

GEORGE HEBER LONGHURST***IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST TO SUBMIT AN ARTICLE FOR
PUBLICATION IN THE LONGHURST FAMILY BULLETIN***

The following story told by Mary M. Longhurst "Richie" of her arrival the Snake River Valley sixty-one years ago today, or March 3, 1890, at Eagle Rock, Idaho, Now called Idaho Falls.

The Moore and Longhurst families had lived in the Bear Lake country for a number of years before the following incident took place, except that some had moved to the Snake River Valley and other districts. Among them was George Longhurst who lived at Iona, Idaho with his brother Joseph



George Heber Longhurst



Mary Eleanor Moore

and who worked as partners in their meager farming operations on their new homestead lands. This past winter, he (George) had gone back on a new venture, and although Mary had known he would come-Having had her prayers answered in that she heard his name mentioned in her query as to who she should marry. But George knew nothing of the event, until after they were married.

The marriage took place at Fishaven, Idaho February 19, 1890. They had a wedding dance at Garden City. George became anxious to go home as his brother's health was beginning to fail. So her father and mother brought them to Montpelier, Idaho, preparatory for the trip. They arranged for a place to stay over night at Mr. Cederland's. But the next day the train did not arrive from Denver, Colorado, so it was for four days. The train was unable to get through because of so much snow and such cold weather. Their room was very cold and not heated, had sheets on the bed and she says, "They nearly froze".

When they came to Eagle Rock, the weather was still very cold. They arrived at 1:30 a.m. in the south end of town and had to walk one mile to the present L.D.S. Temple site where her uncle Charles Moore lived, where they stayed the remainder of the night, Mar 3, 1890. His brother Charles came

GEORGE HEBER LONGHURST

the following afternoon and took them to his place at Iona, Idaho in his wagon.

They lived with his brother Joseph and family until November when they moved into their new home, a one room log house 18 x 20 feet. Of course the floor had a rough board floor and the roof was covered with red soil as was their farm, but they were happy to have it. They lived at Iona until 15 Dec 1896 when they moved to Taylor, Idaho, later to Jameston.



Mary Eleanor Moore

GEORGE HEBER LONGHURST

GEORGE HEBER LONGHURST**7 March 1860 to 20 Feb. 1916**

He was the seventh member of the family of ten children born to William Henry and Ann Preston Longhurst. He was born at Poplar, Middlesex, England, a suburb of London. As a child he was quiet and delicate of health.

His parents and family became anxious to emigrate to the land of their dreams, America, and more particularly, to Deseret, or Utah. Sailing on the ship Hudson, June 1, 1864, and landing at New York City 46 days later. They were among the first group that were assisted by the perpetual emigration fund and were listed as 3rd class emigrants. Nine children and one woman died from the effects of measles and were buried at sea. It was the last company to cross the plains by ox team. It was the last company that season which arrived in Salt Lake City, 2 Nov. 1864.

His father had remained to build a rough box in which John M. Kay was buried near Fort Bridger, Wyo, 27 Oct. When they arrived there were no relatives or friends to greet his mother and her family of eight children. It is said she sat on a box and cried--was this really Zion?

They built a dugout house in the side of a hill near Salt Lake. They were assisted by obtaining some left over food from the army camp at Fort Douglas- where his older brother, Bill, washed dishes to pay for it.

The family moved to Bountiful in the spring of 1865. He was baptized here by Wallace Willie, but no record remains either by the church record or his family records.

In the spring of 1870 the family moved this time to Woodruff, Rich County, Utah. Here he sometimes mentioned herding the villager's milk cows on Salaratus Creek, walking all day. His father built another small log house here and covered it with dirt -- red dirt. They used tallow candles for light.

His mother died here 11 December 1873. His sister Marantha now 15 years old was left to care for the housework and care for the smaller boys. George was then the oldest boy, 13 years old. His father was not able to adjust to the existing conditions, found it very difficult to provide for the family. Consequently, they were not provided with clothing and did not get much education or have much opportunity for church attendance. The schooling then existing consisted of three months each year. The log school house had one room, one teacher, and slabs with pegs driven in for seats.

GEORGE HEBER LONGHURST

He reported taking is first girl to a dance with an ox team and wagon. He worked in the hay fields and timber, but space is not sufficient to report more.

Following his mother's death, the family either batched or were cared for by his sister Marantha, or lived with others of the family, but never really had a home or real home life; but all tried to make a home for the others. He spoke often of his brother Charles and his wife Vilate.

In June, William Henry (the father), Charles, George and Joe went to the Iona area and there entered a section of land under the Timber Culture Act. After returning to Garden City, Joe and his wife and baby returned to Idaho Nov. 5 or 6, 1884. They found the sandy strip of land at Roses Fork (Now Fort Hall) too hard for their pony team to pull even though their small wagon box load through, and it became necessary to divide it in three loads, leaving the balance by the side of the road on each side of the sandy strip of land. Traveling this way, it took three days to go five miles.

When they arrived in Iona they had little money, only \$14.00. They rented a cabin for \$2.50 a month and used the balance for food and to feed their horses through the winter.

A small log cabin was built for Joe and his wife Lydia and baby. George lived with them through the summer and returned to Garden City in the winter. In the summer there were canals to be built, ditches to make and brush to be cleared with a grubbing hoe. They didn't have to make over anything for they could make it themselves as they wanted it. At least they did not have to remake others mistakes.

A letter written to their father by Joe (Joseph) tells of a very serious sick spell George had and was dated at Iona, Idaho and mailed to their father at Garden City, Utah, Sat. Oct. 123, 1888: Finished digging our potatoes about 500 bushels (this would be a hand plow) Friday Oct. 19th. We had about 3 inches of snow but it's all gone now. Sat. Oct. 21: George is getting better now. He is still awfully weak, and is still in bed, but is on the improve.-Signed Joe. He practically lost one lung and his life too. Dr. Pendleton told him if he ever got pneumonia again it would kill him, and when he got it the third time, it did.

He spent his winter at Garden City and returned to Iona when spring arrived. He returned again in the fall of 1889 as usual, not aware of anything unusual having happened. At the dance which was in progress a beautiful young lady almost fainted when he arrived, not at his appearance for she had casually known him before that time, but something unusual had

GEORGE HEBER LONGHURST

happened which only she knew about, and which no one else must know—at least for the present. It seems he had some plans also but never did tell folks. His visits to this young lady's home became regular and often and by mid-winter she became his bride, and my mother, some six years later. A wonderful story for their descendants.

If you happen to be interested you can learn more about this unusual story, it may be found in her history. In this will be found a beautiful story of perfect faith with prayer on her part and inspirational guidance on his part.

They were married Feb. 19, 1890 at Fishaven, Idaho. The greatest event in their lives over which they had choice and a blessing to their posterity as well as to themselves. They were soon on their way to what was to be their new home. Once there they lived with his brother Joe and Lydia his wife, until a new log house which was like most everyone else was built of round logs chinked with split parts of trees and plastered with red mud like that which covered the house. It was 18x20 feet in size and had 1x12 rough boards for a floor with nothing to cover it or the walls until finally some factory and lime whitewash made the decoration complete.

Mary had one son, Octavious Wright Saxton, and now, 6 Feb. 1891, George Heber was born; Philip Alberto 31 Dec. 1893 and Willard Leslie Oct. 24, 1896, all at Iona. Also a still born baby 3 Nov. 1895.

The non L.D.S. people at Eagle Rock now Idaho Falls were very bitter in denouncing the new L.D.S. people and even disenfranchising them. When my father attempted to get his naturalization completed (he was 4 years old when coming to the U. S.) he was asked "are you a Mormon" to which he quickly answered "Yes, I am"! Well he didn't get his naturalization at that time. He did get it on 12 Jan. 1891. He was a man of few words but he said what he meant and meant what he said.

His father died 17 May 1890 - caused by heart problems and dropsy. His brother Joe, himself and all but two members of the family were sealed to their parents 19 May 1901 at the Logan Temple. 2 April 1893 his brother Joe, his lifelong companion, died of cancer.

We now come to the time when he and his brother Charles traded their filing of the farm land and the exchange took George and Mary and family to Taylor, Idaho a distance of approximately 20 miles, to what proved to be real pioneering. The farm of 160 acres was located on Sand Creek. The creek ran from the northeast to the southwest corner more or less as a snake travels. There were flood waters in the mid-winter when the thaws came and when

GEORGE HEBER LONGHURST

the ice went out of the creek and again when high waters came, followed by water shortages in mid-summer. Being sandy soil, it was not very fertile and the winds blew the crops out many times, early in the spring.

The trip to Taylor was 15 Dec. 1896, and the temperature was about zero. So sitting in a high spring seat of the wagon box didn't resemble a summer day. I was there but don't remember it-I was seven weeks old. They arrived in Eagle Rock just in time for breakfast at Mary's Uncle Charles Moore's home. They then proceeded to their new home which had only been hurriedly completed, having sand on the roof which didn't hold the rain out at all. They even had to put the kerosene lamp under the table and pans all around to catch the dripping water. With all the natural problems in making a new home, was his wife's ill health, but he never complained. Here their first girl was born 27 Oct. 1898 (Helen Ann) and later Mary Lucilla was born 20 April 1907.

He did considerable of the house work and was a very good bread mixer, and was kind and considerate to all the family. Seldom if ever was he cross or easily provoked.

One of the events which shows his character and honesty took place when he offered to give a real estate dealer a cluster of plumbs (as they had grown in large clusters on our young trees). When he had taken it to Idaho Falls to deliver it, a strange man said he would give him \$2.50 for it and he said "no I couldn't sell it to you, I've just given it away". Then the stranger offered to pay \$5.00 for it, but he still refused. He would not consider the offer, he had given his word, and his honor. Later when he was accused of being too honest, he only replied, "If I have to get money in any other way I guess I would just as soon not have it". This was his honor, and he taught his family strict honesty by observing it himself.

It would seem he always had a colt that was only half broken to work but would keep one well broken work horse. Sometimes he would trade an older well broken work horse for an unbroken horse and in this way obtain a small amount of cash in order to provide for his family. He was a good provider but had an unproductive farm.

He was chosen as assistant to Christian Anderson when the West Taylor Branch was separated from the Taylor Ward 13 June 1905 to 13 Oct. 1907. At this time the Sunday School Superintendency became the bishopric in the newly established Jameston Ward, Christian Anderson Bishop with Fred J. Wadsworth and George H. Longhurst as his counselors. On 30 April 1911, he was set apart as 1st counselor to Bp. Anderson. Which position he held

GEORGE HEBER LONGHURST

until his death Feb. 20, 1916. He was buried in the Shelly cemetery Feb. 22, 1916.

As before mentioned, the mid winter thaw or chinook came as it usually did and our home was always among those flooded most. While it became necessary to work long and faithfully until he came to the house and said he couldn't go and try to keep the flood waters away any more. This was on Friday Feb. 12, 1911. His condition did not improve but got worse each day until his death came, Sunday morning, 7 A.M. Feb. 20, 1916. Thus ended his life of service to his family and his church. He was always true to what he felt was right, never yielding to pressure from others to act differently. His were as Bro. J. Roy reported when asked if he knew him, "Your father was one of the most sincere conscientious men I ever knew".

The Shelly Pioneer news paper report said, "He was one of the staunchest, honest men of this section, one of God's noble men, a faithful Latter Day Saint. Everyone who knew him had a word of praise for him.

Because he is my father it is difficult for me to write what I verily believe to be true concerning his true worth, but I have honestly tried.

Through my life, even to the present, now more than sixty years, I have never heard a person say or even give the slightest indication that he was dishonest or ever took advantage of another person. This is given as my honest appraisal of the man known as my father.

Willard L. Longhurst

Bountiful, Utah

Feb. 28, 1977