

The Three Bar Dairy  
By  
David K. Larsen

In December of 1965, my family attended the Highland Ward for the first time. My parents had just completed a new home overlooking Mitchell Hollow on 9600 North. During our first meeting my Father addressed an elderly woman as Aunt Lee.

Later I asked Dad who she was, he said “that is my great aunt Mary Lee Myers.”

The story begins in 1893. Mary Lee’s Father, Lawson Green Wilson, and his family had joined the LDS church in North Carolina. Lawson was a veteran of the Civil War serving for the Confederacy. After joining the Church the Wilson family received persecution from their family and neighbors. Feeling the great inspiration to gather to Zion, Lawson and his family left from South Carolina where they were recently forced to move. They left from the station where the Battle of the Cow Pens was fought. They arrived in Highland in 1893, where Lawson rented a house and farm close to where the John Jonsson farm would be located at 10250 North 6500 West. Lawson had a large family. One daughter, Mary Lee, married George Myers in 1895 (one of the original homesteaders in Highland). Myers lost his first wife and three daughters to the diphtheria epidemic in 1894. Mary Lee had seven children with George and would live in Highland for the next 75 years.



Pioneer life was not easy in early Highland. Elmina Wilson, Lawson’s wife, was faithful to attend all of her meetings at the Highland Branch. His other daughter Jenny (Elizabeth Jane Wilson) married the good looking man Elisha Peck Jr. from Lehi—after a stormy off and on relationship. Elizabeth’s husband bought a large farm in Highland which included both sides of Mitchell Hollow around 9600 North. In 1920 when Elizabeth’s daughter, Elmina Jane, married Linel John Larsen from Spring City, the newlyweds made a deal with Elmina’s Father, Elisha, to purchase part of the farm in Highland of 100 acres.

Elmina and Linel formed a new dairy named the *Three Bar Dairy*. Linel’s father, Daniel Wells Larsen, over-saw the milk processing in Lehi (located on the west side of 1<sup>st</sup> East and State), across the street to the east they constructed a two story barn for the cattle during the winter. The barn still stands today and is part of the Nook and Cranny Antique store. Linel’s brother in law, Lester Ross, managed the farm and cows in Highland, and Linel directed sales, delivery routes, and trucks for the dairy. The Three Bar Dairy delivered milk to Lehi, Sandy, Bingham Canyon, Copperton, Lark, and Midvale. According to Bonnie Miner and Relva Laney the ice cream at the dairy was a town favorite. My father, Keith Larsen recalls keeping a team of horses and a sled at the bottom of Bingham Canyon to deliver the milk during the winter.

During this time Lester and Eudora built a home in the Hollow just north of 9600 North. They had a large family of eight children who grew up in the Hollow. Eudora’s home in Highland did not have running water or power. Eudora’s family hauled water up from Peck’s dairy just over the bench in Lehi. Charlie Greenland recalls looking down the hollow from 10400

North and seeing the hay derrick and his father telling him that was the Three Bar Dairy. A great love developed between Linel's and his sister Eudora's families that lasts to this day.

Both mining and agriculture were depressed in the 1920's and 1930's. In the 1930's, along with the Depression the summers were very dry and hot. Many of these years the Three Bar Dairy bought hay off train cars from Idaho before the Murdock canal brought irrigation to the family's hay fields.

In 1934 Linel's father, Daniel Wells, unexpectedly took ill and died. This left Linel's and Lester's families to run the dairy. In 1938 Lester fell from a haystack and was injured and died. This left Linel as the sole partner to run the dairy. He continued running the dairy until 1943, when World War II made help hard to find. Price supports and gas rationing and competition from Highland Dairy with disposable cartons forced Linel to close the Dairy. Lester's widow, Eudora, moved her home and family from the Hollow in Highland down into Lehi. Keith and Linel continued to farm in Highland for the rest of their lives.

Today there are fourteen families living in the southwest part of Highland who are direct descendants of Lawson Green Wilson. The Highland South Stake Center sits today on part of the original farm.