

## WILLIAM LEANY

Dictated by his son Hyrum, and written by Hyrum's wife

William Leany, son of Culbert Means and Margaret Cook Leany, was born at Franklin, Simpson County, Kentucky, 19 Dec, 1815. From a sketch of his life written by himself we learn that he loved to listen to the best men of the times discuss the near approach of the Millenium, and when the restored gospel was taken to their family in February, 1834, his twin brother and he accepted their testimony. They were the only members of the family who did. He says their mother who died eleven years before was a most excellent woman.

The two boys left home for Missouri, where the Saints were at that time, in the fall of 1836.

It seems as though Satan did his best to discourage William, for, on the way, he says he got so terribly crippled with heavy debt, he did not get over the effects of it, so that he was able to go to Nauvoo, where the Saints were at that time, until 3 July, 1843. Just eight days from then he received a blessing from Patriarch John Smith.

He assisted with the carpenter work on the Nauvoo Temple. Was married in Nauvoo to Elizabeth Searce, 7 Sept, 1845, and emigrated to Salt Lake City with the pioneers and arrived there in Sept., 1847, with what was called the Big Company.

Before coming to Utah, he filled a mission to Indiana. While there he was taken from a mob by a friend, although not a Mormon, who took him in his house and told him his house was his fort and his guns would protect him.

The mob left without harming any of them.

A son of this friend happened to pass through Parowan on his way to California, years later, and stayed overnight at William Leany's home. They were happy to have the privilege of entertaining him, and the next morning gave him some onions and other things to take along.

William Leany was called a pioneer to Parowan and arrived with the

first company, 13 January, 1851.

Eleven years later another call came, this time to assist in settling Dixie. In 1868 he was married to Mary Conde in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City. She was born in Scotland 22 December 1842. Two children were born of this union, Mary Elizabeth and William Conde. Both died in infancy and their mother died December 19, 1876.

His first wife had nine children: Sarah Ann born at Cutler's Park, Douglas County, Missouri; William Jr. and Elizabeth Helen were born in Salt Lake City; Hyrum, David, Marietta, Amelia and Mary were born in Parowan, In County, Utah and Thomas Jefferson was born at Harrisburg, Washington County Utah, July 4, 1865. All lived until they were grown and all except the two youngest married and have families.

Many saints in Utah in those early days were called by the Church authorities to assist with the expense of bringing Latter Day Saint emigrants across the plains. Some were called onto furnish horses, others wagons, others provisions and men were called to drive the teams to the Missouri and back to bring emigrants from there. William Leany's oldest son was called to go on one of these journeys and William was called on at other times to assist in this worthy cause.

After the saints arrived at their destination they were expected to pay this emigration fee, which would of course would be paid to the Church, and would be well spent in the advancement of the cause of truth.

William Leany was fearless in defending the principles of Mormonism and endured heroically the persecutions, trials and tribulations he was called on to pass through for its sake.

In his declining years he read and studied the scriptures a great deal many passages of which he learned by heart, when a boy, by reading aloud to his father, and which he had always remembered. He was never happier than when discussing the principles of the restored gospel and quoting scriptures to prove that his convictions were right.

He died Dec. 29, 1891, at Harrisburg, Washington, Utah and is buried there.