

Amasa Lyman
p. 1847

Amasa Lyman Led Settlers To Colonize San Bernardino

The Twelve of This Dispensation

RIDING astride a cannon was a new experience for Amasa M. Lyman. He and his companion, William Dunn who was seated behind him on the six-pounder, were captives of a Missouri mob. The mob was marching to attack the Mormon settlements in Caldwell County. The two elders had been forced to ride on the cannon for four long days as it joggled over the rough country roads. After this torture, they had to lie sleeplessly on the hard ground without a covering of any kind. They were subjected constantly to threats of death and to vile insults. The two men had been sent from Far West just a week ago to make their way through the besieging mob around the town of DeWitt. They had reached their destination after three days only to find that the town had been abandoned to the mob. While returning to Far West, they had been recognized and captured by a band of mobsters.

Now that they were approaching the Mormon settlements, the two elders expected to be shot as their captors had so often promised. All that night they lay awake hoping for a chance to escape. The next morning, much to their surprise, the mobsters set them free warning them not to head for the settlements. After a long roundabout tramp through the snow, they reached Far West.

Elder Lyman had lived in Far West for only about a year. His boyhood home had been Lyman, N.H., where he was born March 30, 1813. His father had left for the west when Lyman was six and died two years later. For a time, the lad lived with his grandparents, then with his uncle. When Amasa was 19, two Mormon elders, Lyman Johnson and Orson Pratt, came into the area. He believed their teachings and was baptized. His uncle became very cool toward him so Amasa decided to join with the rest of the Church members in Kirtland.

He fulfilled a number of missionary calls, marched with Zion's Camp then settled in Missouri in 1837. The following year he had the harrowing experience on the cannon. Shortly after that, he was again taken prisoner along with Joseph Smith and other Church leaders. Elder Lyman was released in time to assist with the forced migration of the saints to Illinois. He continued his missionary labors with great success. On Aug. 20,

1842, he was ordained an apostle. After the death of the Prophet, Elder Lyman assisted in the migration to Utah being a member of the first company of Pioneers in 1847. In 1851, he with Elder Charles C. Rich led a company of settlers to establish a colony at San Bernardino, Calif. He returned to Utah when the settlement was abandoned six years later.

He and Elder Rich in 1860 were called to preside over the British Mission. After his return home, Elder Lyman was accused of preaching false doctrine. This led to his being dropped from the Council of the Twelve and to his excommunication in 1867. In spite of this, he continued to bear strong testimony to the truthfulness of the Gospel until his death in Fillmore, Feb. 4, 1877.



16—CHURCH Week Ending January 28, 1961

This copy made available through the
courtesy of the International Society
DAUGHTERS OF UTAH PIONEERS
may not be reproduced for monetary gain