

Part Two

Richard Crowther Family



Esther Price Crowther



Richard Crowther



Annie M. Christensen  
Crowther

#### SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF RICHARD CROWTHER

**R**ICHARD CROWTHER was born 1 October, 1839, at the Parish of Bridge North, Shropshire, England. Son of Thomas Crowther and Ann Preece. He was the eighth child in a family of nine children. His schooling was limited, as in a family of this size, of the laboring class, the children were placed with some one in more affluent circumstances. His experience as a boy was more particularly along the line of gardening. He labored at different places until he was about twenty-five years of age. Born of goodly parents, his life was gauged by religious influence. He helped his parents as much as he could.

Richard met the elders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and was converted to that faith. Along with his older brothers, he became a member through baptism and confirmation by one having authority. He left England and came to the U. S. A. in 1864. He crossed the Plains and experienced the hardships of the early pioneers and made his Home with his Brother Thomas Crowther. He helped his brother on the farm and, in partnership with one John Shawcroft, a young man about his age whose parents were converts from England, he worked in the canyons getting out logs for a house.

Brother Shawcroft being quite a thrifty man was later called to move to the San Luis Valley, Colorado and help build settlements, which ended this partnership. He often testified of the honesty and integrity of Richard Crowther. They had worked together for a number of years in various undertakings and never kept any particular records of their business. Some people said, surely you two will have a great time settling up your

affairs. When settlement time came, they made a division of their profits and both were entirely satisfied. They both met Danish girls and were married about the same time. Richard took to wife Annie Margaret Christensen born 3 Sept. 1853, at Hermustia, Fredericksburg, Denmark. She was one of the pioneers of Utah, located at Fountain Green. Her father was a carpenter. She had one brother, Zorum and one sister, Mary.

To this couple were born ten children. Five sons and five daughters. See record following.

They had a hard struggle to take care of these children and they worked hard. Richard farmed during the summer and freighted supplies by team to the mines down in the southwest part of Utah. He was a great horse trader. He would sometimes trade four or five times on a trip of about two weeks. You could never know him by his team when he returned. When the railroad came through Fountain Green about 1880, he had a little span of mules, and they were pert and full of life. At one time he was working on the railroad about three miles south of town. At quitting time as the train came by he undertook to keep up with it for the three miles to home. When the whistle sounded from the engine he was unhitching the tugs, declaring it was a good race. Some of the people called him wild Dickey Crowther. He was a good driver but liked to let his team run once in a while.

During the winter of 1884 Richard Crowther, David Coombs, William O. Crowther, his nephew, and William Collard took their turn as assigned by the Bishop of the ward to go down and work on the Manti Temple. For leveling the grounds on the north side of the Temple, Richard took his little mule team and his wagon equipped for hauling dirt. By using planks, loose on

the bottom and sides, he could unload by turning the planks one at a time and quickly get the load off. Two men stayed at the west edge of the high hill or crest to help dump the loads. They would insist that the driver keep out close to the edge so they would not have to shovel so much. Richard drove the little mules out a bit to far. The wagon began to slide in the loose dirt, tipped over and over, mules and all, going about one hundred feet to the bottom.

Another instance while working on the Temple grounds: A fire alarm was sounded in the northwest part of Manti. The home of Brother Parsons was on fire and the men working on the temple grounds were ordered to go and help extinguish the fire. Richard Crowther said, "Jump on boys and we will be off." About ten or more men jumped on the loose planks on his wagon and we were soon down off the Temple Hill and a couple of blocks on our way to the fire. The little mules were sped up to full speed and the men and planks were strewn along the road. The driver, Richard, got the mules stopped and the men and planks were soon replaced and away they went again. In two more blocks the same thing was repeated. Richard shouted, "Hurry on boys, they need our help." The men jumped up and motioned for him to go on shouting, "We'll walk." So he arrived without a passenger, the men following him and rendering their services in putting out the fire. They then arranged the planks on the wagon and agreed to ride back with Richard on condition that he would go on slowly and agree to get them back safely.

Another instance: Richard was taking his family down to his farm to see how the crops were doing. Aunt Annie was rather a large woman and the family were quite small children. He had a dilapidated wagon



Members of Richard Crowther's First Family

box and he put some hay in the bottom for his wife and children to sit on. Richard stood up in the front to drive the little mules. He went south one block then east to the main road. When they got to the center of the block, just before entering Main street, the mules had come to a good speed. Turning to Frank, his eldest son, who was quite a big boy, Richard said, "Hold me hat Frank, while I drive," giving his hat to the boy. Just at that moment, as he turned to go on Main street, a tire came off one of the wheels of the wagon and rolled along the side. Richard shouted out, "Ay, whose tire is that?" He always got along without any serious accident.

He was a good entertainer at home and in company. Uncle Thomas' children all liked to see Uncle Richard come to their home. He sang many songs to entertain and please the people. "Where Is My Wandering Boy To-night" and "My Grandfather Was A Most Wonderful Man."

He could do and invent,  
He could poetry write;  
He could do most anything,  
He could wrestle; he could fight.  
Talking, ah, talk about fighting,  
'E's the chap to 'it'em.  
One day Grandfather got into a fight.  
'E knocked the fellow so far,  
It took six osses and a coach  
Six weeks to bring 'im back again.

Chorus:

What a pity it was,  
His life was but a span;  
My Grandfather was  
A most wonderful man.

When Richard's Brother Thomas and families moved to Colorado, they missed the visits of Uncle Richard and his family. Many of them never saw him again,



Members of Richard Crowther's First Family

but he lived in their memory. He lived a clean life, honest and upright in all his dealings with his fellow-men. He left the impress of his life and teachings on his family, his relatives and friends. His first family, as was usually the case, when he took the second wife felt they were somewhat neglected and had to shift for themselves. But they are all good citizens and active workers in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints—men and women of honor and integrity to truth and righteousness.



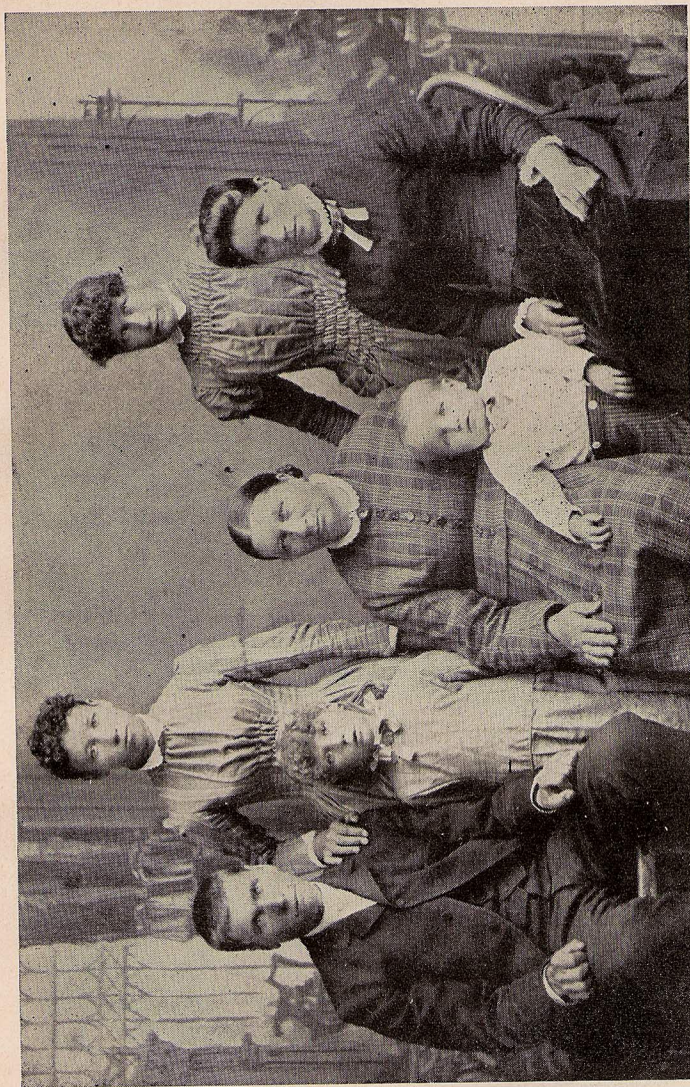
Richard Franklin Crowther, Oldest Son of Richard and Annie M. Crowther

### ANNIE CHRISTENSEN, FIRST WIFE OF RICHARD CROWTHER

Annie Margaret Christensen was born in Denmark, Sept. 3, 1853. She crossed the ocean in a sailing vessel with her parents, Christen Christensen, b. 24 Dec. 1828, Elling Vensyssel, Denmark, and Johanna Peterson Christensen, b. 16 Dec. 1824, Denmark, when Annie was eight years old. During this voyage her baby sister died and was buried in the ocean. When Annie was fifteen years old she married Richard Crowther, in the old Fort at Fountain Green, Utah. They were married by Orson Hyde, one of the Twelve Apostles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, about the year 1867. They lived at Fountain Green for about twenty-two years. Here ten children were born to them, the oldest a girl, named Martha Ann. She died while still a baby and was buried there. Later they lost a baby boy named Samuel Edward, who is also buried at Fountain Green. Their four boys and four girls grew to maturity and married and all had families. When Richard Crowther married a plural wife, he took her and his first family down into Wayne County, Utah. Annie stayed down there about four years. She then went to Sevier County, and stayed with some of her married children. Later she moved with her oldest son, Frank, up to Bear River City, Utah. Here she died in the fall of 1905. She was buried at Elwood, Box Elder County, Utah. She was good at sewing, she made her children's clothes and braided straw and made straw hats for them. She was a kind, even tempered woman, never allowing herself to get excited even in the turmoils with the Indians.

Annie always made the neighbors and relatives welcome at their home. She endured the trials and hardships of the early settlement of the west with patience and hope for a better future. She had faith in the restored Gospel for which her parents and family sacrificed all to leave Denmark and gather with the Saints in the Rocky Mountains. She never wanted to go back.

She leaves a host of relatives and friends and a numerous posterity to inherit the blessings she has left them—faith, hope, industry and love for each other. Long she will live in their memory.



Annie M. Crowther, 1st Wife, Richard Crowther and Members of Family



Annie M. Crowther, 1st Wife, Richard Crowther and Members of Family

SKETCH OF MARY JANE CROWTHER AND  
HUSBAND LEGRAND DURFEE, SR.

**M**ARY JANE CROWTHER, daughter of Richard Crowther and Annie Margaret Christensen, was born 22 January 1870 at Fountain Green, Utah. She attended the schools of that early day, the beginning of the free school system. She grew up to womanhood in the home of a large family, associating with her cousins and the young people of the town until about 1887, when her father took the family to southern Utah to pioneer a new settlement. Along with the family she experienced the hardships that were usual among the pioneers of that day. The family moved to Sevier Valley about 1892. There Mary Jane met a young man, LeGrand Durfee, whose life came into hers and after a short acquaintance they were married in the Manti Temple, on May 4, 1892. From that time their history has been one. To this couple were born ten children. They were both of a religious nature, being born of goodly parents who taught them to believe in the restored Gospel of Jesus Christ; that a Prophet of God had been raised up in this day; that Joseph Smith was that Prophet; that through him that restoration had come again to the earth; that a great and marvelous work had come forth among the children of men, and should never be thrown down, nor given to another people.

The parents taught these things to their children, who had the gift of faith to believe them and conform their lives in harmony with them. Mary Jane worked as a counselor in the Relief Society for sixteen years; also as a teacher in that society for several years. She was an officer in the organization of the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers.



LeGrand Durfee, Mary Jane Crowther Durfee and Members of their Family

LeGrand Durfee, sr., husband of Mary Jane Crowther, was born Dec. 11, 1869 at Springville, Utah; son of Jabes Durfee and Celestia Curtis. He died 15 Dec., 1941 at Aurora, Utah where his home had been for so many years. He was an honest, industrious man; provided well for his family; was a lover of stock, especially horses. He and his boys entered the state fair of Utah with some of the best teams in the state and carried off the prizes in a matched contest for the best pulling team. He was also active in his Church duties. He was a High Priest and a member of the High Council of the North Sevier stake of Zion for several years; also a special stake home missionary. In his earlier years he acted as teacher in several organizations of the ward and as secretary of the Y. M. M. I. A. He filled a mission in the Central States .....

LeGrand held many positions of responsibility in the social and civic affairs of Aurora town. During his last illness while alone, realizing that his time on this earth was about finished, he wrote in a very legible hand the following letter and left it as his last earthly testimony and blessing. It is in his own plain hand, not a tear drop nor a blot upon its pages. He wasn't afraid to die. The letter is headed Aurora, Utah, but no date is given.

THE LETTER: "My Brothers and Sisters: no doubt you have all heard me bear my testimony to the truthfulness of this Gospel many times in different pulpits while I have lived among you. It always has been my desire to bear that same testimony to the end of my life. Knowing that I wouldn't be able to appear in person and utter these words in speech; I have taken it upon myself to have them read from writing. My life has not been altogether as good as I would of liked it to

have been; but those golden opportunities have all past and my life is just what I have made it. This is a glorious old world, full of light and sunshine, created by God the Father, the great Giver of all good. I am thankful I have been permitted to come to earth and take part in this great plan. I am glad I have been privileged to bring a family into this world. I am proud of my wife, one among the best of women. I am proud of my sons and daughters, I am proud of my sons-in-law and daughters-in-law, and the course they are taking to bring salvation to their souls. I am also proud of all my little grandchildren. I am proud to know I have been permitted to live most of my life in Aurora among some of the best blood that has ever been permitted to come to earth. I love all of you and my earnest desire is that we all will be permitted to live together again throughout time and all eternity. I know the Prophet Joseph Smith was a true Prophet of the living God. That he did see God and angels face to face, and he was instrumental in restoring this Gospel to earth again. That Jesus Christ did give His life for the redemption of mankind from the grave. My earnest prayer is that God will forgive me for every sin I have committed while on earth, and hold them against me no more. That I may be able to go to my father and mother, brothers and sisters and my children, all relatives and friends that have gone before me. That I may be ready to welcome all my loved ones that will come in after years, and may we all be permitted to mingle together in peace and happiness, and go on and on in progression and reach that golden shore that we are all trying so hard to reach. I am glad I have been permitted to be ordained to the high calling of the Priesthood and have what experience I have had. This

is my earnest prayer and blessing from your father, brother and friend in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.  
LeGrand Durfee, Sr."

He was 72 years old on Dec. 11, 1941, and died four days later, on Dec. 15, 1941. He was buried in the Aurora cemetery.

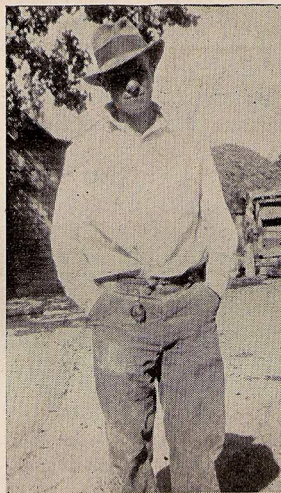
#### GENEALOGY OF THIS FAMILY OF TEN CHILDREN

- LeGrand Durfee, Sr., b. 11 Dec. 1869, Springville, Utah.  
Son of Jabes Durfee and Celestia Curtis.
- 2- 2 Mary Jane Crowther, b. 22 Jan. 1870, Fountain Green, Utah.  
Daughter of Richard Crowther and Annie Christensen, m.  
LeGrand Durfee, Sr., 4 May 1892, Manti Temple.
- 3- 1 LeGrand Durfee, Jr., b. 24 Feb., 1893, Aurora, Utah, m. 24  
May 1918, Manti Temple to Sena Alima Sorensen, b. 8  
July 1898 (see Sketch).
- 4- 1 Lola Durfee, b. 5 Feb. 1920, Aurora, Utah.
- 4- 2 Merrill G. Durfee, b. 17 July 1921, Aurora, Utah.
- 4- 3 Myrna Jane Durfee, b. 11 Dec. 1926, Aurora, Utah.
- 4- 4 Leila Durfee, b. 7 Aug. 1927, Aurora, Utah.
- 4- 5 Lymon James Durfee, b. 20 Jan. 1930, Aurora, Utah.
- 3- 2 Ella May Durfee, b. 17 Sept. 1894, Aurora, Utah, m. Frank  
Taylor, Preston, Idaho, April 2, 1917. Endowed in Manti  
Temple, 27 Mar. 1918. A teacher in Sunday School and  
Primary. President of Y. W. M. I. A., d. Aurora, Utah, 21  
May 1919.
- 3- 3 Chloe Elemeda Durfee, b. 2 July 1896, Aurora, Utah, d. 16  
July 1912.
- 3- 4 Millie Jane Durfee, b. 1 Nov. 1898, Aurora, Utah, m. Oriel  
Andrews, Feb. 24, 1921, Manti Temple. Served in Church as  
2nd counselor in Primary, Sunday School teacher, secty. in  
Relief Society and teacher in both Mutual and Primary.  
Oriel Andrews, husband of Millie Jane Durfee, b. 25 Aug.  
1901, Aurora, Utah. President of Y. M. M. I. A. for a  
number of years. President of Elders Quorum and at  
present president of the 107th Quorum of Seventy.
- 4- 1 Ula May Andrews, b. 6 Jan. 1923, Aurora, Utah, d. Salina  
Hospital, 23 July 1934.
- 4- 2 Neldon Vee Andrews, b. 21 Jan. 1925, Aurora, Utah, ordained  
Deacon, 1937, a Teacher, 1939, Priest, 1942.

- 4- 3 R. Delos Andrews, b. 19 Jan. 1927, Aurora, Utah, ordained  
Deacon, 1939, Prest. of the Quorum, a Teacher, 1942.
- 4- 4 Elden Verness Andrews, b. 6 May 1929, ordained Deacon,  
25 May 1941, President of Quorum.
- 4- 5 Millie Laveda Andrews, b. 13 Aug. 1932, Aurora, Utah.
- 3- 5 Lenard Durfee, b. 1 April 1901, Aurora, Utah, d. 11 Jan.  
1902.
- 3- 6 Amy Violet Durfee, b. 11 Sept. 1903, Aurora, Utah, m. 2  
June 1926, Manti Temple, Joseph W. Curtis, b. 25 Dec. 1904,  
Aurora, Utah, son of Lorenzo Curtis and Eliza Mott, he is  
a Seventy and an officer in the Quorum of North Sevier  
Stake. He acted as counselor in the Ward Mutual for two  
years, and as president of the same organization three years.  
At present he is chairman of the Church welfare work of  
the Aurora Ward. Amy filled a mission to the Central  
States from 1922 to 1924. The following are offices she  
held at different times in the Church: 1st counselor in the  
stake M. I. A. organization, president of the ward Y. L. M.  
I. A. for three years, president of the ward Relief Society for  
two and a half years, member of the Sunday School board  
of North Sevier Stake, teacher in both Sunday School and  
Primary organization.
- 4- 1 Joseph Ivo Curtis, b. 23 July 1927, Aurora, Utah, he holds  
the office of Teacher in the Aurora Ward.
- 4- 2 Amy Coleen Curtis, b. 1 Sept. 1935, Aurora, Utah.



Verr and Edith Durfee



Emmet Durfee

- 3- 7 Clifford Dee Durfee, b. 23 May 1905, Aurora, Utah, d. 24 Feb. 1906.
- 3- 8 Floyd C. Durfee, b. 9 May 1907, Aurora, Utah, d. 13 April 1908.
- 3- 9 Emmett Vaughn Durfee, b. 13 Dec. 1913, a Teacher in the Aurora Ward.
- 3-10 Verr Durfee, b. 13 Aug. 1915, Aurora, Utah, m. 12 June 1937, to Edith Barney, ordained an Elder, 23 Nov. 1941, Endowed at Manti Temple, 9 Jan. 1942. He is a ward teacher.
- 4- 1 Verr Don L. Durfee, b. 4 Dec. 1938, Elsinore, Utah, blessed Jan. 1st, 1939 by LeGrand Durfee, Sr.
- 4- 2 R. Bardett Durfee, b. 14 April 1941, Aurora, Utah, blessed May 4, 1941 by LeGrand Durfee, Sr.
- 2- 3 Richard Franklin Crowther, son of Richard Crowther and Annie M. Christensen, b. 29 April 1872, Fountain Green, Utah, m. 6 Mar. 1908, Annie Jorgensen, b. 13 Feb. 1882, Bear River City, Utah. Six children, two children living, four dead. See picture of him and his horse. A quiet,

- good man, possessed many traits of his father. Full of fun and enjoyed life.
- 3- 1 Florance A. Crowther, b. 25 Dec. 1909, Bear River City, Utah, m. 16 Sept. 1935, Warren Edward Rasmussen, b. 20 Apr. 1905, East Garland, Utah.
  - 3- 2 Leola Marie Crowther, b. 6 Sept. 1910, d. 10 July 1912.
  - 3- 3 Richard Crowther, b. and d. 30 Mar. 1912.
  - 3- 4 Elda Iola Crowther, b. 26 Nov. 1913, d. 4 Mar. 1917, Bear River City, Utah.
  - 3- 5 Raymond F. Crowther, b. 11 Sept. 1915, Bear River City, Utah.
  - 3- 6 Virgil S. Crowther, b. 13 Sept. 1919, Bear River City, Utah, d. infant.



Four Generations, Richard Crowther and Annie M. Crowther Family

- 2- 4 Annie Elizebeth Crowther, b. 13 Feb. 1874, Fountain Green, Utah, m. \_\_\_\_\_, Lewis Wells Gardner, b. 11 April 1868, Home, Tremonton, Utah, six children.
- 3- 1 Margaret Ann Gardner, b. 13 June 1874, Tremonton, Utah.

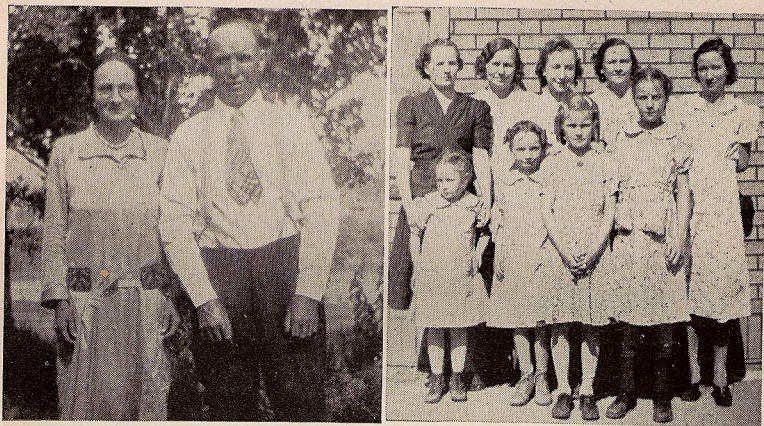
- 3- 2 Laura Elizebeth Gardner, b. 5 May 1894, Tremonton, Utah.
- 3- 3 Billy Maud Gardner, b. 11 Feb. 1897, Tremonton, Utah.
- 3- 4 Lewis Richard Gardner, b. 21 Sept. 1899, Tremonton, Utah.
- 3- 5 Hazel Thersa Gardner, b. 25 Feb. 1904, Tremonton, Utah.
- 3- 6 Elden Franklin Gardner, b. 3 Dec. 1912, Tremonton, Utah.
- 2- 6 James William Crowther, b. 19 Jan. 1879, Fountain Green, Utah, m. 9 Dec. 1901 at Richfield, Utah, Lydia Harding, endowed at Manti Temple, 1 Feb. 1911. He died at Salina Hospital, Utah, 7 Feb. 1920. Five children.



James Wm. Crowther

Lydia Harding  
CrowtherChildren of James Wm. Crowther  
and Lydia Harding Crowther

- 3- 1 Samuel J. Crowther, b. 22 Dec. 1902, Aurora, Utah, m. Alta Stevens, 15 June 1922, b. 27 Dec. 1904 at Holden, Utah, d. 19 Feb. 1933 at Aurora, Utah. Two children born.
- 4- 1 Don J. Crowther, b. 7 Sept. 1923, Aurora, Utah, rec'd. Patriarchal Blessing. 2nd Coun. in Sunday School.
- 4- 2 Betty Ray Crowther, b. 22 March 1926, Aurora, Utah. Patriarchal Blessing from Christian M. Mickelson.
- 3- 1 Samuel J. Crowther, b. 22 Dec. 1902, m. 2nd wife March 8, 1935, Genevieve Knight, b. 5 July 1913. Member of stake Sunday School board. Two children. Endowments and sealings done in Manti Temple, March 26, 1942.
- 4- 1 Joyce Crowther, b. 30 Aug. 1937, Salina, Utah.
- 4- 2 Jimmie Crowther, b. 23 July 1942, Salina, Utah.
- 3- 2 Otheya Crowther, b. 7 Feb. 1907, Aurora, Utah, m. 15 May 1929, Don L. Cooper at Richfield, Utah. One child.
- 4- 1 Karen Cooper, b. 17 Jan. 1928, Salina, Utah.
- 3- 3 Ora Crowther, b. 6 Nov. 1909, Aurora, Utah, m. 25 Oct. 1928, Glen Mason at Richfield, Utah. Endowed at Manti Temple, 14 March 1934. Patriarchal Blessing by Maroni Lazenby. Teacher in Sunday School and Primary, at present 2nd counselor in Primary. Four children.
- 4-1 Gene Verdon Mason, b. 10 April 1930, Aurora, Utah.
- 4- 2 Versel J. Mason, b. 26 April 1932, Aurora, Utah.
- 4- 3 Carl Glen Mason, b. Dec. 15 1934, d. 3 Jan. 1936 of scarlet fever.
- 4- 4 Peggy Mason, b. 22 March 1937, Aurora, Utah.
- 3- 4 Lydia Veone Crowther, b. 23 July 1913, Aurora, Utah, m. Mar. 8, 1935, Cleve Marion Cloward at Manti Temple.
- 3- 5 William Wendle Crowther, b. 3 June 1920, Aurora, Utah, d. of flu, March 8, 1921.
- 2-10 Alma Christian Crowther, b. Dec. 15, 1887, Fountain Green, Utah, m. 25 Sept. 1909, Rhoda Clarisa Wall, b. 24 Feb. 1894. A relief society teacher for 18 years. To this honored couple were born fourteen children. Home, Aurora, Utah.
- 3- 1 Armilda Crowther, b. 13 Mar. 1910, m. 26 Oct. 1926, Harold Anderson, b. 27 Oct. 1903.
- 4- 1 La Roy H. Anderson, b. Mar. 3, 1927.
- 4- 2 Dewayne A. Anderson, b. 15 April 1929, d. 29 Aug. 1933.
- 4- 3 Tenance Orrale Anderson, b. 5 Nov. 1934.
- 4- 4 Ulean Anderson, b. 20 Oct. 1936, d. 22 Dec. 1936.
- 4- 5 Vern Eugene Anderson, b. 11 Sept. 1938.



Alma and Rhoda Crowther

Their Nine Daughters

- 3- 2 Alma Loyd Crowther, b. 3 Dec. 1911, d. 6 Oct. 1929.
- 3- 3 Sena Hartense, b. 25 Mar. 1914, m. 25 Mar. 1931, Don William Kennedy, b. 22 Aug. 1909.
- 4- 1 Sena Elvera Kennedy, b. 4 Feb. 1932.
- 4- 2 Hartense Nada Kennedy, b. 29 Aug. 1933, d. 15 Feb. 1936.
- 4- 3 Kenneth Don, b. 17 Mar. 1935.
- 4- 4 Maurine Kennedy, b. 8 Sept. 1938.
- 3- 4 Anna Berneas Crowther, b. 27 Aug. 1915, m. Dec. 29, 1933, Burdell Christian Sorenson, b. 29 Feb. 1912. Five children.
- 4- 1 Vernon Burdell Sorenson, b. 12 Aug. 1934.
- 4- 2 Berneas Burdella Sorenson, b. 3 Mar. 1936, d. 15 Aug. 1938.
- 4- 3 Karl Alma Sorenson, b. 26 Aug. 1937.
- 4- 4 Richard Christian Sorenson, b. 1 April 1939.
- 4- 5 Boyd Lynn Sorenson, b. 5 April 1941.
- 3- 5 Viva Crowther, b. 22 Sept. 1918, m. 2 Jan. 1940, Norman Wilson Memmott, b. 4 Sept. 1913.
- 4- 1 Rea LaVon Memmott, b. 14 Mar. 1940.
- 4- 2 Portia Memmott, b. 18 July 1942.
- 3- 6 Clifton Richard, b. 12 July 1922, twin, d. 19 June 1923.
- 3- 7 Clifford William, b. 12 July 1922, twin, d. 31 July 1924.
- 3- 8 Maurine Crowther, b. 19 June 1924, d. 5 Dec. 1928.
- 3- 9 Vivian Crowther, b. 7 Feb. 1927.

- 3-10 Leola Crowther, b. 24 June 1929.
- 3-11 Geraldine Crowther, b. 9 May 1931.
- 3-12 La Vern Crowther, b. 10 March 1933, d. Mar. 18, 1933.
- 3-13 Geneva Crowther, b. 26 Dec. 1933.
- 3-14 Rhoda La Vona Crowther, b. 25 April, 1936.

RECORD OF RICHARD CROWTHER FAMILY  
FROM THOMAS FRANCIS CROWTHER

- ~~2- 7~~ Thomas Francis Crowther, b. June 21, 1881, Fountain Green, Utah, m. Jennie M. Bosshardt, June 3, 1907, Manti, Utah, b. Apr. 26, 1891, Axtell, Utah.
- 3- 1 Thomas Clarence Crowther, b. May 30, 1908, Axtell, Utah, m. Della Carlyn Mickelsen, Sept. 21, 1932, Manti, Utah, b. June 12, 1913, d. Nov. 20, 1940.
- 4- 1 Arven Jay Crowther, b. June 26, 1933, Axtell, Utah.
- 3- 2 Ellis Richard Crowther, b. Aug. 30, 1910, Axtell, Utah.
- 3- 3 Newell John Crowther, b. Mar. 23, 1913, Axtell, Utah, d. Sept. 13, 1921.
- 3- 4 Mildred Crowther, b. Sept. 14, 1918, Axtell, Utah, m. Max L. Peterson, Jan. 17, 1938, Nephi, Utah, b. Dec. 2, 1914, Manti, Utah.
- 4- 1 Maxine Peterson, b. Dec. 25, 1938, Axtell, Utah.
- 4- 2 Del Rita Peterson, b. Mar. 10, 1940, Axtell, Utah.
- ~~2- 8~~ Samuel Edward Crowther, b. ----- 1883, Fountain Green, Utah, d. an infant.
- ~~2- 9~~ Laura Hannah Crowther, b. 10 Sept. 1884, Fountain Green, Utah, m. Edwin Thomas Watts, 2 Feb. 1900, Manti, Utah, b. July 13, 1868, Springville, Utah. Laura d. Oct. 17, 1921.
- 3- 1 Edwin Watts, Jr., b. Nov. 25, 1901, Axtell, Utah, m. Thelma V. Wheeler, 26 Nov. 1921, Richfield, Utah, b. Oct. 10, 1903, Springville, Utah.
- 4- 1 Betty Thelma Watts, b. May 26, 1924, Bingham Canyon, Utah, m. 4 Mar. 1942, Keith Hill, Fayette, Utah.
- 4- 2 Jack E. Watts, b. 1 July 1926, d. Aug. 10, 1932, Brigham Canyon, Utah.
- 4- 4 Louise Betty Watts, b. 17 June 1939, Axtell, Utah.
- 3- 2 Clara May Watts, b. 20 May 1904, Axtell, Utah, m. Ira Louis Hansen, 4 Aug. 1919, Richfield, Utah, he was b. 16 Nov. 1897, Redmond, Utah.
- 4- 1 Chloe Hansen, b. 27 July 1920, Axtell, Utah.
- 4- 2 Juineta Hansen, b. 27 Nov. 1922, Axtell, Utah, d. 2 Jan. 1923.
- 4- 3 Montez Hansen, b. 29 Nov. 1923, Axtell, Utah.

- 4- 4 Ira Roland Hansen, b. 19 Sept. 1926, Provo, Utah.  
 4- 5 Clara Faye Hansen, b. 30 Oct. 1927, Provo, Utah.  
 4- 6 La Mar Hansen, b. 28 Jan. 1930, Provo, Utah.  
 4- 7 Lowell Jay Hansen, b. 28 July 1931, Provo, Utah.  
 4- 8 Lawana May Hansen, b. 21 Oct. 1933, Provo, Utah.  
 4- 9 Laura Darlene Hansen, b. 25 May 1936, Provo, Utah.  
 3- 3 Mabel Leona Watts, b. 10 Jan. 1906, Axtell, Utah, m.  
 ----- 1925, Salt Lake City, Utah, Mike Simpson, b.  
 13 Jan. 1902, Pennsylvania.  
 4- 1 Lora Simpson, b. 3 Dec. 1926, Axtell, Utah.  
 4- 2 Arva Simpson, b. 7 Dec. 1929, Salt Lake City, Utah.  
 4- 3 Viola Simpson, b. 4 Dec. 1933, Axtell, Utah.  
 4- 4 Bobby J. Simpson, b. Mar. 28, 1935, Axtell, Utah.  
 4- 5 Stanley Leon Simpson, b. 27 Oct. 1936, Gunnison, Utah.  
 3- 4 Rosella Watts, b. 19 July 1910, Axtell, Utah, m. 16 July 1926,  
 Gerald Barney Orton, Manti, Utah. He was from Panguitch,  
 Utah, divorced 1927.  
 4- 1 Laura Rose Orton, b. 29 May 1927, Axtell, Utah.  
 3- 4 Rosella Watts (Orton), b. 19 July 1910, Axtell, Utah, m. 20  
 Sept. 1929, Elden John Christensen, b. 21 Feb. 1902, Red-  
 mond, Utah.  
 4- 1 Afton Josephine Christensen, b. 29 Aug. 1930, Redmond,  
 Utah.  
 4- 2 Virlie Laurrine Christensen, b. 29 April 1932, Redmond,  
 Utah.  
 4- 3 Janice Christensen, b. 19 Sept. 1935, Redmond, Utah.  
 3- 5 Laurence Richard Watts, b. 29 Oct. 1912, Axtell, Utah, m.  
 Norma Dodge Tobler, 31 Dec. 1938. She was b. 30 Dec.  
 1917, Irans, Utah.  
 4- 1 Richard Vernon Watts, b. 15 Jan. 1940, Salt Lake City, Utah.  
 4- 2 Norma Joice Watts, b. 4 April 1941, California.  
 3- 6 Moral C. Watts, b. 14 Sept. 1921, Salina, Utah.

### SKETCH—LEGRAND DURFEE, JR. (GRANDSON OF RICHARD CROWTHER)

LeGrand Durfee, Jr. (some times signed Lee G. Durfee) was born 24 Feb. 1893 in Aurora, Sevier County, Utah. My great grandfather, Edmond Durfee, was killed by an anti-Mormon mob, 26 Nov. 1845. They first set fire to a hay stack and when Edmond Durfee and others went to put out the fire, the mob fired; one ball struck him in the breast and he died instantly. His body was brought to Nauvoo for burial. My grandfather, Jabez Durfee and his wife, Celestia Curtis, were pioneers. Their first home in Utah was in Springville, but they later moved to Aurora. Jabez Durfee was the first Bishop in Aurora.

My mother, Mary Jane Crowther, was born 22 Jan. 1870 at Fountain Green, Utah. Her parents were Richard Crowther, born 1 Oct. 1839 or 40 at Parish of Bridge North, Shropshire, England, and Annie Margaret Christensen, born 3 Sept. 1853 at Hermustis, Fredericksburg, Denmark. They also were Utah pioneers.

On 26 March 1893, I was blessed and named by my grandfather, Richard Crowther. I was baptized by John D. Durfee, 2 June 1901 and confirmed by Daniel H. Cloward the same day. I was ordained a deacon by C. M. Ivie, 4 Dec. 1907 and a priest by Hans Jensen, 25 Nov. 1912. Hans Jensen ordained me an elder on the 30 Jan. 1916, and on the 2 Feb. 1916 I received my endowments. On 5 Feb. 1916, I left home to fill a mission in the Central States in the State of Kansas—St. John conference (now West Kansas District). I returned from my mission the 3 April 1918. On the 24 May 1918 I was married to Sena Alima Sorensen of Glenwood, Sevier County, Utah, by Lewis Anderson at the Manti Temple.

On the 27 May 1918 I left home to serve in the 145th artillery in the world's great war. I left the U. S. A. on the 16 Aug. 1918; was in France and England until the 4 Jan. 1919. I returned to my home in Aurora 24 Jan. 1919. Aurora was quarantined at this time because



Le G. Durfee, Jr.

of influenza and it lasted for about a month after I returned home. In March 1919 I was sustained as first counselor to Byran Ivie in the Y. M. M. I. A. On 28 Dec. 1919 I was sustained and set apart by George M. Jones, as a High Priest and as second counselor to Bishop Levi Sorensen. On 15 July, 1923, I was set apart as first counselor to Bishop Sorensen by Chas. H. Hart. In the winter of 1924 Bishop Levi Sorensen was called on a six month's mission. I took his place as Bishop of the ward during his absence. We were released from the Bishopric in Dec. 1933. A social was given in our honor at this time. The children were given a dance in the afternoon and served with candy. In the evening a program was given; after which

a plate lunch was served to 370 persons. The remaining part of the evening was spent dancing. We were each presented with a mirror as a gift of remembrance.

I have been ward secretary in Aurora and in the High Priests Organization. While ward secretary I copied all ward records into a new book. I was also secretary in the M. I. A. before I was called into the mission field. On 1 July 1934 I was set apart and sustained as a High Councilman in the North Sevier Stake. I was set apart by David O. McKay. I have been secretary for the cattle grazing association. I have also served three terms as town councilman and secretary in the Aurora town—first term 1924-25, second term 1940-41, third term 1942-1943.

In the summer of 1931 I had an experience which strengthened my testimony in the Gospel. I also learned that there are times in our lives when it is almost impossible to discern between good and evil influences. The wrong spirit causes everything to appear so easy and plausible that we sometimes get the two influences confused. The Prophet Joseph Smith in speaking upon this subject, tells us that we must try the spirits and prove them, for it is often the case that man makes mistakes in regard to these things. There is but one way to avoid evil influences. Live pure, holy and prayerful lives; cultivate a spirit of discernment and shun everything of an evil nature. Or in other words, resist the devil and he will flee from us. I suffered much and lost out financially because of listening to the wrong spirit.

I had bought a farm three years before this time with money borrowed from the bank, but had been able to pay off only the taxes and interest each year as they came due. Finally I was able to get a permit to graze cattle and it seemed like I was getting along fine. I wasn't

satisfied with this amount of cattle so decided to borrow more money and get more cattle. I tried three different times to borrow money, but each time the banker turned me down. I prayed about it, and I decided that if I ever paid for my farm I would have to get more cattle. So I got my father to go to the bank and see if he could persuade the banker to let me have the money. Father finally talked him into letting me have the money, so I purchased more cattle. It seemed like I was getting along fine, then the depression came. I had rented ten acres of my farm to Aldon Mason to put into beets and I was running the other ten acres of alfalfa and working for J. A. Scorup. The beet crop that year was almost a failure and the price of cattle was only about half what it was the year before. By July 1st I began to worry about my debts and I got so bad that I couldn't eat nor sleep. I would have spells when perspiration would pour out all over my body, which caused a weakness. A dull heavy feeling crowded into my mind and I had physical pains in my head and body. For ten nights straight I could not sleep. I walked the floor all night. After that I could only sleep a few hours each night, for weeks. During the day time I did not know at times what I was doing. Many a time I rode my horse over to J. A. Scorup's and tied him up; then started out for the bridles for the working team; but before getting to them I would turn around and pick up my riding horse's bridle and go and untie him without realizing what I was doing. The only way I could get any relief was when I prayed. When I was alone at work in the field I would get down on my knees and pray.

At last I decided to try to sell my cattle, farm and permit and get as near out of debt as I could. I owed

\$4,500. After looking around for some time, I at last found a sale for my cattle and permit. I had a few heifers that were fat that I sold for five cents a pound and the others I sold to the Cowley Boys of Venice with my permit. Father thought I was foolish to let them go at the price I did, but two weeks later cattle sold for much less and the price has never been as high since and that is going on three years now. Edwin Sorensen took over my farm and allowed me what I had given for it. In this way I got out of debt and still had my home clear.



Le G. and Alima Durfee

At this time I was ten dollars behind in having my tithing paid in full, and we just had ten dollars left in the house. There were two or three of the children that needed shoes and there were many other things we needed. My wife and I thought it over for several days and at last decided to pay the ten dollars for tithing.

The Lord did bless us for I had a month more work than I expected at J. A. Scorup's. I did not get winters work as I hoped to get and at Christmas we did not have money to buy Christmas presents and we were afraid our children would find empty stockings on Christmas morning. But to our great surprise, God Himself, through unseen power, put \$130.00 in my hands which gave us the necessities of life until spring and a few Christmas presents. I realize that we have always been blessed for the paying of tithing; but this is the first time I ever saw such blessings come so directly. The lesson I learned through this experience is: the world may become hard and cold because of the selfishness and mistakes of man, but God is always ready to help his children. I thank the Lord for this experience, but I hope I never will have to pass through it again. It surely has strengthened my testimony and I feel like I am much better off spiritually if not financially.

The next spring I got the job as water master on the Rocky Ford canal and in the fall the sugar company gave me the job of weighing beets. I have had this employment now for eleven years, from 1931 to 1942. I have enjoyed these jobs very much for I always like to sit over a large number of figures and books.

I began milking cows as early in life as I began school. My job while going to school was milking and feeding and watering the cows. I would milk from fourteen to sixteen cows each morning and evening. At night I was too tired to do much studying, but I always saw that I had my arithmetic, which was my choice subject.

I wanted to go into business, for that was my choice field, but my father had done so well financially in cattle and farming, I decided that it was best to follow in

his footsteps. I had to stay out of school so much to help father on the farm besides milking cows while going to school, it caused me to get behind in my school work which partly killed the desire for a business career. Since my farming career slipped from me, it has made me long and wish more than ever for a business career.

When I reflect upon the past, I like to think of those happy hours I spent in our home with the children. My wife arranged so we could have a family party, or in other words a home evening, once a week, wherein we prayed and taught each other the principles of the Gospel. These evenings began with prayer, then followed with a program, and every one took part, using the different talents God gave us. After the program we played games and had refreshments and the evening was ended with family prayer.

God blessed our home with five children—three girls and two boys. They were all born in Aurora, Utah. They are:

Lola Durfee, b. 5 Feb. 1920, baptized 4 Sept. 1928.

Merrill G. Durfee, b. 17 July 1921, baptized 10 Sept. 1929.

Myrna Jane Durfee, b. 11 Dec. 1926, baptized 7 May 1934.

Leila Durfee, b. 7 Aug. 1927, baptized 2 May 1936.

Lymon James Durfee, b. 20 Jan. 1930, baptized 24 May 1938.

The children all showed in early childhood a spiritual disposition, and a great desire for education. They are active in their church duties. Many a Sunday afternoon they remain at home entertaining each other while their girl chums and boy chums are to the picture shows. The children have been interested in music, playing the piano and other instruments. My wife is a great lover of music and she has spent much of her time teaching the children to play the piano. We have also given them lessons on the piano by Professor Elmer Nielson, Chester

Hill and Lavar Jensen. The year Lymon was in the fourth grade, the school put on a Christmas operetta, and he played the piano accompaniment. He was just nine years old.

My wife Cena Alima Sorensen was born in Glenwood, Utah, 8 July 1898. At the age of fifteen she began her leadership in the Church as a teacher in the Sunday School. At the age of sixteen she was sustained as organist in the M. I. A. At seventeen she became organist in the Sunday School and organist and teacher in the Primary. She worked diligently in these different organizations until she came to Aurora. In the Aurora Ward she has been organist for twelve years and besides Sacrament meetings accompaniment, she has accompanied the Aurora choir several times at Quarterly Conferences and all funeral services, from 1919 to 1921 and from June, 1931 to November, 1941. She was organist in the Sunday School from 1921 to 1928. She has been organist, class leader and visiting teacher in the Relief Society and also in Primary. She served in the North Sevier Stake M. I. A. from Sept. 25, 1936 to May, 1940.

In 1938, Lola Durfee graduated from the L. D. S. Seminary. The graduation exercises were held on May 8, 1938. Her part on the program was to play a piano solo. She also accompanied the chorus on the piano. At the senior farewell program, 18 May, 1938, Lola played a flute solo and took part in a play. In 1938 she graduated from the North Sevier High School. The graduation exercises were held, 19 May 1938. At these exercises, Lola sang a soprano solo, "I Love You High School." She wrote the words to her song and put them to the melody of "I Love You Truly." Here she expressed her two favorite hobbies, writing poetry and music. Another of her talents was public speaking. She

received a scholarship to the Snow College at Ephraim, Utah. On the 24 May 1940, Lola graduated from the Snow College. On 4 June 1941 she graduated from the Brigham Young University with a three year Normal. In 1941 she became a Golden Gleaner in the M. I. A. At the present time Lola is teaching in the Salina district school.

Merrill G. Durfee was ordained a deacon 17 July 1933 by his father, LeGrand Durfee, Jr. He was ordained a teacher 24 July 1936 by his father. He was ordained a priest 17 July 1938 by his father. He was ordained an elder 25 Aug. 1940 by his father. On 13 May 1939, graduated from the L. D. S. Seminary. He sang in a male trio and directed the chorus in singing, "Redeemer of Israel." On 24 May 1939 was the farewell program for the seniors. At the program Merrill took part in a play and directed the chorus singing, "Farewell Dear High School." He wrote the words to this song and put them to the melody of "The Wild Rose." On 25 May 1939, Merrill graduated from the North Sevier High School. He was high point student in scholarship which entitled him to a scholarship. This high school also presented him with a citizenship badge. At the exercises he played his saxophone in a quartett and also directed the senior graduates singing, "Our Yesterday." He took part in all the musical festivals, singing solos, singing in quartets and playing solos and playing in quartets with his clarinet and saxophone. He contested in shorthand and typing; he also took a great interest in shop. In September, 1939, he began school at the Brigham Young University. This is his third year at this school. He is majoring in music and business. Called to fill a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, he went June 15, 1942 to the New England States.

I am hopeful that the other three children will accomplish as much as their elder brother and sister. I am closing with a poem:

A CHILD'S PRAYER

God your love for me was very great,  
To give me such a father and mother.  
Thanks to thee, I offer for my fate,  
That wonderful father and mother of mine.

Twenty years they've cared for me—  
Struggled, fought and worked for me.  
God, they've done their noble parts,  
Help me to fill the desires of their hearts.

Tho I have faltered in many ways  
Leave me not alone, I want to win.  
Happiness (I want) to fill their hearts,  
Not sorrow and grief for my sin.

God bless and protect that wonderful father and mother of mine.

Written in 1941 by LeGrand (Lee G) Durfee, Jr.

Lee has set a good example to his children, because of his straightforward life. He has been a very active man in his church. His view points in life have always inspired others to higher levels. He taught his children the right way but gave them their free agency to choose for themselves. He possesses two of the greatest characteristics a person can possess—honesty and dependability.

His wife, Alima Sorensen Durfee.

RICHARD CROWTHER

**R**ICHARD CROWTHER married his second wife, my mother, Esther Rebecca Price, in the Logan Temple, Sept. 16, 1887. The wedding journey was made from Fountain Green, Utah to Logan, with team and wagon. It was a happy time for both of them. The present generation can see little romance in such a marriage. The principle of plural marriage is neither taught nor practised today. Their holy vows were so sacred to them, they surpassed all romance. After the wedding trip, father took his first wife and family and my mother down into Wayne County to build a home. They went down into the lower country and settled in a place called Blue Valley on the Fremont River. This country is now known as the Wayne Wonderland. It is a country of magnificent scenery—canyons with walls of solid rock, gigantic rock formations and the remains of ancient cliff dwellings. There were about eleven families in the new settlement. Father was sustained as presiding elder. Relief Society, Sunday School and Primary organizations were formed.

The six years spent in Blue Valley, though filled with toil and hardship, were very happy ones. The people of the little pioneer community were united and unselfish in their devotion to their neighbors. Babies were born without benefit of doctors or anaesthetics. Always a kind neighbor was there to welcome the new arrival or perform the last kindly rites for the dead. Three girls and one baby boy were born to father and mother down in Blue Valley. The baby boy died and was buried in a lone grave. My parents often talked of this beautiful little son and were sure they could find his little grave, in spite of wind and weather. The Fremont River flood-

ed its banks and caused great damage in the struggling little settlement. After six years of floods and loss of crops the families began moving out. A visitor in the lower country at the present time may still see the remains of the old orchards and rock houses of the first settlers. Father and his families moved back into Sanpete Valley. The years following were full of privations and hardships for all. Father was playing a game of hide and seek with the U. S. marshals. He, with a great number of other Latter-day Saint men, was wanted for practicing ploygamy. After a great deal of dodging, and it is to be suspected a bit of fun at the expense of the marshals, he was taken into custody. His sentence was three months in the state penitentiary. This was a critical time for my mother. Her fifth child, a baby girl was born while he was away. The families moved around from one little town to another and finally they moved north to the Bear River Valley.

Father bought a little farm in Elwood, Box Elder County. Here he planted fruit trees and many different varieties of berries and shrubs. When he was a boy in England he worked as a gardner on a gentleman's estate. Gardening was the work he loved. He was never so happy as when working among his plants, pruning trees or experimenting with some new growing thing. His fingers had the green touch. He was so proud to cut a great bunch of grapes from his vines to send with a happy child to the school teacher. There were huge squash that took the blue ribbon at the county fair and strawberries so large very few would go in a basket. He was an easy mark for a nursery salesman. Mother would scold and argue about money being spent for trees when the children needed shoes, but the new variety of tree nearly always won. Though father was a most

unscientific bee man, he always wanted a few hives of bees about the place. Out under the apricot trees the busy hum of bees was part of the summer weather. When the bees would swarm, father would have all the family out beating tin pans, this was for some obscure reason children didn't quite understand; but that did not interfere with their pleasure in making the wanted noise. It apparently had been an old English custom and father kept it up in America.

There wasn't much money in farming. Father and the older girls worked in the spring and fall topping and thinning beets in the neighborhood in order to pay taxes and buy the bare necessities of life. It is a good thing the family was nearly always in good health since there was no money for doctors and medical care. When one of the members of the family was ill the first thought was for the consecrated oil and the administration by father. He was a man of great faith and was often called into other homes to administer to the sick.

There were no moving picture theaters to take the place of family recreation at that time. The evenings were filled with games around the fire side and reading aloud from the best books. The history of the Church was familiar to even the smallest in that farm home. Father told wonderful stories of his long trek across the plains and his Indian experiences in Sanpete County.

One Indian story that was called for again and again had its setting in Fountain Green. The Black Hawk war was on and Indians were a constant threat to the live stock men. One day Uncle Thomas sent father for cattle that had strayed. He was walking among the willows on the branch of a creek looking for the cattle. Glancing up stream he saw an Indian in full war paint bathing his feet in the creek. Father

crouched behind the willows and fairly froze to the ground, his heart beating so loudly he felt sure the Indian could hear it. He stayed in hiding until after the Indian mounted his horse and rode away. Father lost no time in getting to the settlement to give the word that Indians were in the vicinity. He could tell dozens of similar stories that were fascinating to boys and girls.

During the years he lived in Elwood he served in many ward offices. He was always willing to answer any call in the service of the Lord. His faith was deep and abiding. There was never a day begun or ended without the family gathering in prayer. He never missed an opportunity to bear his testimony to his family or his friends. His was the youthful heart. Many people remember his recitations. His rendition of the "Murder of a Mosquito" is a memory to treasure. He made a fine Santa Claus at ward socials. A jollier Saint could not be imagined.

When a crowd of young people came into the home he was one with them. He loved the old songs—"Then Why Art Thou Silent—Thou Joy Of My Heart," is a refrain that will live forever as sung by his voice.

His latter years were filled with a desire to work in the Temple. Many times he made the trip down to Manti to spend a little time working in the Temple. In 1911 he moved his family to Logan, Utah, where he could spend his last days doing the work for his dead kindred.

The last year of his life was filled with great pain caused by a cancer on his head. He was cheerful through it all and enjoyed his old friends coming to visit him. The daughters of the pioneers gave a little party for him a few weeks before his death. He was the life of the party. He gave a recitation and joined in the pioneer

songs with delight. He died at his home in Logan, June 25, 1926—a man respected by his neighbors, honored as a trail blazer and pioneer. His was a simple life. He wanted only the common things—a home, his family around him, the love and companionship of his fellows. He left no worldly goods behind for his children. He did leave a worthy name and an undying testimony of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

—Written by his daughter, Marilla Crowther Cook.



Richard Crowther at 84