

A life sketch of

Charles Chapman Randall

1861 – 1934

Charles Franklin Randall and Ellen Jane Duncan were the parents of ten children. Charles Chapman Randall was the second child in this family. He was born in North Ogden, Weber County, Utah on January 23, 1861. He grew up in North Ogden where he attended school and church on a regular basis. He was baptized a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on December 23, 1870 in Ogden, Weber County, Utah.



Charles worked as a bar tender and errand boy for several years in Ogden. During his teenage years he met a young lady who he chose to take as his wife and companion. Charles and Harriet Lodeskie Woodhead were married on February 8, 1881, in Ogden, Weber County, Utah. They bought a farm at Farr West, Weber County, Utah, which they operated for a period of ten years.

Charles heard of homestead property that was available in Idaho. He traveled north to make a survey of the land offered. He liked what he found and quickly filed homestead papers on 360 acres of ground located in Grant, Jefferson County, Idaho. This property was located on what would become the west side of the Lewisville Highway, one half mile south of the Grant Store.

Charles returned to Farr West and made arrangements to move his family to their new home. In 1890, he and Harriet gathered their four children, horses and cattle together and started for Idaho. They packed all they could fit into their wagon and walked much of the way. They arrived at their new home seventeen days after they left Utah.

Harriet and the children were somewhat dismayed when they arrived at their sagebrush, covered homestead. This was a different situation as they had no home or shelter, just their wagon to live out of. The Randalls started at once to build a home; a little one-room

hut, which they lived in for several years. When time would allow, Charles hauled logs for a larger, better home. They eventually built a two-room home, which doubled their space and made life nice and cozy. As additional children joined the family, more rooms were added.

Land was cleared and precious seeds were planted. Eventually all their hard work developed a productive farm that provided the Randalls with their necessities.

Irrigation did not exist when they arrived, so the children carried water in buckets to the first crops. The water problem was a growing concern as homesteaders continued to move into the area. Charles met with a group of men from the community and they drafted a plan to bring the water to the farms. They began work on a canal, which branched from an existing water source called the Burgess Canal. Much of the work was done with horse teams and slip scrapers. Charles contributed many hours of pick work, hand shoveling and back breaking labor. Finally, the canal was dug and the water was flowing to planted land. This canal was named the Randall Canal in honor of Charles Chapman Randall.

In the summer of 1891 and 1892, an outdoor fireplace was built on the banks of the Randall Canal on the Randall Homestead. This fireplace was built of rocks in such a way that the front was left open so that sagebrush could be put inside to burn and create heat. A large tin was placed on the top for wash tubs to sit on. Water was hauled in buckets from the canal and heated in the tubs. As the water would boil, clothes were added to the water. Using sticks to turn the clothes, loads of wash was done for neighboring families in the area. With the help of several women at a time, the work of hand washing was made easier. Many of the women took their lunch and made a social event of the otherwise dreary, difficult chore. Many families appreciated Charles and his cooperation in the inventing and construction of this washing machine.

Charles made time to serve in the Church. He acted as Sunday School Teacher and was in the presidency of the Mutual Association for many years.

He had a love for horses and cattle and always had livestock on his farm. Charles also enjoyed the amusement and entertainment of rodeos. Charles was one of the original founders of these activities in the area, which soon became an annual event. He loved to mingle with the crowd of people who would attend. He always rode a horse in the opening ceremonies and parade.

Vearl Crystal wrote about the rodeos Charles was instrumental in organizing:

On July 4, 1920, a bunch of cowboys and farmers decided to have a rodeo at Grant for good fun and family entertainment. Rube Boam, Charlie Randall, Ace Randall and Vern Crystal were the original force behind this rodeo. They gathered up cows and calves, steers and bucking horses from farmers and ranchers in Grant. The site of the rodeo was across the street north from the original Church and Community Hall. The location was the original ball diamond for Grant. For fences they just made a circle of cars and wagons with a few cowboys on horseback to spook the stock away from the cars and spectators. There was no 'bucking chutes'. The pickup men would lead the bucking horse into the area, blindfold him, and snub him to the pickup horse while the bronc rider put his saddle on the bronc and cinched it up. The bronc rider would step into the saddle, adjust his buck rein, and then the pickup man would remove the blindfold and turn the horse loose. The more the horse bucked and the more the cowboy spurred determined the score the cowboy would get. This took a lot of skill on the part of the horse and the cowboy. There was also steer and cow riding, and calf roping, and other events that tested the skill of a good saddle horse such as musical chair race, cowhide race and, of course, the popular cowpony race, i.e., 'my horse is faster than yours'.

This Grant Rodeo extended from 1920 to 1927 when it moved to Lewisville where it was called the Jefferson County Rodeo. This rodeo in Lewisville, which started in 1928, lasted through 1933, and then it moved to Rigby where it was called the Jefferson County Stampede.

Charles, along with his sons, became involved in a joint cattle operation. Men in the area contracted with each other to trail their cows to the Roberts area for summer grazing. The cattle were branded and trailed and then the Randalls, with the help of the cattle owners, would take turns watching the cattle as they grazed through the summer months. In the fall, Charles and his sons would trail the cattle back to his corrals in Grant. They would then separate the cattle into the different herds and return them to their owners. Although Charles was not as involved as his sons, he still enjoyed the branding and all the excitement that went with the cattle drives.

Charles enjoyed fishing, gardening and being with his family and friends. He was often seen on his porch entertaining one group of people after another, as they would stop by to visit. He was very likable and highly respected. He was not large in stature, but a giant in character.

It is interesting to note that when Charles was a young man, he grew a beard. The beard was red and over the years it grew until it was near his belt line. His beard became quite an identifiable trademark of him.

In 1921, Charles built a new home for Harriet. It was a beautiful home with a large front porch. They loved to sit on the porch and visit with friends and family.

Charles and Harriet were the parents of nine children:

Harriett Ellen born January 11, 1881, Charles Aceil born March, 9, 1884, Louisa Emerett born August 25, 1886 and passed away February 20, 1887, Rosa Percilla born June 19, 1888, Sarah Florence born May 29, 1891, Bessie Venetta born March 26, 1894, Laura Myrtle born June 12, 1896, George Alonzo born December 1898 and passed away December 31, 1898 and Orval Alberto born March 19, 1900.

On February 25, 1926, Harriet died, and was buried in the Central Cemetery at Grant, Jefferson County, Idaho. This was a big loss to Charles; he did not like being alone. He married Ella Flowers in 1927, and she was a wonderful friend to Charles, his family and all who knew her.

On April 19, 1934, Charles died at the age of seventy three. He was buried next to Harriet in the Central Cemetery at Jefferson County, Idaho.

HIS LAST RIDE

-dedicated to Charles Randal-author unknown

Into the path of the sinking sun,
O'er the far horizon's rim,
He's gone, a smile in his kindly eyes,
A song in the heart of him.

Gone with the friends of his yesterdays,
Where the souls of men ride free,
And stars look down on a boundless range,
As wide as eternity.

Where cattle roam on the sagebrush plain,
Their bones in the moon gleam white,
And the woeful wail of the lone coyote
'Wakens the echoes of night.

Gone are the comrades he knew so well,
Mute are the cowboys' guitars,
That strummed a plaintive serenade,
They sang to the glist'ning stars.

Ah, never his kind shall ride again,
O'er trails where the wild Cayuse,
Sped in the van of the prairie wind,
Like a streak of lightening loosed.

But he'll ride again beyond the skies,
His soul unfettered and free,
Where white stars gleam on an endless trail,
Through the whole of eternity.

The author of this Life Sketch of Charles Chapman Randall is unknown. The original account has been revised and additions made to make it more complete from stories, documents and other records collected and kept in the Family History Library of K. Oswald.