

HYRUM LEANY

Hyrum Leany was born in Parowan, Iron County, Utah, Aug. 26th, 1852. He was the fourth child and second son of Wm. and Elizabeth Searce Leany. His father was born and reared in Franklin, Simpson County, State of Kentucky and his mother from Richmond, Simpson County, State of Kentucky and his mother from Richmond, Wayne County, Indiana. They met after they assembled with the Saints in Nauvoo by Brigham Young Sept. 7th, 1845, at a time when this newly established religious sect was going through some of the most distressing years.

They were driven out of their home in Nauvoo, fleeing before the hostile mobs, leaving their furniture and all of their belongings except what they wore and could snatch up hastily in their departure.

The people of William Leany were Kentucky planter of comfortable means. The family of Elizabeth Searce were merchants and people of moderate wealth for thosedays. Fahter Searce was a Colonel in the Indiana State Militia of the Eight Regiment and Mr. Leany still possesses among his treasures Colonel Searce's commission from the Governor of Indiana--issued in 1817 and signed by Governor Johnathan Jennings. They were fixed comfortable for traveling across the plains, with good teams and outfits. Colonel Searce at one time made a loan to the Church to assist in fitting out those who were coming across the Plains. The note covering this loan has recently been turned into the General Church authorities by Hyrum Leany who had it in his possession for many years.

They came to Salt Lake City with what was known as the Big Company arriving in 1847, and the Wm. Leany family and Colonel Searce settled in the old Fifteenth Ward, where Colonel Searce become counselor to Bishop Smoot of that ward. William Leany was among those called to the Southern Mission, locating at Parowan. They arrived January 13th, 1851, Apostle George A. Smith being president of the company. After building a log house for them, his family followed later in the spring.

In 1862 they came on Southward locating at Harrisburg, where Grandfather Leany lived to the age of 76 and his wife to be 86, both being buried at Harrisburg.

This brings us to the life of Hyrum Leany the Pioneer boy with whom we make this week's little visit. While the family still lived in Parowan he received his first schooling remembering among his teachers first (aunt) Peggy Jane Hamilton and later Isaiah Coombs and for a little while Martin Slack who later settled in Toquerville. The school house was a rather large room made of logs and served also for the religious and community center. The benches were made of split logs, trimmed flat on one side and round sticks fitted into augur-bored holes served for legs. The benches had no backs and the boys and girls could not roll about in any very comfortable positions and their own laps must serve for the desks. Because of the trouble then on with the Indians, he recalls how at times when the people went to meeting they took their guns along and stacked them in a corner in readiness should they be needed. So far as he recalls no meetings were ever disturbed. However resulting from contact with one unfriendly Indian at their home, Hyrum Leany's father gained the Indian title of "Me-upgig-wee", meaning little bear.

Father Leany came on south to St. George in 1861 and was at Santa Clara at the time of the big flood of early 1862, but did not move his family down until the summer of 1862, when Hyrum, his father and eldest sister Sarah Ann and brother Wm. Jr., came to Harrisburg where they raised a crop, the rest of the family following later in the fall. Before the family came the four who were at Harrisburg had a small lumber shanty with a wagon cover stretched across the front for a door. They did their cooking outside in a bake oven. One day his sister, Sarah Ann left Hyrum to watch the bread which she had just put in the oven to bake. But they were near the creek and the little fishes in it tempted the watcher. Fixing a pin hook he

went to the creek to try his luck and when he came back he found their pet bossy, a rather presumptuous bovine, was visiting the home, had rooted the lid off the oven and was sampling the partly baked bread. But then he was just a small boy and all boys like to go fishing.

At Harrisburg they also had a building which served for school and meeting purposes and this boy remembers many of the happenings in that community center, among them the occasional visits of President Brigham Young and party on their southern tours. The building was rather small and at one time as he addressed them, Brigham Young suggested that it would have been well had the building been made a quarter of an inch larger. Hyrum Leany laughs heartily as he recalls the effect of this statement on the audience. Brigham Young also told them there would one day be a railroad pass along the side of the mountain.

People were called to this Southern Mission for special purposes or given special assignments because of their ability, training or past experience. Elijah Thomas, for instance, was called to Leeds to raise castor oil beans and manufacture the castor oil. For even in those days that was becoming a potent remedy and a useful article. He raised beans for some years and made his own press of heavy lengths of cottonwood, manufacturing some oil. Though the process was slow and this project was in time discontinued. Father Leany had been called to raise Indigo for dyeing purposes, having had much experience in the south with the culture of this plant. He made a great effort to grow the indigo but the climate though hot enough to start the plants lacked sufficient moisture for their maturing. This project was also abandoned and the Leany's turned to growing cotton and other crops also cattle raising.

Chances at schooling were not so good at Harrisburg, but a few weeks at a time as he could be spared, Hyrum Leany was sent to school, one of his outstanding teachers being Joseph Neil (Jo Neil) Haywood, also a man named Harrington. Wilbur Sael was also an early teacher.

Revalo Fuller's wife, mother of Orpha Hunt was another early teacher. Poor as his chances were at education, this boy became an excellent reader, speller, and writer, and was also adept at figures.

In the years of 1869 and 1870, when the Indians were still giving much trouble the old Fort Pearce was built and Hyrum Leany was among those called from the various settlements to help guard the cattle which were being stationed there. John Cameron was in charge of the work of herding the cattle in the day time and guarding them at night. There were a big lot of cattle brought together at this place and eight or ten served at a time in herding and guarding. Mr. Leany recalls that Alex Fullerton was one of the boys on duty when he was at Fort Pearce.

For a time during the early seventies Hyrum Leany worked at feeding the furnace in Irontown, the place between Pinto and Cedar City where for a time pig iron was smelted from nearby deposits of iron ore. The furnace was quite small, but the need of iron was for a time at least supplied. He still recalls the speed with which they had to work to keep the furnace properly fed, and the metal at a white heat so it would run in a liquid stream into the moulds when they tapped the furnace. It seemed queer to the boys working to hear the experienced men speak of the metal as frozen when it was red hot, but it must be so it would run.

When he was 25 years of age, Hyrum Leany with his father set out to visit relatives in Kentucky and Texas and his mother's people in the State of Indiana. By this time the railroad terminus was as far south from Salt Lake as York, a place near Nephi of today. They traveled with a freighter to York, taking the train from their for the remainder of the journey. During the three or four months of this journey they contacted many relatives and friends of father Leany's and this was a grand opportunity for this Utah born boy to see the home states of his parents. Among interesting events of their trip was the use of a great boat as a portable bridge when crossing the Mississippi from Memphis to the opposite shore. The boat fitted with sufficient track was docked at the place where the Memphis tracks were built out to make connections, and with surprising safety the

... was piloted across the river and run with equal safety onto the tracks on the opposite shore. Then there was the crossing of the mammoth ten million dollar steel bridge at St. Louis and then still in his remembrance are the plantations of the south, the great forests, and the rolling acres of the corn belt, which their long journey covered.

Hyrum Leany knew Silver Reef. He was there when John Kemple, a prospector apparently in his early thirties, came to that part of the country with Elijah K. Fuller, living for a time at the Fuller home. Kemple understood minerals and having detected the shining silver in the sandstone, prospected along the White Reef. He staked off a number of claims along the course of the Reef, assigning them to various people. One of these claims was taken up in the name of Hyrum Leany and his brother Will. Kemple worked around Leeds for some time, and became owner of some property, but he had no capital hence was unable to open up the silver which he had located. But others came and made thousands of dollars on his find of silver in sandstone, perhaps the first time it was found in quantity in this formation.

Then there was Johns Barbee who brought his Spiritualist Medium to aid him in locating claims. This Spiritualist was Thomas (Tom) McNelly. Mc Nelly was a strange man, but was in very deed a wizard. He often amused the crowds with his performances, such as having the boys write down columns of figures to which he could almost instantly give them the answer. "Often", said Hyrum Leany, "William Stirling and I have written the great columns of figures and been amazed with McNelly's rapid calculation. And he was always right for we tested the answers carefully. This was only one of his many clever stunts of doings. And from his seances it is supposed he directed Johns Barbee. In any case Barbee made plenty of money from the claims he located at McNelly's suggestion."

Mr. Leany worked with what was known as the Leeds Mining Company on property owned by Californians, the Superintendent being a man named Williams, and he says, "a fairer man never lived. When others were trying to lower the wages of the miners, Williams insisted that property that would not produce enough to pay the men \$4.00 per day was not worth operating, and he would not work it." This attempt to lower the wages was the work of a Colonel Allen who came out from the east as a Supt. of the Stormont Company. He worked around among the different companies but most of them refused to cut, and his doings finally resulted in the Miner's strike, and event of wide interest in Reef history. Allen was driven out and went to Salt Lake and conferred with federal officers then returned with U. S. Marshall Pratt, who deputized a number of local men, closed all of the saloons and ordered all the working men brought out of the mines. A snow storm was just on, which added to the vivid picture of the lines of men being brought out. Only a comparatively small group belonged to the Union but it was union men who had driven Colonel Allen out and these were the ones Pratt wanted. Hyrum Leany was not working in the mines at the time but was one of those deputized for the occasion. Out of the group they finally arrested twenty-seven men whom they took in three large wagons with four horse teams to Beaver for trial, with the guards along. Hyrum Leany was one of the guards. The first night they spent in Cedar, but fearing other miners might follow and give trouble they made a circuitous trip around through Minersville, where they camped the second night, Mr. Leany being placed to guard the twenty seven men who were quartered in the school house. At 2 o'clock in the morning Mike Regan, one of the men offered him a handfull of coins if he would go to the saloon and bring some liquor. He wouldn't. The guard ride horseback and were held in Beaver a week preceding the trial. Mr. Leany was good friends with the men. As they passed Bush Lake, about five miles beyond Enoch, one of the men under guard, by name Jimmy Baldwin, said "Leany, lend me your gun, to shoot ducks." Ducks

were plentiful but Baldwin didn't get the gun. While in Beaver Mr. Leany even borrowed from one of the cupprits some money so he could have his picture taken to take home. He paid them when they paid him for guarding.

Among the guards he remembers were Walter Kemp, Oz Barlow, David Mc Mull, Gus Hardy, Dan Seagmiller. The miners were a jolly group and never took a serious thought of what was ahead, singing as they traveled along. Even one night when one of the guards went to sleep on duty, their only thought was to embarass him by cutting short his mop of curly hair. But the guard awok in the nick of time.

Mr. Leany remembers a snatch of one song the miners sang.

"With a four horse team, we'll soon be seen,
Way out in Idaho."

Among those of prominence recalled by Mr. Leany from the days of the Reef are the following:

Houaton & West, General Merchandise
John Cassidy....Saloon Keeper
Peter Harrison...Hotel Keeper
Mr. Louder.....Store Keeper, Justice of the Peace, Editor and
Publisher of the Silver Reef Miner.
Turl.....The Store Keeper
Turl.....The miner
Thomas Gillisvie..Property owner
Richard Gillisvie, Property owner
Captain Bubbock...Mine Superintendent
Colonel Allen...Mine Superintendent
Mr. Williams....Leds Mining Co. Supt.
George Reeves...Lead Co. Mill Mgr.
John Olphin....Musician, Fidler
Mr. Kennedy
Ike Fridonski...Jew gambler, said to have won \$18,000 in his time.
Mike Ragen.....Saloon Keeper
Ed. Lochney....Claim owner
Mr. Schwartz....Jew store keeper
Johnny Diamond..Deputy Sheriff
Shoemaker.....General Blowhard....Managed horse races
Al Lusk.....Butcher
Charles Westover. Butcher and partner of Lusk
Al Huntington...Shift boss
Joe Hogue.....Shift Boss
Wash Morehouse..Clerk in Woolley Lund and Judd Store (stuttered)
Henry Milles....Clerk in Woolley Lund and Judd Store
George Miller...Saloon Keeper
Mr. Quirk.....Saloon Keeper
Colonel Wall
Pole Roundy.....Farmer from Kanarra
Mr. St. Clair...

During the next few years he devoted himself to cattle raising and farming and in the fall of 1883 went with his brothers Will and Dave to Luna Valley New Mexico, taking about seventy cattle, fifty of which belonged to Hyrum. This Luna Valley was being settled by a colony of Mormons. It was a severe winter and some of the cattle died. In the spring Hyrum sold what was left of the cattle and returned to Harrisburg. During this winter at Luna Valley, food even became scarce. For one meal they had only flapjacks made of flour and water without even any salt. Luna Valley was named for

TWO MEXICANS, CASSUS LUNA and TANTOLUNA LUNA (SPOUSERS). WILLIAM LEANY made his home there and David moved to Clifton, Arizona, but Hyrum never went back.

In the fall of 1888 Mary Margaret Woodbury, daughter of Orin Nelson and Francis Goddard Woodbury, went to Harrisburg to teach school. She was born in St. George July 12, 1870 and had received her schooling in this city. They just had a small school at Harrisburg, but Mary Margaret came of a family of school teachers and was making her start here. Shortly after arriving this young St. George girl met Hyrum Leany, and though he had been about with other girls a little or more, this apparently was the one he had been waiting for. They were married May 15th 1889 in the St. George Temple, Pres. David H. Cannon officiating.

To them were born eleven children, eight of whom are still living. They are Elizabeth (Mrs. W. C. Cox), Hyrum Nelson, Rodney William, Vivian Reed and Culbert, all of St. George; George Woodbury Leany of Murray, Francis Sceere Leany of Cedar City; and Wilford Leany of Hurricane, a daughter Gertrude, and son Eugene Mark passing away at adult age and Elmer in infancy.

In a religious capacity Hyrum Leany served as Supt. of Sunday School in Harrisburg for two years, and June 17th, 1894 was set apart as a Counselor to Bp. B.Y. McMullin of the Leeds ward of which Harrisburg was a branch. He served in this capacity being advanced to first counselor for a period of 18 years. Mrs. Leany was president of the Childrens Primary Association of Harrisburg for six years. For many years Mr. Leany was a member of the Board of School Trustees of Leeds School Precinct. The Harrisburg irrigation canal took its supply with that of Leeds from Quail Creek, the Harrisburg canal branching off at the head of Silver Reef. For many years Hyrum Leany was watermaster of this canal and those days there was frequently trouble among the water users, which gave the watermaster much extra and often unpleasant work.

September 1, 1920 Hyrum Leany and family moved to St. George, having previously purchased a home here so their children could attend high school at the Dixie College. Both Mr. and Mrs. Leany have since devoted most of their time to religious activities and working in the Temple.

Since 1925, Mrs. Leany has been an officer in the West Ward Genealogical Organization, being secretary since 1931. In connection with this work she has copied in their entirety the St. George Cemetary records up to July 1935, at the request of the Utah Genealogical Organization. It is a coincident that the recorded number of the last entry when she began this this copying was 1861, the same number as the year in which the city was first settled. Two typed copies of this record were made in alphabetical order by Mrs. Leany's granddaughter Ella Cox, one of which is in the State Office and one in the Washington County Library for reference.

Hyrum Leany was 85 years old on the 26th of August last year and in spite of having been somewhat afflicted ofr many years with asthma is full of laughter as he recalls the experiences of early days. He says he wants to live as long as he can see others living and do a little good himself, and in this is joined by Mrs. Leany. More power to them.

Nov. 5, 1939--Hyrum Leany is now 87, and is still active in Temple work, sometimes walking 13 blocks from his home in St. George to the Temple.

Mrs. Hyrum Leany