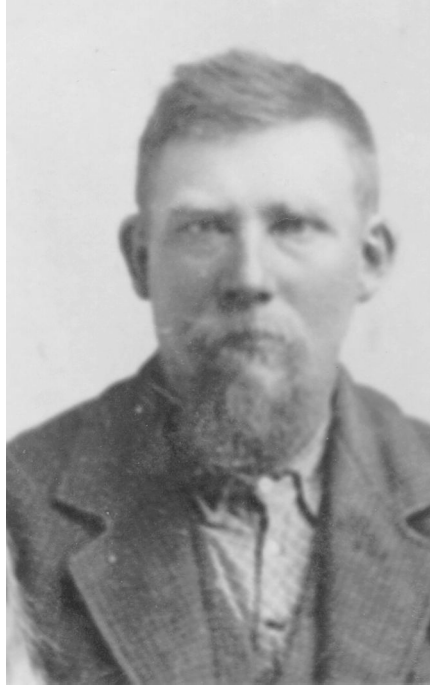


The Biography of John Darrington

The father and grandfather of all the Darringtons that live in Elba and Declo. Written by his son Clark Darrington.



John Darrington was born at Eynesbury, Huntingdon Shire, England, May 31, 1850. His mother's name was Ann Darrington. She worked in a restaurant and at other domestic work in London. He lived with and was raised by his grandparents, whose family consisted of three children: his mother Ann, Elizabeth and a boy named William (called Bill). Grandparents are Charles Darrington and Sarah Garrett. The family were very poor and all had to work to make a living. John never went to school until a man grown past 21 years, then he only had six weeks of school. He learned to read and write. Later in life he became very well informed and gained a practical education, and was termed a self-made man. While a small boy he sold papers, worked in a shoe shop and as a farm hand to an English landlord. When he was about 12 years old, he worked in a brewery. When he was about 12 years old, he also did other odd jobs. When he was a lad 15 years old, he came to America in 1866 with a family who had joined the Latter-day Saints Church by the name of Jimmie Chandler. They sailed from Liverpool with a company of Mormon emigrants bound for Utah on a sailing vessel. They were nine weeks on the ocean. They had passage down in the storage of the vessel on the same deck as the stock and cattle on the ship. They had to work to help pay their way across. When they were out on the waters a few days, a storm came up and the sea was very rough. Nearly all the emigrants on board got seasick and remained so nearly all the way across. During most of the time while traveling, there was a high wind storm which caused them to tack back and forth for days without making very much headway on the journey. They were so long on the ocean their supplies of food got very low and all on board were placed on rations, both with food and water in order to make it last until land was reached.

After nine weeks, they landed in New York Harbor. They remained in New York City a few days until transportation was secured on the railroad to Council Bluffs, Iowa. John secured a job as a teamster and crossed the plains in the Horton D. Haight Company in 1866. He drove two yokes of oxen and took care of them on the journey to the Salt Lake Valley. Shortly after reaching Salt Lake City he went to Willard, Utah with Jimmy Chandler where he grew to manhood working and living with different settlers. He made his home most of the time with Ransom Beecher and his oldest son Willis, or "Bill" Beecher.

In the summer time for a number of years he drove teams--two wagons and 14 mules--in a freight outfit from Corinne, Utah to Butte, Montana and up on Wood River, Idaho before the railroad was built. The year the Utah Northern was built he worked in a grade camp building the road Bend. In years after this was bought by the Oregon Short Line. He also worked on the Union Pacific when it was built. This was a transcontinental line and [he] was present when the Golden Spike was driven on the Promontory, Utah connecting the east and west ends together.

This is a copy of the inscription on the marker in memory of the building of the Transcontinental Railroad when the Golden Spike was driven connecting the east and the west coast. Erected on U.S. 30 Highway 20 miles to the north of where the railroad was at Promontory, Utah.

FIRST TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD

A golden spike driven into a silver plated railroad tie by Leland Stanford, Governor of California and President of the Central Pacific Railroad Company on May 10, 1869 tied the west to the east with bands of steel. This historic feat at Promontory 20 miles south marked the completion of America's first transcontinental railroad. A prolonged Congressional fight for funds and six years of struggle against savage Indians, sunbaked prairies, forbidding rock cliffs and frozen mountain passes were culminated on that eventful day.

Over 24,000 men and 6,000 teams had been employed in the dramatic race, staged by the Union Pacific, building west from Council Bluffs and the Central Pacific building east from San Francisco. Each company was doing all possible to win government subsidies consisting of extensive land grants and \$10,000 in U.S. bonds per mile of track built. The completed railroad, stretching from the Missouri River to the Pacific Ocean, stands as a Monument to the untiring effort of President Abraham Lincoln, certain congressional leaders, and many brave and far-sighted engineers and pioneers of industry.

--Utah State Road Commission--

I insert this because Father helped build the road and was present at the exercises.

It was during this time that one winter in Willard, Utah he went to school and learned to read and write for six weeks.

After John Darrington had been in Utah a number of years, his Uncle Bill Darrington, Bill's Father-in-law's family by the name of Joyce and a number of others left England and came to Willard, Utah. After living in Willard a number of years, Joyce, Bill Darrington, Dick Ward and a few others and their families became dissatisfied with some of the teachings of Brigham

Young and left the church. They went back to Iowa. In 1872 they settled on Pigeon Creek, Iowa about 15 miles northwest of Council Bluffs. This was at the time when the country was recovering from the Civil War.

Farm produce was very cheap. John hauled corn with a team and wagon to Council Bluffs and Omaha and sold it for 12¢ a bushel. The winters were very cold. He froze his hands and feet and suffered immensely with the cold. He only stayed there two years. As soon as he got enough money to pay up his bills and buy a ticket back to Willard, Utah he came. After he returned he went to work for Shearly Sweetser and Pierce Cattle Company in the Raft River Country.

In the meantime while at Willard, Utah he met a charming young lady by the name of Sarah Jane Lowe, who fell in love with him. They kept company and courted each other against her family's wishes, because he was not a member of the church, and was alone in the world and a poor man. He was nine years her senior, but they were finally married in October 1879. That fall John in company with Fred Beecher, R.H. Parish Sen., and others came to Elba, Cassia, Idaho and filed on some land with the idea of living there and making a home. John Darrington bought a relinquishment from Dell Rice, where he made his home for the rest of his days. After securing the land they went back to Willard and lived during the winter. Early in the spring of 1880 with their wives they moved to Elba, Idaho and commenced making their home. John and Sarah moved into a little log cabin at the foot of the hill with a dirt roof, no windows and the side of a wagon box for a door. Sarah sat down and cried while John took his hat off and thanked "God" that this was the first house he was ever in that he could call his own. John Charles Darrington, their first child was born in this house on the 12th of August 1880. Peter Clark was born on March 7, 1882, and Fred Osmer was born November 23, 1884. They were born in the two front rooms on the hill.

During the year that John was born, father worked in the canyon and got out a set of house logs and the next year built the two front rooms of the home on the hill where Clark and Fred were born. Richard was born on August 1, 1886. Mother suffered with child bed fever and blood poison after Richard was born. She died August 16, 1886. Aunt Mary Ellen Ward took the baby "Richard" to Willard, Utah to care for and raise, but he died in January 1887.

Father was left alone in the world with no relatives to help him out and care for his three little boys. The world looked pretty blue to him. He got a girl from Willard by the name of Barbara Brager to keep house for him. Fred, the youngest of the three boys, stayed with Aunt Mary Ellen Ward Lowe, wife of Richard Lowe who lived on Grape Creek, for about two months. That winter was very cold. We boys stayed out with father so much that we froze our feet and had the chilblains so bad we suffered for it all our lives. Barbara got homesick and Father had to take her home. This was in February 1887. He got Harvey Woodlett and wife to stay with us boys. While in Willard this trip, Uncle Lowe and Grandpa Lowe told him the best thing for him to do was to get married to some good woman that would be a mother to us boys and take care of us.

He knew a widow woman by the name of Sarah Maria Stokes living in Three Mile Creek whose husband, William Stokes, had died the summer before. He went and talked it over with her; she had four children by the name of: Hannah, Lillie, Charlie and Henry and no home. So after due consideration they decided to marry and raise their families together. So Uncle Peter Lowe, Justice of the Peace, married them in February 1887 and they returned to Elba, Idaho to us boys where we all lived and grew up together as one family. Since they were married, they had a family consisting of the following children: Edward, Sarah, Matilda, May, LeRoy, Lorenzo and

George. They are all living in Elba, Idaho exception of May and LeRoy who both died in their infancy.

In the spring of 1887 John Darrington was baptized a member of the L.D.S. Church by Fred O. Beecher and confirmed by bishop Thomas Taylor at Elba, Idaho.

He had been a user of tobacco for 35 years but decided he had too many boys for him to continue the habit, so he laid his pipe upon the shelf and quit and never tasted it again from then 'til the day he died. As one of the Pioneers of Elba, he and several others owned the first grain binder and threshing machine that was ever brought to Elba. He was one of the building committee to build the rock church house in Elba. Other members on the committee were George Hadfield and R.H. Parish, Sr. He donated the ground to build the Relief Society Building on the northeast corner of his place. Both of these buildings are in use today for holding all of their meetings. He helped to build up the town of Elba both in time and money.

After joining the church he was active all the rest of his life. He held some responsible positions. He was ordained an Elder March 4, 1886 by President Horton D. Haight, ordained a Seventy, Sunday, 28th of January 1906 by B.H. Roberts of the First Seven Presidents of Seventies of the Cassia Stake at the same time. This was at Stake Conference in Oakley, Idaho. He was ordained a High Priest August 9, 1908 by Apostle Francis M. Lyman. November 8, 1910 he was set apart as Second Counselor to Bishop David Hubbard of the Elba Ward by Apostle Orson F. Whitney while at the conference of the Cassia Stake held in Oakley, Idaho. When the Raft River Stake was organized April 27, 1915, he was set apart as a member of the High Council by John L. Smith of the Cassia Stake Presidency. He held this office when he died at Elba, Cassia, Idaho December 6, 1920.

He was appointed by Bishop Thomas Taylor in his early membership of the church to do the baptizing of the Elba Ward. The following is a partial list of those he baptized:

Helena Gamble June 6, 1903; Joseph A. Gilson May 5, 1902; Vewen Gilson May 3, 1902; Anna Hatch May 2, 1903; Mary N. Homer June 4, 1897; James Melvin Cole May 3, 1902; Dean Wesley Taylor July 6, 1901; William Jasper Cole June 5, 1897; Elihue Benjamin Pettingill May 3, 1902; Eliza Pettingill Aug. 6, 1898; Paulina C. Pettingill May 3, 1902; Sylvia Hunt Brewerton June 7, 1900; Fred C. Parish Dec. 4, 1897; Charles A. Brewerton Oct. 1, 1899; Sarah Brewerton Oct. 1, 1899; Tressie Loreta Manfull May 3, 1902; Emma Smith Parker June 6, 1903; William Seth Hepworth June 6, 1903; John Hepworth June 6, 1903; Paul Beecher July 4, 1903; Osmer Ward July 4, 1903; Eunice Wickel July 4, 1903; Grace McFarlane Aug. 1, 1903; Ephrim Baylise Sept. 1, 1903; May Batlise Brewerton Sept. 1, 1903; Iva Inez Rich Dec. 12, 1903.

Elba Ward belonged to Cassia Stake with head quarters at Oakley, Idaho. I can't remember when father failed to attend monthly Priesthood Meetings or Stake Quarterly Conference, summer and winter. When the road was impassable over the mountain, he would go around by Albion, Idaho; take all day to go, one there and one to return home; three days in all. Occasionally Conference would be held in Elba, and our place was head quarters for a lot of people. I have known of father feeding 20 head of horses and keeping 35 people over night and feeding them for two days; and all this was done gratis and with a cheerful heart. He was ordained an Elder March 4, 1888 by Pres. Horton D. Haight of the Cassia Stake.

Father took the family to Logan, Utah Nov. 4, 1890 and had the temple work done for

himself and mother and we four boys sealed to them. Stepmother Sarah Maria Perry Stokes was born at Three Mile Creek, Box Elder County, Utah January 17, 1882. She was baptized in the Logan Temple for our mother Sarah Jane Lowe Nov. 4, 1890 by Eli Bell, confirmed Nov. 4, 1890 by W.G. Edlefeen. Witnesses: George Baugh and Thomas Moore; S. Ros Kelley recorder. Endowments for Sarah Jane Lowe Darrington by Sarah Maria Stokes Darrington, Nov. 6, 1890. She was also proxy in the sealing of Sarah Jane Lowe to John Darrington and sealing of the children: John Charles, Peter Clark, Fred Osmer, and Richard Darrington, who was dead. Edmond Homer stood proxy for Richard Darrington. She also received a blessing by the President of the temple, Apostle Merrian W. Merrill in his office. All of which was done the same day Nov. 6, 1890. This was a long hard journey taking two wagons and five days to make the trip.

Father never joined the church until after mother died, which was Aug. 14, 1886. He joined in 1887 which accounts for me not being blessed until Feb. 6, 1890. He married our stepmother, Sarah Maria Perry Stokes, a widow of William Stokes with four children Feb. 1887. William Stokes and stepmother were married in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City by Daniel H. Wells. Since then they have had seven children all of which belong to William Stokes by right of sealing.

We children attended school in Elba, Idaho. I graduated from school in the spring of 1898. The winter of 1898 and 1899 Hannah Stokes, Lillie Stokes and John Darrington and I, Alonzo Parish, Abbie Beecher and Hattie Ottley went to Oakley, Idaho and attended the Cassia Stake Academy. Dr. A.F.O. Nielson was the Principal. We rented President Horton D. Haight's old home and all lived together. My brother John went to Logan, Utah and took the missionary course at the B.Y.U. the winter of 1899 and 1900; then he went on a two-year mission to the Western States and we all had to help with the work at home to keep him on his mission. The winter of 1902 and 1903, I attended the Cassia Stake Academy at Oakley, Idaho and took the missionary course and on April 14, 1903, I left for a two-year mission to the Northwestern States. Edward Darrington was called to serve on a two-year mission in the Central States. Henry Stokes also went on a mission.

When the First World War broke out Father had two sons, Lorenzo and George Darrington, who were called to serve in the war. George went over seas to France and Lorenzo was just ready to leave the U.S.A. when the Armistice was signed Nov. 11, 1918. Father and Mother always remembered them in their prayers and through their faithfulness they were able to return home safely. We all rejoiced when they came home. Many happy hours we had at home together as one big family. Father never showed any porceslity with any of his children; we were all treated alike.

Father bought his first automobile in 1916. We had a tithing granary and yard in Elba, where Father always took his share of stock there for tithing. Whenever he harvested his grain, he would take grain or any other produce that he might raise to help pay his honest tithing. This building is now on George Darrington's place. He bought the building after it was no longer used as a tithing granary.

In the fall the Indians went to the City of Rocks for pine nuts. Many and many times the Indians would call on the folks. They became very friendly with them. Mother got so she could speak the Indian language and give them help when they needed it. One time I remember her telling of a time when she was very sick in bed with a terrible running sore on her leg; it seemed as though whatever she did for it, the sore would not heal and get better. Some Indians stopped to call on them and found mother in bed with terrible suffering. They went down to the wash or

creek and got some wild roots out of the ground and brought them to the house, pounded them with rocks to make a jelly salve and put it on mother's leg and asked her to keep it on there for some time, This she did and her leg was healed up. She never forgot the help of her Indian friends.

Father always enjoyed his pine nuts along with Mother that the Indians would give to them on their way home from pine nutting. He always enjoyed his English walnuts too. Many times after I was married and had my family, he would come to visit us and bring with him a sack of walnuts. He always enjoyed his treat.

He had a perfect set of teeth. He cracked his walnuts with his teeth. He had a perfect set of teeth when he died.

Father liked horses and cattle. He would turn them out on the mountain side to graze during the summer. We boys had to ride the range and bring them in to feed for the winter. After each grain harvest father would take a wagon load of grain to Burley, Idaho or Taylor and Hadfield store in Elba, also to the Coop. store in Oakley and exchange it for our winter's flour. We never knew what it was to burn coal. We hauled our cedar wood from the mountains close by our place. We had a nice orchard below the hill that provided us with lots of fruit for our family. Our garden was of the very best. Mother kept her cellar filled with good food to provide for us all the time. We never wanted for food. Father was a good provider for his family.

Our means of irrigation was done by a wash or creek running through the place we owned. We had a first water right. We had a deep well east of the house which gave us our drinking water. This well is still in use on the place.

As we children got married and left the home there was a welcome home feeling for any of us who might call on them for a visit. Father's health began to fail when he was not very old, about 70 years old. Many a night we children helped Mother to care for him. At last the Lord called him home where he was relieved of his suffering. He died December 6, 1920. The year he died there were ten grandchildren born. He left a good wife, children, grandchildren and a host of friends who will always cherish his memories.

Mother was left to carry on along. This she did very well. Her life soon became lonesome and her health began to fail. Some time in her life she had trouble with her right eye. It protruded out of her head causing it hard for her to see.

She was busy doing beautiful hand work and crocheting, also making quilts and rugs during her leisure time. She made her soap that washed our clothes. She was a lovely mother to we children and everyone loved her for what she did for us all. She had a very pleasing personality that everyone who worked with her in the Relief Society and other organizations admired. When she died, her eye went back to its normal size. She died March 8, 1925. She left a lovely family and a host of friends.