

A BRIEF HISTORY OF MY FATHER
CHARLES ALMA WARNER

By Perhellion (Perry) Warner
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I was born the 18th Apr. 1881, at St. Johns Apache County Arizona, a son of Charles Alma Warner and Harriet Ellen LeSueur Warner. My father was a Mormon pioneer to Utah, Idaho and Arizona. He was born the 22nd April 1840 at Homer Calhoun County, Michigan, a son of Luther Warner and Permila Stanton Warner. He was the youngest child of his Father's family of two boys and six girls. His father's family were converted to the church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints and his two oldest sisters married and crossed the plains to Utah in 1848. His sister, Elnora Lucetera married first Robert Barry about 1842 in the Nauvoo Temple at Nauvoo Hancock County Illinois and his sister Mary Elizabeth married Charles Dalton, the 10th Dec. 1842 and they were sealed the 24th Jan. 1846 in the Nauvoo Temple.

Father with his father's family started across the plains to Utah in 1850, but they had traveled only a few days when his Father took sick of Colery and died the 20th Apr. 1850 at the age of fifty years, eight months and eighteen days and was buried on the plains, the Father as a boy of ten years drove his Father's team the rest of the journey to Salt Lake City, Utah, while his older brother, Isaac Stanton drove the other team.

They lived at Salt Lake City for awhile, then they moved to Battle Creek about Fourty miles from Salt Lake City. Soon after moving here, his older brother, Isaac Stanton died the 13th March 1852 at the age of 23 years 4 months and 4 days. His youngest sister, Sara A. Warner died in 1854 at the age of 17 years. In 1852 his Sister, Adeline L. Warner, had married to Joseph Stacy Murdock and his sister Tirza Permila was married to William Riley Howard about 1853. this left Father and his Mother alone. Father was then only about 13 years old. I have no record of them the rest of their time in Utah, but in the year of 1864 they moved to Montpelier Bear Lake County Idaho.

(This taken from Mother's records.)

My Mother, Harriet Ellen LeSueur Warner, was born the 18 June 1850 at St. Helier Island France, a daughter of John LeSueur and Caroline LeGresley LeSueur. Mother was an emigrant to America in 1855. Her Father's family having been converted to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in their native country by Elder William C. Dunbar when Mother was five years old she emigrated to America with her Father's family consisting of her Father and Mother, three sisters and one brother. At the time Mother's parents were converted to the church, their brother-in-law, John Duhamel and his wife, who was Mother's Mother's Sister, were also converted to the church, and were also baptized by Elder William C. Dunbar and they were faithful members of the church all the rest of their lives.

After these people became members of the L.D.S. Church, they became very desirous to emigrant to America and to join the main body of the church at Utah, but it seemed they would never be able to save sufficient to make the long journey, but they worked and saved every penny they could with a determination to succeed and eventually with the blessings of the Lord their prayers were answered when their Uncle John LeGresley and his wife Elizabeth (Eliza) Francois Luce were converted and joined the church and gave financial assistance to their family

and relatives in helping to meet the transportation expenses for the long journey to Utah in the Western America.

Uncle John LeGresley and his wife were old people. They had a small farm upon which they had labored for many years raising vegetables for the market and as they were thrifty and saving some of their relatives looked upon them as being close and miserly, but after they joined the L.D.S. Church they became very liberal and used their hard earned savings to assist their relatives and others to emigrate to Zion. Their conversion to the Gospel changed them to being very generous but Uncle John LeGresley died about two weeks after arriving in Salt Lake City, Utah. He had freely contributed of his reserved funds towards their transportation and had also assisted other relatives and friends. His widow, Elizabeth Francois Luce, lived with Mother's folks until her death in 1872.

So in 1855, Mother with her Father's family consisting of her Father and Mother and five children, their Uncle John LeGresley and his wife Elizabeth, Uncle John Duhamel and his wife who was Mother's Mother's Sister, and their son and daughter-in-law, John and Jula Duhamel. Making a total of thirteen souls started out on their great adventure and long journey to the western world and to Zion. They sailed from France in March 1855 and arrived in Salt Lake City, Utah in Oct. 1855 after a journey of about seven months and after passing through great hardships and sickness and by losing by death their beloved Uncle John Duhnel on the journey the last thousand miles from the Missouri river to the rocky mountains being made by OX teams and in a wilderness inhabited by Indian savages who were often on the war path.

They were six weeks on the ship and when they got to New York the Elders had a good supper prepared for them at the hotel there. From here, they took the train to the Mississippi River where they took a boat and sailed up the river. Early one morning the boat went to shore for a few minutes. There was a store near by and Grandmother LeSueur wanted some soap so she left the boat to go get it and after awhile Grandfather LeSueur became uneasy for fear that she would not get back in time so he left the boat and went after her and as they were coming back the boat left before they could reach it. Grandmother got so excited seeing all of her children going on and leaving her that she just stood there ringing her hands and screaming (mostly in French) and she lost all the money she had with her so Grandfather was glad that he went after her, but they got a steam boat and overtook their children in two or three days. They landed at the place where the saints were to take OX teams to cross the plains with and here there was an elder returning home from his mission but he died there. He had three orphan children that he was taking home with him and he gave them to Grandfather LeSueur to take on to their Aunt.

After living at Salt Lake City for awhile, Mother's family moved to West Bountiful, 10 miles North of Salt Lake city and lived in a small house belonging to John Pack, who had been a missionary to France and became acquainted with Mother's folks there. For sometime after moving here they had a hard time getting anything to eat as the grasshoppers had taken all the crops.

In 1856, Mother's Father rented a piece of land and planted a crop on it and then worked for others at any job he could get. In the Fall season he worked on a threshing machine for forty days at a bushel of wheat per day. In 1857 he bought a small piece of land and was building a house on it when he decided to move South. He sold the place with the unfinished house for a yoke of oxen and a wagon and moved to American Fork, Utah. After securing a small piece of land and clearing the sage brush from it he and Uncle Philip Marat, his brother-in-law, secured

employment at Camp Floyd which was only a short distance from American Fork. Then in 1858 they moved back to Salt Lake City for awhile with the saints that was called there on account of Johnson's Army coming. Then in the Fall of 1859 they moved back to Bountiful and bought a farm of 30 acres from James and Mary Fackrell, their son-in-law and daughter, Mother and her sister, Corline and her brother John attended school in this district.

By 1862, they had paid all debts due on the farm and were entirely out of debt. They were very happy and Grandfather LeSueur felt very encouraged in his growing family and their prosperity and he was planning on building a new house and other improvements to their home, but in the Fall of 1862 he became very sick and in a few weeks he died at Salt Lake City Nov. 24 1862 at the age of 49 years and 4 months. He was buried at Bountiful, Utah. After his death they rented the farm until the Spring of 1865 then they sold the farm at Bountiful and moved to Montpelier, Bear Lake county Idaho.

Here is where father and Mother met and they were married there the 28th of Aug. 1866 and they were sealed a year later in the endowment house at Salt Lake city, Utah the 28th July 1867. Father's Mother Permila Stanton Warner lived with them until her death in 1874 at Salt Lake City, Utah. Father and Mother had six children born to them at Montpelier, four of which died in infancy and were buried at Montpelier, Idaho.

In 1878, Father and Mother with their two children, my brother Alvin who was then about three years old and my sister Mary Jane, who was 11 months and 19 days of age left Montpelier, Idaho and emigrated to Arizona. The company consisted of the following families left Montpelier, Idaho the 3rd Oct. 1878. My Father and his family, three of my Uncles, John T. LeSueur, William F. LeSueur and Uncle John Davis, Hiram S. Phelps, Charles C. Dana, George C. Dana, John Hibbert and Roswell Dana and three or four single men who were employed as teamsters and heardsmen. They arrived in Mesa, Arizona the 11th Jan. 1879 after a long and tiresome journey of 3 months and 8 days. There were no serious mishaps or accidents of any kind and general good health prevailed up to the time of their arrival at Mesa, Arizona in the Salt River Valley. After remaining in Mesa a year, my Father and three of my Uncles with their families, John T. LeSueur, William F. LeSueur and Uncle John Davis moved to St. Johns Apache County Arizona and obtained employment on the Santa Fe Railroad which was then being constructed through Northern Arizona from Albuquerque, New Mexico to California. They arrived in St. Johns, Arizona the 10th Apr. 1880 just one year and 8 days before I was born there.

OUR HOME AT SAFFORD, ARIZONA

In 1883, Father with his family left St. Johns and moved to Safford Graham County Arizona in the Gila Valley. They settled in what was then called the Layton district. They were the second white family to settle in this district there being a Mr. Hyrum Tippats (I, Wilma Davidson Merrill, think this should be Tibbets) and his family living there at the time. This was on the main road leading from Safford to Solomonville at that time it was called the Solomonville road. My sister Sylvia was the first white child to be born in this district.

Soon after the arrival of the family in Layton, Father Warner went up in the Graham mountain where there was a small saw mill and secured slabs with which to construct a house. The Layton Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints was organized in this building and services were held in it regularly for a period of time it was also used as the building for the community entertainments.

My parents spent the rest of their lives at Safford, Arizona in the Gila Valley. Father's principle occupation was farming, but as there were no rail roads there at the time he spent most of his time hauling freight from Wilcox to Globe. When I was a small boy, probably 8 or 9 years old, Father took me with him on one of these trips. I had never seen a train but the Southern Pacific ran from Wilcox, Arizona to El Paso, Texas and the first night when we camped we were only about a quarter of a mile from the rail road tracks and when we went to bed that night Father told me that the passenger train would be by about twelve o'clock and that he would wake me up so I could see it. Well, the train came all right, but Father had a hard time waking me up, but when I did open my eyes and I saw that train I just jumped out of bed in the cold night air and I watched that train just as far as I could see it. I thought it was such a beautiful sight.

My Father was a very kind and friendly man to everyone in those days when I was a small boy there were often families traveling through the country with their teams and wagons and some times they would camp near our place and when Father got up in the morning and noticed them camped there he would go and milk the cows and take them some milk and maybe something else from the garden that he thought they would need. Especially he did this if he noticed any small children in the camp. He was always one to take part with us young folks in our parties and dances. He was a good hand at calling the old time quadrilles and also a very good step dancer.

Father and Mother were firm believers in the doctrine taught by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and he was a man of great faith. We children lived and grew up at Safford in the Gila Valley and we were a happy and a united family and as I think back over the years I am so thankful to my Heavenly Father for permitting me to have such wonderful parents to start me out in this life. We most always went as a family together to our church meetings and our parties. Father and Mother were always true and faithful to their testimony of the Gospel and they always set a good example to us children.

Father was baptized in 1850 by Elder Charles Dalton. He was ordained an Elder in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints the 28th July 1867. He was ordained a high priest the 11 June 1911 by elder Hiram Smith and he received his Patriarchal Blessing by Elder John Young the 3rd Feb 1887. He died the 7 Oct. 1911 at Safford Graham County Arizona at the age of 71 years 5 months and 15 days. He was buried at Safford Arizona in the Union Cemetary there, a kind and devoted husband and father. After Father's death Mother spent most of her time doing work in the Temples.

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ARIZONA

"An old resident of the valley died suddenly at her home in Mesa, Mrs. Harriet Ellen LeSueur Warner, age 83 years her next Birthday being the 18 June 1933 died suddenly at her home in Mesa Sunday morning May 7, 1933 while she was waiting for a neice to come to take her to Sunday School. The body was brought to Safford on Monday. Funeral services were held in the LDS Church in the Layton Ward Tuesday afternoon May the 9th 1933 with Bishop C. Naylor in charge. There were many beautiful floral offerings.

"The speakers were Bishop J.R. Welker, an old friend of the family, James W. LeSueur, a nephew of the deceased, President H.L. Payne and Bishop Nalyor. The musical selections were

rendered by the Layton Ward choir with vocal solos by Mrs. Viva Morris who sang "I Shall Meet Him Face to Face" and Mrs. H.S. Smith, who sang "My Heavenly Father Knows." Interment was made in the family lot in the Union cemetery where her husband is buried. The grave was dedicated by her brother William F. LeSueur.

"Surviving her are her children, Alvin Warner of St. Joseph, Arizona, Mary Jane Warner Davidson of Safford, Arizona, Perhellion "Perry" Warner of South Gate, Los Angeles, California, Mrs. Sylvia Warner Gale of Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California, James Cyrus Warner of Glendale, Los Angeles, California and an adopted daughter, Lillie Pearl Frederick of Phoenix, Arizona, also two brothers, John T. LeSueur of Mesa, Arizona and William F. LeSueur of Eager, Arizona.

"All of her children were present at the funeral, also Mr. & Mrs. Leland Davidson of Los Angeles, California, Mr. & Mrs. Arlo Davidson of Los Angeles, California, Mrs. Charles Merrill of Los Angeles, California, Mrs. N.V. Merrill of Los Angeles, California and Gerald Gale of Los Angeles, California, grandchildren of Sister Warner."

As told by Elder James W. LeSueur, a nephew of Mother and one of the speakers at her funeral.

"Harriet Ellen LeSueur Warner born in the City of St. Heliers Island Gr the 18 June 1850, a daughter of John LeSueur and Caroline LeGresley, LeSueur: the Ancestral line of the LeGresleys being traced back to Adam. Sister Warner is the Mother of 10 children and one adopted child, Lillie Pearl Thompson, who she raised as her own from infancy. She is the Grandmother of thirty-six Grandchildren and she is the Great Grandmother of twelve Great Grand children.

"Sister Warner has done Temple work for and employed others to work in the Temples for approximately 5,000 souls and she has four records of completed work a record rarely excelled having worked in the Salt Lake and Arizona temples for about seven years.

"She was Counselor and President of the Primary of the Layton Ward of the St. Joseph Stake in Arizona for about 15 years. She was also a faithful worker in the Relief Society and was a nurse to bring forty-two babies into the world. She was loved by all, a devoted Mother, Saint, and neighbor. She was also a great comfort to those who were ill in the early settlement of Arizona Country when the savage Indians were uncontrollable in the country. Few people live such a good and noble life as Sister Warner."