

## History of Don Henry Bassett

Don Henry Bassett was born December 25, 1877, a few months after his parents, Charles Henry Bassett II and Mary (Molly) Bassett, came from Utah to homestead in Lago. Eventually there were eight brothers and sisters, including two pair of twins.

The first school Don attended was near the Lou Bitton home (originally the Chris Mickelsen homestead). James Elliot was the teacher. He and a few others also went to summer school somewhere on Whiskey Creek. Don attended sixth, seventh, and eighth grades in Pocatello, Idaho when his father was county treasurer and assessor. After the eighth grade he and his sister Hattie went to the Agricultural College in Logan for one half term in the fall of 1896. They came February 25, 1897 to their parent's 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. They went to Richmond on the Interurban, where Roe Harris, brother of McGee Harris brought them the rest of the way to Lago in a sleigh. They could barely get through the deep snow where the Lago cemetery is now. They were homesick and didn't go back to school. Harold went to school in Logan also.

While still a young boy his father drove the stagecoach from Beaver Canyon to Yellowstone. His mother ran a halfway station on the south fork of the Snake River. The mosquitoes were terrific. At that time Idaho Falls was called Eagle Rock. Don enjoyed three summers out there. He fished with tackle left behind by the tourists. A hunter supplied them with meat. They made torches to lure the fish and then speared them.

Apparently life wasn't dull there as he tells of an Englishman who wanted his son to ride a bucking horse. The drivers immediately supplied him with a mean horse and gave the horse a kick to help matters along. The boy was thrown sky high. His father wanted him to remount like a man but the boy said he didn't doubt it was a rare sport, but he'd had enough.

Later Don helped on his father's farm. He continued to fish and he played baseball. They drove a team to Mound Valley and Soda Springs to the dances. He sang in the choir. He likes to tell of going to Mutual when the girls were required to sit on one side of the hall and boys on the other. One night one of the boys sat by the girls and was immediately thrown out by Ben Clegg who was the bouncer. Other things the boys would do to tease Ben were to put the saddle on his horse backwards and stuff a sack in the church house chimney. Pete Anderson was the janitor of the church. Harold and Howard Rodeback took the bell off the Presbyterian Church and someone else put a buggy on the roof.

W.H. and Charles Bassett filed on 160 acres each of dry farm on the Bench and gave it to Don and Harold about 1900.

In 1902 he married Amanda Meacham. For a few years they lived on the farm later owned by Elvin Meacham. He then bought the farm on which he has lived all his life except for the few years they lived on the farm now owned by Elvin Meacham.

He went to the canyon every year in the winter for firewood, fence posts and saw logs. It was hazardous



work and there were many near-tragic accidents. One winter a snow slide buried Don's neighbor, James Fowler for several hours. He was rescued alive but the horses were killed.

Don helped in his uncle's (W. H. Bassett) store for four years. He was Deputy County Assessor for several years. He served on the school board.

Don and Amanda had six children. At this time there are 22 grandchildren, nineteen of whom are living, and twenty-five great grand children. Amanda passed away 17 October 1939 from cancer. Don stayed on the farm with his son Rex and his family. He was very active until he fell from a haystack and became disabled. He is ninety years old now, well and content to take life easy. He passed away 2 May 1970.

Author unknown. Evidently written 1967 since that is when he was ninety years old.

Minor corrections made and put in digital format by Stanley D. Hansen March 2008

