

WILLIAM WARREN REYNOLDS

On January 19, 1871 I was born at South Cottonwood, Salt Lake County, Utah. My father, Warren Ford Reynolds and my mother Christina McNeil were living here at this time. My father had two wives and my mother was the second wife, I was the fifth child of seven children. Our home life was good but my father was not a wealthy man. I used to work and play with my brother Charles and my half brother Warren. We engaged in many activities of the youth of our day. I remember going out on Halloween nights and running tic tac toe on peoples windows. Also we always had chores and other such activities necessary for existence at that time.

My father owned an eighty acre farm located on 48th South Street, East of Murry, Utah. We farmed this farm with father during my younger days. I also spent some time helping my brother Asa with his sheep over in Tooele country. My brother was in partnership with his brother-in-law and later on they lost the sheep in gambling activities of the brother-in-law. Most of my schooling was at home but we did go to school some. My mother never did learn to read and write so she could not help much in that line. We went to school during the winter when there was nothing else to do. I only went long enough to get to the fifth reader. We only had a one room school with a long bench to sit on and another one in front of us to use for a desk. My earliest recollection of my father was his trouble with the law because of his two wives. He would not abandon or divorce one so he must hide from the law. He also spent some time in prison in defense of his religious belief.

It was in 1896 that I met Alberta Green who lived at the mouth of Big Cottonwood canyon. Our meeting was such that we were at a dance and I took her home afterwards. She was currently going with another fellow at the time but I was drawn to her as she to me. Later I went to her home for a date and while I was there this other fellow came there and he suggested that we leave the decision as to which of us should take her out up to Alberta. It took her only a moment to decide and she came to me. We courted a short time and soon decided to marry and cast our lots together. We were married October 5, 1897. Later our marriage was solemnized in the Salt Lake Temple, March 2, 1898. We immediately began our family and though we had some difficulty we soon had a large group of children. Three of our children passed away before we were able to keep one. Our eldest living child was born the day before my mother passed away. Father had passed away the year before. So my father did not see any of my children, who lived. My oldest boy was born (that is now living)

July 30, 1901. My mother held him in her arms just before she passed away August 1, 1901.

We had our home on 48th South Street between 9th and 10th East in Murry, Utah. Here we lived until May 1917. We had a small acreage here but not enough to make a living for my family. So I had to work at other jobs for an income. I worked on construction in the city of Salt Lake. I had a team of horses and so hired out with a team to work. I worked for four years in Big Cottonwood canyon at a sawmill for my mother-in-law. I also worked in Toole hauling gravel for several years. I helped to dig the basement for the Hotel Utah. For many years I worked for short periods during the winters helping to cut and haul ice to be stored for the summers. As the children grew they took care of the small farm from which we raised a few truck garden items and some sugar beets. However it soon became apparent that some other surer source of income would be needed as well as some activity for my family, if they were to be free from the perils that follow idleness and crowded places. So I with others began to look for other places to settle. I wanted to locate on a farm and in an area that would have access to Church and Schools. At this time my family had increased to ten children and we would have to have a new place that was big enough to accommodate a big group. So with this in mind I ventured into Idaho. I searched first in the Western part of the State and then in the Eastern part. I found what suited me best in the Eastern part located about 300 miles to the North of Salt Lake City. It was a real pioneer venture for us. We sold what we could not or did not want to move and loaded the rest of our belongings on the railroad and headed North. After saying goodbye to our friends, loved-ones and the land of our birth we headed to a new and strange country and a new environment for us all. We unloaded our belongings at the town of Arco, Idaho and went to our new farm which was about seven miles Northwest of Arco. This new land, which at times blessed us with her bounties and deprived us by withholding from us at other times, was a hard fight to stay with. However it was here that we saw our family complete. We now had twelve living children for a time. Then ~~our daughter~~ one daughter, Maggie, passed away January 22, 1920. Our last child was born June 14, 1921. So now we could count our descendants as 16 children. This was somewhat of an achievement. We continued to work the farm we had purchased along with other land we rented. We could do this because of the size of our family. The years were mostly good and we enjoyed our life here. We were able to participate in Church activities and the Church was the center of our community life. This was very gratifying to us

ag parents. However Nature withheld her moisture and many years we were unable to produce a full crop. Consequently when the depression of the 1930's came we lost the home we had lived in this long. The next year, 1931, we moved to another farm in the same Ward. The spring of 1932 we purchased another farm nearby and continued to live there. We still had some dry years and poor prices but were able to hang on with W.P.A. work during the bad years. Our family began dwindling away in as much as they were getting married. Claudius in 1924, Vivian and Alice in 1926. Edwin in 1930 and Elwin in 1931. All had married well and remained so except Claudius. He was divorced and remarried in 1936. During the 1940's the rest of the family married until 1949 our last girl, Rhoda married and we were alone again, that is Alberta and I. This seemed to us a very strange and somewhat depressing as we had had such a long life of strenuous activity in taking care of our very active family. It was very quite and peaceful but we had enough visiting of the children and their families to keep us from getting to lonely. We had celebrated our Golden Wedding anniversary in 1947 and counted our friends and loved ones in the hundreds so we felt we had had a very good married life so far. Most of our children had settled nearby so we were able to see them often and have them help us when we needed help. Some of the boys were helping us to operate the farm and as the we had come that I was no longer able to do the work like I used to these boys wanted to buy and run the farm for themselves. So in 1943 we sold the farm to Arlin, Woodrow and Elden. We continued to live in the same home and have our chickens and garden.

During 1950 "Bert" became quite ill and we nearly lost her but the Lord was good and she recovered. We continued to love and enjoy moderate prosperity and love of our many children and grandchildren. But life goes on and as age began to overtake us so did the infirmities of old age. "Bert" became ill in 1957 and in spite of the care of the doctors she became worse until March 15, 1958 she passed away from us. We had celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary in the Fall of 1957 and felt we had surely had a good life together. Now I am alone and because of my age and all I am dependent on my children for my welfare. They are kind to me but they cannot understand my needs nor can they leave their own families so I am left pretty much alone with my memories. I have not long to live but with the help of the Lord I will endure to the end, faithful to my God and true to my Church.

William Warren Reynolds died November 23, 1961 Age 90 years, 10 months, 4 days.

45 grandchildren      36 great-grandchildren