

# History of Lewis Henry and Blanche Otteson Kump

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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 Coward.

He was the seventh child of fifteen children. His mother was the second wife of Zachariah. The first wife was a cousin to Mary Catherine and died in child birth. Mary Catherine had worked in the Kump home helping to take care of mother and children. Mary Catherine raised four of the five children of the first family. 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 fix it, so Lew went through life with a limp caused this dislocated hip He gave him much pain all his life.

Working be hind a plow on the farm was a must and by the age of eight he was working hard. By age ten he had become a dependable sheep herder. Due to his hip he could not ride a horse astride, so he would lie across the horse on his stomach. When he grew older he would ride side ways.

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

Lew was a kind and gentle man, most of the time. He was big hearted and would give you anything he owned if you asked for it. He temper could be quick, tho [sic] 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 learned to play it without ever having a formal lesson. He could also play an accordion, mandolin, guitar, banjo and harmonica. He had a beautiful tenor voice and enjoyed singing.

Baseball was a sport Lew enjoyed. He was an excellent pitcher. His ball playing covered a period before marriage and after. The upper part of his body was extremely strong. He could do hand springs, one after another. He could balance on his head on a chair or a pole fence. It was possible for him to pick up an 100 pound sack of coal and carry it across the room by his teeth.

A brother, Jake, looked so much like Lew people thought them to be twins.

Lew always owned a good team and 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 owned an Airedale named Jip. The dog caused a problem during courting as he insisted on sitting on the seat between Lew and Blanche.

When he was fifteen Lew worked on a ranch above Challis, Idaho. The reason he left home at an early age was because he felt he wasn't treated fairly. When in Idaho 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 a job he knew best, but he was restless and moved on to Nevada. 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. There were at a dance in Freedom, Utah. This was a community one mile south of Burch Creek on Cedar Cliffs where Blanche lived. She was wearing a red organdy dress. Lew asked someone to introduce him and 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 the next day, being Sunday, Lew rode the 11 ½ miles to take it back to her.

Lew had a grey horse called Dick. During the time he was courting Blanche the horse would take him home the 11 ½ 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 time, 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 20<sup>th</sup> of November 1907, Blanche and Lew were married at the Manti Court House.

## **Blanche Otteson**

Blanche was born September 3, 1889 at Cedar Cliffs, sometimes called Burch Creek, Sanpete County, Utah. She was the daughter of Joseph Smith Otteson and Annie Catherine Poulsen.

Her entire life, up to the time she was married, was spent on her father's large farm, except for one short visit with a married half-sister for a week.

Blanche went to school through the seventh grade. There were twelve children in the family. She was the third child, so always had someone to play with or tend.

During the spring she always helped plant the garden. Later in the summer she picked berries and helped with the canning.

When she was about ten years old she fell off a load of hay and was knocked unconscious. Her father carried her into the house. She said she could hear him talking but could not understand what he was saying.

Lawrence, the brother just young than Blanche was always her favorite. When he was thirteen he lost two fingers by a dynamite cap explosion.

The childhood days were pretty much those of all pioneer and large families. She took her turn at staying out of school to help with the washing. The was done with a big tub and a washboard.

When she was eighteen she met Lewis Henry Kump at a dance in Freedom. They were married November 20, 1907. They lived with Lew's mother where he helped to run the farm raising sugar beets. In April she went home to Cedar Cliffs where Don was born. When she was able to be up and around she returned to the Kump home. The next year on August 24, 1910 Idell was born in Chester.

Sometime within the first three years of their marriage they moved with their two small children to Clear Creek, a mining community in Carbon County. Lew had a bit of gypsy in his soul and most of their married life was spent living a short ime in a community and the moving on.

At Clear Creek, Lew hauled timber for the mines. They soon moved on to Paul, Idaho to work at a 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 and moved there.

In 1912 they moved back to Utah going to Blanche's parents. Here they moved into a two room house on the farm. On May 4, 1913, while visiting the Kump family, 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. The decision was then made to return to the Otteson farm. They following February 6, 1916 LaVar was born at his grandfather's farm.

In the spring of this year they traveled to LaPoint, Utah where other members of the Kim family lived. After visiting for a while and looking the country over, Lew decided to return to Rupert, Idaho.

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. For a boy of eight years, Don could handle a team well.

When potato harvest time arrived they went to Shelley, Idaho to help Lew's brother, David, harvest crops. They lived in an old granary while there and then returned to Rupert. Their pay was very meager.

Roy was born in Rupert on April 16, 1920. During this time Lew farmed and drove a school wagon. He never cared for city life, so they moved to a farm between Rupert and Paul. When work interfered with Lew's driving the school wagon, Blanche bundled the babies and drove the team. LaVar helped his mother harness the team and he was her support at an early age when she needed the team hitched.

During the spring they traveled to a place called Council, Just out of Boise, They were building a dam and Lew drove a team for them. They camped for about three weeks in their sheep wagon. LaVar got pneumonia so they took him into town to a doctor. When he was able to travel they returned to Rupert.

In 1922 their potato crop failed due to the weather and they had to give up the farm. They moved to Arco, Idaho and Lew tried selling Raleigh products. This did not bring in the money they needed with five children.

Don was in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, Idell in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Iona in 4<sup>th</sup> grade and LaVar was in 1<sup>st</sup> grade. Don graduated as valedictorian of his class.

By the time spring of 1923 came Blanche took the four youngest children and traveled back to Fountain Green by train. Two weeks later Lew and Don arrived with the two wagons.

Next they moved to Clairon, a small community west of Gunnison, Here Lew farmed. He stayed through the summer and winter. They children rode the bus to Centerfield to school. LaVar was in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, Iona in 5<sup>th</sup>, Idell in 7<sup>th</sup> and Don in High School.

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

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

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

December of 1929 the family moved to Provo. Lew found work on a farm owned by Mr. Borget, west of Provo. LaVar went to Dixon Jr. High and Roy to the elementary school.

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

Ronnie was born January 18, 1933 in Provo. Part of Lew's time was spent playing for dances. He belonged to a group called the "Bonnevillie Five" (they all lived in the Bonneville Ward). He was the only one of the group that couldn't read music, but he had a memory for playing anything he heard so he got along very well.

The rest of his life he worked for the Woolen Mills. He underwent an operation of the gall bladder. They removed a tumor.

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

Blanche continued to live in Provo. Her church affiliations covered Mutual work in Clarion, Primary teacher in Genola and a Relief Society teacher in Provo.

Hand work was of special interest to Blanche and she continued crocheting to the age of 89. In her earlier widowed years, hooked rugs were her interest. These were given to children, friends and neighbors.

Each year, after Ronnie became a doctor in California, Blanche enjoyed a trip to visit him. It started as bus trips but ended up, in later years, by plane.

Don and Ila lived in Provo and called regularly to see that she was all right. She insisted in living by herself. Iona visited often from Salt Lake. Roy was living in Orem and stopped from time to time. LaVar called from Ogden to keep in touch as did Ronnie from California.

On her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday Don and Ila held an "open house" at their home. She enjoyed meeting friends and relatives. She continued living alone until she was 88. Her health was failing to the point the family insisted a change be made. She was in and out of the hospital a number of times and Iona took her into her home to care for her until her death Saturday morning, 10:45, July 14, 1979. She was buried July 17, 1979 in the Provo cemetery.

At the time of death she had five living children; (Idell has passed away on May 11, 1963 after a heart condition caused poor health.) 16 grandchildren, 37 great grandchildren; 24 great, great grandchildren and one sister Zola Tuttle.

It could well be said that during her life Blanche maintained a pleasant disposition. One never heard her speak unkindly of people. She made the best of what she had and would share a meal anytime one came to visit.

She had a hard life with all the moving and never had many worldly goods, but she enjoyed people and shared her handiwork freely with those she met.

Blanche was surely one of God's chosen few.