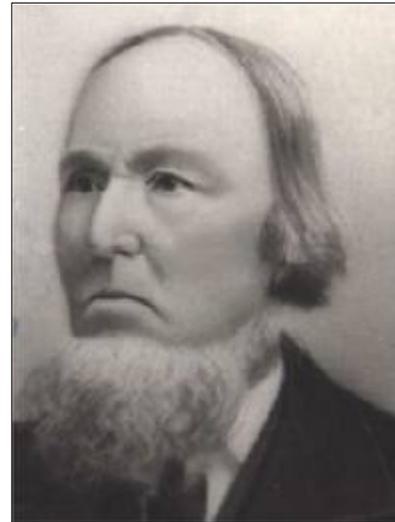


A life sketch of

Washington Lemmon

1806 – 1902

Among the pioneers who came to Utah and settled in the Salt Lake Valley, there were few that lived so long and participated so actively in the work of building up the state as Washington Lemmon. For almost a century, he watched the United States grow from a small sparsely settled country to a large and powerful nation.



Washington was born at Shelbyville, Shelby County, Kentucky on October 6, 1806 to James Lemmon and Sarah Carr. The family lived there until 1812 when his father took his family and moved to Indiana. His mother died in Indiana. James, having a family of small children to take care of, soon found himself another wife. He married Amy Rawlins, April 2, 1818 at Poali, Orange County, Indiana. They later moved to Harrison County, Indiana.

Washington married Tamer Stephens August 31, 1826 at Croydon, Harrison County, Indiana. They were both 19 years old. They were very poor, having only half of a bake skillet to cook with. Their first two children were born at Corydon, Harrison County; James William on May 16, 1827 and Stacy Ann on March 8, 1829.

In 1828, Washington's father moved to Adam County, Illinois and perhaps he wrote to his son or sent him word that this new country was a land of opportunity because in 1830, Washington took his family and moved to Quincy, Adams County, Illinois. He acquired a farm near Quincy and worked hard to develop it into one of the best farms in that neighborhood. He lived there twenty years and ten of his children were born there; John Wesley on August 15, 1831, Nancy Melissa on September 10, 1833, Jasper on August 5, 1835, Willis on August 12, 1837, Leander on November 10, 1839, Alfred on January 9, 1842, Oliver Perry on September 25, 1843,

Mary Emily on September 17, 1845, Artimzie Caroline on November 1847 and Hyrum on November 23, 1849.

Washington first heard the message of the Gospel from David Evans and was baptized a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints by him in March of 1841. He became a personal friend of the Prophet Joseph Smith and other leaders of the Church. He was in the Church in the early days at Nauvoo, Illinois and in Missouri. He took part in those troublesome times, building up and developing the Church, strengthening the membership, and aiding in the erection of buildings for its work. He was a carpenter and he helped build the Nauvoo Temple.

In 1844, when the Prophet Joseph Smith was killed, Washington was on a mission in Indiana preaching the Gospel and campaigning for Joseph Smith to be the next President of the United States. In 1850, he moved his family to Council Bluffs, Iowa where the headquarters of the Church was at that time. This place was also known as Winter Quarters. He spent two years there getting ready to make the trip across the plains.

Washington and his family traveled to Utah in the Henry Bryant Manning Jolley Company, which was one of the 21 companies of Mormon immigrants that crossed the plains in 1852, each company having about 50 wagons. The Jolley Company had about 340 souls. They left the Missouri River, June 11, 1852 and arrived in the Salt Lake Valley, September 10, 1852.

The Lemmon Family crossed the plains in covered wagons and walked much of the way. The boys, Leander and Alfred, drove the cattle and when they arrived in Utah they said, "Their feet were so tough a prickly pear could not stick in them." When they desired butter they would put the cream in the churn and the jar of the wagon would churn the cream to butter. Washington's oldest son, James William, joined the Mormon Battalion and joined the family later in Utah. His second son, John, became involved with the gold rush and went to California.

After the family had been in Utah several years, a man came to their place and wanted a place to sleep and something to eat. The family lived on the country road and they had

strangers stay with them quite often. This night, while they were eating, the man said, "I am your son." Tamer went over to him and turned his sleeve up. There was a scar on his arm, which was all the proof she needed. "Yes, you are my son, John." This was a pleasant surprise for the family.

The family settled on Dry Creek southeast of Sandy. In the winter of 1853, a neighbor, Henry Bowden, went out by Sandy looking for some of his cattle. A terrible snowstorm came up and he lost his way. Washington found him nearly froze and wandering around in the snow. He took him to his place and Henry always said, "If it had not been for Washington Lemmon, he would have frozen to death." They became very good friends and both of them lived in the Millcreek Ward.

It is recorded that Washington entered plural marriage when he took two additional wives; Rachel Sharp on May 22, 1856 at Salt Lake City, Utah and Ann Walters on December 19, 1863 at Salt Lake City, Utah.

The career, which Washington made for himself, marked him as one of the most qualified pioneers who came to Utah. He saw Utah grow from a wilderness to one of the most flourishing and prosperous states in the West. He aided in bringing its agricultural resources up to the most current standards. The family moved to Millcreek (now 4338 Highland Drive), in the spring of 1853. Washington built his own home, including all the doors and windows and many pieces of furniture. It was a large farm, which was used mostly for raising grain, alfalfa and a large fruit orchard. Many of the trees he budded and developed until he had most all kinds of fruit suitable to the Utah climate. He raised bees and sold honey. At different times he had herds of sheep, cattle and horses. He had flocks of geese and turkeys, which most farmers had for their own use.

At Millcreek Washington and Tamer had another daughter on March 10, 1857.

Washington was about six feet tall and weighed about two hundred pounds. He had brown hair, a high forehead and blue eyes. He was tall and straight, a very good looking man. He never drank intoxicating drinks or used tobacco. He rode horse back after he was ninety

years old. He was a prominent worker in the Church and enjoyed the confidence and esteem of all members who knew him. He was known as a man of integrity and righteousness. He was a counselor in the Millcreek Bishopric from 1859-1882. He was ordained a Patriarch March 30, 1884. He received his Patriarchal Blessing from Hyrum Smith (brother of the Prophet Joseph Smith) and was told that he was of the tribe of Levi.

Washington died October 2, 1902 at the age of ninety-six at Salt Lake City, Utah. He was buried in the Elysian Burial Gardens at Millcreek, Salt Lake County, Utah.

This Life Sketch of Washington Lemmon was written by Florence Lemmon Burningham. Names and dates have been added and verified to make the account more complete.

Sources of information:

- 1. Biographical Record of Salt Lake and Vicinity*
- 2. Special Correspondence to Newspaper*
- 3. Lemmon family by Francis Marion Lemmon*
- 4. Life of Washington by Mabel Lemmon*