

## History of Koosharem

In 1874, Peter Rasmussen of Salina, Utah, in company with Frands Peterson and John Christensen, was called by President Joseph A. Young of Sevier Stake to settle Grass Valley.

They explored the country for several days and made surveys to see if it was possible to bring the water from Otter Creek upon to the bench land. After a careful consideration it was decided to build a town where Koosharem is now located.

Koosharem, Sevier County, Utah, is located in a small valley in the tops of the mountains, about thirty five miles south east of Richfield, Utah. The valley is called Grass Valley because of the abundance of grass found here when it was first settled. The town received it's name from the Indian word meaning, "red clover".

Three or four log cabins were built in the fall of 1874 which served as a home for the first four families who came in the winter of 1875. The families were Peter Rasmussen and family, Frands P. Petersen and family, John Christensen and his Mother Karen Neilsen and another family. (Not certain as to the name)

A little farming was done in 1875 to 1877 and it was irrigated by the Koosharem creek. As more settlers moved into the valley it was decided to build a canal from Otter Creek, tapping the creek a little north of the Cedar Grove. This was built in the fall of 1876 and the spring of 1877. In 1878 it was extended and built a mile and a half south of town. In 1878 there was about two hundred acres of land under cultivation.

Peter Rasmussen was Presiding Elder Until 1877 when a ward was organized with Joseph Wright as Bishop, Peter Rasmussen as first counselor, and Peter C. Anderson as second counselor, with Lennert Gabriel DeLange as ward clerk. The ward was without a clerk until 1878, when the DeLange family moved to Koosharem.

In the spring and summer of 1878 eight families moved in from Ephraim Utah.

A move was made to build a larger canal so that more land could be cultivated. Niels M. Petersen was engaged to make a survey and superintend the work. Work of construction was commenced in the late autumn and the water was turned in June 1879 but it wasn't used until 1880.

The summer of 1879 was exceptionally dry and very few crops were raised. The following winter was very severe and is still spoken of as, "the hard winter". Cattle had been grazed in the foothills but this year the feed was covered (the snow was as deep as the fences were high) and nearly all the livestock perished.

When the Ward was first organized both Grass Valley and Rabbit Valley belonged in the same ward. Rabbit Valley was to the east, now, Wayne County.

The spring was cold and discouraging to the settlers and in May, Apostle Erastus Snow visited them in Company with the Stake Presidency of Sevier. His visit was appreciated, his kind fatherly advice was gratefully received by them and he blessed the valley; the land that it should be fruitful and productive; the water, that springs and streams might increase; the climate to moderate and the frost to be stayed so that the people would by able to raise sufficient crops for

both man and animal. These blessings have since been fully realized.

My Father, Sisson Jacob Hatch, was about the fourth child born in Koosharem. Lennert Gabriel DeLange, is my Grandfather on my mother's side.

The Cedar Grove, just north of here is one of our most important land marks, because it was here that the Black Hawk War Treaty was signed between the whites and the Indians.

This grove is a bunch of Cedar trees located in a meadow of wild hay. It makes a very striking view to the passerby.

This is one of the most beautiful little valleys I have ever seen, and many others express the same thought. From the mountain roads the valley appears to be a large checkerboard, the fields, meadows, pastures, and uncultivated land forming the squares of the board. These squares are of many different colors and hues.

The water for drinking purposes and household use is piped from a Spring north east of town, called Brown's spring.

Both of my parents, and all of my eleven brothers and sisters, and myself, were born and raised in this beautiful Valley.

( Information secured from Brother Peter E. Olson) History written by Vilda Josepha Hatch Erekson