

John & Sarah Ann Thirkell Poole were early homesteaders and the first to build a home in Highland. They were both born in England and immigrated to America as converts to the LDS Church. The Poole family was among the first to move to Nauvoo in 1840. Thirkells came to New Orleans then to Council Bluffs. Both families settled in Grantsville, Utah, where they were neighbors and the two married in 1854. For the next twenty years they lived in Weber County then in Salt Lake City. They moved to Highland in 1874 with nine children. Their home was built in 1875 close to the center of his 160 acre homestead at the Northeast corner of 10400 N and 6000 W, near the Lehi ditch. The home was built of adobe with lumber on the inside of the walls and was said to be approximately 11 feet by 14 feet while other accounts say it had two bedrooms. Four more children were born to the Poole's after their move to Highland so it would have been pretty crowded in any case.

In 1877 there was a severe drought and Lehi said "no more water for Highland". John Poole was one who defied them and used the water anyway, leading to the lawsuit which gave Highland water rights.

In 1879 tragedy struck the Poole family when 3 of their children died of Diphtheria within a week of each other. One year later a 6 day old baby died also, then another year later their oldest son, John, was killed in an avalanche in American Fork Canyon where he was working at the Pittsburg mine. It took almost 2 weeks to find his body. The five children are buried in a plot on their property, which has been preserved to the present (2016).

By 1884 the Pooles's had become disenchanted with the Church and decided to move to California where they stayed for about 12 years then moved back to Salt Lake City in 1896. John died in 1898 and Sarah in 1917 after she helped organize the Unitarian Church.

