

HISTORY OF SAMUEL HENRY LARSEN

By - Daughter Thelma Larsen Davis

Samuel Henry Larsen was born in Spring City, ~~Sampete Co.~~⁹, Utah, December 8, 1865, a son of Christian G. Larsen and Maria Caroline Sorensen. They were Danish converts to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and 1857 Pioneers of Utah.

Samuel Henry Larsen was the fourth child in a family of eleven children - four sisters and seven brothers. Being born into a polygamist family there were also eleven half brothers and sisters.

He attended school in Spring City a part of two years during which time he progressed to the fourth reader. He also learned to add, subtract, multiply and divide numbers. Because of perse~~ve~~^rence and rigid study on his part, he excelled in the things he had learned.

As a young boy, he and his brother Parley had to take a yoke of oxen ~~and go~~ into the foothills almost every day to haul wood during the winter months to keep all the family warm.

He was a young boy at the time of the Black Hawk War. One summer day while he and other young boys were herding cattle in the foothills south of Spring City, a band of Indians came upon on them. The boys started to run for dear life. One of the Indians shot an arrow at them. The arrow went through father's coat as it dangled loosely in back of him.

Ambition, unselfishness, and cooperation were the key words practiced in this polygamist family, for their father Christian G. Larsen was very active both ecclesiastically and civically.

When Samuel Henry's father was called in 1880 by President Brigham Young to preside over the Castle Valley Stake, Samuel was left in Spring City at the age of 15 along with four of grandfather's wives and smaller children.

He was left with the responsibility of farming and raising grain to feed the families. He raised grain on ten acres of ground and when harvest time came he helped other farmers harvest their crops and in turn they helped him.

In 1882 father came with the rest of the family to Castle Dale at the age of seventeen. He worked at many different things. For two years he and his half brother Parley spent all winter digging the old Mammoth Canal with nothing but a shovel to use.

Later he herded sheep for the Miller Brothers on the desert south east of Castle Dale. One night after he had bedded down the sheep for the night a man rode into his camp and asked to stay the night with him. Father gave him his supper and made him a bed in his tent. They went to bed and along about midnight there was a noise outside the tent. On awakening the thing father saw was the stranger standing up in his bed with a pistol in each hand. The noise stopped and they both went back to bed. The next morning father cooked breakfast and before the man left he gave father a ten dollar gold piece. Father was almost sure the man was Butch Cassidy.

When the Manti Temple was dedicated in 1890 Father had been herding sheep all winter and he came home with \$80.00 in gold. He took his two brothers Joseph and Parley with him paying their way to attend the dedication.

He married Sarah Seely, daughter of Orange Seely and Hannah Olsen on October 24, 1890. They were married in the Manti Temple by Apostle Antone Lund.

For six months he herded sheep out on the desert and during this time he did not see or have contact with another person. He read the Book of Mormon nine times during this period. This was before he herded sheep for the Miller Brothers.

While a young man he served as Ward Teacher, Sunday School Teacher and as President of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association.

On July 22, 1906 he was ordained to the 91st Quorum of Seventy. He was called to fulfill a mission to the Northern States Mission and was ordained a ^{MISSIONARY} Minister of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints by Rudder Clawson, November 5, 1907 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

He labored in the mission field from December 20, 1907 until December 20, 1909. During this time he served as the Presiding Elder with headquarters at St. Paul, Minnesota.

Reading in his journal he kept while in the mission field, he states that while tracting in the down-town area of St. Paul they came across a Catholic Priest who was very well educated and highly intelligent. After discussing religion with him for quite some time, the priest asked father what University he had graduated from. My father replied, "The University of Hard Knocks".

On September 18, 1910 he was ordained a High Priest by President Lars P. Oveson and that time he was chosen and sustained as second counselor to Peter I. Akelund of the Castle Dale Ward at a Ward Conference. He served in this capacity until 1912.

At a ward conference in 1912 he was chosen and sustained as the Presiding Elder over the Castle Dale Ward on the resignation of Peter I. Akelund. On August 10, 1912 he was sustained and set apart by Apostle Orson F. Whitney as Bishop of the Castle Dale Ward. He served in this capacity until April 28, 1929 when he was honorably released, having served as Bishop for 17 years as the Bishop of his ward. He was also active in civic affairs of the town. He served as school board trustee for seven years. In 1915 he

served on the Grand Jury for the State of Utah.

He was the father of four children, Horace, Glen, Lyman and Thelma. Horace and Glen preceded him in death. Lyman G. now lives in Castle Dale and Thelma L. Davis resides in Price. He has 12 grandchildren and 34 great grandchildren as well as great great grandchildren.