

WILLIAM HENRY LONGHURST JR.***HISTORY OF WILLIAM HENRY LONGHURST JR***

By his son Wm. Albert Longhurst, 27 Dec. 1948, Woodruff

Copied by Wm. E. Rounds

On April 6, 1853, the same day the cornerstone was laid for the Salt Lake Temple, a son was born at Deptford, Kent County, England, to Wm. Henry Longhurst and Ann Preston. He was named Wm. Henry Jr., the fourth child in the family. At age 8, following his father's trade, he started working in Her Majesty's Shipyards as an apprentice. One day, while distributing wooden pegs to the workmen he fell about forty feet and was picked up for dead. Later he contracted smallpox and was very sick. His sister, Clara, scrubbed him, breaking the pustules and letting out the poison. With administration and faith he was healed, but he always had the scars.



William Henry Longhurst Jr.

He was baptized by his father April 6, 1861 at Deptford. June 1, 1864, the family left London for America on the sailboat "Hudson". An epidemic of measles broke out enroute and many lost their lives but the L. family's lives were spared. They arrived in New York City six weeks and three days from departure and traveled by train to St. Joseph, Missouri and there prepared to start for Utah by ox teams. Thomas, age 13 and Wm., 11, had to do most of the driving as their father spent most of his time repairing wagons and building caskets for some who died on the way. It took 120 wagons to bring the saints to Utah. Capt. Hyde was in charge of the group. Wed Oct 26, 1864 (Church record) Wm. Hyde's company arrived in the Salt Lake Valley and the Longhurst wagon parked about twenty feet from the NE corner of the present City and County building. Wm., known as Bill, obtained a job as errand boy at Fort Douglas under Capt. Wingate and was given clothing and money which helped the family greatly during the winter.

In the spring the family moved to Bountiful. They lived in a dugout, but later built a one-room house. They had 20 acres of land in the mouth of the canyon. The boys hauled timber on shares to put up fences. They also cleared brush from part of the land. In 1870 grandfather Wm. H., with S C Putnam, Wm. T Reed and Charley Card located here in Woodruff. They lived in a dugout on the east side of the highway between Dry Creek and Green Creek. They spent the winter working on home. In the summer of 1871, grandfather moved his family to Woodruff to a one-room log house, located where the church and amusement hall now stands. They operated a small store. Grandfather received

for his land in Bountiful a team of old mules, one lynch pin wagon and a government harness which was brought to Utah by Johnson's Army, and 5 gallons of black sorghum. The fellies and tires on the wagon had to be wrapped with rawhide to get to Woodruff.

Grandfather, Tom, Bill and Charley went to Hilliard to work in the tie camp and charcoal kilns for two or three winters. Bill worked on the long flume filled with water carrying timber to the railroad. On Dec 11 1873, grandmother died, leaving a large family. She was the first woman laid to rest in the Woodruff cemetery. It is the oldest grave there now. Marantha, the only girl at home, had to care for the family of eight. Some years later grandfather joined the Order of Enoch, going to Arizona. He wrote to Bill to come to Arizona and bring the family. Bill got four head of horses, harnesses, and went to each member of the family and asked them if they wanted to go and not one of them would go. Bill then went back to Bountiful and ran a store for some time.

About this time, Bill Rounds, Aunt Amelia's husband, was running a saw mill at Santaquin Canyon where soldiers were getting the Indians together to put them back on the reservation. They sent for the Rounds to come to town for safety but they declined saying it was safer there. They sent Bill to Santaquin for supplies. Aunt Amelia gave him a sack of biscuits. The Indians would come from behind the rocks and oak brush and would want to know where the soldiers were. Father would satisfy them by giving them biscuits. He went unharmed and returned home with supplies.

Bill returned to Woodruff and worked on a large cattle ranch for Crawford and Thompson. He trailed cattle from Boise, Idaho to the Wind River in Wyoming. While working for them, he went, March 26, 1882, to look at cattle east of Randolph. A blizzard came up which was so bad he couldn't find his way home. He built a fire of cedar, took his saddle blanket and wrapped it around him and stayed all night. On his way home he passed cattle frozen to death standing up. He had burned his overshoes and boots so bad that before he got to the ranch, they dropped off his feet. By the time he got to Aunt Marantha Whittington's at Garden City, his feet were frozen and the flesh came off his toes like a thimble, leaving the bone all bare. He got proud flesh in them and nearly lost his life. Later on he worked for S V Frazier, cutting ties on Woodruff Creek. While carrying supplies into camp, he and I V Eastman were caught in a snow slide. Eastman was completely buried and Bill covered to his head. They floated those ties to Cokeville, Wyoming by way of Woodruff Creek and Bear River.

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William Henry Longhurst Jr. was re-baptized 23 March 1884 by Byron Sessions and confirmed by Wm. Henry Lee. He was ordained a seventy 25 Jul 1886 by Charles R. South. 2 Oct 1884 he married Betsy Jane Dean in the Logan Temple. He went to work for Byron Sessions for about a year. They built a one-room dirt-roof home east of where I live now. I was their first child, born there 4 Aug 1885. The next child, Betsy Jane, was born 23 April, 1887 in the same place.



Betsy Jane Dean

They leased Ezekial Lee's ranch for two years. During this time Mary Ann was born 28 Dec 1888 at grandmother Dean's home. In the fall of 1890 they moved to the homestead where Asael now lives. They moved the little one-room house on it. Making a living breaking land and fencing it with no money or equipment was a real problem but even with that situation we never did go hungry, although we had very little variety. Our clothing was well patched and darned. We went barefooted during the summer months to save our shoes. As time went on one more room was added to the house, more land was broken up and things in general were a little better.

The next important event was a baby boy George Leonard. He was born 20 Sept 1891. In the late summer months of 1892 a real bad epidemic of Diphtheria broke out. Nearly every family in the town had it. My wife, Effa Genett Cook, with her family, moved to Woodruff from Garden City. In the fall her older brother, Willie, passed away with it. They burned everything they had in their house. In ten days her mother came down with it. Her baby was just 6 months old. Effa, being the oldest but only seven, could not do much toward taking care of three children. Bill went into the home taking care of the mother and weaning the baby from the breast. The girls could not remember to call him Bro. Longhurst so one day he told them to just call him "Uncle Bill" and as a family they always called him that, then the town people started and it wasn't long until this was what he was known by. Effa says she will never forget how kind and gentle he was to them.

In 1892 when Cox's Army marched you could see men coming and going any time of the day, begging and coaxing for food or work. As we became old enough for school we had to walk a mile and church was across the street from the schoolhouse.

Father Bill was always very prompt with his work. He was firm but kind with anything he undertook to do. I have often said, "Tell me the time of day and

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I can tell you what he is doing." He made most of his living selling butter and eggs. He always had credit at the store. He bought wagons and machinery with butter and eggs. He never went into debt. He never signed a note until he was 70 years old. This was when he bought a neighbor's farm. In the summers of 1904, 1905 and 1906 he went with the Geological Survey, as a cook. In 1909 he built a new five room home. This is still in use.

Asael Dean was born 22 Dec 1906. There was 13 years between he and Marantha.

Bill always loved good horses and cows. He bought the first registered Holstein bull in Woodruff in 1905. He always took part in dramatics and public entertainments. He always enjoyed singing and was a member of the choir all his life. He was a leader in water conservation, good roads and politics. He was active in the church and civic affairs in the community.

But in the last years of his life his health was poor. He died at his home in Woodruff 31 March 1925 and was buried 3 April 1925 in the Woodruff cemetery.

Betsy Jane Dean was a good wife and mother, a hard worker, and cooperated in every endeavor. Mother kept the home fires burning for Asael and the family until she passed away 29 Oct 1943 at my home, where she and Asael had lived for a few years. Mother had an exceptional memory and kept her own home until the end. She was buried 2 Nov 1943 in the Woodruff Cemetery.