

## THE REDD FAMILY OF UTAH

Taken from "The History of Utah" published in 1932

It is important that a state should remember its pioneers, not merely the men who were first in point of time, but those were outstanding in the performance of work, the endurance of hardships, and the fearless confronting of all the difficulties and experiences which are woven like a web into the historic fabric of a commonwealth. Such honors should be paid to various members of the Redd family and their connections. Utah was not the first state in which these families did their part as pioneers. They were the solid industrious stock of American colonists, prominent in the original colonies along the Atlantic Coast, and also were identified with successive waves of migration, home- building and state-making in the historic progress across the mountains, across the Mississippi Valley, and finally into the Great Basin.

A grandfather of the present generation of the Redd family drove a wagon across the plains in the Mormon migration of 1850. The deeds and leadership of the family are particularly identified with the history of San Juan, Utah. The story of the colonization of that valley could not be told without repeated reference to the activities and influences of the Redd family. They were first and foremost in point of settlement and in pioneer labors which brought that district into touch with the economic and political order of the rest of the state.

In order to trace properly the ancestry of this family it is necessary to go back several generations, before they came to Utah. The first prominent ancestor met with in the record bore the name of William Hancock. He went to North Carolina in 1707, as an attorney for Lord Pollock. In the same year he received a grant of land on the Neuse River near Newbern. In 1708-09 and in 1717 he was a member of the North Carolina Assembly. In 1723 he was appointed by the North Carolina Assembly at Edenton a commissioner to sell lots at Newbern. William Hancock and his wife, Eliza, had a son, Hector Hancock, who was born in Carteret County, North Carolina, and died in 1721. Hector and his wife, Ann, were the parents of Nathaniel Hancock, of Onslow County, North Carolina. Nathaniel Hancock married Sarah Ward, daughter of Enoch and Mary (Shackelford) Ward. Enoch Ward, of Carteret County, was a contemporary of William Hancock and his name also appears in the records as a member of the North Carolina Assembly. Nathaniel Hancock died in 1800. His son, Zebedee Hancock, born in January 1760, and died in Onslow County in 1820, married Abigail Taylor, daughter of William and Elizabeth Taylor. Abigail Taylor was born in 1761. A daughter of Zebedee Hancock was Elizabeth Hancock, who was born January 25, 1797, in Onslow County, and died in 1853. She became the wife of John Hardison Redd.

John Hardison Redd was born December 27, 1799, and died June 15, 1858 at Spanish Fork, Utah. He was the son of Whitaker and Elizabeth Redd. Whitaker was born in Onslow County and died in 1828, being a son of Whitaker Redd Sr., of Onslow County, who died either in 1786 or 1789. John Hardison Redd was known as Captain Redd, since he was a sea-faring man. He was also a North Carolina merchant, and a man of unusual learning and accomplishment.

In 1838 Capt John Hardison Redd, with his family, left Onslow County and settled in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. There he acquired a large plantation, owning numerous negro slaves. The course of his life as a southern slave-holding planter was completely changed in 1842, when he became a convert to the Mormon faith. At that time he liberated his slaves, though because of their regard for him, some of them followed him to Utah. He had also been a planter. His father, Whitaker Redd, had been a Revolutionary soldier.

Two years before the family left their old home in Onslow County, a son, Lenuel Hardison Redd, was born July 31, 1836. He was about six years of age when the family accepted their new faith, and at the age of fourteen he was a sturdy boy, capable of doing his part in the migration across the plains to the new Zion. From St. Joseph, Missouri, he drove an ox team. When an old man he frequently recounted the incidents of the journey, and that story made a lasting impression on the memory of his grandson, Mr. Charles Redd. Both Lemuel and his father were attacked by the cholera. Lemuel H. Redd told of the scenes impressed upon his memory in seeing hundreds of people buried along the roadsides. He described the terror caused by the threat of Indian attack and pictured the stampeding of thousands of buffalo on the plains.

It was in October 1850 that the family, after many toils, arrived in Salt Lake City. During the following winter Lemuel Hardison Redd attended school at Provo. The next spring the family moved to Spanish Fork. The Redds and the family of William Pace were the pioneers of that locality in Utah Co. At Spanish Fork, Captain Redd helped build the first sawmill south of Provo. When the Indian War broke out in 1853, the mill and town were destroyed and the family sought a place of safety at Palmyra.

Lemuel Hardison Redd in 1852 was baptized and ordained a priest. During the Walker War, which started in July 1853, he did his part as a soldier and was an officer in all the Indian wars of the state. Though he had few opportunities for schooling during his youth, because his family were first pioneers in Tennessee and then in Utah, he became educated beyond most of his contemporaries and was particularly well informed in history and biography. He served six years as member of the County Court and also acted as Probate judge. During the invasion of General Johnston's army, he went with Captain Andrus' company of soldiers to Green River to ascertain the plans of the enemy. The company was gone a month and one man and one horse were killed by the Indians.

Lenuel Hardison Redd, on January 2, 1856, married Keziah Jane Butler, who proved a faithful wife and loving mother to her thirteen children. The Butlers also introduced other lines of strong and valiant pioneer ancestry. Keziah Jane Butler was born in Simpson County, Kentucky, February 25, 1836, daughter of John Lowe and Caroline F. (Skeen) Butler. John Lowe Butler was born April 8, 1808, and died in 1861. He was a son of James and Charity (Lowe) Butler, and grandson of William and Phoebe (Childres) Butler. Charity Lowe was born January 12, 1782, in South Carolina, daughter of William and Margaret (Farr) Lowe, and granddaughter of John Lowe and Nancy Butler, and Barnabas and Dorothy Farr. William Lowe was born in Virginia, February 12, 1756 and died in 1835, while his wife, Margaret, was born in Pennsylvania in 1761. John Lower Butler kept a diary, still in possession of his descendants, and in it he recorded that both he and his wife were children and grandchildren of Revolutionary

sires. His grandfather, William Lowe, enlisted in the army of the Revolution in 1775, serving in the company commanded by Capt. Joseph Phillips, William Dobson, Minor Smith and Joel Lewis. In 1781 William Butler served in Colonel Picken's regiment.

The Butler family arrived in Utah in the fall of 1852, and John Lowe Butler was prominent in the founding of Spanish Fork. He was appointed by President Brigham Young to survey the land, lay off blocks and city lots and bring water from the river to the settlement. His wife, Caroline F. Skeen, was born in Sumner County, Tennessee, April 15, 1812 and died in 1875. She was a daughter of Jesse and Keziah (Taylor) Skeen, and granddaughter of John or Alexander Skeen and Robert and Nancy Taylor. Jesse Skeen was born in Sumner Co., Tenn., and died in 1842, and Keziah Taylor was born April 11, 1778.

After his marriage, Lemuel Hardison Redd, Sr., went with his wife to fill a mission for the church at Las Vegas, New Mexico. He was a member of the fifteenth Quorum of Seventy. In 1862 he helped found New Harmony, Washington Co., Utah, holding many offices there, and in 1866 bought a homestead at New Harmony, completing an unfinished brick house, in which he lived until 1878. He was for twenty years a bishop of his church.

In 1866 married as his second wife, Sarah Louisa Chamberlain, who bore him fourteen children.

Under orders of the head of the church, Lemuel Hardison Redd Sr., with George W. Sevy, George Morrill and George H. Hobbs, comprised a party of explorers or advance guards sent out to locate the San Juan River and select the best place for the building of a road that would lead the later colonists to Southern Utah. It was a very difficult and perilous trip and its record is an important part of the undertaking of colonizing the San Juan.

In the Fall of 1879 this party of four pioneers made their own road from Escalante to the San Juan settlement, which they named Bluff. They had left the main body of colonizers, comprising eighty-three wagons, about eighty men and 150 persons in the entire company, comprising men, women and children, and for twenty-five days in mid-winter, they plodded through deep snow with only a pack mule to carry provisions, and for four days of this time they were without food altogether.

Lemuel Hardison Redd Sr., lived for many years to enjoy the fruits of his pioneer enterprise in helping lead the colonists into the San Juan. He died June 9, 1910. As one of his associates wrote of him: "Brother Redd was looked up to as a kind, sensible, resourceful man of wide experience, a consistent Latter-day Saint, and was respected as such. Personally, I always looked upon your father as one who contributed of himself and his wonderful family a great offering, for not only San Juan Mission, but to the whole work of our church and country, and I appreciate very much the honor of laboring and associating with many of them."

Representing the second generation of this pioneer family in Utah was Lemuel Hardison Redd Jr., who was born at Spanish Fork, October 5, 1856, and lived a life of usefulness and honor, closed in death on June 1, 1923. He was his father's oldest child. At the age of eight he

was baptized, and was ordained a teacher at the age of fourteen, and an elder at twenty-two. During 1875-76 he was a student in the University of Deseret, now the University of Utah. After that he taught for a year, and in 1878 he married Eliza Ann Westover. In 1884 he married Lucy Lyman.

Lemuel Hardison Redd Jr. was also a member of the party of Saints that colonized the San Juan River Valley in 1879. In 1881 he was ordained high priest and set apart as second counselor to Bishop Jens Nielson, in which capacity he labored for twenty years, and on Bishop Nielson's death became bishop of Bluff. In 1910 he was made president of the San Juan Stake. He was superintendent of the Ward Sunday School, secretary of the Y.M.M.I.A., was ward clerk, for fifteen years superintendent of the San Juan Co-operative Store and president of a large number of business organizations in that county. He organized the first bank in Southeastern Utah, and promoted and secured the funds for the establishment of water and light systems at Monticello and Blanding in San Juan County.

In his generation he carried the spirit of service which had actuated his father. His father, Lemuel Sr., had often, during his early years of the colony in Southern Utah, when there was neither practising physician nor dentist, performed the duties of doctor and dentist, pulling teeth and assisting with broken bones. The enterprise and energy with which Lemuel H. Redd Sr., carried out practical business undertakings .....an exceptional degree of public interest and willingness to sacrifice his own profits and advantage for the benefit of others. Of all his varied services, perhaps the most important was his part in redeeming San Juan County from its isolation and from the anarchic conditions in the early days. He often faced grave danger for the sake of law and order. He was responsible for the building up of an immense industry as a stock man, and had a part in practically every community undertaking in the county.

Lemuel Hardison Redd Jr. took a great deal of pride and satisfaction in the knowledge that he was one of the founders of San Juan County. In speaking of the events of early days and referring to San Juan County as a community that was an asset to the state, he constantly spoke in words that would be used by a proud father in referring to a worthy son.

He was characterized by a remarkable intelligence, business ability of a high order, and personally he was, as one of his friends put it, "a man quiet and unpretentious, firm as a rock and humble as a child." The children of his first marriage were Lulu, Lemuel H., Hattie Helen, Herbert H., Edith, Charles, Marian, and May, and those of his second wife were Carlie, Frank, Annie and Amasa J.

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Taken from the journal of John D. Lee at 'Summer Quarters' 13 miles north of Winter Quarters, and was mainly a farm owned by Brigham Young, and worked by John D. Lee, his adopted son.

July 1, 1847 "At about 6 p.m. Brother John H. Redd and Islam Gilliam both of Rutherford Co., Tenn., arrived in camp. John H. Redd, an old man, Captain, formerly from South Carolina, had protected Lee when Mormon missionaries in Rutherford County were

attacked by a mob." He later became converted and the prefix 'Bro.' indicates he was a Mormon at that time.

July 4, 1847 "Left Brother John H. Redd considerably diffculted in his mind about moving to the west. After meeting Brother Redd, I, Gilliam and several others dined with John D. Lee." (Note: John H. Redd later emigrated and founded the Redd family of south-eastern Utah.)

July 5, 1847 "Clear, wind, S.W. About 8 o'clock friend Gilliam, Sister Caroline (Gilliam's wife) and John H. Redd started for Tennessee, their native land."

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"First Families of Utah" Utah census of 1850 listed the following, the family and servants of John H. Redd.

John H. Redd 51 M

Elizabeth 52 F

Ann M. 19 F

Ann E. 18 F

Mary C. 15 F

Lemuel H. 14 M

John H. 13 M

Benjamin 8 M

(Servants of J. H. Redd) The following had been slaves, but were freed and had followed their former master to Utah.

Venis 40 F Black

Chancey 38 F Black

Luke 19 M Yellow

Marinda 18 F Yellow

Annie 14 F Yellow

Sam 17 M Yellow

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Rutherford County Records "A list of prepertry was taken and returned by Miles p. Murphy Esq. in district 8 of Rutherford County, Tenn., for the year 1849. John H. Redd — 175 acres of land valued at \$1250.00, tax \$1.44. Four slaves valued at \$1600.00, tax \$1.84. Other property valued at \$915.00, tax \$1.04. Polls 1 tax .15. State tax \$4.47, State and County tax \$7.45."

All this would indicate that John H. Redd did not move to Nauvoo, but went from Tennessee to Utah in 1850, that on April 3, 1844, when he and his wife, Elizabeth Hancock Redd, had their patriarchal blessings (under the hands of Hyrum Smith) they came on a visit only to Nauvoo and returned to Tennessee.