



## Lemuel Sturtevant Leavitt

Lemuel S. Leavitt, Mormon pioneer and colonizer, was born in Compton C. Quebec, Canada, November 3, 1827, the son of Jeremiah and Sarah Sturdivant Leavitt, direct descendants of the Pilgrims. Upon accepting the gospel of Christ, the family was one of the first to leave their beloved native soil and kinsmen to join the Saints in Illinois.



Their lot was hard, for their money was gone before they reached their destination, but Lemuel's father found work in Kirtland [Ohio, en route to Nauvoo] and was able to earn a fairly good living. Before long they were able to buy a place three miles from Nauvoo. It was while the family was there that Lemuel became a close friend of the Prophet Joseph Smith. Through his association with the Prophet, Lemuel's faith in the principles of the gospel became strengthened, and he obtained an undying testimony of its truth- fulness. To the end of his days Lemuel had a profound love and deep respect for the Prophet.

Because of persecution, the Saints could not stay in one place very long, and the Leavitt family was forced to leave their beautiful new home and go to Mt. Pisgah. After they moved in April, provisions were very low, so it was decided that Lemuel's father and younger brother should make a trip back to Boneport for provisions. While on this trip Lemuel's father took the chills and fever and died, leaving Lemuel to provide for his mother and five siblings.

In the fall they were again forced to move, this time to the Bluffs, Iowa.

Lemuel left his mother and siblings at Trade Point to winter while he continued west to the valleys of the mountains to prepare for the coming of the family the next year.

Lemuel worked on a surveying project for several months, and when the family arrived the following October, 1850, he had a log cabin to shelter them, a small vegetable garden, and a fat beef to help furnish their winter's supply of food.

Lemuel married Laura Melvina Thompson, and they, with several others, moved to Tooele. He did very well there and soon had erected a two-story adobe home. Lemuel was an intelligent, industrious young man, and from childhood he had been taught principles of truth and honor. He was a born leader and a diplomat-cheerful, honest, and sympathetic.

Brigham Young chose Lemuel to open some of the most difficult missions in the new land. He had been in Tooele only a few days when he was called to go with Peter Maughan to explore and help settle Cache Valley. Little is known of his work there, but before long he received another call from President Young, this time to go to Dixie on an Indian Mission. He was to teach the natives how to cultivate the soil and raise crops. Again he took his family and moved into a strange territory to live among the natives. The road was merely a broken path and travel was extremely slow and difficult.

Many times Lemuel became discouraged, but his mission lay before him and not behind. President Young had informed Lemuel that he would be released from his mission in forty years,

Lemuel's life was filled with hardship and much success. He was truly a man of noble character. He was honest, truthful, humble, and prayerful-always a man of great faith. He had the gift of healing and of talking in tongues. He never had an enemy.

Lemuel S. Leavitt passed quietly away October 13, 1916, at Santa Clara, Utah, at the age of eighty-nine years, eleven months, and thirteen days. He left a posterity of fourteen children, seventy-six grandchildren, and

fifty-six great-grand- children.