

Sons of the Utah Pioneers

Settlement Canyon Chapter

February 4, 1993

Brief sketch of Abraham Hunsaker

by: Teryl Hunsaker, Great Grandson

Hunsakers -- origin in the center of the Black Forest about 70 miles from Zurik.

Belonged to the Duncans

My Great Grandfather was born Nov. 29, 1812 (on my fathers side)

My Great Great Grandfather on my mother's side was born Nov. 29, 1812.

He was born in Jonesborough Town, Union County, State of Illinois. He was the son of Jacob Hunsaker and Polly Luce -- When he was 14 the family moved to Adams county and settled some 15 miles East of Quincy.

Abraham married his first wife Elioza on January 3, 1833. He was 20 and she was 15. My great grandfather Isaac was their 9th child.

A son Lewis was born saturday night near 12:00 April 6, 1839 near Payson, Adams County, State of Illinois. At the same time the Latter Day Saints had been driven out of the state of Missouri by cruel mobs. One family by the name of Amos McBride stopped in my house. I took him in with me: it was the first time I had the privilege of hearing the latter-day Saints. The Lord told me by his holy spirit they were the servants fo the Lord.

Nov. 15, 1840 I was baptized by David Evans -- also my wife and others.

To be closer to the saints, March 1842 I settled on my farm in Hancock Couty on the rapids of the Mississippi.

September 2, 1842 -- Heber C. Kimball and wife and others come to pay us a visit -- we gave them 3 or 4 bushels of peaches to take home -- this was the first time I have visited with an Apostle of Jesus.

We continue our farming operations here for two or three years.

I have a small mission appointed. Have been ordained an Elder under the hands of Bro. Wilford Woodruff -- ordered to be ordained in a general conference held in Nauvoo -- Bro. Joseph Smith preached.

March 1844 -- Swaped part of the farm to Bro. Mickerell for a steam mill on the banks of the river.

June 27, 1844 -- This is a solemn darkness to the saints of the most high for Joseph and Hyrum Smith the prophet and patriarch have bin shot in Carthage Jail.

After the death of Joseph and Hyrum Smith, Abraham did not write in his Hournal again for 12 years.

On February 25, 1846 the Hunsakers left their home and crossed the Mississippi River on ice with their cattle and sheep and camped at Sugar Creek.

thursday July 16, 1846 Abraham was mustered into the Mormon Battillion.

July 18, President Young met with the Battalion as they were about to begin their march from Sarpy's store to Fort Leavenworth.

At fort Leavenworth, Kansas on August 3rd members of the Battalion drew their arms and on August 5th each man received \$42.00 clothing allowance for the year.

August 14, 1846, Company D left the Fort -- March 18, 1847 Private Abraham Hunsaker was appointed a Sergeant in Company D -- He was discharged as a 1st sergeant on July 16, 1847 when the 5 companies of the Mormon Battalion were discharged.

On July 20, 1847, the majority started home -- some were on the scene when gold was discovered at Sutter's Mill, they crossed the same route that the Donner Party traveled, passing the remains of the Donner Party on the Morning of September 6th.

They arrived in Salt Lake City on October 16, 1847.

October 18th -- 31 men left the salt Lake Valley for Winter Quarters, Council Bluff and Abraham on to Honey Creek to pick up their wives and families -- arriving late in December just befor Christmans, 1847.

On June 29, 1848 found Abraham and Eliza started back to the Salt Lake Valley in the Willard Richards Division.

On September 16, 1848, on little Sandy Creek (Sweetwater, Wyoming) Eliza Collins gave birth to her 8th Child.

Arrive in Salt Lake City on Octover 12, 1848.

Abraham settled somewhere down around 48th south and East and West of Highland Drive in the Mill Creek Holladay Area. John Neff, Frank Hammond, Charles Hammond Mrs. R.W. Ritten, William Bringhurst.

The first school house was build in the fall of 1848 by Abraham, Charles Harper, William Bringurst, Solomon Chase, Francis Hammond and Randolph Alexander.

1850 he married his second wife, Harriet Beckstead -- my great grandmother on my fathers side.

AMASA M. lyman Company Andrew Cunningham 3rd Division Margaret Sweeten became his third wife, May 1854 -- The next move was to the west Jordan area where a farm was established along the Jordan River -- this property was sold to Archibald Gardner who then built the first Grist Mill. The Hunsakers attended church, day school, dances in a small log House in West Jordan where the West Jordan ward house stands.

In 1855 three births are recorded at Jordan.

Abraham ran cattle for himself and others at the South West end of Utah Lake, His second wife, Harriet Beckstead live ° there with her family in a small cabin for the purpose to care for the livestock.

Indians were numerous in that locality -- but Abraham seemed to get along well with them. He bought from a band of Indian warriors a little Piede Indian boy and took him home to Harriet -- she named him Lemuel.

Lemuel was baptized in the Carson River in Nevada, March 15, 1857.

In the Winter of 1855 and the Spring of 1856, the Indians attack the cattle stations near the lake.

Feb. 22, 1856, Friday morning I started for the cattle station and my family on the South end of the Lake. We got as far as Carson's herd when the horses gave out. We slept on the Carson's dirt floor on a quilt and covered with another. It was cold. I talked with George Carson and Henry Moron -- they had no fear of the Indians -- but said they were getting mad and were hungry for a fight.

Feb 23, 1856 -- I got up early by daylight and started for my folks at the herd calculating to eat breakfast with out folks at the herd. I also wanted Lewis to gather up the horses and the cattle and go back to Salt Lake County with my stock. We got to the herd at 10:00 but my horses gave out -- so we had worked hard to get there. Lewis and I pulled of the harness when we see two Indians coming after us riding furiously and I thought all was not right.

I had taken in an Indian and his family to be with me and we were very friendly with them and gave them milk and bread to eat. We also had given all other Indians something when they asked for it. The Indian living with me was sick with the measles. His name was Moto. When I see those mad Indians coming I ran to Moto, my friendly Indian to get to him before those Indians came up, but they commenced to shouting very furriously as soon as they came in gunshot --

Moto jumped up out of bed and ran out to them and they hollered very furiously as they were very mad. Moto ran to his tent and took his bow and arrows and gathered their duds and left.

I loaded one musket, one U>S Rifle -- Lewis loaded one rifle.

I knew they would kills us if they could and we must get away immediately. We had nothing to take us but one mare that Lewis had in -- I tole Lewis to put the harnes on the mare and the one that was tired out and we would try to go. I also sent Alen and Lemuel to bring the sheep to take with us. I then thought that if our team gave out we would be in worse fix than if we would stay in the house. So I told Lewis he had better ride on the fresh horse and get the one I had seen on the road coming in which was about 2 miles back. The Indians had started after ALen and Lemuel but when they seen Lewis leave they started after him. I then sent two lesser boys after the sheep and Alen and Lemuel after two oxen which I had seen..

We got one yoke out °of the cattle -- hitched them to the wagon and started hom to flee the Indians.

As Lewis had not returned I feared he was killed by the Indians. I drove the team without a road -- Harriet and the boys drove the sheep. Alen was getting all the cattle he could for the horses were lying down -- He finally got Jan Turpens ox and we yoaked a cow with him. We came to where Lewis found the mare I sent him after and he was not there,

but I could see where the mare or some other animal was on the jump. I sent my boy Alen on to Carson's to get an express to Provo to get a company to follow the Indians, but when he got there he found the house plundered and no person at home. It was now very dark so I told our family we would leave our sheep and cattle close to this place and that we would yolk up another yolk of cattle and travel on to Wicksams. I had Lemuel to watch the rear guard as he was an Indian and could see better than any of us. We traveled about 300 yards and I seen a man lying on his back dead. I recognized him to be George Carson, by 1:00 we reached Wickson's. They had not heard of the uprising. They met another group of men coming after cattle at Carson's. They go back, gather up the cattle, the Indians attack, four more men get shot so they leave.

Feb 27. more forces come from Lehi to search for the dead.

Feb 29th another group starts out to help Abraham find Lewis and retrieve the cattle which the Indians had stolen.

Sat. March 8th, still no word from Lewis. Sometime after March 12 Colonel Peter Conover headed a company which pursued after those Indians. He charged me one-third of the stock for getting those cattle and horses the Indians had stolen. I paid up for them and took them home and delivered them to the owners as soon as I could get the owners to come and settle with me and take them away.

April 6th General conference Abraham was called to go on a mission to Carson County Nevada to set up a settlement.

Orson Hyde, Bro. Murdock and Abraham purchased a farm where the Municipal building in Carson City now sits.

September 21, 1857 they left Carson Valley to return to SLC because of the threat of Johnson's Army.

Nov. 2, 1857 Arrived in Brigham City -- by the request of Lorenzo Snow and Samuel Smith Abraham stayed in Brigham.

Bought a house from Lorenzo for \$150.00.

Nov 1857 sent to Echo Canyon to keep out of Uncle Sam's Army. Stayed 4 weeks and returned home.

Nov. 13, 1858 takes his 4th wife Katharine Jensen -- Sealed by President Young in one of his rooms in his fine house.

March 11, 1859, the snow is still one foot deep.

Feb 13, 1863 married 5th wife Mary Luckham.

In 1864, He sent two sons to Omaha Nebraska to bring home a threshing machine, the first in Box Elder County. and Two large pianos -- one for his family and one for Lorenzo Snow. He farmed 107 acres north of Brigham City, ran his cattle in Mantua, owned shares in the woolen mill, Zions Co-op and in the Tannery. he also owned a grist mill in Honeyville.

Abraham Hunsaker watched with keen interest the Advancement of the First Transcontinental Railroad. He and some of his older sons, contracted with the Central Pacific Company for the construction of a mile of road grade near Little Mountain.

May 10, 1869, the Golden Spike was driven and among the spectators was Abraham Hunsaker 3rd from the right in the front row.

The first office of the Union Pacific Railroad in Brigham city was established in the fall of 1869 in the Northwest room of the Hunsaker house.

For 36 years this rail line was used. In 1906, the Lucin cut-off was built and in 1942 during world war II the rails were needed for the war effort and were then removed.

Spring of 1864 moved to Honeyville -- had a cabin on Salt Creek, purchased a Saw mill.

Abraham was the first person to engage in dry farming in BoxElder County.

The first church house was dedicated Jan. 5, 1879 by Lorenzo Snow. Abraham was the bishop.

Including the Carson Valley experience, he serve 5 missions. In April 13, 1888 U.S. marshalls were in Honeyville for Bro. Hunsaker.

When abraham was running around with the railroad. Jarriet, my great grand mother and my grandpa (Isaac) spent the summers at Little Mountain herding sheep and other stock and living in a cave. She was stricken with blood poisoning, caused by a blister on her little toe, which she got rocking a cradle -- Died Jan. 6, 1905.

My grand father worked as a Freighter driving a four horse team and hauling goods to Montana. He was also constable of the Honeyville Precinct.

On August 13, 1859 Lemuel the Indian was shot and killed by soldiers. Indians had been causing settlers fo Northern Utah a great deal of trouble by stealing cattle and horses,

plundering cornfields and in some instances, killing
settlers.

When the troops reached Brigham City they were told of the Hunsaker boy -- they were also told that the Hunsaker Indian would be found taking care of his father's stock in Mantua. Sheriff Cutler was in Mantua with Abraham at the cabin, Lemuel was across the valley to bring in a team of horses so that the family could go to Brigham. At the time he was riding one of two horses which the sheriff had with him. The boy was part way back when Abraham and the Sherriff seen the Soldiers coming, they shouted at the army, but nevertheless, the soldiers shot -- Lemuel was Dead.

Abraham had five wives and 53 kids counting Lemuel -- It is no wonder why he got so much done.