

NORMAN WARD
A Biography by Rueland Ward

The following is a short biography of what records we have found and what I can remember about my father, Norman Ward.

Norman Ward was born in Davis County, Utah on March 29, 1884 to Samuel and Catherine Norman Ward. He had four brothers and two sisters: Charles, Simeon, George and Samuel, Sarah and Catherine. They were all born in Utah.

His father was a brick maker and quite a talented man. We found a record that stated he made the first sulfur matches in Utah.

Dad was never a person to say much about himself so I only know what I have heard about his younger life. Uncle George said he was a very strong young man and was always able to stand up for his rights. He was a hard worker and well liked. He walked about a mile and a half to school and was only able to go through the first six grades. His father died on the 20th of April 1894 and a year or two after this they moved to Mink Creek, Idaho. I have heard Dad and Uncle George talk about Mink Creek but we have not been able to find any records of Dad being there. Uncle George said they farmed there for a few years. In 1907 they moved to Marysville, Idaho where they found work. On June 2, 1909 Dad married a sweet young lady whom he loved very much. Her name was Luella Green. They were married in the Logan Temple. They lived in Marysville for a while and Dad worked for Singleton's. He also drove four head of horses on a stage coach through Yellowstone Park. He told some very interesting stories about the people, bears, and his team.

In 1913 Dad went to Badger, Idaho now known as Felt, where he filed on a homestead of 157.24 acres, on May 27, 1913. After doing some work that would give proof that he would work and live on the ground, he was able to have the title and full ownership on 27 September 1913. We have records of this transaction. In 1917 Dad bought land from Adolphus Hendrickson and where I was born. In 1922 Uncle George became a partner in said property with Dad. Sometime during the depression in 1932 or 1933 Dad lost the original homestead to the mortgage company. He was unable to make the payments because of high interest rates and high prices of supplies.

Four daughters and three sons were born to the family. The last child was stillborn, a daughter, and Mother died on February 18, 1928. This was a shock that changed Dad's life.

He was elected county commissioner and attended his first meeting in November of 1933. While serving as county commissioner he spent several nights in the county jail. He would ride the train to Driggs. The meetings were held in the afternoon and evenings so he would sleep in the ladies jail because the beds were better and then ride the train home the next day.

On April 18, 1934, Dad married Grace Bloomfield. We knew something was up some time before this. He came home late one night and drove the old ford car into the garage and when he yelled, "whoa", it did not stop. He pushed the end of the garage out.

Grace was not very happy living on the ranch with 3 boys and a little girl and Uncle George as part of the family. Dad sold his part of the ranch to Uncle George and moved to the Richard's place where he farmed. Maxine went with them. Grace did not want any of the rest of us. On November 14, 1936 Dad, Grace and Maxine moved to Washington. Roy and Thelma brought their truck to move them. They moved on a piece of property that Grace owned just out of Winlock, Washington. It was a heavily wooded area called St. Urbon. There was a long chicken coop they converted into a home until Dad and his neighbors were able to construct a home. St. Urbon was an old German Catholic community of very kind, friendly and caring people. They lived here about two years when

Dad decided to move to a farming area around Yakima somewhere between Grandview and Prosser in the late summer of 1938. He started farming and bought his first tractor. He had a few head of cattle and some pigs. They lived in this area for about 5 or 6 years.

He worked as a night watchman for the power company in 1943 or 1944. They then moved to Carnation, Washington where Dad and Maxine both went to work for the Boeing Aircraft Company in Renton, Washington. From there they moved to Auburn which was much closer to Boeing. Dad continued working there until the war ended.

For the next few years he worked for Roy Hendrickson, Thelma's husband, on their dairy farm and other farms in the area. Then, with ill health taking its toll, he retired and moved to Orting, Washington where he had a small home and a good sized lot for gardening. They lived there until his death on June 29, 1965.