

David Evans Block

By Carl Mellor

In February, 1851, David Evans arrived in Lehi and settled near the rodeo grounds on the banks of Dry Creek. David Evans had survived the Hauns Mill, Missouri massacre on 30 October , 1838, where 16 men, women and children were brutally murdered by angry Missourians. Evans had openly pleaded with the vigilantes not to kill the Mormon group.

In May, 1851, Evans was in charge of digging a seven mile ditch from the mouth of American Fork Canyon to supplement the water for irrigation.

In 1854, he laid out the first streets in Lehi, within the walls of the fort, using a pocket compass and a carpenter's square.

David Evans was the community's spiritual leader. In 1852, an indian "Yan Tan" delivered a letter from Brigham Young to David Evans. Young told Evans that the Indian was to be treated with kindness, provided with food, and that a home for the Yan Tan and his friends should be built.

On the northwest corner of the Evan's block, an adobe home, 42 feet long by 16 feet wide was constructed. Here Yan Tan and other Indians were housed and fed for several years until an Indian died in the home. Indians then would no longer stay in the shelter and it was used for homeless and or new arriving emigrants.