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## CHURCH HISTORY

Most of the activities of the early community, as well as today, were centered around the church.

Sunday School was begun in 1871 at the home of John Sluagh and in 1880 before the ward was officially organized in Lindon, it was held in the Nerdin log house under the direction of George Ash and Alfred Harper. Members of the church were still required to make the long trip into Pleasant Grove to attend their Sacrament meetings. It was not until ten years later in 1890 that a ward was formed and was known as the Pleasant Grove Second Ward. James Cobbley was appointed Bishop of the newly formed ward with Alfred Keetch and Robert Thorne as counselors and Joseph William Ash as ward clerk. The boundary lines of the new ward were as follows - North boundary, Pleasant Grove City limits as it stands today, South boundary, to Provo Canyon Road and west to Utah Lake.

The new ward required a new meeting house, no immediate steps were taken by the members to construct a church. Joseph William Ash donated the site of ground and under the direction of Alfred E. Culmer as architect, construction commenced. Every able bodied man and boy participated in whatever manner he was able to in order to erect the building. Adobies for the walls of the meeting house were constructed right on the church grounds. The clay was hauled from the foothills by a team of horses. Frederick W. Page worked on this construction. His horse pulled the mill that mixed the clay for the adobies.

In December of 1890 the building was far enough completed that a dance was held, and proceeds from the dance were turned over to the building fund and shortly after in 1891 the church was completed.

Reed Smoot of the Twelve Apostles offered the dedicatory prayer. Alfred E. Culmer, who so dilligently over-saw the completion of the chapel. His funeral was the frist to be held in the new church.

It should not go without mention that Joseph William Ash, who so willingly donated the building spot for Lindon's

first chapel, saw a need for further beautification and he planted beautiful trees and shrubs on the church grounds. Some of the original trees are still standing. The John Fugal home stands there today and part of the original fence encircles the lot.

The original church had an upper gallery above the front door. Curtains were pulled to form a classroom and the arched windows provided the light. In the main hall were two pot-bellied stoves in opposite corners of the room that provided the heat for the building. The benches ran all the way across the room with the aisles on each side.

Later, an addition of five large classrooms was added. Also a basement area was added. The middle section on the main floor was sloped upward to form a choir section with the pulpit in the center.

Harold Walker remembers well passing the Sacrament with a pitcher and a mug. They would pass the two-handled mug to each row, each person taking a sip from it, then passing it to the next person. When it was empty, they would refill the cup and pass it to the next row.

The original tithing office was located one-half block north of the present city park. It was a flat roofed building. All of the tithing book work was done there. On the same grounds there was a tithing barn, a potatoe cellar and a grainary where the produce paid for tithing was stored.

In Ezra Walker's tithing account, it was interesting to note the amount and cost of his produce that he paid for tithing. An excerpt from his account--

1894-97		
Sept. 16	1640 lbs wheat @1¢	--- \$16.40
Dec. 31	1 sheep @ \$2.00	--- 2.00
Dec. 18	8 lbs. turkey @10¢	--- .80
Dec. 23	10 lbs. chicken @ 8¢	--- .80
Sept. 12	1500 lbs. potatoes @ 12½ pr. bu	3.12½

This is very typical of the way tithing was paid int the early days of the church.

In the fall of 1941 the Lindon church was condemned and was torn down, Plans were laid to build a new one. As a temporary meeting place was needed, the school board granted permission to meet in the school house. Meetings were held there for nine years.

A building lot was purchased west of the school house on May 31, 1947. The ground breaking ceremony for the church was held on April 6, 1949 with Ezra F. Walker and George Shoell, The two oldest residents of the community breaking the first ground. Raphael Rogers was there also to help, he being a resident of long standing in the ward. President Merrill N. Warnick and counselors were also in attendance, as were man others.

It was difficult to raise the money in the hard times after World War II and it required several assessments to reach the goal \$40,000.00 recalls LeGrande Ercanbrack who was bishop at that time. The fund had been started ten years before, but had been very slow coming in. This is why they had to meet in the school house for nine years.

The Bishopric had done much sweating as to where the next thousand dollars was coming from, but little by little the faithful building committee was able to collect a little more and a little more until through the leadership and co-operation of the Bishopric and all organizations of the Ward, the chapel was ready to be dedicated on March 23, 1952.

The building was dedicated by President Joseph Fielding Smith of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles.

All of the ward members who could gave of their time to help build the church. The Plew Construction Co. was hired as general contractors. Many men worked under their supervision. The brick work was done by LeGrande Ercanbrack, Clifford Johnson and Ovid Jeppson. Leon Walker did the Electrical work and Ovard Co. of American Fork were the Heating and plumbing contractors.

The cornerstone of the new church contains a sealed copper box. In it are the names of every donor to the church and other church records.

The first division of the ward came in 1915 when the Pleasant Grove <sup>Lindon</sup> Second Ward was divided into the <sup>Lindon</sup> Windsor Ward and the Lindon Ward. The dividing line was on 20th north between Lindon and Orem. Charles Johnson was sustained as the Bishop of the newly created Windsor Ward, which not long after became part of Orem Stake. <sup>Lindon and</sup> <sup>IN 1946</sup> AND NAMED Windsor Ward

Due to the rapid growth of the town, the ward was again divided, effective January 1, 1954. The new ward became known

as the Lindon Second Ward and the dividing line was Highway 91. Ray Walker was made Bishop of the Lindon Ward and Orvil Bawden was made Bishop of the Lindon Second Ward.

During this time a new addition was added to the south of the present building. The ward was their own contractor. They hired and sub-contracted out the work the members could not do themselves. LeGrande Ercanbrack again did the brick work. He recalls that the new addition cost about the same as the original part - the ward's share being about \$40,000.00. The new addition included a large recreation hall, kitchen, restrooms, a scout room, a new Relief Society room, two Bishop's offices and several new class rooms.

At the same time the old recreation hall which was at the back of the chapel was remodeled into a multi-purpose room and an overflow room for the main chapel. A Junior Sunday School room and class rooms were added above this part of the building.

In June of 1970, the Lindon Ward was again divided. The new ward is known as the Lindon Third Ward. The dividing line was on Second East street. Tyler Rogers was made Bishop of the Lindon Ward and Douglas E. Nielsen was made Bishop of the new Lindon Third Ward.

On October 10, 1970 Timpanogos Stake was divided and the Lindon wards became part of the newly formed Pleasant Grove stake. Our former Bishop Leon Walker was made the new Stake President with former Bishops Kenneth H. Gillman and T. Ardie Adams as counselors.

The Bishops who have served in the various Lindon Wards are as follows -

1890-1904 - James Cobbley, Bishop. Alfred Keetch, Robert Thorne and William Cullimore as counselors.

1904-1938 - Albert Cullimore, Bishop. John C. Coulam, John Y. Walker, Lester G. West, Ezra F. Walker, Albert Anderson and Charles J. Cobbley as counselors.

1928-1934 - David B. Thorne, Bishop. Charles J. Cobbley, Robert Walker, James Wright and D. G. Hare as Counselors.

1934-1937 - Charles J. Cobbley, Bishop. Leonard S. Walker, William Dittmore as counselors.

1937-1941 - Leonard S. Walker, Bishop. William Dittmore and Wrenard Tomlinson as counselors.

1941-1944 - Jesse K. Thorne, Bishop. C. C. Wright, Richard Cullimore, Alroy Gillman and Leon Ivie as counselors.

1944-1949 - Alroy Gillman, Bishop. Joseph Ash, Edwin Oscarson and W. D. Chapman as counselors.

1949-1954 - LeGrande Ercanbrack, Bishop. Leon Walker, and Joseph Swenson as counselors.

1954-1957 - Ray Walker, Bishop. Cecil Bullock, Terry Chidester and Willard Johnson as counselors. (Lindon Ward)

1954-1957 - Orvil Bawden Bishop. Preston Atwood, Willis Larsen and Reed Gillman as counselors. (Lindon Second Ward)

1957-1965 - Leon Walker, Bishop. Wendyl Jarvis, Ted Young and Morley Keetch as counselors. (Lindon Ward)

1957-1965 - Kenneth H. Gillman Bishop. Max T. Edwards and Nyle F. Harris as counselors. (Lindon Second Ward)

1965-1970 - Morley B. Keetch, Bishop. Blaine Batty and Clyde Wall as counselors. (Lindon Ward)

1965-1971 - Lowell Gillman, Bishop. John Dean Adams, and Marion K. Johnson as counselors. (Lindon Second Ward)

June 1970 - Tyler Rogers, Bishop. Mack Ostergaard and Donald Holdaway as counselors. (Lindon Ward)

June 1970 - Douglas E. Nielsen, Bishop. Leo Carter and Blake Spencer as counselors. (Lindon Third Ward)

Oct. 1971 - Nyle F. Harris, Bishop. Alan Marchbanks and Ronald Brown as counselors. (Lindon Second Ward)