



LYMAN UTLEY LEAVITT
(24 MAY 1831 - 23 FEB 1912)

(This is a second history of Lyman Utley Leavitt, and although it compliments the first story it does have some additional history that needs to be known. The credit for this history is given to myself, Ivan J. Watts, Lyman's Great Grandson, and was written in the year 1934, which meant that I wrote it when I was seven years old. I do not take credit for this history nor do I know how my name appears on this history. The original history is in the hands of Ellen Adell Leavitt Paxton, a daughter of Lyman Leavitt. This is a copy of that history)

The History of Lyman Utley Leavitt, written by Ivan Watts of Kanosh in 1934, covering his life from birth until the time he left Kanosh to help settle Mesa, Arizona, with his second wife (Ann Eliza Hakes Leavitt).

Lyman Utley Leavitt was born 24 May 1831 or 1832 at Compton Quebeck Canada. He was the 5th child of John Leavitt and Lucy Rowell Leavitt. He moved with his parents when they left Canada to journey to Illinois. It was on this trip that he met Ellen Adell Brown, daughter of Reuben and Deborah Eno Brown. Ellen was born 9 Mar 1836 at Auburn, Grauga Ohio. They went back to Canada where Lyman and Ellen were married by J.W. Taylor, believed to be an Elder in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. They were married at Pulaski, Jackson Co. Michigan or Canada in 1857.

Two children were born to them at Cambria Hillsdale Co. Michigan, James Elbert, born 12 May 1858 and Florence Devorah, born 1 July 1860. Lyman and Ellen lived at Black Oaks, Ill. for a short time. On 12 May 1863 they joined a company of Saints and started for Utah. They traveled in one of the hand cart companies. Walking all the way, pushing and pulling their cart and carrying the two little children. When necessary they let them ride when they could. They had to depend on the wilderness for part of their food. They killed animals for meat and used the hides to make shoes, clothing, and shelter. They hunted edible greens and roots along the way.

On 26 July 1863 they arrived in Salt Lake but a few days later they moved on to Centerville in Davis County. While living in Centerville, three more children were born to them, Charles Alway and a twin girl born 24 Feb 1864. The girl died as an infant. Lyman Elroy, born 15 May 1867. Their stay in Centerville was all too short. During the October Conference in 1868, along with Alonzo Kimball and a small group of other men and their families they were called to settle on the Muddy River in Arizona.

The group started on their journey. At that time the Indians were very hostile resenting the coming of the white men to their country. But the little group of settlers set out to try and make friends with them for the good of all the white settlements in that part of the State.

This was a very difficult journey for Ellen to take as her baby, six months old, Lyman, was very sick and was carried all the way on a pillow on his mother's lap. The journey was hard and cold. The mules slow, but finally they arrived at their destination.

The weather was mild in the winter and hot in the summer. The houses were one and two room willow and sod cabins in which at first two or more families lived. As the months passed by, their living conditions were slightly improved and new cabins were built. The Indians continued to give them trouble, stealing their horses, cattle and especially mules. It was necessary to maintain a constant guard, women as well as men, taking turns. One of the stories told about this goes:

One night a boy named Hakes was on guard when he saw three Indians slipping into the settlement. Two of them kept watch while the third started to untie the horses. Hakes shot and killed one but the two lookouts escaped. The shot aroused the settlers and the ones who were in the fields irrigating the crops. When they found out what had happened they knew they were in for trouble. While the women hurriedly gathered a few things together the men met in Lyman Leavitt's cabin to decide what to do. A letter from the settlers to Brigham Young had already been sent about the constant danger the entire time they had been there. Now they knew the danger the Indians would use this incident to wipe out their little group.

About sunrise the Indians, in full war paint, came riding and screaming around the cabins. The men made provisions to take the lives of their own women and children rather than have them fall into the hands of the Indians. Lyman had been selected to act as the settlers representative. He, with the other men, held a conference with the chief and some of his warriors. The Indians demanded the person who had killed one of their braves so they could punish him. Lyman pointed out the brave was trying to steal the white man's horses, but this made no difference to the chief. The Hakes boy, fearing all of the whites would be killed if they continued to protect him, ran out of the Leavitt cabin where all the settlers waited through the long and frightening hours and gave himself up. The Indians tied him to a stake and burned him alive. The settlers were then told to go. They lost no time packing a few of their belongings into waiting wagons and starting out for Utah.

Ellen, Lyman's wife held their baby girls. They had traveled about 8 miles from their settlement when the Indians were again seen approaching. At the cry of Indians, the men tried to draw the wagons into a circle. The chief and two warriors rode up to the Leavitt wagon and grabbed the baby "with hair like sunshine" and rode away. Plans were made to try to rescue the baby, despite the fact they knew it was almost hopeless. A cloud of dust signaled the return of the Indians. The chief rode up to the Leavitt wagon, leaned over from his horse and placed a bundle, wrapped in an Indian blanket, in Ellen's arms. Afraid that her baby would be impelled or staked.

as was the custom of the Indians, Ellen was afraid to look. The chief leaned forward, turned back the blanket and there lay the little girl, sleeping. The chief informed Lyman the baby now belonged to the tribe and must be brought back once a year for them to see, until she was old enough to leave her mother and join the tribe. Once again they were told to go and the Indians rode off. As Ellen looked down at the baby dressed in Indian dress and ornaments, safely in her arms again her heart swelled with thankfulness.

The settlers started on once again crossed the Muddy and were in Utah once again. There were many miles to travel before they reached Long Valley, near Cove Fort. Here they stayed a little over two years, farming and building cabins. Lyman built a two room cabin which sheltered his family of seven and his widowed sister-in-law and her three children. They moved to Kanosh in 1873 where Lyman bought a little farm and a one room cabin to which he added another room. The next year he built a new two room brick house, adding another room and a kitchen. Later Abraham Alonzo Kimball did the brick work and Lyman did the carpentry and plaster work himself. They later helped to build many of the homes in Kanosh. Lyman owned two lots in town of $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres each. He also owned 25 acres east of town about 8 miles, known as the Leavitt Ranch.

During the year he lived in Kanosh, Lyman was called as a second counselor to the first bishop of their ward. He was active in church and civic affairs and contributed a great deal to the community. It was in Kanosh that he met and married his second wife, Ann Eliza Hakes, daughter of Collins Rowe and Mable Ann Morse Hakes. They were married 27 Dec 1875. One year later, in 1876, Lyman was called to go on a mission back to Illinois. He visited his former home and recalled the happy years he had spent there. The old home was still standing, but sadly in need of repair. It was a large two story house. In his youth there had been two large trees in front, a lotus and an oak, but they were both gone. He visited the cemetery finding it in a very run down condition. The graves of his father and brother were covered with weeds. His mission was very successful and he received much joy and many blessings from it as did all the members of his family.

While in Kanosh Lyman was co-owner of a molasses mill with Amon Rappley and Andrew Ross. The people had no sugar but raised a lot of sugar cane, so they had a plenty of molasses. The mill never stopped during the season except to change horses and workers. It was run by horsepower, having a horse hitched to a long pole or sweep and moving slowly round and round turning the rollers which crushed the juice from the cane which was fed into it by hand. The juice was then run into a large vat over a fire and slowly brought to a boil. A thick scum formed on top which was skimmed off. Children in the community brought their containers to get skimmings, which they used to make candy. Sometimes they brought their peaches down to the vat and when the molasses was half done they would cook the peaches in it,

making preserves which they sold or traded to other towns for produce. Most everything they had in their homes, food, furniture, clothes etc. was made by either Lyman or Ellen. Lyman was a good farmer, carpenter, plasterer. Ellen corded and spun wool into yarn, wove it into cloth, cut out her own patterns and made cloths for her own family. She made cloth for other people in town including men's suits. To make the dye she used madder root for red, rabbit brush set with alum for yellow, and squaw berry bush set with alum for reddish brown. She knit stockings, mittens, shawls, and gloves.

After Lyman took his second family to Mesa, Arizona, in response to a call from the President of the Church, Ellen lived in the brick house. She had chosen to remain in Kanosh with her children. Ellen Adell, the youngest was thirteen, Lyman Elroy was 16 and he rode Pony Express carrying the mail to Cove Fort, over 20 miles of back trails. Lyman Elroy and Charles ran the farm until Charles got married, then Elroy ran it alone. Ellen kept bees and cared for them herself, selling the honey. Through this and her dress making together, and with the farm they kept things going. She was never too busy to answer a call to a sick bed day or night. She was very active in the church and was well loved by them in return. Ellen lived alone in her later years. She died of pneumonia while visiting her youngest daughter, Ellen Adell Leavitt Paxton. She was 66 years old at the time of her death and is buried at Kanosh, Millard County, Utah. From another source she was treasure in the Relief Society for 15 years and made temple aprons as long as she lived.

PART II

(Told by Laverne Leavitt Rogers, daughter of Lyman and Ann Eliza Hakes Leavitt.)

Three of the eleven children born of this second marriage were born in Kanosh, Utah:

Mable Claire	born 23 Sept.	1876
Avis LaVerne	born 17 June	1878
John	? born 4 Oct.	1880

It was in 1880 that Lyman was again called to fill a mission for the church to help colonize Mesa, Arizona. He left Kanosh, taking his second wife, Ann Eliza and their family, leaving all his property to his first wife, Ellen. He had to start all over again to raise a family and acquire a home and livestock. It was a typical pioneer journey from Kanosh to Mesa. The trails were not to good, they were rough, long and hard. With teams and wagons, father's pioneer spirit and training, along with their faith in God, made the journey possible. It took several weeks for the journey and all rejoiced when they arrived in Mesa.

During the months it took to build our home in Mesa we lived in a tent just across the street and north of the present city library. However, at that time it was the jail house property. The property where our home once stood is now owned by the Catholic church. Father used to walk across the street

to the jail and sit on the ground outside the windows and sing to the prisoners. He felt this was an opportunity to do a little missionary work and to bring a little brightness into the days of the prisoners.

It was during these years in Mesa that the other eight children of Lyman and Liza were born. They are:

Lucinda Helen	Born 9 June 1883	
Lyman Hakes	Born 13 June 1885	
Lucy Pearl	Born 13 Aug. 1886	Died 17 Mar. 1923
George Wilford	Born 18 June 18	Died 17 Nov. 1949
Clarence Edgar	Born 25 Aug. 1891	Died 18 Sept 1891
Joseph Collins	Born 20 June 1896	Died 27 Aug. 1973
Francis Harry	Born 8 Apr. 1896	Died 6 July 1896
Arthur Floyd	Born 6 Apr. 1898	Died 24 Dec. 1926

Father planted one of the first orange orchards in the valley. The first year they got along fine but the second year there was a killing frost and he lost all of them. He had a large peach orchard and always kept a lot of bees. Father was always helping others, materially and spiritually. A friend and he were talking one day when the friend said he didn't have the money to send to a son that was on a mission for the church. Father didn't say much, but went home got the money, gave it to the man to send to his son. As far back as I can remember, father was much in demand as a singer and a story teller. He had an unusual gift for writing poetry and original readings as well as a special talent for giving them. When ever there was a party or special program he was called upon to sing or give a reading or both. He always had plenty of listeners, especially among the young boys. He never told smutty stories or read dime novels. The Bible, Book of Mormon and the Doctrine of Covenants were his favorite books. He read many other church works. It seemed father liked to live where he had room to breathe. So as the town grew around him he wanted to get out in the country. Again he sold our home in town and built another just north of the present Mesa Temple, across Main St. At that time this was really out in the country. It was just thick mesquite, palo verde and brush clear to town about one mile. This was the family home until 1899.

At the age of 68 father again received a call from the Church. This time to be Bishop of the Pine, Arizona Ward. Once again father gladly left all he and mother had spent some nineteen years building, to do the Lords will. We was set apart as Bishop of the Pine Ward, 26 Feb 1900 by Collins R. Hakes, who was President of the Maricopa Stake. Pine was made part of this stake at the time he and mother made another home. He and mother spent thirteen happy full years here. They finished raising their family, happy with their blessings and opportunities.

Father was Bishop of the Pine Ward until 18 Nov. 1903. He lived in Pine until his death 25 Feb 1912. In his blessing father was promised he would be told of things to come concerning his life and the welfare of his family. There were many

incidents in his life where this happened. One such incident was when father was warned in a dream that his son John would be bitten by a mad dog. The next morning he decided not to let him go duck hunting with his uncle, but took him with him to gather wood. Father watched him carefully so as to protect him from danger if it should come. Once while they were out John got a little farther away than he realized and father turned to look for him just in time to see a dog come out of the brush and bit John. Before father could do anything the dog was gone. He rushed John home but little could be done as it was impossible to get treatments this side of Chicago for rabies. Father mortgaged their home to get money enough to send John to Chicago for treatment. Grandfather Collins R. Hakes took John and a boy by the name of Wallace who had also been bitten by a dog and made the trip. Fortunately they were able to get treatment in time to save both boys.

Another time brother George was ill with pneumonia and near death. Father was told in a dream that George would live and he soon recovered completely from his illness to live a full and useful life.

During his lifetime father served as a "Ward Teacher", High councilman, Bishops Counselor, and Bishop. He filled several mission calls and was always willing to serve the Lord where ever and when ever he was called. He was called nine times to go by the church into new territory to help settle and colonize it. He was well known as an organizer and a peacemaker. He worked hard all his life and for the most part enjoyed excellent health. The day before he died he cut down a big tree.

He apparently knew his life was drawing to a close the Sunday before his death. He went to visit a good friend who was a Forest Ranger, near Pine. He had dinner with him. He told the Ranger to remember he had eaten his last Sunday dinner with him. He died 23 Feb 1912. After father's death mother stayed on in Pine with the two younger boys, Joe and Floyd. Soon after this Joe, the older of the two boys was called to go on a mission to the Southern States. Mother put her talents to work as a seamstress and sewed for people in Pine. She was a beautiful dressmaker and made all her own patterns. She made the wedding dresses for all four of her daughters. She also boarded school teachers the two years Joe was on his mission. When Joe came home he went to Mesa and worked. Soon after this mother and Floyd moved to Phoenix where they lived for several months. When Floyd moved to Mayer, Arizona to work, mother came to Lehi to visit with us for the winter. It was while mother was with us we received word of the death of sister Pearl, 19 Mar. 1923. It had been a hard winter that year and there was still so much snow on the ground it was impossible for mother to go to Pine for the funeral. They couldn't make it by horse and buggy and it was almost impossible to go by horseback. Four of the men went to the funeral. George and Joe, a nephew, Rulon Rogers, had to go by horseback from the old Brady Ranch,

knee deep to the horses in snow. Some places were worse. As soon as it was possible for mother to get to Pine she went and was mother to seven children left motherless by the death of Pearl. It was while she was in Pine that she died, 2 Feb 1926. After having lived a very useful and happy life both for herself and others.

When mother was President of the YWMIA for Maricopa Stake she made one memorable trip to Salt Lake for conference. Memorable to us perhaps because of the combined effort of all the family to get her there. All during the peach season the family cut and dried peaches to sell by the time MIA conference came in June. Enough money had been raised to send mother to Salt Lake. Some of the other church positions she held were Secretary, First and second Counselor in the Relief Society.

Lyman Leavitt, a father and friend to those who loved him, had success materially and spiritually in his lifetime. He loved the Gospel and his family and his neighbors. We, his posterity, can be proud of his life. We can profit by his example and receive strength from his testimony as given to us by his words and deeds.