

Amasa Mason Lyman

Educational & Historical Society



Photo of Lyman, N.H., courtesy of Rebecca Brown

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Presidency Report

By Jed Lyman



By way of introduction, I am descended from Amasa and Caroline Ely Partridge through their son Walter Clisbee. Walter and Elizabeth had a son named Lynn. Some of my fondest memories growing up are of going to visit my grandparents, Lynn and Hazel Lyman, in Blanding, Utah. The stories told to my brothers and me by our father, Gary Bowen, of being raised in Blanding, elevated that town, its history and environs, to the stuff of legend.

While I was too young to participate, on one of these trips my parents, Gary and Jo-An, and my four older brothers erected an eight foot tall cedar pole in a rock cairn. It was set at the top of some sandstone cliffs overlooking the highway just north of Blanding. It thereafter became known as “Lyman’s Monument”. There it stood, through the decades, welcoming us on subsequent visits and providing for me a reminder of

a cherished family event in which I did not even take a part.

While placed as a geographical landmark, it has served for me more as a spiritual marker, placed in the landscape of my memories as an assurance that I belong to something; that I have origins and a destination. This, along with other stories and experiences, has provided me with a narrative from which I can take bearings to orient my life; and now, as a father, to provide that same benefit to my own children.

In a recent New York Times piece titled “The Stories that Bind Us”, Bruce Feller asks “What is the secret sauce that holds a family together? What are the ingredients that make some families effective, resilient, happy?” He then cites recent research and studies that confirm what, for many of us, common sense had already suggested. That “the single most important thing you can do for your family may be the simplest of all: develop a strong family narrative.”

Citing again from his article, he notes a psychologist working with children with disabilities, who noticed something about her students: “The ones who

Presidency Report, cont'd.

knew a lot about their families tend[ed] to do better when they face[d] challenges...”

In order to test the hypothesis, she and her colleagues developed the “Do You Know?” test that had children respond to 20 questions about their family. For example, they were asked where their grandparents grew up, where their parent went to high school and where they met, if there was an illness or tragedy in the family.

The test was administered to four dozen families. The results of the “Do You Know?” test were then correlated with the results from other tests for psychological health and wellness. The researchers were “blown away” by their findings.

It was revealed that “the more children knew about their family’s history, the stronger their sense of control over their lives, the higher their self-esteem and the more successfully they believed their families functioned. The ‘Do You Know?’ scale turned out to be the single best predictor of children’s emotional health and happiness”.

This study happened to coincide with the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. Although the families studied were not immediate victims of those events, the children had all experienced the same national trauma, providing a rare research opportunity. As they returned to reassess these children, once again, “the ones who knew more about their families proved to be more resilient, meaning they could moderate the effects of stress”.

Now, how hard is it to apply all of this hard data and technical research to one’s own family and start reaping the benefits described?

When my dad died in 2006, I read his obituary at his funeral and then remarked that with his passing, I felt that the critical mass of personal righteousness in the world had been depleted; and that I would need to strive more diligently, through my own efforts and in teaching my children, to replenish it. So far, I don’t believe my contributions have done much to restore what he took with him. But, his life and teachings left an indelible mark on me along with a desire to chronicle his good, but relatively obscure span of years. While he did not leave his mark in fame or fortune, his patient teaching and unfailing example seemed to me, deserving of an exhaustive and well researched biography. It was a task I wished to undertake.

I imagined a volume complete with photographs, footnotes and all the trappings of an academic tome. I would carefully study his journals, interview his surviving friends, family and associates, and forensically analyze all the seemingly meaningless items left in his basement work shop. It would represent my life’s work and stand as a ready and invaluable reference for generations of his posterity to come.

In the intervening years since his death, the births of two more children, the demands of my profession and involvement with church and other assignments, have rendered my efforts towards completing my dad’s biography somewhat less than I had hoped... I haven’t even started.

I did manage one thing, however, which may be more suitable to my present circumstances in life and do more to advance the creation of a “strong family narrative” than all of my unrealized biographical delusions of grandeur. In about three minutes time I logged into Familysearch.org and added a one paragraph story to my dad’s profile page. I even gave the story a title: “The Red Jeep and the Giant Ball of Plasma”.

This is the story you’ll find if you search Gary Bowen Lyman on Familysearch.org:

My Brother, Cory Lyman, recalled at the funeral for our father, Gary Bowen Lyman, a story from his youth. They were returning from a visit to the family cabin in Lamb’s Canyon. We owned a 1963 red Willy’s Jeep and, during the summer months, the soft top would be removed enhancing a quick descent down a mountain road with the cool canyon air. My dad surprised Cory with some startling imagery when he asked “what if a giant ball of plasma rolled down the side of the mountain and engulfed you, me and this jeep and we were never heard of again?” That got Cory’s attention and ended up being a great opener for a conversation about living in a Universe ordered by God’s laws.

It’s not quite the 500 page, life’s work I had planned on, but it’s a start. And it’s available for immediate use; including sharing it with my children and developing the family narrative that will help provide for them the reserve of resilience, happiness, and emotional and spiritual strength they don’t yet suppose they will one day need.

It also shows that the family narrative need not include acts of valor, harrowing tales of survival, or other extraordinary accounts. You don’t need to be an accomplished writer, produce a manuscript or find a publisher. There is already a forum for families to begin uploading their photos, stories and documents; and anyone can do it.

I hope you find as much enjoyment in scratching the surface as I have. And if you are farther down the trail, perhaps you might find someone who you could help find their way. The narrative they begin might eventually join with your own. Of course, this shouldn’t surprise us, since we are all threads in the same tapestry.

FamilySearch.org is an excellent central site for all of our family stories. The Society encourages transfer of all it’s previous postings

Presidency Report, cont'd.

(in myfamily.com, for instance) to the appropriate locations in FamilySearch. In addition, Diane Miller has created for us a new website just for family stories, <http://amasalymanfamily.blogspot.com/>, which has the same purpose, but perhaps a more accessible format for some folks. We strongly encourage you to post your Lyman family stories in both places. Your stories will indeed help us in our goal of redemption.

Our Ancestors

Francis Marion Lyman and the Dedications of Palestine

In 1902, Francis Marion Lyman visited the Holy Land and dedicated it for the return of the Jews in three different locations (Discovering the World of the Bible, LaMar C. Berrett and D. Kelly Ogden, 3rd Edition, Grandin Book Co., Provo, UT 1996). These were three of twelve dedications of the land between 1841 and 1933, 11 times by apostles and once by a mission president (pg. 44). Other dedications were performed by Orson Hyde on the west face of the Mount of Olives on Oct. 24, 1841, by George A. Smith, Albert Carrington, and Lorenzo Snow at the Muslim Church of the Ascension on the Mount of Olives on March 2, 1873, by James E. Talmage at Kaiser's Watch on October 18, 1927, and by John A. Widtsoe at the new mission home in Haifa on May 21, 1933. According to Berrett and Ogden, the other three dedications were performed somewhere on the Mount of Olives.



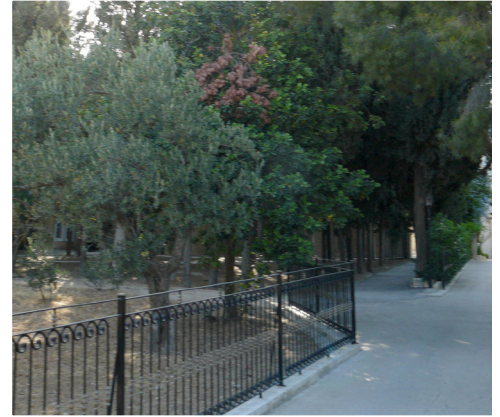
Bell Tower of the Ascension

Many have visited the beautiful 5.5 acre Orson Hyde Memorial Park, which was developed by the LDS Church, with a \$1,000,000 gift from the Orson Hyde Foundation. It was dedicated by President Kimball in 1979, and then donated to the Jerusalem National Park. It is just east of the private Garden of Gethsemane and, like the BYU Jerusalem Center yet further up the hill, gives a magnificent view of the Golden Gates and Temple Mount in Jerusalem. The traditional path of the Triumphal Entry leads from Gethsemane up to the peak of the Mount of Olives, where the Russian Orthodox Church has a large property called the Russian Compound. It's hallmark is the Bell Tower of the Ascension. The 6-story, 214 step

Our Ancestors, cont'd.

bell tower was dedicated in 1886 (<http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/46876.htm>).

According to Berrett and Ogden (pg 44), "On March 4, 1902, Pres. Francis M. Lyman visited the Russian Compound and ascended the Bell Tower of Ascension with its large and beautifully decorated bells. From the tower he saw a quiet spot for a dedicatory prayer, located fifty yards east from the base of the tower in a little grove of young cypress trees. In that quiet spot, he placed his rug, knelt down with Brothers Herman and Sylvester by his side, and dedicated the land of Palestine for the return of the Jews." In a visit last month, I was able to snap a picture of a grove just southeast of the tower, perhaps near to the spot used by Francis M. Lyman.



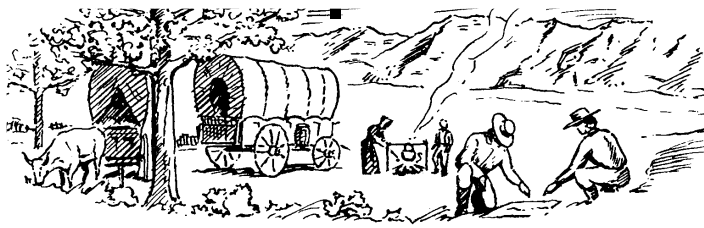
Grove near Bell Tower, barely visible in the upper left corner

The other two sites used by Elder Lyman were Kaiser's Watch on March 16, 1902, which is on Mount Carmel above Haifa, marked by an obelisk, about 6' high, "located on the south side of Panorama Road and northwest of the Dan Carmel Hotel, at a point directly above David Ben Gurion Street and the Baha'i Shrine" (Berrett and Ogden, page 159); and the Casa Nova Hospice on March 2, 1902, which is two blocks east of Jerusalem's New Gate on Casa Nova Road (Berrett and Ogden, page 61).

It is interesting to wonder what traveling conditions were like in 1841, 1873, 1902, etc., how the usage of the Mount of Olives might have changed over the centuries, how the Orson Hyde Foundation became involved in developing the Memorial Park, and what will become of the Memorial Park, the BYU Jerusalem Center, the Mount of Olives, the Bell Tower, the Temple Mount, and the Golden Gate in the future. I, for one, believe that the Book of Mormon will have some significant, unanticipated influence there before the Second Coming of the Lord.

We would love to include articles submitted by family members in this newsletter. Articles should be typed single space and ½ to one page. If you would like to submit an article about one of your "Lyman" ancestors, or some other family history topic that may be of interest to family members, please contact Matthew Lyman at 435 529-6662, or mmlyman.123@gmail.com or the Society Newsletter Editor, Alisa Clark at alisamarielyman@gmail.com.

Amasa Anecdotes



DAUGHTERS OF UTAH PIONEERS

LESSONS FOR MARCH, 1961

Compiled by KATE B. CARTEI

The Mormons in San Bernardino

. . . The favorable reports regarding settlements in lower California brought about the decision of President Young and the Church authorities, at a meeting held in Brigham Young's office February 23, 1851, to set apart Amasa M. Lyman and Charles C. Rich as the logical men to take a small group of settlers to that state for the purpose of establishing "a stronghold for the gathering of the Saints in California."



Amasa Lyman

. . . The leaders of this new undertaking were men acquainted with the California area. Each had experienced hardships, and each had accepted the new responsibilities that was [sic] his. They possessed the character of leadership needed for a successful colonization.

Amasa Lyman born March 30, 1813, in Lyman township, Grafton count, New Hampshire, was the third son of Boswell Lyman and Martha Mason. He was baptized a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints April 27, 1832, and from that time on until his departure from Nauvoo, Illinois, with the first company of Saints for the Great Salt Lake Valley in 1847, he took an active part in all the affairs of the Church. He was a member of the first Council of Twelve Apostles. In the fall of 1847, he returned to Winter Quarters and the following year led a large company of Saints to Utah.

From Albert R. Lyman's story of his grandfather's life:

It was on the 8th of April, 1849, that Amasa and O. P. Rockwell received their official appointment to take consignment of accumulated mail to San Francisco, and they started on the 20th of the month with a company of twenty men. Amasa says they succeeded in fording or ferrying the Weber River and a fork of the Bear River and headed

away on the northern route toward the coast. Sitting in their saddles for long hours at a stretch they made good time across the desert, but they encountered deep snow in the high Sierras. Through four toilsome and hazardous days, with nothing to feed their weary horses, they fought their way up over the lofty summit and down the west side to Sutter's Fort in the fore part of May. Amasa hunted out the Battalion boys, or other members of the Church wherever he could find them, and by the 6th of July, he had collected \$4,200.00 in tithing to send to Salt Lake City.

In September, 1849, President Young sent him a long letter of instruction about the movement in which he was to join with General John Wilson, then on his way to California, and induce California to join with Utah and appeal as one state for admission to the Union, with the understanding that later they would divide as two different states. The letter reached him too late for the California convention, and he spent much time contacting the governor and other territorial officials, only to be told that they wanted nothing to do with Utah.

In spite of the mad swirl of money-lust California, the Church had valuable members there worthy of careful attention. To find them a suitable gathering place somewhat to one side of the influx of greedy humanity from all over the world, Amasa embarked on the 8th of February, 1850, to sail from the Golden Gate to San Pedro, and look around the southern part of the territory. Delayed by a rough sea, it was the 20th of the month when he reached the southern port and met there Charles C. Rich, a member of the Quorum of the Twelve, and other brethren from Salt Lake.

Elder Rich brought Amasa's release and return to Salt Lake as soon he could feel justified in leaving his responsibilities in California, and the message encouraged him to bring with him to Utah as many people as he thought fit. Much as he wanted to relieve the needs of his folks at home, he could not go at once. Prospects of great and sudden wealth had upset the old standards of faith and judgment among some of the members of the Latter-day Saint Church. Samuel Brannan, who had been the leader, temporally and spiritually of the Saints on the coast, had become intoxicated with riches and prospects of more riches, and

Amasa Anecdotes, cont'd

had severed his connections with the Church. He held important sums of tithing money with which he refused to part, and strong hands were needed to restrain his former followers from being led astray.

To this situation Amasa and Elder Rich gave their earnest attention until the 17th of August, 1850, when Amasa started with a company of thirty-four men for Salt Lake City. A new source of danger on the desert impelled Elder Rich to accompany him the first one hundred and fifty miles. They had no more than started before they began meeting men on the wild stampede for the gold that had been discovered at Sutter's Mill.

Amasa reached Salt Lake City the last of September. He had been away nearly a year and a half. He found his families very much impoverished. With such opportunities as his church work would permit, he became active in plans to provide for their needs, but he filled speaking appointments and traveled with President Young and was able to do but little for himself.

The need was great for him to make a start in some remunerative business, but he was not destined to drive any permanent stakes in Utah for long years to come. His experience in California so far was but a preliminary to strenuous years in that land and elsewhere. Many members of the Brannan company, who had sailed to California by way of Cape Horn, were still there, and some of the Battalion boys had not left the land of gold. The Church had there an increasing membership whose spiritual welfare could not be overlooked.

Besides that, California was Salt Lake's nearest seaport and many immigrating Saints from foreign countries would land there, making it necessary to establish in California a headquarters, and a string of settlements connecting it with Utah. Many of Utah's supplies would come from that direction and everything considered it seemed necessary that the Church have a permanent station somewhere near the western coast. Amasa was chosen as the co-leader and he fulfilled his mission faithfully.

AML Biography Special Offer

By Matthew Mason Lyman

Many of you probably already have a personal copy of Amasa Mason Lyman, Pioneer, by Albert R. Lyman. For those who may not know, this is a biography written many years ago by his grandson. It was first published in 1957 by the Amasa Mason Lyman Family Association. In 2002, it was republished by Paradise Press for distribution by the Amasa Mason Lyman Educational and Historical Society. We have many copies of this book that are available for purchase by family members or others who may be interested in reading about this remarkable man.

The book starts with the early childhood of Amasa Mason Lyman, the loss of his father at an early age, and his subsequent sojourn in the homes of his grandfather and uncle. Following is conversion at age 19 in 1832, he walked to Kirtland, Ohio to gather with the Latter Day Saints. He filled many missions from his young adulthood to his old age. He was called as an Apostle by Joseph Smith in 1842. He was chained with the Prophet Joseph Smith in Missouri, and was instrumental in helping many Saints to leave Missouri at the time of the Extermination order. He led a pioneer company west from Nauvoo, and later led a company to establish the city of San Bernadino, California.

This hardbound book has many interesting stories about our first Lyman ancestor to join the Church. We recommend that every family member that wants to learn about our Amasa Mason Lyman and his wives have a copy of this book. The Amasa Mason Educational and Historical Society has recently reduced the price of this book to make it more affordable.

The book is now available for purchase on the AML Society website. The price is \$15 for members of the AML Society, a good price if you are considering giving some copies as Christmas gifts. The price for people who are not AML Society members is still \$25.

As a special offer, we are giving a copy of the Amasa Mason Lyman biography with a new membership subscription to the AML Society. For an individual membership of \$10, new subscribers will receive a complimentary copy of the Amasa Mason Lyman biography by Albert R. Lyman along with online access to the Society Newsletter for one year. For a family membership of \$25, new members will receive two copies of the biography and online access to the Society Newsletter for one year.

Please consider purchasing this book or joining the AML Society to receive a complimentary copy.

Special Thanks

Lynette Widdison has contributed enormously to the Society during the past year as the Director of Legal and Tax Matters. She contributed substantially to authoring new bylaws, participated enthusiastically in leadership meetings, set up our new Society website on WildApricot – authoring all of the webpages there and entering the names and information on our current members, and was extremely helpful in training the new board members on the IRS expectations for governance of a non-profit organization. Due to health and other concerns, she retired last month. We deeply appreciate her contributions. Two individuals have recently been recruited to replace her on Tax and Legal Matters and will soon be presented to the Board for approval, and we are looking for a third to take over what she started as Webmaster (see Volunteers Needed).

Events

AML Educational & Historical Society Annual Society Meeting

“Stories from the Life of Richard R. Lyman”

by Keynote Speaker Richard Engar

Friday, October 3, 2014

*7:00 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.

4930 South Westmoor Road (1665 East)

Holladay, Utah

Please RSVP to Alisa Clark (alisamarielyman@gmail.com)



Dr. Richard C. Engar is a licensed dentist who currently manages a professional liability insurance company for Utah dentists and works in the Salt Lake metropolitan area. He has held several church callings including Elders Quorum President, bishopric member and currently serves as a stake clerk. He is a great-grandson of the late Richard R. and Amy Brown Lyman. Together, with his sister and two surviving grand-daughters, they are the

only ones remaining who actually lived at times under the same roof as Richard R. and Amy Brown Lyman and are thus living repositories of stories about their beloved grandparents. Richard R. Lyman is the grandson of Amasa and the son of Francis Marion, who served as the President of the Quorum of the Twelve for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS). Richard R. was born in Fillmore, Utah in 1870, married

Amy Brown in 1896 and was ordained a member of the Twelve in 1918, at age 48. He accumulated a long list of impressive academic credentials, including a Ph.D. in civil engineering. Amy taught at the Brigham Young Academy, served in the Utah State Legislature and was in the LDS General Relief Society Presidency, as a counselor or as the president, from 1928 to 1945. The restoration of Richard R. Lyman's priesthood blessings further supports the theme we have chosen for our Society of “Redemption.”

*Business Meeting for Members of the Board from 6:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

Volunteers Needed

The Amasa Mason Lyman Educational and Historical Society needs volunteers to help in several areas in order to help grow its mission to promote education of the public on the legacies with which Amasa Mason Lyman, his family and associate colonizers blessed America.

Webmaster: serve as Web Development Committee Chair, be proficient in website development and maintenance, and work with other site administrators in updating and maintaining their respective pages

Publishing Committee Member: help locate or write family history and other articles

Deceased Descendants Committee Member: gather family histories of AML descendants

Membership Committee Member: assist the director in drives and projects meant to increase society membership

If you are interested in serving the society and sharing your skills, please contact one of the board members (see front page.)

How to Join the AML Society

With the creation of our new website, joining the society is quick and easy. Follow the steps below to become a society member, receive access to society news and minutes, and learn more about our great ancestor and his associates.

Visit amlsociety.wildapricot.org and click on the “Become a Member” link.

Select the membership type you wish to purchase:

Individual Membership for 1 Year: \$10

Family Membership for 1 Year: \$25

Lifetime Membership: \$500

Pay for membership via PayPal.

If you have questions about becoming a society member please contact Jody Fellmeth, Director of Membership.

Society News, cont'd.

AML Society Meeting Minutes

(Unabridged minutes of society meetings and financial records are available to all members on our Society website.)

Board Meeting Minutes

April 4, 2014

New society theme presented (Redemption: A Labor of Love)

The society gives us the opportunity to pass stories of not only Amasa and his wives, but also his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, etc. As we do that we can redeem the family name out of love – in both overcoming the guilt of Amasa's excommunication and in not knowing each other as a family.

New society website presented

Progress report given by Publishing Committee and Membership Committee directors, respectively

The following four propositions were presented to the previous society board and voted upon. A quorum of the Board (as designated in 2008, i.e. 19 leaders) was not present and the leaders are in the process of contacting some of those that weren't present to collect votes. So far, all those who have voted were in favor of the motions.

1. The By-laws will be reconstructed to reflect the changes proposed below in preparation to reapply for non-profit status.
2. In 2008, the Board was expanded to include Family Reps. To facilitate conference call meetings, the Board will return to the pre-2008 size of 8-10 individuals. Vice Presidents will now be called Directors and Executive Vice Presidents will be called Vice Presidents.
3. New Board members were presented for approval (see front page).
4. The Executive Committee will continue to function to serve and represent the Board in carrying out day-to-day operations of the Society. It will consist of the President, two Vice Presidents, the Executive Secretary, and the Treasurer and will meet each month that there isn't a Board meeting.

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

May 14, 2014

Report on finances

Web page responsibilities assigned

October society meeting discussed

Pricing of AML book discussed

Recommendations on Scott Partridge manuscript

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

June 5, 2014

Voted to send Steve Sorenson's letter requesting access to Francis Marion Lyman's journals to the LDS Church Historical Society

Approved new pricing for the Amasa Mason Lyman book by Albert R. Lyman

Recommendations sought for new Director of Tax Matters.

Assignments given for writing roles and responsibilities for members of the Board on the WA Board of Directors page

Progress reports on setting up Committee pages, including Committee roles and responsibilities

Discussed location of meeting minutes posted on Wild Apricot

October Society Meeting: board meeting first hour, society and speaker last hour.

Report on Historical Society Lectures on Eliza M. P. Lyman and Alexander Schreiner

Voted to post Alexander Schreiner lecture on WA

Voted to collect sales tax on Utah book sale

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

July 2, 2014

Welcomed Phil Lyman (nominated to be Director of Tax Affairs)

Progress reported on Bios and Committee Pages on Wild Apricot

Reports on Publishing, Membership, and Web Development Committees

Upcoming events discussed, including October society meeting

*Labor of Love DVDs
are still available for
Family Reunions &
Summer Parties*

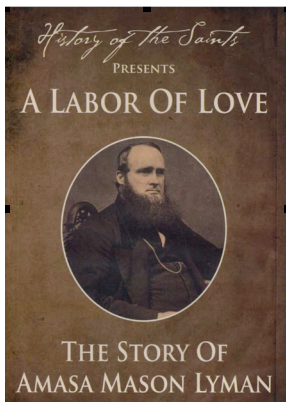
To Order

Contact Jack Lyman

amasalyman@hotmail.com

Publications

AML Society Publications



A Labor of Love

Amasa M. Lyman Documentary

Contact Jack Lyman at
amasalyman@hotmail.com

Francis Marion Lyman
by Albert R. Lyman

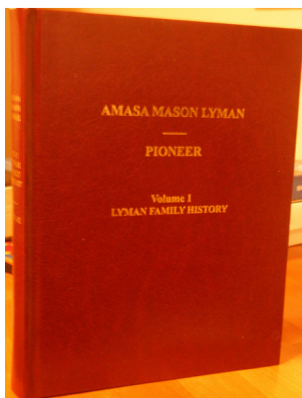


Edited, Printed, and Published by
Melvin A. Lyman, M.D.
1958

Francis M. Lyman Biography

Written by Albert R. Lyman

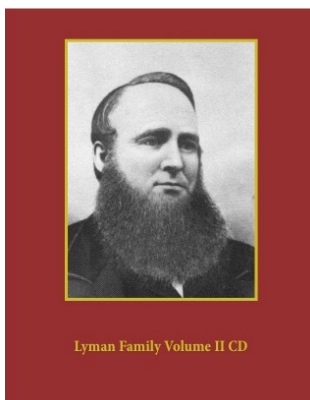
Contact Matthew Lyman at
435.529.6662
mmylyman.123@gmail.com



Amasa Mason Lyman, Pioneer

Written by Albert R. Lyman

Contact Matthew Lyman at
435.529.6662
mmylyman123@gmail.com



Lyman Family Vol 2 CD

This contains the histories of
Amasa Mason Lyman, his wives,
and his children.

Contact Matthew Lyman at
435.529.6662
mmylyman.123@gmail.com

Other Educational & Historical Material from Outside Sources

Voice of the Intangible

Kindle Edition Ebook \$1.99
Order at www.amazon.com

Voice of the Intangible was written by Author Albert R Lyman and first published in book form in 1936. It is the story of young Ben Roger, who spends his youth herding cattle with his father in the wild country of western San Juan County. Young Ben first fears then learns to listen to the sweet "Voice of the Intangible" amid the rigors and hardships of the pioneer era.

History of a Pioneer

the life of Edward Leo Lyman Jr.



Edward Leo Lyman Jr. Biography

Contact Matthew Lyman at
435.529.6662
mmylyman.123@gmail.com

February 19, 1881 - January 20, 1958

Websites

amlsociety.wildapricot.org - Official society website that has information on the society, including meeting minutes, how to join, ancestry biographies, and available publications.

amasamasonlyman.com - Created by Jack and Amy Lyman, this is a free website for the everyday user who wants to know more about the man Amasa Mason Lyman and his family.

aml.lymansite.us - Created by Carl Lyman, this site contains information about Amasa Mason Lyman and his wives, as well as family history photos and resources.

Facebook Page

Look for the Amasa Mason Lyman page on Facebook at
[facebook.com/Amasa Mason Lyman](https://facebook.com/AmasaMasonLyman)

MyFamily.Com Group

<http://www.myfamily.com/group/20663859/>
(ask to be invited)