

1847

MAY 8 1979

# HISTORY HISTORY

HISTORY OF

AMASA MASON LYMAN

WRITTEN BY HIS GREAT-GRANDDAUGHTER

GENEVA LYMAN FJELDSTED

DUP PREVIEW PAGE

April 11/79

Dear Daughters. I am  
sending a history. I am  
in the Julia Eldredge  
Camp. West Salt Lake County  
U. U. P.

Yours truly  
Gene Fjeldsted

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# HISTORY HISTORY

AMASA MASON LYMAN - HIS HISTORY

DUP PREVIEW PAGE

Born: March 30th, 1813  
Place: Lyman Grafton, New Hampshire  
Died: February 4th, 1877  
Where: Fillmore, Millard Co., Utah  
Buried: Fillmore, Millard Co., Utah  
Company: Brigham Young  
Arrived: November, 1847  
Married: Maria Louisa Tanner  
Date: June 10th, 1835  
By: Elder Seymour Bronson

Source of material Used:

Family Group sheet

Family History

History of The Church

Stories from my Grandfather Amasa Mason Lyman Jr.

## HISTORY OF AMASA MASON LYMAN

by his great-grandaughter  
Geneva Lyman Fjeldsted

Amasa Mason Lyman is the first of three generations of apostles. He was born in Lyman Township, New Hampshire, March 30th, 1813, third son of Roswell Lyman who was born in 1784 at Lebanon, New Hampshire, and Martha Mason Lyman who was born June 7th, 1787 in Grafton, Grafton Co., New Hampshire.

Amasa M. Lyman's father left the family when Amasa was two years old, to seek his fortune in the west and never returned. He is supposed to have died in New Orleans. The children remained with their mother until she married a second time, after which Amasa went to live with his grandfather. Here he remained until 11 years old and then for the next seven years lived with Parley Mason, a relative.

Like many young men of that time he early became interested in religion, but did not join any sect until the spring of 1832, when the neighborhood of his home was visited by Elders Lyman E. Johnson and Orson Pratt. Amasa believed the gospel when he first heard it preached and was baptized by Elder Johnson April 27th, 1832, and the following day was confirmed by Orson Pratt.

On June 10th, 1835, he married Maria Louisa Tanner, daughter of John Tanner and Lydia Stewart who was born Nov. 28th, 1818, in Bolton, Warren County, New York. To this union was born eight children: Matilda, Francis M., Ruth Adelia, Amasa Mason Jr. (my Grandfather), Maria Louisa, Lelia, Deseret, Love Josephone, and Agnes Hila. They were also guardian of three Flake children: William, Charles and Sarah. They were negro children.

Ill feeling arose in the family of his uncle because of his joining this unpopular religion and he resolved to go west. Starting in May of that year with very scant provisions and clothing, he journeyed to Lyons, Wayne County, New York where he lived with Thomas Lockey for two weeks. He then went to Buffalo and from there to Ohio. There, at the home of John Johnson, he was afforded his first glimpse of the prophet. Grandfather says of this meeting: "This afforded me an opportunity to see the man of God. Of the impressions produced I will here say, although there was nothing strange or different from other men in his personal appearance, yet, when he grasped my hand in that cordial way (known to those who have met him in the honest simplicity of truth) I felt as one of old in the presence of the Lord; my strength seemed to be gone, so that it required an effort on my part to stand on my feet; but in this there was no fear, but the serenity and peace of heaven pervaded my soul, and the still, small voice whispered the living testimony in the depths of my soul, where it has ever remained, that he was the "Man of God."

Great-grandfather entered early into the missionary work of the Church, doing missionary work in various sections of the country. He presided over the European Mission at one time. He was a member of the Zions camp, and was among those arrested by Missouri mobs through the treachery of Col. George M. Hinkle. This story in part is as follows:

"On my arrival in camp I found myself associated with the prisoners taken the day previous. The night was rather an unpleasant one, on account of stormy

weather, from which we had no protection. During the night the famed court martial was held, by which we were all sentenced in the morning, to be shot.

"In the morning we were ordered to take our seats in the wagon driven by Steven Markham. As we seated ourselves, William Beauman rushed up to the wagon with his rifle cocked, swearing that Lyman Wight who sat by my side, should not leave the ground alive. He was instantly disarmed by the captain of the guard, whose name was Johnson, and a guard placed some twenty-five feet from us with orders to shoot the first who should show a disposition to crowd on us.

"From the camp we moved under a strong guard, into the city of Far West, where most of the prisoners were allowed to go and say their adieus to their heartstricken and sorrowing families. While we halted here, the father and mother of Brother Joseph and Hyrum Smith, came to the wagon in which we were seated to see their sons, as they thought for the last time, but the wagon was closely covered and they were brutally refused the privilege of looking upon their children.

"At length we left the scene of our sorrowing friends and started on our way to Independence. When about two miles from Far West, we passed the place where my family resided, I was allowed some five minutes to see my wife and get a change of clothing. I left my weeping wife and prattling babies to encounter my fate in the land of my enemies."

Amasa M. Lyman was ordained an Apostle, August 20th, 1842, in Nauvoo. He was laboring in Cincinnati in July, 1844, when the martyrdom of the Prophet reached him. He returned to Nauvoo arriving on July 31st, 1844. The death of the Prophet saddened him as it did the rest of the Saints.

Great-grandfather was active in the exodus of the Saints from Nauvoo, and showed courage continuously in the pioneer struggles. He was a pioneer of 1847 and in the fall of 1847 returned to Winter Quarters, where the next year he was in charge of a large company crossing the plains. He, with Charles C. Rich, were the first colonizers of San Bernardino, but on account of the Indian uprising they only stayed seven years and then returned to Salt Lake City.

Great-grandfather had eight wives who were as follows: Caroline Ely Partridge who was married Sept. 6th, 1844. There were five children. Cornelia Eliza Leavitt who was married Nov. 14th, 1844. There were two children. Deontia Walker who was married July, 1845. There were no children. Pauline Eliza Phelps who was married Jan. 16th, 1846. There were seven children. Priscilla Turley who was married Jan. 17th, 1846. There were six children. Lydia Partridge who was married Feb. 7th, 1853. There were three children. *Eliza Partridge. Married Sept 28, 1844. 5 children.*

Great-grandfather died Feb. 4th, 1877, in Fillmore, Millard County, Utah. He died in his home which he built.

#### A VISION

He related this vision as follows: " One morning while lying in my bed in open day as wakeful as I am at this moment, the surrounding objects which I could see when in my natural condition all in an instant disappeared, and instead of appearing to keep my bed I found myself standing in a place where those acquainted with Nauvoo and the location of the printing office subsequent to the death of the prophets, will remember. There was a vacant lot in front of the printing office. I stood there, and I heard a rumbling noise something like that which attends the moving mass of

people. I turned and looked in the direction of Main Street and behold the whole country was filled with one moving mass of people that seemed to be traveling directly to the point where I stood. As they approached somewhat nearer, they seemed not to be traveling on the ground, but somewhat near the altitude of the tops of the buildings.

"At the head of the company were three personages clothed with robes of white something like that many of us are acquainted with. Around their waists was a girdle of gold, and from this was suspended the scabbard of a sword, the sword being in the hands of the wearer.

"They took their places with their faces directly west, and as they stopped, the individual in advance turned and looked over his shoulder to me with a smile of recognition; it was Joseph, and the others were his two brothers, Hyrum and Carlos.

"I contemplated them for a few moments, but to tell my feelings would be impossible; I leave you to guess them for it would be futile to attempt a description.

"After contemplating the scene a few moments, I was again in my bed as before, and the vision had disappeared. This was my assurance in the commencement of our troubles there that I received of the guardianship that was around us and the protection that we were receiving from the hosts of heaven.

"The sequel of our history proves that it was no idle tale. Our safety was pledged and guaranteed."