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## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF LESTER J. HERRICK.

[BY ELDER JOSEPH STANFORD.]

In an elaborate genealogical work published by Lucius C. Herrick, M. D., of Columbus, Ohio, the Herricks trace their ancestry back to the tenth century, locating them in Leicestershire, England, a branch of the family, two brothers, emigrating to America in the seventeenth century.

The subject of our sketch, Lester James Herrick, the fourth son of Lemuel and Sally Herrick, was born December 14, 1827, at Nelson, Portage county, Ohio. At this place, in the year 1830, his parents accepted the Gospel and became members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. In 1831 the family moved into Jackson county, Mo., and in the year 1834 they were driven out with the Saints by a mob and settled in Far West.

In 1833 the driving scenes were reenacted; on both occasions their homes with many others were destroyed by fire by the mob.

The family next went into the State of Illinois, and in 1848 settled in Commerce, afterwards called Nauvoo. Here, in 1841, the mother died through the hardships, privations and sufferings incident to a life of persecution, Lester J. at this time being a lad of only 14 years of age.

The family left Nauvoo in 1842 and located in Morley's settlement, from which place they were driven in 1844, their property being once more destroyed by fire. They again returned to Nauvoo, where they remained until the general exodus of the Saints from this place, in 1846. The family were personally acquainted with both the Prophet and patriarch, Joseph and Hyrum Smith, who, during the illness of Lester J.'s mother, often visited the house.

After leaving Nauvoo the family sojourned one season in Mount Pisgah and then went to Missouri, where they remained until the spring of 1850. It was from that part of the country that Lester J. took a trip into Ohio to see his brother, Alonzo T. In going up the river he contracted a severe cold, which settled in his throat, producing bronchitis. This affliction followed him through life, at times being very distressing.

Lester J. with his father, brother

Nelson, sisters Lucy Jane, Amanda and Diana, left Missouri for Utah and crossed the plains in "Johnson's hundred and Bennett's fifty," arriving in Salt Lake City September 22, 1850. Amanda died on the journey, of cholera.

After resting a few days in Salt Lake City they journeyed to Ogden. The father carried the chain for Engineer Jesse W. Fox, in the first survey of Ogden City. They built a house and spent their first winter in "Brown's Fort." In the spring they erected a house on the lot where Brother Warren G. Child's residence now stands. The family, in 1851, became separated through marriage. In the spring, Diana married Bishop Isaac Clark. In July Lester J. was married by Elder Charles R. Dana to Sarah A. Garner; his twin sister, Lucy Jane, married the same day Barnabus Lake, and the brother Nelson married a daughter of R. D. Sprague.

Lester J. took up land and went to farming. In the fall of 1858 he was appointed second counselor to Bishop Bunker of the Second Ward. In August, 1857, he married his second wife, Mary Brooks. He was elected in 1858 sheriff of Weber County, receiving his commission from Governor Cummings, the first official document issued by his excellency as governor of the Territory. He was elected a selectman of the county in 1860. He served as a regular policeman in the city government for several years, and until elected as city councilman at the February election in 1861. He was shortly after appointed to the bishopric of the Second ward, selecting as his counselors Hugh Finlay and Rufus Allen. In March of this year the brother, Nelson, died, leaving a wife and three small children. The widow survived the husband only ten years, leaving at her death a son, William J., and daughter, Alfretha; the latter was reared to womanhood by Lester J. and wife, Sarah A. In September, 1861, Father Herrick died of general debility, aged 70 years.

By the county records we find in 1864 Lester J. still a member of the county court, and at the February election in 1865 he was elected an alderman of the city and re-elected to the same position again in 1867.

In the fall of this same year Lester J. entered into partnership with David H. Peery in the general merchandise

business. The firm soon commanded a good trade and was very successful. They continued in business until 1870, when the co-operative mercantile organizations came into existence under the auspices of the Church authorities, when the firm sold out to the parent institution of Salt Lake City.

In 1867 Brother Herrick married his third wife, Agnes McQuarrie. In 1869 he visited for the first time since his residence in Utah the Eastern States, and spent about two months among friends and relatives whom he had not seen for twenty years. He was received with great kindness and spent a very pleasant and profitable time.

In 1870 Lester J. was appointed by President Brigham Young to succeed Chauncey W. West, deceased, as Presiding Bishop of Weber county, which position he successfully filled until 1875.

He was elected mayor of Ogden City in February, 1871, and re-elected to the same honorable position in 1873 and again in 1875.

At the April Conference in 1873 he was called on a mission to England. He landed in Liverpool in May, and was appointed by Apostle Albert Carrington to preside over the London conference. In the fall of this year Brother Carrington was called home to Zion and Herrick was appointed to succeed him in the charge of the European Mission, which position he occupied until the following spring, when he was released to return home, Apostle Joseph F. Smith succeeding to the presidency of the mission.

Elder Herrick arrived in Ogden in June, 1874, after spending fifteen months in missionary work. In addition to his direct labors in supervising the affairs of the Church in Great Britain and adjacent countries, he visited Paris, Berlin, the world's fair at Vienna, Italy and Switzerland, made a tour of the channel islands, the Isle of Man and Ireland, and spent a highly enjoyable and instructive season. During his sojourn in Europe he had good health, and felt better and stronger in body on his return home than he had done for many years previously. At the August election he was again elected on the County ticket as a selectman.

In 1875 Lester J. entered into partnership with D. H. Peery, W. W. Burton and others in the milling and general merchandise business, and con-