

## HYRUM RALSTON HUNTSMAN

1845

Hyrum Ralston Huntsman was born February 25, 1845, in Nauvoo, Hancock County, Illinois. The story of the family expulsion from the confines of the United States is a reality for this family. At the age of seven, Hyrum Ralston Huntsman trudged along with his sister, Mary, and older brother, Joseph S., then 14, to keep that group of six cattle lined out westward.

At the new home, Lake Point, Tooele County, Utah, Hyrum learned the hard way to do farm labor and much team hauling over long distances. Timber had to be cut for fencing and wood, not only for home fires, but also to boil lake water to get pure salt for a growing market. From age 17 until after 20 his long summers were spent traveling to and from the Missouri River or Council Bluffs to bring in stranded immigrant Mormons to the Valley of the Salt Lake. He hauled flour and drove beef on the hoof back East, then helped bring Danes and Dutchmen West.

His wages, you query? Now there was what became the perpetual immigration fund set up by the Church, but this was used to defray the expenses from wagon grease to food supplies. However, Hyrum R. gained experience that made him equal to almost any emergency that would subsequently confront him all through the rough frontier life that was always his.

Clover Valley was the first home in the West for Hyrum Ralston's family which consisted of Hyrum and his four younger brothers and his parents. At Clover Valley they met their brother, Joseph S., and sisters, Mary and Mariah Huntsman and brother-in-law Dudley Leavitt. A large family of Hunts also settled in Clover Valley.

Now, if a bit of conjecturing is permissible, we can imagine that up to this point Hyrum R. had successfully evaded capture by, or becoming captivated by, any of the opposite sex. Along came this Emiline flouncing all her charms. Wistful, sparkling eyes flashed, dazzling Hyrum Ralston. Coming out of his swoon, he arose to his knees and asked, "Be ye gonna marry me?" "I be," she replied.

Emiline was the daughter of Amos and Nancy Garrot Welborn Hunt and was born August 12, 1849 at Huntsville, Kentucky. She and Hyrum Ralston Huntsman were married December 24, 1865 at Clover Valley. In a hastily-put-together fort, in rain and mud, their son, Hyrum Ralston Huntsman, Jr., was born on October 4, 1866. This fort was at what was then called "Black Willow Bend" on Shoal

Creek, soon to become the hamlet called Hebron. Near Hebron Hyrum R. Huntsman became the first squatter and his place became "Calf Springs". This, with a small rock cabin and a large corral was becoming quite a neat little ranch occupied by this family for a few years. Here, also, are buried four sons who died in childhood. When the Hyrum R. Huntsmans left here around 1881, they traded Calf Springs to his brother Orson W. for an old saddle. Orson W. Huntsman is the grandfather of Michael Huntsman of Ferron.

The family moved to Thurber in Wayne County where they remained for about 15 years. A daughter, Nancy Jane, was born in Thurber. A son, Charles Arthur, was born in 1887. Mary Elva was born on April 12, 1893, and married a Mr. Wolpert who died. She then married Morris Singleton. George Albert, a son, was born in 1880. He married Deborah Cox in 1906. A last little daughter named Emiline Sovina was born to them in 1876,. From Thurber the Huntsmans moved to Cannonville and then to Emery County where they settled permanently at Ferron. Here they had a good farm with plenty of water and raised sheep, mostly on the desert country to the east. The two living sons, George Albert and Hyrum Ralston, Jr. settled in Ferron as did their sister, Mary Elva Huntsman Singleton.

When Hyrum Ralston Huntsman made his final settlement at Ferron in 1910, he doubtless had some farm property other than the following seven and a fraction acres within the town limits as deed record shows. This he purchased from Lewis E. and Lydia Bell Allred, man and wife, of Ferron for \$400.00. This is measured off in rods bounded coming out of Section 15, Township 27, Range 7, east of the Salt Lake meridian.

Hyrum Ralston Huntsman built the house located on 215 South State street in Ferron, Utah. To build the house Hyrum stepped off the dimensions of the house, laid large rocks gathered from the area and the creek bed for a foundation and proceeded to build a two-room frame house where he and his wife lived out their life. The house was located immediately south of the home of his son, George Albert Huntsman. Cleon and Eva Huntsman lived in this house all during their married life. Hyrum Ralston Huntsman died February 21, 1926 and Emiline Hunt Huntsman died 4 January 1929. Both are buried in the Ferron Cemetery.