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RICHARD HARRISON

Born in England in 1808, a convert to "Mormonism" in 1840 when he accepted baptism at the hands of John Taylor and an immigrant to America in 1843, this veteran had part in subsequent history of Nauvoo, the exodus and the earliest settlement of the Rocky Mountain Valleys. He assisted in the completion of the Nauvoo Temple and received his blessings therein.

Coming to Utah in 1849, he lived at first in the Fourteenth Ward, Salt Lake
City and in 1850 was called on a mission to Southern Utah to help develop the
iron industry, he being an iron-molder by trade. He arrived in Parowan in January
of 1851 and made a farm and built a house there, but in the fall waslcalled by
Elder George A. Smith to settle on Coal Creek (now Cedar City) to assist in
making iron there. He was president of the first company formed for that purpose
and on March 17, 1853 history records that "four hundred pounds of castings were
made from native iron."

Mr. Harrison continued with the iron company until 1859 when he was honorably released. He represented Iron County in the Territorial Legislature in 1855, and was a member of the high council of that stake. In the early sixties he moved to Pinto (now Washington County) where he resided until his death in 1882 an exemplary citizen, faithful to his convictions and to his trust and esteemed by all who knew him.

Copied by Mary M. Urie of Hamiltons Fort, Iron County, Utah, from her fathers journal.