army was nearing Salt Lake, Richard was busily supervising the laying of lumber for a dance floor.

Richard married Artemissa Ann Harris on October 31, 1854, and they established a home on their farm in South Cottonwood just east of South Cottonwood Church on Vine Street, east of Ninth East. To them were born six boys and two girls.

On April 5, 1862, he married Ellen Didamia Thompson and they became the parents of nine children.

He served two missions, one in 1870 in Illinois, Iowa and Missouri: and another in 1885.

Soon after he left for his second mission, Artemissa died, he was unable to get home for her funeral.

Three of Artemissa's young sons went to live with their sister, "Molly" (Mary Ann).

Richard was first counselor in the South Cottonwood Ward Bishopric. Bishop Andrew Cahoon and William Boyce served with him. At that time, it was known as Cottonwood

Ward. It extended from the Mountains on the East, -to the Jordan River on the West, Mill-Creek on the North and to Draper on the South.

He contributed two teams one summer (oxen and mule) to haul granite for the building of the Salt Lake Temple.

In 1890 he bought a sawmill in Nebo, Utah and later moved it to Spring City, Sanpete County, Utah. He sold it to two of his sons, George and Lewis.

Prior to that time, however, he, with a brother, took a contract to construct the railroad in Echo Canyon° Here they spent five years in freighting, hotel keepint, etc. They possessed four blacksmith shops and employed eight blacksmiths.

His wife, Ellen, died March 5, 1909, at Linden, Utah. He was then 78 years old and when he became too old to care for himself, he went to live with his daughter, Molly (Mary Ann). He remained in Molly's home until his death on July 9, 1916. Internment was in the Murray Cemetery.



His descendants say of him, "He was a good husband and a kind and gentle father."

"He was a goodhearted man; always helping the unfortunate. He gave many tons of grain, flour, and potatoes to the needy. He was a very prosperous man."

RICHARD DUNWELL MAXFIELD
A FEW YEARS BEFORE HIS
DEATH

FROM RICHARD DUNWELL MAXFIELD'S DIARY

January 3, 1870, Richard Maxfield in company with Brother Alma Pratt started on his mission to the States, traveling by train from Ogden, Utah, to Bluff, City, Iowa.

"Got in Bluff City Sunday evening and stayed at A. W. Maxfield's.* Tuesday we went to Minturn's. Abraham and wife and Aunt Eliza* went with us. Went to Emily Bethers* Wednesday.

On Thursday, Abraham took us to Minturn's had a good time, then went to Peter's, * then to William's * and back to Peter's. Was very kindly received by all and stayed among them till Tuesday 20th. Then Peter took us back to Bluff City. Got dinner at Abraham's. Then went to Mailin Bethers,* and stayed overnight. Friday morning, Mailin and Margaret * went with us to Sarprize (Surprise) county in Nebraska to see Lish (Charges Fish) and Barbash* (Barbara) Maxfield's family.

Names of Peter Maxfield's family:

Wife - Sophorana Estella Mott Child - Frank, 2 years old

Names of Abraham Maxfield's family:

Wife - Clarricy Clinton

Children - Francis Clinton Maxfield, 2 years Ann Eliza Maxfield, 4 years

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Names of Children of Barbara Maxfield Lish (Fish):

Wilmot Lish (Fish)

Orpha Lish

Webster Lish

Husband - Charles Lish or (Fish)

--We then left for Fort Madison where Alma Pratt's relatives lived.

--"We went to Montrose and from there went over the river (Mississippi) in a skiff to see Nauvoo.

"There we saw many interesting sights. We viewed the ground where the Temple once stood and the Nauvoo house that stands on the banks of the Mississippi River. The walls stand good and was intended for a beautiful building. These scenes brought many feelings that were not pleasant. We saw many buildings built of that beautiful, polished stone that once stood in the walls of the Temple. Do they enjoy these buildings? No." "Vengeance is mine and I will repay sayeth the Lord."

*A. W. Maxfield - Abraham Wiggins Maxfield, son of Richard Maxfield and Eliza J. Parrott.

*Aunt Eliza - Eliza J. Parrott, wife of Richard Maxfield

*Emily Bethers - Emma Ann Maxfield, daughter of Richard Maxfield and Eliza J. Parrott.
MD. Francis Marion Betherds,

*Peter - John Peter Maxfield, son of William Maxfield and Sarah Ann Picketts

*William - William Henry Maxfield, son of William Maxfield and Sarah Ann Picketts

Mailin Bethers - Mahlon Collins Bethers who married Margaret Maxfield, daughter of Richard Maxfield and Eliza J. Parrott

*Barbash & Lish - Barbara Ann Maxfield, daughter of William 'Maxfield and Sarah Ann Picketts, married Charles Fish. (The name is given as Fish in the history of William Maxfield).

Francis Marion Bethard or Bethers' and Emma Ann Maxfield's family came to Utah in 1872.

All of William Maxfield's and Sarah Ann Pickett's descendants remained in the East.

Could Minturn be the married name of Hannah Marinda Maxfield, daughter of Richard Maxfield and Eliza J. Parrott? Does anyone know?

"A son of Richard Dunwell Maxfield and Artemissa Ann Harris, also named Richard Dunwell, homesteaded what is Richard Dunwell Maxfield known as "Maxfield Lodge," Big Cottonwood Canyon, in the year 1892 as near as we (Lois Maxfield Recore and Jo Maxfield Renders) can place the date.

At that time the two, father and son, were working a sawmill on Mill "C" Flat when the younger man decided he would like a permanent home in the canyon, so he decided to homestead enough land to farm, as his was an agriculture homestead.

This was before the government had made a survey or set the canyon aside for a National Forest. He has to hold it several years before he was given a title to the land.

In the days of the Stagecoaches going to Brighton our place was considered the halfway place to stop and feed horses and for the passengers to have lunch.

After the Automobile there wasn't very much doing until 1933, when the daughter's husbands started the present Lodge. At this writing, 1963, a son of Richard and Mary lives just above the lodge.



AT MAXFIELD LODGE

A picturesque haven of delightful rest;
 An emerald in a setting rich, sublime;
A masterpiece by nature at her best;
 Kept perfect by the faithful hand of time.
Her flowers and ferns caress the purling streams
 As in our first fair Eden--so it seems
Here weary souls again renew their youth
 And find new proof of God's eternal truth.
At Maxfield Lodge.

A paradise embraced by towering peaks
 That lift their regal heads toward the sky;
In might and majesty, each monarch speaks
 Of greater beauty in a world on high;
And bright reflections from God's Golden scroll
 Kindles new life and love in every soul;
At Maxfield Lodge.

--Minnie J. Hardy

Ref: From History kept by Helen A. Maxfield.
Family records.
Church records.
Lois and Joe Maxfield