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A History of Utah's First Playground

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A HISTORY OF UTAH'S FIRST PLAYGROUND

A Thesis Presented to the
Department of Recreation Education
Brigham Young University

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Arts

by
DelMar P. Williams
May 1969
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

History is a written account of past events, a record of human progress and experience; it generally deals with those events affecting nations and peoples; and it is usually accompanied by a philosophical explanation of the causes behind the events. It is a guide to progress and an aid to civilization. (15;356)

During the 19th century, the machinery of research was improved and history underwent a revolution. Many faithful workers devoted their lives to collect and produce material that now fills our libraries. They made it possible for present day students to produce research in a few days that took historians years to produce. (6;596)

Even though some historical research has been done in the field of recreation, many areas and important events in the history of recreation have been overlooked or undiscovered.

The establishment of children's playgrounds under municipal or private auspices marked the beginning of a transition in public recreation from a concern only with the establishment of areas and facilities to the provision of supervision of activities and organization and promotion of recreation programs. The first of these playgrounds of record in the United States, was in Boston, in 1885, when a voluntary organization, borrowing the idea from Germany, arranged a pile of sand to be placed in the yard of the
Parmenter Street Chapel. That summer, children came there, "dug in the sand with their little wooden shovels and made countless sandpies, which were remade the next day with undismayed alacrity." (18;90,91) This little playground project is now recognized as the beginning of the organized recreation movement in the United States.

In 1865 in Salt Lake City, Utah, Mark Lindsey established a playground known as Lindsey Gardens. It was this information that interested this writer to do a historical research on the history of the Lindsey Gardens and see if it meets the qualifications of a supervised and organized playground. If so, then it would become the first playground established in the United States and take on tremendous importance in the history of recreation.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The purpose of this study was to determine and verify the historical accounts that describe and validate Lindsey Gardens in Salt Lake City as the first playground established in Utah and perhaps the first in the nation.

SUBPROBLEM

In order to further substantiate Lindsey Gardens, the following items were undertaken:

1. Research and locate original publications relating to Lindsey Gardens.
2. Look up and interview selected individuals including members of the Lindsey family concerning Lindsey Gardens.
3. Critically validate the information through the historical process of external and internal criticism.
4. Tabulate and analyze the collected material and information and summarize, conclude and make recommendations.

DELIMITATIONS

This study is a history of Lindsey Gardens in Salt Lake City, Utah. It includes how, why, and when it was established and by whom.

This history has been compiled from, (1) records and documents located in newspapers, books, magazines, and other records of that time, and (2) from information received through personal interviews and correspondence with selected individuals including members of the Lindsey family.

LIMITATIONS

This study was somewhat limited by the degree of information available in written documents and printed material. Some of the information was gathered through personal interview with members of the Lindsey family and other selected individuals.

JUSTIFICATION

The foundation of historical research is the reporting of past events "written in the spirit of critical inquiry, to find the whole truth and report it." (8;115)
Gray lists six steps in historical research: first, to select the appropriate topic; second, to accumulate all relevant evidence; third, to take notes on it; fourth, to evaluate critically the evidence you have collected; fifth, to arrange it into a meaningful and clear pattern; and sixth, to "present it in a manner that will command interest and communicate to your readers the fullest possible understanding of the subject." (11;9) Gottschalt's "bare essentials" reduces these six to four: first, the collection of the surviving materials and objects relevant to the subject; second, the exclusion of those materials that are not authentic or reliable; third, the extraction from the authentic material; and fourth, the "organization of that reliable testimony into a meaningful narrative or exposition." (10;28) Hockett, further reduces these historical research methods to three steps: first, "the gathering of the data; second, the criticism of the data; and third, the presentation of facts, interpretation, and conclusions in readable form." Each of these processes has its own techniques and none of them are simple, each requires superior mentality and special training in its advanced form. (12;9)

Historical materials or documents can be classified as primary or secondary sources. Primary sources refer to those eye-witnesses or first-hand accounts, either oral or written, of an actual happening. Secondary sources are
Those which have reference to primary sources, without the historical phenomenon actually having been observed by the author. (1;53)

After the documents have been located, the historian must prove validity by external and internal criticism. Internal criticism is used to determine credibility of statements or materials within the documents, whereas external criticism is used to determine the authenticity of the complete document itself. (10;27)

There has been very little effort made to record the history of Lindsey Gardens in such a manner as to make it permanent. Much important information has probably already been lost pertaining to its origin and development. This history records in permanent form the available material and information concerning Lindsey Gardens.

This study is important to all recreation educators and others who are interested in the history of playgrounds and how they began in the state of Utah and in the United States.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Activity is a medium through which individuals satisfy their recreational needs and interests. Recreational activities are performed during leisure and may be of passive or active nature. (23;12)
Leisure is that portion of time in our lives which is free, nonobligatory, or discretionary. (14;2)

Park is an area permanently dedicated to recreation use and generally characterized by its natural, historic and landscape features. It is used for passive and active forms of recreation and may be designed to serve the residence of a neighborhood, community, state, region or nation. (23;27)

Play is the free, happy, spontaneous natural expression of people which pervades many of the activities of children and adults. (23;28)

Playground is an area set aside and equipped for recreational activities. (7;301) An area or place with facilities for supervised recreation. (20;70)

Recreation is agreeable activity by which persons refresh themselves mentally or physically. (7;336)
CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Recreation and play are probably as old as the human race. Both have played a role of varying importance in the life of all peoples. The earliest known nations had their games, dances, music, and ceremonials just as the savage Bushman engage in similar activities today. The Babylonian, Aztec, Egyptian, Chinese, and other early civilizations have left evidences of varied forms of recreation and play activities. (2;57) Robbins (22;7) has stated all people engage in play and that "play is children's work."

ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS

It is interesting to take a brief look into the patterns of living of early civilized societies with an eye for the attitudes toward and the uses made of play. One of the first historically recorded civilizations to use play and recreational activities for the military good of the state was ancient Persia. The state took complete charge of all boys at the early age of seven and educated them along the lines of physical gymnastics with attendant emphasis on the virtues of honesty, trustworthiness and the showing of gratefulness.

In the ancient Greek civilization, the spartan
emphasis on militerism led to the preparation of strong bodies through the use of play activities. These boys were taken at the age of seven by the state and trained in camps where they were carefully and rigorously instructed in such physical activities as drilling. At the age of twelve they were initiated into the military society and were declared professional soldiers at seventeen.

The Athenians shared the military view concerning play, but they improved it with a strong belief that the well-rounded citizen must not be mere brawn but must also be one well schooled in the areas of art, philosophy, ethics, and statesmanship. The young boys were taught in these main two areas. Instruction was given in the arts in such subject matters as reading, writing, arithmetic, oral singing, and the playing of some instrument as the lyre and flute. Strengthening the body parts included carefully outlined exercises in the palestra or school of gymnastics in a program of free play.

The Romans allowed and encouraged much free play, especially for the children. In later childhood, however, the state insisted upon a program which it designed to prepare a boy's mind and body for the severe conditions of war. They were taught to run and jump both armed and unarmed, to swim, to wrestle, to ride furiously while engaged in sword and spear games.

The decay and eventual downfall of the Roman Empire
brought about the "Dark Ages" and the consequent degradation and misery of the people which made them susceptible to the views of monks and clergy. The view proclaimed that play and recreation were sinful and took the mind from God and preparation for the next world, hence a decline in recreation and play activities.

MODERN CIVILIZATIONS

The scientific attitude of the modern era not only evolved the idea of play as having educational value to the young child, but it attempted to place physical exercise on a scientific basis from the health standpoint. Largely responsible for this latter experiment which resulted in the great national systems of gymnastics in Germany and Sweden were patriotic motives. These in turn have affected the United States and all of Europe. Reducing the body to a machine-like basis are in the main a repressing of natural interest and of individuality which are the faults of such an attempt. "Such a training provides the material for exploitation when a militaristic class or ambition dictatorship gains control." (18;9-11)

UNITED STATES

Like other movements of social significance, the history of municipal recreation in the United States cannot be told fully in terms of a series of specific events which mark distinct stages or periods of evolution. A
combination of ideas, experiments, and developments resulted in the recreation movement. Some of them had little connection with preceding, current or subsequent happenings; others were closely related to each other in time, place, and influence. Events now regarded as significant had only a remote relationship with other events immediately preceding them, yet all of these contributed in one way or another to the growth of the recreation movement in America. (2;58)

IMPORTANT EVENTS IN THE UNITED STATES

Several authors list similar but different events as being the most important historically in the recreation movements in the United States. Butler (2;58-59), Mero (16;241-243), and Meyer (17;inside cover) have listed the following as significant happenings and guide posts in tracing the history of recreation in the United States.

1821 First outdoor gymnasium established in connection with latin school in Salem, Massachusetts.
1825 First outdoor playground and gymnasium with supervision and systematic instruction was established at Round Hill School, Northampton, Massachusetts.
1826 First public outdoor gymnasium was established in Washington Garden, Boston Massachusetts. First college playground and outdoor gymnasium was established at Harvard College, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Appropriation by Yale College for gymnasium with apparatus on the college green.
1826-8 Outdoor gymnasium established at Williams, Brown and Amherst Colleges.

Note.- The foregoing efforts had short lives but are interesting to mark the early recognition
of the need for such work as a part of physical training in connection with educational institutions.

1851 Young Men's Christian Association was established. (3:146)

1852 First public bath house was established in New York City.

1853 The land was purchased for Central Park in New York City.

1866 Vacation school started in Old First Church of Boston.

First free public baths established by city of Boston.


1872 Brookline, Massachusetts, purchased land for two playgrounds.

First National Park was acquired. (Yellowstone)

1875 Boston gymnasium constructed.

1876 Floating summer baths started in New York City.

Washington Park was established in Chicago, Illinois.

1880 First church camp organized by Rev. George W. Hinckley.

1885 First sand garden conducted in Boston.

1886 Boston playground established with leadership (here was the recognized beginning of the present playground movement).

1888 New York put the playground law into effect.

1889 The Charles-bank outdoor gymnasium for men and boys opened in Boston.

1890 First New York City playground was established for parks and playgrounds for children.

1892 A "model" playground established at Hull House, Chicago.

1893 First playground in Providence, Rhode Island was established by Union for practical progress.

1894 First Philadelphia playground established. First Baltimore playground established.

1895 First state legislation passed for the establishment of a county park system in Essex County, New Jersey.

1896 University settlement of Northwestern University, Chicago, opened initial children's playground on extensive scale in that city, equipped with apparatus.

First playground in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania was established by the Civic Club in the school yards.
1898 School buildings in New York City opened as evening recreation centers. First Minneapolis, Minnesota playground in the school yard was established by the improvement leagues. First Denver, Colorado playground on borrowed land was established by Woman's Club.

1899 First municipal playground in New York City. $5,000,000 voted for creation of "small parks" by south park commission in Chicago.

1904 Board of Playground Commissioners appointed in Los Angeles. Formation of the Department of Public Recreation of the American Civic Association, the first organized effort in behalf of playgrounds nationally.

1899 First municipal playground in New York City. $5,000,000 voted for creation of "small parks" by south park commission in Chicago.

1904 Board of Playground Commissioners appointed in Los Angeles. Formation of the Department of Public Recreation of the American Civic Association, the first organized effort in behalf of playgrounds nationally.

1905 Opening of ten south park centers in Chicago.

1906 April 12, was the organization of the Playground Association of America in Washington, D.C., (Now National Recreation and Park Association).

1907 First Congress of play met in Chicago. Opening of "social and civic" centers in Rochester Schools in New York.


1909 Normal Course in Play was first published by Playground Association of America.

1911 Title of Playground Association of America changed to National Playground and Recreation Association of America.

1917 National Playground and Recreation Association of America organized a program for servicemen for the war department, later known as War Camp Community Service.

1919 National Parks Association established.

1924 Conference on outdoor recreation called by President Coolidge.

1926 National Recreation School organized.

1930 Title of Playground and Recreation Association of America changed to National Recreation Association.

1932 First International Recreation Congress in Los Angeles.

1933 Federal Government established first nationwide emergency works program, including expansion of recreation facilities and services.

1937 American Physical Education Association
merged with National Education Association and became American Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation. College Conference for Training Recreation Workers at the University of Minnesota.

1938 The Society of Recreation Workers of America (now the American Recreation Society) organized.

1941 United Service Organizations established for War Recreation Service, Federal Security Agency war recreation program started.


1946 Federal Interagency Committee on Recreation formed.

1948 College Recreation Association established. Meeting of First National Recreation Workshop, Athletic Institute, Jackson's Mill, West Virginia.


1953 United States Supreme Court ruled racial segregation unconstitutional in public parks and playgrounds.

1955 International Recreation Association established. International Recreation Congress held in Philadelphia. National Recreation Month observed for first time.

1956 Federal Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission established.


1959 Title of National Recreation Association changed to The National Recreation and Parks Association.

1966 Parks and Playgrounds

The most significant advances in the recreation movement, with the possible exception of the development of sports and games, were occasioned by the establishment
of parks and playgrounds. Parks go far back in history. European cities were the first in modern times to utilize spaces for parks and gardens, some of which are quite noted for their beautiful landscapes, statues and fountains. Except for town squares and commons, and occasional open spaces, the early American cities and states developed without parks.

Playgrounds are in many ways unique with the United States playing a leading part in the development. "Playgrounds are areas or places with facilities for supervised recreation." (20;70) Mero (16;239) agrees that the present-day conception of playgrounds does not accept as a proper playground those that are not supervised or include systematic work. He states that this distinction must be applied to the term "playground" in making an attempt to outline the history of playgrounds in America. Rainwater (21;13) applies two tests to an event to determine whether or not it marks the origin of a movement, referring particularly to the playground movement. First, was it a conscious provision? Second, was it the first of a series of events bearing a cause-and-effect relation toward one another and performed with the purpose in mind which characterized the particular movement? The priority of time, place, or position is also an important matter to consider. It is difficult to determine the actual beginnings of the playground movement, notwithstanding the apparent simplicity of these
tests. There were many antecedents, and the origin must be looked for in many sources and places.

BOSTON SAND GARDENS

The events generally accepted as distinctly marking the beginning of the playground and recreation movement in the United States was the opening of the Sand Gardens in Boston. There is not as much agreement on the date on which it was established although most experts indicate it was in 1885. Mero (16;242) states it was established in 1887 while Mitchell and Mason (19;37), Steiner (24;14), and Corbin (4;5) all indicate 1886 as the year it was established. Butler (2;58), Robbins (22;13), Neumeyer (20;76), Carlson (3;35), and Doell (5;58) among others point to 1885. However there seems to be some justification in all of these dates. The first establishment of the Boston Sand Gardens taking place in 1885, then having leadership added in 1886; (17;inside cover), and in 1887 the matrons that were employed were paid for the first time (3;35), (13;58). So the selected date of establishment would seem to be decided by where the author places the emphasis.

Even though the establishment of the Sand Garden in Boston is recognized as the beginning of the recreation movement in this country, there are other events which took place before that are regarded as important because
they influenced the recreation life of the people and focused attention upon the value of a public recreation program. (2;59) Most of these important events are listed on pages 10-13, one which is worthy of repeated mention is the purchasing of two tracts of land for playground in Brookline, Massachusetts, in 1872. This marked the first city in the United States to set aside public lands for playgrounds. "The Brookline action failed to be significant to the playground movement, since the provision of apparatus or leadership never materialized." (3;34-35)

Dr. Maria Zakrzewska, a visitor to Berlin, was much impressed by seeing little children playing seashore games in sand heaps placed in public parks. She wrote a letter to Miss Ellen Tower, chairman of the committee of Massachusetts Emergency and Hygiene Association and describe what she had seen. The consequent placing of three piles of sand in the yards of the Children's Mission on Parmenter Street was the beginning of the Sand Gardens in Boston. Interested women were responsible for this start. (19;40)

An average of fifteen children attended this first Boston playground each day, which was open three days a week for six weeks during July and August. "They dug in the sand, sang songs, and marched about under the guidance of a woman who lived in the neighborhood." (2;60)

The idea of sand piles for children was continued in succeeding years and its success is indicated by
the fact that by 1887 ten centers had been opened. Trained
kindergarteners and a supervisor were used to conduct the
play activities, but not until 1893. During the first
few years the sand piles were kept in the mission yards
but were soon replaced by the schoolyards, and in 1894, all
the Sand Gardens (or playgrounds as they came to be called)
were on school property. The Massachusetts Emergency
and Hygiene Association operated the playgrounds with its
own funds until 1899, when the City Council appropriated
$3,000 toward meeting their cost. In this same year
three of the twenty-one centers were equipped with a limi­
ted amount of gymnastic apparatus and designated as
playgrounds for boys between twelve and fifteen years of
age. Although the association continued to conduct acti-
vities at many areas, the Boston School Committee took
over the operation of several playgrounds in 1901.

It is worthwhile reviewing the stages which marked
the evolution of the Boston experiment since it had a
direct influence upon the opening of playgrounds in other
cities and gave definite direction to the development of
the entire movement.

1. Started as a private project, it was later
taken over and operated as a public res­
ponsibility.
2. Financed in the beginning through private phil­
anthropy, support from public funds was
later secured.
3. The playgrounds were originally on private
property but were gradually transferred to
public areas.
4. At first under volunteer leaders, soon matrons
were employed and subsequently kindergarteners
and other trained workers were used as play leaders.

5. The first centers were merely sand piles for little children, but apparatus and areas for older boys were later provided. (2;60-61)

As was previously mentioned the children in the Sand Gardens spent several hours a day in the open space donated to them, and a person in charge supervised their activities. "However, recreation leaders in the modern sense were not provided." (20;76) The Sand Garden space was considered a conscious provision, and was followed by similar efforts. Other organizations in Boston adopted the idea as well as other cities.

Rainwater shows evidences in support of his contention that the establishment of the Boston Sand Gardens in 1885 marks the real beginning of the playground movement, since it was a conscious provision and there was a cause-and-effect relation between this first effort and subsequent events. But we must be cautious in dating any movement; for, while an event may be significant, few movements ever originate from a single effort. (20;76)

A playground is unique in its program and method, and in its construction and equipment of facilities. Usually it has equipment for various forms of play, such as gymnastics, social and aesthetic activities, and games, and sports. Its chief purpose is to provide play and recreation for all ages and for both sexes under trained leadership. The institution of the playground began when space and a program under leadership were provided not when just space was provided for children to play. Accordingly, the Sand Garden, in the strict sense was not a
playground, but was the beginning of a movement that eventuated in the establishment of playgrounds. (20;76)

OTHER PLAYGROUNDS STARTED

With the impetus the Sand Gardens of Boston gave to similar efforts elsewhere, before the end of the century at least ten other cities had established playgrounds. The initiative and funds were provided by philanthropic individuals or social agencies in practically every instance. A playground was opened in 1889 in New York. In Chicago, in 1892 a "model" playground was opened in connection with the Hull House. (2;61)

The interesting part of the beginning of play in the United States is that of the ten cities to first have playgrounds, practically all had independent movements. It was still a score of years after Boston's move before there came the national organization to facilitate, encourage and urge the spread of the movement throughout the country.

The organization in 1906 of the Playground and Recreation Association of America (now called the National Recreation and Parks Association) added impetus to the movement. Twenty-six additional cities established playgrounds during the period from 1900 to 1906, an average of approximately four new cities a year. In the next four years, 1907-1910, eighty-three more cities
were added to the total, an average of over twenty a year and this average continued to rise in the following years. (19;37-38)

SUMMARY

For an event to be recognized as the start of a movement it must meet certain qualifications, such as: being a conscious provision and having a cause-and-effect relationship between the first effort and subsequent events. But it is also important to be cautious in dating any event as the start of a movement. Even though it is very significant, few movements have ever originated from one single event.
CHAPTER III
PROCEDURE

This study presents the history of Lindsey Gardens in Salt Lake City and verifies that it was the first playground established in Utah with the strong possibility of being the first supervised playground in the United States. It was accomplished by locating and documenting published articles concerning the playground, by documenting property deeds, locating and interviewing selected individuals including members of the Lindsey Family, and by critically validating the information through the historical process of external and internal criticism.

This study includes how, why, when and by whom Lindsey Gardens was established. It is somewhat limited in the amount of original printed information that could be documented. Many hours were spent in several libraries (mainly Brigham Young University and University of Utah) along with going through the city, county, and state records in an attempt to locate original information concerning the establishment of Lindsey Gardens. The Utah Historical Society and the Parks and Recreation Association records were also thoroughly searched. However, much of the information was gathered through personal interview with selected individuals including members of the Lindsey Family. The interviewer had an
interview checklist that was used as a guide in asking pertinent questions and some of the interviews were tape-recorded with permission of the individual being interviewed. All the information was then tabulated and analyzed, then it was summarized and recommendations were made.
CHAPTER IV

PRESENTATION OF HISTORIES

Whenever a history is written about an event or a particular place, it is equally important to know the background of the people and happenings that brought about the event or established the place. To better understand the history of Lindsey Gardens, it is necessary to know some of the background and history of its founder, Mark Lindsey.

MARK LINDSEY

Mark Lindsey was born on September 21, 1832 in Trowbridge, Wiltshire, England. His father, Samuel Lindsey, died when Mark was only fourteen years of age, and being the youngest of the twelve Lindsey children, he was forced to go to work in a local cloth manufacturing establishment to help support his aging widowed mother. (29;3)

One day on a street corner in Trowbridge he heard the Mormon Elders and was quite impressed with the message he heard. He said, "it was like a great refreshing feeling that came over me and I immediately knew I had heard the truth." (47;1) He decided to visit the Mormon meetings and found the impact of their teachings so forceful upon his inquiring young mind that he joined
the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormon) at the age of seventeen.

His family forced him from his home and turned him out to seek his own life. Persecution by his family and friends was heaped upon him and he was looked upon as a disgrace to society as well as his family.

In a short time, after being advanced in the priesthood, he was asked to accompany Elder John Harding from Trowbridge to London to meet President J.B. Wallace of the London Conference. They walked all the way and after arriving in London, Mark was set apart as a full time missionary and traveled all over England and Scotland for the next seven years and eight months. He did this without purse or script and depended fully on the people for food, clothing and lodging. He traveled from one conference to another on foot and covered five to twenty miles a day. Two of the characteristics that Mark seemed to have that remained with him throughout his life were determination and perseverance. No matter what the opposition was, if he was convinced of the value of something, he'd see it through.

While in the village of Orwell, Cambridgeshire, visiting with James and Elizabeth Munns, who kept the Conference House, Mark Lindsey baptized their oldest daughter Emma who was eight years old and prophesied she would some day be his wife. At the time this seemed all
out of reason as he was sixteen years her senior, but some
twenty years later, it came true. (infra p.29)

In 1859 he was released as a missionary and advised
to take a wife and immigrate to America. He had visited
the home of Bithiah Savill several times and had written
her occasionally. She had been baptized without her par­
ents knowledge and Mark decided to approach her on the
marriage question. She accepted his offer and they were
They left Newbury for Liverpool and from there they sailed
for America on the sailing vessel William Tapscott on the
4th of April 1859. After five weeks on the ocean, they
landed at Castle Gardens, New York on the 13th of May.

They proceeded at once to Florence, Nebraska, where
they were outfitted with a handcart which contained all
of their possessions, for the long walk across the plains.
Thus they became part of one of the greatest treks in
the history of America as handcart pioneers. Mark was
made captain of ten handcarts. His responsibilities in­
creased daily developing from such things as sickness,
indians, lack of sufficient food and provisions and bro­
ken handcarts. On September 4, 1859, they finally arrived
in Salt Lake Valley with blood oozing from their worn and
torn shoes. Many of the people he had converted while in
England and Scotland came to welcome him to Utah and what
a wonderful time of rejoicing it was! (29;3-4) (47;1)
While on that famous trek across the plains in 1859, Mark Lindsey and his devoted wife, Bithiah, experienced some of the darkest hours of their lives. At one time both were very ill and physically weakened by the hardships of the long trek; they were discouraged and in their emotional state of mind didn't seem to care much whether they continued or not. They seemed to almost wish it all would end. They even lost their fears of the danger from the raiding indians of the prairie. Nothing seemed to matter to them as they sat together resting there on the handcart trail. They were tired and fell asleep while the company moved on. Later they were startled by the clatter of pounding hoofs and out of a cloud of dust emerged a band of prairie indians on horseback. The Lindseys then thought that their wish was coming true and that their last day had come. The indians saw their predicament and part in ridicule and part in savage sympathy, made fun of them because they lagged behind their company.

The indians had recently killed a buffalo and took a large chunk of fresh meat from a pack pony and threw it into the Lindsey handcart. Rowdily they urged and prodded Mark and Bithiah along, helping them drag their cart until they caught up with their company. It was at this time that new hope came into the hearts of the Lindseys.
During Mark Lindsey's long and useful life, he often recalled his experiences with the Indians and said many times that all Indians were not bad Indians, and that the prodding he got from them that day on the handcart trail gave him a new direction in life. (27;10)

After arriving in Utah, the first few years were very difficult ones for the Lindseys and Mark was willing to do any kind of work to earn an honest living for his increasing family. He worked for Brigham Young as night guard at the new theatre and did gardening for Joseph Young. In his spare time, he was the custodian of the old Twentieth Ward School House and served as usher in the Tabernacle for ten years. He was Watermaster in the Twentieth Ward District and was a member of the Twentieth Ward Institute, which was the forerunner of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association (YMMIA). He was very versatile and made use of every opportunity for advancement. (29;4) (47;2)

The first child born to Mark and Bithiah Savill Lindsey was Bithiah, named after her mother. She arrived September 4, 1861. Three more children were born to them: Violetta (known as Lettie) born August 30, 1863, Caroline Pegg (known as Carrie) born December 26, 1865 and Joseph Mark (sometimes known by Joseph Mark Samuel Savill Lindsey) born on the 10th of February 1867. (45;family records)
Figure 1. Mark and Bithiah Savill Lindsey and their two oldest children, Bithiah by her mother and Violetta (Lettie) on her father's knee. The approximate time of this picture is 1865. (Picture courtesy of the Utah State Historical Society).
In April 1865 the Blackhawk Indian War broke out in Sanpete County and many people were killed. On July 26, 1866 Mark Lindsey joined the Livingston Division of Infantry under Major Andrew Burt, the Utah Territorial Militia, and marched the 150 miles to Moroni where he was assigned duty in the mountains by General Daniel H. Wells. He was made Color Sergeant and in the absence of the American Flag, he carried the old Nauvoo Legion Flag.

They were on active duty from July 1866 until November at which time they were released from the service. Sergeant Lindsey received a medal for his services and also received a pension from the United States Government.

From 1871 to 1873, Mark Lindsey was called to serve two more missions for the Mormon Church. In October of 1871, he went to the Eastern States Mission but was soon called home because of the serious illness of his wife. On October 14, 1872, he was called on a mission to Great Britian and left Bithiah in Utah to take care of their four children. While in England, Mark was able to see his mother again before she died.

Several years after returning from his missions, in 1877 Mark fulfilled the prophesy he had made some twenty years before in England by marrying Emma Munns. Emma, the daughter of James and Elizabeth Collins Munns, along with her four brothers and three sisters joined
Figure 2. Mark Lindsey and the Flag of the 1st Battalion, 3rd Regiment and Infantry of the Nauvoo Legion. Lindsey was chosen to carry the flag in the absence of an American Flag during the Blackhawk Indian War. He was chosen because of his height which was 6 feet 3 inches. (9;256-A) (Picture courtesy of Mrs. Emma Lindsey Thomas - 188 E Street, Salt Lake City, Utah).
the church in the early 1850's and later emigrated to Utah. (39;2)

The following year in 1878 Mark and his new bride Emma, moved to Ogden, Utah, where they engaged in the mercantile business until 1893. They sold their business to a group of orientals who turned it into a restaurant called the Bon-Ton. Mr. Lindsey's health was starting to fail him so he sold the business enabling him to retire to a less active business life and give more time to his church work. (32;2) (46;interview)

When they moved to Ogden, Mark's first wife, Bithiah, and her four children remained in Salt Lake City. Although, Joseph Mark, the youngest of the four lived with his father in Ogden for a short while and attended school where his father was the janitor.

While in Ogden, Joseph Mark learned how to take care of the hot water furnace that heated the school building, from his father. It was interesting at first, but he soon got homesick for his mother and sisters in Salt Lake and moved back to live with them. (45;interview) (25;189-190)

Mark and Emma Munns Lindsey had four children after moving to Ogden. The first was Laura Rose Emma, who was born in 1878 and died at the age of two and a half. The second child was Alma James who was born February 28, 1880, and was on a mission in Germany when his father passed away in 1900. The third child was Emma Elizabeth who was born
Figure 3. Mark Lindsey's first wife, Bithiah Savill, and their four children who stayed in Salt Lake City when Mr. Lindsey and second wife, Emma Munns, moved to Ogden, Utah, in 1878. Left to right: Caroline Pegg (Carrie), Joseph Mark, Mrs. Lindsey, Violetta (Lettie) and Bithiah. Picture taken approximately 1890-1895. (Picture courtesy of Harold A. Lindsey - 1873 Ramona Ave., Salt Lake City, Utah).
November 10, 1882, and is the only living child of Mark Lindsey as of this date, May, 1969. Their last child was born in 1884 and died five years later. He was named Mark Archdale. (46; interview)

Mark Lindsey had been suffering from Brights Disease and was seriously ill for two months prior to his death on Friday morning, January 12, 1900. (32; 2) The funeral was held on Sunday, January 14, 1900 at 2 p.m. in the Second Ward Meeting House in Ogden, Utah. Bishop Robert McQuarrie presided and spoke along with Samuel Francis of Morgan City, Joseph Hall of Ogden and John Rich of Richville. "Each dwelt at length upon the sterling character and integrity of the deceased and offered words of consolation to the bereaved." (33; 7)

The meeting house was filled with sympathizing friends and relatives; beautiful floral designs covered the casket. The body was interned in the family burial grounds in the Ogden City Cemetery. (33; 7)
Mark Lindsey was far-visioned and very sympathetic in the real humanity of his people. He felt that along with the every day grind of their day by day work, the people needed recreation and he established the first recreational center in Utah. It was known as Lindsey's Gardens, now the oldest playground in Utah.

Those who knew this recreational center best say that it was in those early days almost a modern playground with much of the same type of apparatus that it now contains. (27;10)

In the early days of Utah it was the custom that if a certain piece of land wasn't occupied and a person wanted it, he took possession by establishing residence on it and building a home and making improvements, and by so doing indicating that they had come to stay.

In 1865, Mark and Bithiah Savill Lindsey, handcart pioneers of 1859, homesteaded a tract of land on the Northwest Quarter of Section 32, Township 1 North, 1 East of Salt Lake Meridian, containing 160 acres. When the United States land office opened in Salt Lake City on October 29, 1869, they filed what was then known as a pre-emption claim No. 415, now called a Settlement claim. After the application had been sent to Washington, D.C., it was the custom to receive the patent at some future time. This patent was granted by the United States of America to Mark Lindsey on March 14, 1872. However, the pleasure resort known as Lindsey Gardens was started in 1865 and from that time on was established as a playground and recreation center where many people gathered, including the various wards and Sunday
Figure 4. The home of Mark Lindsey in Lindsey Gardens. The 20th Ward Sunday School is gathered here for a day of recreation and dancing. Mr. Lindsey is in the right foreground wearing a hat and his three daughters and a friend are standing behind him in front of the right corner of the house. (Picture courtesy of Harold A. Lindsey - 1873 Ramona Ave., Salt Lake City, Utah)

Schools of the Mormon Church.

The water supply for this resort came from a natural spring in one of the hollows on the property and Mark Lindsey, among other things, built a cement swimming pool for the pleasure and entertainment of the public. Part of this pool still stands although it is covered by shrubbery and dirt. Mr. Lindsey constructed a small cement pool under a little grove of trees and this was used for many years as the official place for baptisms in the Church of Jesus
Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Several other bath houses were erected on the property for the convenience of the people where bathing was done in the ice-cold water. (infra p.55)

Later the water from the spring ran into a cistern and was carried in pipes to the house for culinary and irrigating purposes. Two wells were dug and a pump put in. The children of the family would take turns and pump 150 strokes each. In this way the water was pumped to the gardens and ample water was available for all needs.

The original boundary lines of Lindsey Gardens when established by Mark Lindsey were as follows: From N Street just about 6th Avenue, then west to M Street, then north to 8th Avenue, then west to J Street, then north to 11th Avenue, then east to 0 Street, then south to between 6th and 7th Avenues, then west to N Street, the place of beginning. (See map on page 37)

Mr. Lindsey built a house, gardens and playground attractions in the center of this quarter section of ground. They were very near the spot where the activities of the present playground now operates. The entrance gate to the gardens were located between 6th and 7th Avenues on M Street. The admittance charge was 5¢ for children and 10¢ for adults except when large groups such as sunday schools and wards came for the day, Mark Lindsey admitted them free of charge.

In the early days this resort and playground was
Figure 5. A map showing the boundaries of Lindsey Gardens in 1865 and 1969.

Solid Line = Boundaries in 1969
Dotted Line = Original Boundaries in 1865
Broken Line = Where a street used to be.
considered some distance from the city, and people reached it by wagons, white tops, carriages and any other vehicle that could be obtained for traveling. Later, mule cars offered a more convenient mode of travel to 3rd Avenue and M Street where the street car line ended and from which the walk was not too far.

The summer houses were built of lattice work covered with grape vines and there were old fashioned gardens growing on each side of the pathways leading to the house. There were flower beds nearby and Box Elder and Mulberry trees were planted for shade, one of which still stands as evidence. Mr. Lindsey grew grapes and red currants in great abundance and he received a certificate and trophy for making the best homemade currant wine exhibited at the Territorial Fair. He also grew a fine vegetable garden and furnished Salt Lake City with the first green groceries sold on the open market. (47;3-5) (42;12) (13;114-116) (36;4)

As the population grew in Salt Lake City, the recreation idea caught on and other playgrounds and pleasure resorts were opened and began to compete for the crowds that were attending Lindsey Gardens. In order to compete with the trend of the times, Mark Lindsey found he would have to build a better dance hall, so he mortgaged the gardens and borrowed the money from Fredrick and Samuel Auerbach in the mid 1870's. He built a fine dance hall but
refused to serve liquor and beer like most of the other places were doing. The crowds gradually were drawn to the other places and he was unable to meet expenses and pay off the debt. (47;3) (13;116) (26;91) On April 29, 1879 the mortgage was foreclosed by Mr. Auerbach and Mark Lindsey lost his property and the first playground in Utah was closed. (13;116) (43;140) Only a lot on the corner of M Street and 7th Avenue was left to the Lindsey family and this was deeded from Mark Lindsey over to Joseph Mark Lindsey, his eldest son. It was here that Bithiah Savill Lindsey and her four children lived in the family home. (45;interview)

Other people tried to revive the old playground known as Lindsey Gardens but were unable to make a success of it. Later it was even used as a brick yard where a low grade of bricks were made for a time. Part of the grounds west of M Street were sold to people for homes, but the part that was left was eventually opened again through the efforts of the North Bench Improvement League in May of 1923.

Mayor C. Clarence Neslen was authorized by the city commissioners to complete the agreement with Auerbach Realty in leasing fifteen acres of land formerly known as Lindsey Gardens. The lease was for a seven year period free of charge with an option to purchase the land at the expiration of the lease. (38;1)
Figure 6. Joseph Mark Lindsey standing on the lawn in front of the Lindsey home on the corner of M Street and 7th Avenue. Across the street and behind Mr. Lindsey is the property his father homesteaded and called Lindsey Gardens. (Picture courtesy of Harold A. Lindsey - 1873 Ramona Ave., Salt Lake City, Utah).
On June 21, 1923 the North Bench Improvement League held a rousing meeting to consider making improvements in Lindsey Gardens. (40;11) In the next few years trees were planted, swings, sand boxes, shoot-the-shoots and a ball park were made and a shelter and playhouse were built. (26;91-92)

On May 26, 1928 the City of Salt Lake drew up an agreement with Auerbach and Jacobs Realty companies for the purchase of 17.5 acres of land known as Lindsey Gardens. The city paid $1000 per acre and the terms were as follows: $2,500 cash to Auerbach Company with $12,500 in notes and $426 cash to Jacobs Realty Company with $2000 in notes. The city acquired clear title of the land in June. (44;168) (41;24) Commissioner Harry L. Finch, head of the park department said that the assessed value of the property in 1928 was more than $23,000 and that the city was making a good deal in purchasing the property. He also said that the city commission was encouraged to make this purchase by a petition signed by more than one-thousand property owners in the vicinity of Lindsey Gardens. (28;3)

Emma E. Lindsey, (now Mrs. W. "Jack" Thomas) daughter of Mark Lindsey, petitioned the city commission to retain the name of Lindsey Gardens and many of the trees and natural resources on the property in memory of the original founder. The commission voted to comply with the request and the name Lindsey Gardens was retained, even though there
was a movement on to name the playground the North Bench Park.  (35;3)  (13;116)  (30;17)

Over the years Lindsey Gardens has become one of the most beautiful playground and park areas in the vicinity and has become more of a park than a playground in recent years, although each summer there is a playground director hired and an arts and crafts program conducted.

FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

Ten or twelve spacious rustic arbors were built by Mr. Lindsey with rustic tables and benches provided for the public's convenience and people brought their lunches to these areas in large clothes baskets, boxes, tubs, etc. He also built two ice houses, the first known in Salt Lake City and used them to cool the soft drinks such as cider, herb beer and lemonade made by Mrs. Lindsey and her daughters. They also cooled soft drinks including sarsaparilla that were provided by the Denhalter Bottling Company. No intoxicating drinks were served or allowed on the grounds, although some people tried to bring liquor and beer with them, but this was immediately stopped when found in their possession. The ideals of Mark Lindsey were of the highest and the resort was run according to the high principles of the church to which he belonged.

Mr. Lindsey stored the ice in sawdust in the two ice houses. The ice was taken in the winter from water ponds
in different parts of the city. Ice cut from the pond was in chunks about 25" x 36" and as thick as the ice had frozen, usually 8-10 inches. One pond in particular was on Fifth South, just east of Tenth East. One ice house was built in a bank up in the gardens; the other was at the family home on K Street and First Avenue, and at times when the supply ran short at the gardens, the young son would go down to the K Street house and push a wheelbarrow load eight blocks up hill. All the children helped with their share of the work.

Refreshments that were sold were home made ice cream, cakes, and soft drinks. These were all made by Mrs. Lindsey and her daughters. The milk and eggs used for the ice cream were bought from private families who kept cows and chickens. The young girls of the family would walk many miles some days and carry eggs and milk in baskets and buckets to make ice cream. One of the daughters, a girl about thirteen or fourteen years old, used to sell small cakes and cookies after she had made them. Mrs. Lindsey sold the soft drinks she made for 5¢ per glass. (26;91)

In the late 1860's the amusements consisted of five large swings, two giant strides, a whirly-gig, a number of greasy poles, two croquet grounds, a baseball diamond, and a dance hall of the arbor type. Many good contest games of croquet were played by prominent men of the city.

The giant strides were constructed by placing a
large pole deep in the ground. They were between 30 and 40 feet high. They had long hanging ropes down to within about four feet of the ground. A stick was fastened on the end of the rope to hold on to and in this way the person holding on would swing way out as the arms went around.

The whirly-gig was made by using a large square piece of timber placed on the ground for a staff, with the top hewn down for a hub and wagon wheel to fit on, with four large planks projecting out over the top of the wheel. This was about three feet from the ground, and on the end of each plank was a box large enough to hold four people. It was put in motion by putting the younger children in the boxes and the older children or adults pushing the planks and starting the wheel going. Then they would jump on the plank and all would ride around and around. (26;90-91) (13;115)

In the 1920's when the playground was opened again by the city, the facilities included a playground, swings, sand boxes, shoot-the-shoots, an area for arts and crafts and dancing and a ball diamond.

Today Lindsey Gardens has the following facilities: two softball diamonds with seating areas, one little league diamond, a slippery slide, four swings, a play area, one hard top area for volleyball and other activities, and two tennis courts. There is a sheltered area that is lighted with tables and chairs. Also found are rest room facil-
ities, Iris gardens and a lot of beautiful lawn area with trees.

LEADERSHIP AND SUPERVISION

Leadership and supervision is very important on the playground. In the early history of Lindsey Gardens, 1865 to 1879, Mark Lindsey himself, was usually on the playground all day while people were there. The playground was closed on Sunday, but people came on the other six days. "Mr. Lindsey supervised the playground and helped the young and old alike to better enjoy the facilities that were on the gardens." (46; interview) He would teach them how to play croquet, fly on the giant strides and play ball. He loved young people and enjoyed watching others having a good time in wholesome recreation. Indications show that there was a fence around Lindsey Gardens with the entrance gate on M Street between 6th and 7th Avenues. This made it possible for Mr. Lindsey to always know when someone was on the playground so he could provide adequate supervision. (45; interview) (46; interview)

In the 1920's when the city opened up the Lindsey Gardens again as a playground, it is interesting to note that the first playground supervisor was Miss Emma E. Lindsey, the youngest daughter of the former pioneer owner. Miss Charlotte Stewart, the City Recreation Director, hired Miss Lindsey the first two years the playground was
Figure 7. A gathering of summer handicraft students, with a table full of handiwork. Cardboard cartons served as basis for playhouses, while crepe paper and paper rope were used in basket weaving. (Picture courtesy of Mrs. Emma Lindsey Thomas - 188 E Street, Salt Lake City, Utah)

opened after the city purchased it. She supervised the playground during the summers of 1924-25. (37;8)

Miss Lindsey secured the interest of the children in the locality for many miles around. Games were played and many fine pieces of handiwork was turned out by the youngsters.

In 1930, two playground supervisors were employed. They were Misses Ada Chamberlain and Helen Ross who turned out a good share of champions in athletics and also a large number of outstanding handicraft workers. (36;4)
Figure 8. Following the city's purchase of Lindsey Gardens, Mrs. W. "Jack" Thomas became first supervisor. At that time a dancing class was conducted, and here a Scottish number is performed. (Picture courtesy of Mrs. Emma Lindsey Thomas - 188 E Street, Salt Lake City, Utah)
Figure 9. Youngsters used to swarm to Lindsey Gardens for summer sessions of handicrafts. They would roll auto inner tubes to class and from them create beautifully beaded, fringed handbags. (Picture courtesy of Mrs. Emma Lindsey Thomas - 188 E Street, Salt Lake City, Utah)
OTHER INTERESTING POINTS

A marker, constructed by the City Commissioner under the auspices of four camps of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers, was unveiled on Wednesday, July 22, 1953. A short talk on the history of Lindsey Gardens was given by Mayor Earl J. Glade and the dedicatory prayer by Joel Richards.

Below is listed the information that appears on the marker which is located at 8th Avenue and M Street.

DAUGHTERS OF UTAH PIONEERS

No 131

Erected December 30, 1948

FIRST PLAYGROUND

This marker stands 90 ft. north of the gate to Lindsey's Gardens, first playground in Utah. In 1865 Mark Lindsey and wife Bithiah Savill Lindsey, handcart pioneers of 1859, homesteaded a quarter-section; built a home, dance hall, museum, lunch arbors, a bathhouse fed from a spring in the ravine, planted gardens, made swings, giant strides, whirleygigs, greasy poles, croquet and baseball grounds, sold soft drinks, homemade ice cream and cake. Admission adults 10¢, children 5¢.

Camp 27 - Camp 21 - Camp 20 - Camp Ensign

Monument Sponsored by Salt Lake City Council of Women. Constructed by Salt Lake City Parks Dept.

1961-1962

Lindsey Gardens
Figure 10. Miss Jean Lee Lindsey, now Mrs. Alan Benjamin Clark, the oldest great granddaughter of Mark Lindsey, unveiled a marker in honor of the founder of Utah's first playground on Wednesday, July 22, 1953. (Picture courtesy of The Deseret News and Harold A. Lindsey - 1873 Ramona Ave., Salt Lake City, Utah)
On Monday, December 3, 1962, at formal ceremonies at Lindsey Gardens, the Salt Lake Council of Women in cooperation with the Parks and Recreation Department presented the new wood and stone marker at the southwest corner of the gardens. Mrs. Allan M. Acomb, immediate past president of the Council, made the presentation to City Commissioner, L. C. Romney, who accepted the gift for the city.

For a few brief days, the sign read Lindsay Gardens, instead of Lindsey Gardens but was back to normal after several members of the Lindsey family called the City Parks Commissioner, L.C. Romney. Mr. Romney said that a check of some old records had turned up the spelling as Lindsay, so that was used on the sign. Mrs. W. "Jack" Thomas, daughter of Mark Lindsey, said that she didn't see how they got confused; any of the family could have told them how to spell it. (31;B-1)
Figure 11. On the left City Parks Commissioner, L.C. Romney and Secretary, Shirley Webster pose with sign that almost changed the name of Lindsey Gardens to Lindsay Gardens. But Lindsey Gardens it was and Lindsey Gardens it will be as long as founder's descendants can spell their own name. (Pictures courtesy of The Deseret News)
Figure 12. Pictured above is the gathering for the Pioneer Day Sunrise Services, held each 24th of July in Lindsey Gardens. This picture was taken July 24, 1965, on the centennial year of the playground. Speaking at the 6:00 a.m. services is Bishop Robert L. Simpson, First Counselor in the Presiding Bishopric of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Some 300 persons were in attendance. (34;2-A) (Picture of The Deseret News)
Lindsey's Gardens are now open for amusement and recreation. All persons wishing to enjoy a few hours of real pleasure cannot do better than go to Lindsey’s Gardens. You can get one of the best views of this City, including Camp Douglas and the Asylum, on the East bench. You can obtain the best and only view of Mount Nebo, twelve thousand (12,000) feet above the level of the Great Salt Lake, it being eighty-five (85) miles South of this City. In the West you get a splendid view of the Great Salt Lake and its Islands.

These Gardens have been recently improved, a large dancing hall, 56 feet by 26 feet, has been erected, with shingle roof, rustic weather siding, and contains one of the best floors in the country; large folding doors can be thrown open during the day and closed at night. A large Giant Stride for boys and one for girls have been put up. I have also attached to my Gardens a Museum of curiosities, petrifications, fossils, and Indian remains; minerals from most of the mines in Utah are here represented. The amusements at the Gardens are too numerous to mention. Five hundred persons can be comfortably seated in the beautiful arbors and rustic retreats. Fifteen to twenty acres of spacious lands, where the children can enjoy their youthful sports and the pure mountain air, stretch out on either side. No intoxicating drinks served or allowed on the premises.

I will do all in my power to make parties comfortable on the most reasonable terms. Plenty of nice, pure water and refreshments of all kinds, also summer drinks, Cider, Soda Water, Cronk Beer, Sarsaparilla and Lemonade, Nuts, Candies, Oranges, Coconuts, Figs and all the good things necessary for picnic parties will be furnished at moderate prices.

The Street Cars run within a few minutes walk of the Gardens. Take the 20th Ward cars which leave the Deseret National Bank corner every thirty minutes. Teams will convey the baskets of picnic parties from the end of the track to the Gardens.

N. B.—In addition to the above, besides other amusements, two large Croquet Grounds, with superb sets of Croquet, will be thrown open to the guests.

While tendering my thanks for past favors, I would solicit continued patronage from old friends, and an early visit from all who desire a few hours of innocent recreation. Respectfully,

MARK LINDSEY.
Figure 14. The top two pictures are some of the cement and rock remains of one of the bath houses built by Mark Lindsey on Lindsey Gardens in the late 1860's. The bottom two pictures are of Lindsey Gardens as it now stands in 1969.
The following is an invitation that was sent to the homes of all the children who participated in the Lindsey Gardens playground program of 1924.

The closing day of Lindsey's Playground, on 9th Avenue and M Street will be Wednesday, August 27, 1924.

An exhibition of the beautiful handwork done by the children of the neighborhood will be held from 3 o'clock to 5:30.

There will be a baseball game between the Midgets of the Ensign Playground and Midgets of Lindsey's Playground at 3 o'clock on the baseball diamond.

COME AND SEE WHAT WE ARE DOING AND GIVE US YOUR SUPPORT WITH YOUR PRESENCE, FOR A FEW MINUTES WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON.

Emma E. Lindsey, Supervisor.

Oh parents dear and friends of fun,
Just come and see the work we've done
On Lindsey's Playground Center.

Our baskets, flowers and beads so bright,
Will show that we have been trained right
To use our hands and senses.

Old auto tubes turned into bags,
Will show our interest never lags
To use up old material.

We dance and sing, we work and play,
Oh parents, how we wish you may
Join with us in this pleasure.

And now alas, our play is done
But we have had such lots of fun,
At the playground all this summer.

So come and see the things we've made
And then I know you'll be glad we stayed
So long away from mother.
Three cheers we say, for mothers gay
Who let us go up there to play
At Lindsey's Playground center.

The Children of the Playground
(46;interview)

Figure 15. An invitation to a social party at Lindsey Gardens new dancing hall on Wednesday, June 20, 1877. (Courtesy of Harold A. Lindsey - 1873 Ramona Ave., Salt Lake City, Utah)
SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It is the purpose of this chapter to present a summary of the findings and conclusions of the history of Utah's first playground and make a recommendation concerning these findings.

SUMMARY

Problem. This study verified the historical accounts that describe Lindsey Gardens in Salt Lake City as the first playground established in Utah and perhaps the first in America.

Procedure. The writer verified that Lindsey Gardens in Salt Lake City was the first playground established in Utah by locating and documenting published articles in newspapers, magazines, pamphlets and books concerning the gardens. Selected individuals including members of the Lindsey family were interviewed and all of this information was critically analyzed through the historical process of external and internal criticism. Many days were spent in Salt Lake City doing research at the Utah State Historical Society, The Daughters of Utah Pioneers Museum, The Sons of Utah Pioneers Museum, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Historians Office, the Salt Lake City Historians Office and in interviewing selected individuals.
Findings. An abundance of information was found which validated Lindsey Gardens as the first playground in Utah. It was established in 1865 by Mark and Bithiah Savill Lindsey when they homesteaded a quarter section of land on the north bench of Salt Lake City. Before the year 1870, they developed the area into a playground and pleasure resort and constructed the following equipment and facilities: Five large swings, two giant strides, a whirly-gig, a number of greasy poles, two croquet grounds, a baseball diamond, a swimming pool, several bath houses, a dance hall of the arbor type, ten or twelve spacious rustic arbors with tables and chairs and an ice house. This made Lindsey Gardens almost comparable with modern playgrounds and Mr. Lindsey himself provided the leadership and supervision.

Fourteen years after the establishment of Lindsey Gardens, Mark Lindsey lost the property because he was unable to pay off the mortgage to Auerbach Realty. He had taken the mortgage to build a nice new dance hall to compete with the other recreational places that had followed his example and started pleasure resorts.

Other people tried to revive the old playground but were unable to make a success of it. Later it was even used as a brick yard where a low grade of bricks were made for a time. Part of the grounds west of M Street were sold to people for homes, but that part that was left was eventually opened again through the efforts of the North Bench Improvement League in May of 1923. The City of Salt Lake leased
the property and opened up the playground with Miss Emma E. Lindsey (daughter of Mark Lindsey) as the first playground supervisor under the direction of the city, in 1924 and 1925. On May 26, 1928, the city purchased the 17.5 acres that made up Lindsey Gardens for $1000 an acre and has continually developed and beautified the area until it is one of the most beautiful areas in Salt Lake City.

Below are listed the important and significant happenings in tracing the history of Lindsey Gardens in Salt Lake City.

1865 Mark and Bithiah Savill Lindsey homesteaded a quarter section of land and started a playground and pleasure resort in Salt Lake City known as Lindsey Gardens.

1869 On October 29th, when the United States Land Office opened in Salt Lake City, Mark Lindsey filed a pre-emption claim (now called a settlement claim) for ownership of the land.

1872 Mark Lindsey was granted the patent to the land on the 14th of March by the United States of America.

1878 On July 26th Mark Lindsey mortgaged Lindsey Gardens to Fredrick and Samuel Auerbach in order to build a nice new dance hall.

1879 On April 29th the mortgage was foreclosed and Mark Lindsey lost his property known as Lindsey Gardens and the first playground was closed for several years.

1923 In May the playground was again opened through the efforts of the North Bench Improvement League and the city leased the playground for seven years at no cost with an option to purchase it at the expiration of the lease.

1924 Miss Emma E. Lindsey became the first supervisor on the playground since her father was back in 1865-1879.

1928 On May 26th, the city purchased the 17.5 acres known as Lindsey Gardens for $1,000 an acre from Auerbach Realty and Jacobs Realty. Thus making Lindsey Gardens a permanent playground in the City Recreation Department as Mark Lindsey had dreamed it would become.
CONCLUSIONS

The following conclusions are based on the findings of the history of Lindsey Gardens.

(1) Lindsey Gardens was the first playground established in Utah.

(2) Mark Lindsey provided the leadership and supervision necessary to meet the requirement of a supervised playground.

(3) Lindsey Gardens is still functioning as a playground and recreation area in Salt Lake City.

(4) Lindsey Gardens should be recognized as the first playground in America.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The writer recommends that based upon the findings of this study, Lindsey Gardens be recognized as the first playground in America since it was started in 1865 and seems to meet the qualifications of starting a movement which are:

(1) Being a conscious provision.

(2) Showing a cause-and-effect relationship between the first effort and subsequent events.

The writer also recommends that other nebulous playgrounds that were mentioned be researched and studied.
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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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D. PERSONAL JOURNALS, INTERVIEWS AND DEEDS

43. Land Deeds, Salt Lake County Survey, Abstract Record A-6, Block 140, Plat D, p.140.

44. Land Deeds, Salt Lake County Survey, Abstract Record C-16, Block 140, Plat D, p.168.

45. Personal Interview with Mr. and Mrs. Harold A. Lindsey, Monday, April 21, 1969.

46. Personal Interview with Mrs. W. "Jack" (Emma E. Lindsey) Thomas, Friday, April 11, 1969.

47. Personal Journal of Mrs. W. "Jack" (Emma E. Lindsey) Thomas, pp. 1-5.
INTERVIEW CHECK LIST

This check list is to be filled out by the interviewer. The purpose of the check list is to gather and document the information in order to validate Lindsey Gardens as the first playground in Utah and possibly the first in the United States.

A. PERSONAL DATA
1. Date and place of interview
2. Time of interview
3. Age of person interviewed
4. Relationship or association with Mark Lindsey or Lindsey Gardens.

B. DATA CONCERNING LINDSEY GARDENS
1. When did Mark Lindsey first establish Lindsey Gardens in Salt Lake City?
2. What were some of the circumstances surrounding the establishment of Lindsey Gardens?
   a. Reason established
   b. Cost to enter, etc.
   c. Sponsorship
3. What facilities were first included on the playground?
4. How large was the original Lindsey Gardens? Where located?
5. What additions and improvements, if any, were made?
6. What type of programs and activities were offered?
7. What type of participation was there at the original Lindsey Gardens?
   a. How many attended per week?
   b. What groups attended (church, family, civic, etc)
8. Was there a supervisor or playground director over Lindsey Gardens when it was first established?
   a. If so, who?
   b. What were his duties and responsibilities?
   c. Did he receive any kind of wage or renumeration for his services?
9. When was Lindsey Gardens discontinued? For what reason?
10. When was it re-opened?
11. Who was the sponsor this time?
12. How does it function and operate today?
   a. Programs and activities.
   b. Supervision.
   c. Use.
13. Where could I find documented and recorded information substantiating Lindsey Gardens?
   a. Pictures.
   b. Newspaper articles.
   c. Books, magazines, pamphlets, etc.
14. Who are some relatives or others who might have similar or additional information for verification?
   a. Name.
   b. Address.
   c. Relationship.
ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to determine and verify that Lindsey Gardens in Salt Lake City, Utah was the first playground established in Utah and possibly the first in the nation. In 1865 Mark and Bithiah Savill Lindsey, handcart pioneers of 1859 homesteaded a quarter section of land containing 160 acres. On this land in 1865, they started a playground and resort area and called it Lindsey Gardens. The amusements on the playground consisted of five large swings, two giant strides, a whirly-gig, a number of greasy poles, two croquet grounds and a baseball diamond. Other facilities were a swimming pool, baths, a home, an ice house, ten to twelve summer houses, and a large dance hall. Mr. Lindsey provided the leadership and supervision himself. Auerbach Realty foreclosed on the mortgage in 1879 and Mark Lindsey lost his property. In 1923 the city leased the property and then purchased it in 1928 for $1000 an acre. With the history that surrounds Lindsey Gardens, it seems to meet the necessary qualifications to be recognized not only as Utah's first playground but also the first playground in America.

APPROVED: [Signature]
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[Signature]
Member, Advisory Committee

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