

Lewis Henry Kump

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with information from Don Kump, Iona Kump, LaVar Kump, and
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Lewis Henry Kump was born February 2, 1886 in a log cabin at Chester, Sanpete County, Utah. The son of Zachariah Kump and Mary Catherine Cloward.

He was the seventh child of fifteen children. His mother was the third wife of Zachariah. The first wife being Permelia Snively. The second, a cousin of Mary Catherine, died at child birth. Lewis' mother worked in the Kump household helping to care for the mother and children. Mary Catherine helped raise four of the five children of the second wife, Elizabeth Ann Cloward. The youngest child was raised by other family members.

When Lew was about five years of age he fell from a horse and dislocated his hip. The doctors could not get the hip back which caused Lew to go through life with one leg shorter than the other and gave him much pain.

Helping on the farm was necessary for all of the children and by the age of eight he was helping with the plowing. By the age of ten he had become a dependable sheep herder. Due to the hip injury he could not ride a horse astride, so he would lie across the horse on his stomach. When he grew older he would ride sideways.

Lew had a great love for animals and he took very good care of them. As he grew older he broke a lot of horses to the harness, they always worked well for him.

Lew was a kind gentle man, most of the time. He was big hearted and would give you anything he owned if you asked for it. His temper could be quick, tho seldom displayed, and he was always sorry once it had flared up.

Music was a natural talent to Lew. When he was about ten years old his parents bought an organ. Lew soon taught himself how to play it. He could also play an accordion, mandolin, guitar, banjo and harmonica. He had a beautiful tenor voice and enjoyed singing.

Lew enjoyed playing baseball and was an excellent pitcher. His ball playing covered a period before and after marriage. The upper part of his body was extremely strong. He could do handsprings one after another. He could balance on his head on a chair or a fence post. It was possible for him to pick up a hundred pound sack of coal and carry it across the room by his teeth.

His brother, Jacob, looked so much like Lew people thought they were twins.

Lew always owned a good team and well kept harnesses. Every spring the harnesses were washed and oiled. He never went to a meal unless his animals had been cared for first. If his horses didn't have a shelter, they always had blankets for cold or inclement weather.

At one time he had a dog named Jip. The dog always insisted on sitting between Lew and his date. At times he was left home.

When he was fifteen, Lew worked on a ranch above Challis, Idaho. He left home at this early age as he was not treated fairly by his half brothers. While he was there he became

very ill. He lived in a granary and a girl from the farm brought him some meals or he would have died.

Farming was the job he knew best. He only went to school to the third grade of formal education as he was needed to help herd the sheep. He went from Idaho to Nevada to work. Many of his meals during his travels were earned by singing and playing his guitar.

Lew returned home just before he turned twenty-one. It was about this time he met Blanche. They were at a dance in Freedom, Utah. This was a community one mile south of Burch Creek or on Cedar Cliffs where Blanche lived. She was wearing a red organdy dress. Lew asked someone to introduce him and he made the comment that he was going to marry that girl. She was so thin Lew could almost span completely around her waist.

The first time Lew took Blanche home from a dance his buggy broke down. He unhitched the horse and they went the rest of the way horseback. Blanche lost her hair ribbon in the buggy, so next day, being Sunday, Lew rode the 11½ miles to take it back to her.

Lew had a gray horse called Dick. During the time he was courting Blanche the horse would take him home the 11½ miles if he fell asleep. Dick was a trotter. One night it was late when Lew left Moroni after playing for a dance. He fell asleep and when he awoke, Dick was standing in the shed at home.

It was a common sport to have buggy races with other couples. One of these times, as Lew raced, his buggy wheels interlocked with the racing buggy and it took some fancy driving to prevent a serious accident, but it was accomplished.

The 20th of November 1907 Blanche and Lew were married at the Manti Courthouse. They lived with Mrs. Kump until April 1908 where Lew helped on the farm. He was the oldest child age 21 at home with 8 younger brothers and sisters. They were raising sugar beets.

In April Blanche went home to have her baby as her mother-in-law had her hands full feeding and taking care of 7 other children. When she was able to be up and around and could care for her baby she went back to Chester to the Kump home.

After Idell was born the little family moved to Clear Creek, a mining community in Carbon County. Lew had a bit of gypsy in his soul and was never satisfied to stay very long in one place. At Clear Creek Lew hauled timber for the mines. They soon moved to Paul, Idaho to work at the sugar factory. When they finally arrived there, work was not available. He then looked for work on the farms around the area and found employment hauling hay, also part time work on the canal. They lived in a tent for a while until they found a home to move in to.

In 1912 they moved back to Utah going to Blanche's parents. Here they moved into a two-room house on the farm where Lew helped Mr. Otteson. On May 4, 1913, while visiting the Kump family in Chester, Iona was born.

When Iona was a month old, they traveled back to Idaho. Lew bought a farm in Rupert and they lived there for two years. They decided to return to Utah and they went to the Otteson farm. The following Feb. 6, 1916, LaVar was born.

When the weather warmed in the spring, the family traveled to LaPoint, Utah where other members of the Kump family lived. After looking the country over, Lew decided to return to Rupert. They had two wagons, a sheep wagon for cooking and sleeping and another wagon

loaded with furniture. Blanche's brother, Sylvester, went along to help Don drive the second wagon. Don was eight years old and could drive a team, but too young for such a long trip.

In the fall when potato harvest time arrived, they went to Shelley, Idaho, to help Lew's half-brother, David, harvest crops. They lived in an old granary while there and the pay was very meager. Part was in potatoes. The family returned to Rupert.

Roy was born April 16, 1920 in Rupert. During the stay there Lew drove the school wagon. He never cared for city life, so they moved to a farm between Rupert and Paul. When work interfered with driving the school wagon, Blanche would bundle up the younger children and drove the wagon. LaVar was about five and would help his mother with harnessing the team.

During the spring they traveled to Council, just out of Boise. They were building a dam and Lew drove a team. They camped for about three weeks in their sheep wagon. LaVar got pneumonia and they had to take him to the doctor. When he was able to travel they returned to Rupert.

In 1922 their potato crop failed and they had to give up the farm. They moved to Arco, Idaho where Lew tried selling Raleigh Products. This did not bring in the money they needed with five children. When school was out in the spring of 1923 the family returned to Utah. Don graduated from 8th grade as valedictorian. Idell was 6th grade, Iona 4th grade and LaVar 1st grade, Roy was pre school.

Blanche took the 4 younger children on the train and traveled to Fountain Green. Don and Lew drove the two wagons and arrived two weeks later.

Next they moved to Clarion, a small community west of Gunnison. Lew farmed in the area through the summer and winter. LaVar was in 2nd grade, Iona in 5th, Idell in 7th, and Don in High School, Roy was about 4 years old.

Lew was known for his honesty. When he went to the bank to borrow \$500.00 the bank president discussed terms and they then shook hands. When the clerk asked why Mr. Kump hadn't signed papers, the bank president replied, "Mr. Kump's word is better than many people's signature."

There were still more moves for the family. Next to Centerfield for one winter, later to Christenburg and then to Gunnison. LaVar was in fourth grade, Roy in first grade, Iona in seventh grade and Idell in 10th grade. Don was married to Ila Rosenberg.

The fall of 1927, the family moved to Genola where Lew farmed for Dr. Curtis. They lived here for two summers. Iona went to Goshen school by bus and LaVar and Roy went to Genola. LaVar was in the fifth and sixth grades while Roy went to second and third.

Dec of 1929 the family moved to Provo. Lew found work on a farm owned by a Mr. Nelson and Mr. Neilson west of Provo. LaVar went to Dixon Jr. High and Roy to the Franklin Elementary.

Lew worked at the pea-vinery for 3 or 4 years. Work was very hard to come by and Lew worked for W. P. A. at the Geneva Steel plant also other projects.

Lew's hip had been growing worse and he was becoming more crippled. Due to this problem he had to give up farming. He took a night-watchman's job at the Provo Woolen Mills.

On the 18 of Jan. 1933 Ronnie was born in Provo. He had a 20 year old brother and a 27 year old brother living close, so they made sure Ronnie could play ball from the time he could throw a ball.

Part of Lew's time was spent playing for dances. He belonged to a group called the "Bonneville Five" (all of the members lived in the Bonneville Ward). Lew was the only member that could not read music, but he had a memory for playing any tune he had heard, so he got along very well.

Lew underwent an operation and had his gall bladder where they removed a tumor.

On 18 June 1953, at the age of 67 years, Lew passed away of a heart attack. He was buried in Provo, Utah.