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Biographical Sketch

of

A. K. Thornton

Pioneer Year 1853

Captain Appleton Harmon Company

Born: 6 Apr 1847 in Ayrshire, Scotland

Married: Elizabeth Miller, 1868

Died: 1864

A. K. Thornton was born Ayrshire Scotland, April 6, 1847 his parents being William and Mary Kennedy Thornton. The father was a weaver by trade in Scotland and becoming a convert to the faith of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Satins, made his way to America Shores and thence travelled across the Country to Utah, making the trip over the plains with the Company of Captain Appleton Harmon. In this party were the parents and their six sons and a daughter. They buried two daughters before leaving Scotland. They landed in Utah in the year '53, remained in Salt Lake City one winter. The Following Spring took up their abode in Cottonwood going to Mill Creek in the succeeding fall. They next came to American Fork the following Spring and Mr. Thornton, the Father, took up the trade of weaving, which he had learned in early life, also became owner of a farm, but his sons largely had the care of the same. He died in 1864, while his wife survived him for a number of years.

A. K. Thornton, the subject of this sketch, obtained his education in the common schools of American Fork, attending until he reached the age of seventeen years, when he began driving a four yoke team of oxen from the Salt Lake to Helena, Montana, hauling supplies to the miner. Then he also made trips to Virginia City, Montana, from Helena and down the Missouri River, from which point he returned to Salt Lake. At times he drove a seven yoke team of oxen, being an exceptionally good driver for a boy of his years. He likewise devoted his attention to teaming and to mining and there lived a very active life. He entered mercantile circles in connection with Joseph Shelly, with whom he was thus associated for a few years.

In 1868 Mr. Thornton was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Miller, who was born on the Missouri River while her parents, Mr. And Mrs. John Miller, were en route to Utah. Her father, who was a farmer by occupation, died soon after the arrival of the family in the state. Mr. and Mrs. Thornton have become parents of three sons and six daughters, twenty-two grand children, also four great grand children. Mr. Thornton, a stalwart advocate of Republican principles and for four years served as a member of the City Council but prefers

that his public service shall be done as a private citizen rather than as an office holder. He has always given his attention and energies to business affairs with the result that success has come to him in substantial measure. He is now a director of the Bank of American Fork, with which he has been identified from its organization and is the President of the Lumber Company.

Whatever he has undertaken he has accomplished and he is ever ready to encouraged and aid others in life's journey. He and his family occupy an attractive home which was built in 1915 and is the abode of warm hearted hospitality.