



History of Nephi Edwards

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Nephi Edwards was born 26th July 1870 at Greenville, Beaver Co., Utah to Robert and Elizabeth Huntington Edwards. He was second youngest of eleven brothers and sisters. Sarah, Joseph, Moses, Mary Jane, Davis and Jessie, five of whom lived to come to Utah. He, a brother and sister were born in Utah. He also had two half brothers by his father's first wife. Heber died at a very young age and Hyrum came with the rest of the family to Utah.

His father at seventeen joined the Latter Day Saint Church. After the death of his first wife Sarah Jubb, he met, converted and married his second wife Elizabeth Huntington in the Parish of Grease Befough Co of York England. Because of his father poor health and by doctors orders he immigrated to the United States, crossed the plains by handcart to Utah, where he worked and helped build the Union Pacific Railroad from Ogden to Sat Lake City, to get means to send back to England for his wife and family whom he had left behind.

The family came later on the ship Manhattan and were the first company of emigrants coming to Ogden over the Union Pacific Railroad. His older brother Jesse age 2 became ill on the ship, died and was buried at sea.

His Father, Mother and family were sent to help settle Greenville, Iron Co, Utah, his brothers and sisters walking most of the way barefoot. While at Greenville, Nephi, George Henry, and his sister Annie were born.

Nephi's youth and young manhood was spent at Greenville of Beaver Utah. August 8th 1890 his oldest brother Joseph passed away of cancer, leaving a wife and four children. Joseph Jr, Sarah Alice, Elizabeth Agnes and Harry. Nephi worked and helped care for this family for some time.

February 24th, 1891 Nephi was called on a mission. His missionary certificate was signed by Wilford Woodruff, Geo. Q Cannon and Joseph F. Smith, First Presidency of the church at that time. His mission was spent in Aberden Scotland and England. He was always happy to have a chance to visit the place where his father, mother and nine other children were born. He never tired of telling of his experience in the mission field. His mission President was Bro. Reed Smoot (later Senator for Utah) who taught him how to count the English money. His companion was Brother Witherspoon.

Nephi loved singing but could not carry a tune. He called a street meeting one evening while on his mission and was quite worried as how to get a song started. He prayed about it several times, when the time came he was able to carry a tune long enough to start the song and from then on could do very well singing along with others who could. This street meeting turned out with such a large crowd the cops had to break it up as it was tying up traffic. He started home turned around and could see some one following him, a little worried for a second, he slowed up and waited, it was a man who had been to his meeting who wanted to hear more of the gospel. It was wee hours in the morning when this little meeting broke up.

After his honorable release from his mission he sailed from Liverpool July 2, 1892 for New York on the Guion Line Royal Mail Steamer Nevada. There were 33 other saloon passengers.

He met and married Mary Jane Munford from Parowan, Iron co, Utah, who was working in Beaver at this time. Dec 16, 1892 in the St George Temple. It took three days from Beaver to St George by covered wagon.

1892 he moved to Orderville, Kane co., and October 1st 1892 he and his brother took a contract to carry the U.S. mail from Orderville, Kane co., to Kanab Co., this continued in force to and including June 30th, 1894. The contract signed by C.D. White and J.S. Gillies. While there his first child, a baby girl Myrtle, was born. His father died and he moved back to Beaver, Beaver Co., Utah where he could help his widowed mother and family. during this time three more children were born, Luella, Zola, and his first son Nephi Delos. He there signed another contract September 26, 1896 to carry the U.S. mail from Milford, Beaver Co., Utah to Beaver, Beaver Co., Utah this extending to the first day of July 1898.

This took six round trips a week, calling at the offices at Minerville, Adamville and Greenville, each way.

The most interesting passenger he carried on his trip was President Brigham Young. Nephi took pride in telling how Brigham Young gazed over the valley between Milford and Beaver and said "Some day this valley will be rich and prosperous.

1901 he moved to Rocky Ford near Minerville, Utah where his fifth child, Emma Jane, was born. While at Rocky Ford he worked as a farmer. From 1904 to 1907 he lived again in Beaver where two more of his children (girls) were born, Rachel Ann and Albena.

August 30th 1905 his first sorrow came into this home. His baby daughter Rachel Ann. 2 years, died of scarlet fever and in 1906 his daughter Zola died of Typhoid Fever. Nephi had Typhoid fever twice and nearly died.

In 1907 he became engaged in the sheep business with his brother David. They were known as the Edwards Brothers. In order to get a reserve for their sheep he moved to Buckhorn Springs, Iron Co., Utah. He lived there from 1907 to 1918 while there, three more children were born. Three boys Thomas Bennett, a baby born dead and his youngest Floyd Devaun.

He was set apart as presiding Elder over the Buckhorn branch of the Paragonah Ward February 13th, 1910 by Brother Marsden. He held this until 1918. He loved his work in the church.

He named, blessed, baptized, ordained and confirmed many of his own and other children, also performed marriages. Did work for the dead, among whom was some of President Wilford Woodruff ancestors in the St George temple. He was set apart as Seventy 26th July 1875.

First country school was held in a building near his home owned by him. He hauled and cut wood to keep the building warm for not only school but for all church organization of the branch

were held in this building until it caught fire and burned to the ground.

His wife Jane looked out the window one morning, she noticed smoke coming from the roof. She ran to notify the teacher, one of her daughters of three children in school that morning was one of the last in line as the roof fell in.

His home was to board and room most of the school teachers, eating place for all traveling men and church authorities. Tramps or (bums) were never turned away without something to eat. And there were plenty. No matter the color. Besides caring for his sheep he hauled wood to Parowan to sell, also kept his mother-in-law (a widow) in fire wood and garden vegetables.

He was postmaster in this small town and had the only phone.

March 12th 1912 his wife passed away of a heart condition leaving him with seven children, the youngest seven months old. Nephi was very faithful to his trust, carrying and keeping his family together until they were married.

In 1918 he left Buckhorn and moved with his family to Milford, Beaver Co., Utah where with the help of his daughters Jennie and Luella bought a home on 202 North Main Street. He worked for the Union Pacific Railroad Company for a number of years. He was also caretaker of the Milford Cemetery for a time. He loved to hunt deer.

On June 19, 1926 his oldest son Nephi Delos died of Pneumonia, leaving a wife and two small children.

Nephi donated many days of labor on the Milford ward Church, cutting and carving the stone that went into the building. He understood the stone cutting trade and he marked each stone he carved with his chisel, and many stones were marked.

He was an active High Priest in the Milford group of Beaver Stake, as well versed in the gospel and never found fault with any one.

He died April 29th, 1950, two of his Daughter were at his bed side. Emma Jane and Albena. Leaving two sons Thomas Bernett and Floyd Devaun, four daughters, Myrtle Segler, Luella Melcher, Emma Jane Huddleston and Albena Goodwin. A brother David Edwards was unable to attend the services.

The funeral services held in the Milford ward the church he helped to build, was buried May 3rd 1950 beside his wife in the Mountain View Cemetery, Beaver, Beaver Co., Utah. Home of his childhood days.