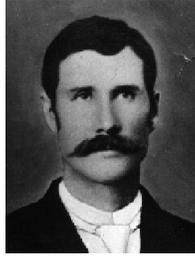


BIOGRAPHY OF SETH ADELBERT MERRILL



Seth Adelbert Merrill (called Delbert or Dell) was born Aug. 10, 1859, in Farmington, Utah. He was the youngest of eight children born to Philemon Christopher Merrill and Cyrena Dustin. His parents had married in Nauvoo, Ill., and traveled west to Utah in 1849 after Philemon finished a march with the Mormon Battalion.

Del grew up in a polygamist family and had several half brothers and sisters. He was surrounded by death and hardship all his life. Two sisters had died of croup and consumption before his birth and a third died at nine years old shortly after his birth. Del moved with his family from Farmington to Morgan City, Utah, when he was a baby, and he stayed there until age 10. He was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Morgan City on his eighth birthday.

In 1869 Philemon Merrill moved his families to Liberty, Idaho, near Bear Lake, and about two years after this his second wife died, leaving seven additional children in the care of Del's mother. Shortly after this loss, Brigham Young called Philemon to organize a church branch in Soda Springs, Idaho, and the consolidated Merrill clan moved again to the new town.

"Here on Oct. 28, 1876, we had a double wedding," writes Del's mother, "our son Delbert marrying Lucy Ann Merrill and Hannah Ann marrying Charles C. Collett." Del was 17 at this time and Lucy 16. Lucy was Del's first cousin once removed because Del's paternal grandparents, Samuel Merrill and Phoebe Odell, were Lucy's great-grandparents through her father's mother. Samuel and Phoebe had joined the Church and traveled to Utah ahead of Del's parents.

Shortly after the double wedding, Brigham Young called the Merrills to help settle Arizona, and Del and Lucy left Soda Springs Nov. 15, 1876, with their parents and several others. After passing Cache Valley in Utah, a horse fell on Del's leg and broke it, causing the company to delay a week in the area. Finally, Del and Lucy took a train to Salt Lake City and had Del's leg set by a doctor. The rest of the company continued south and met Del and Lucy near Payson.

On their way through Utah, the Merrills stopped at the newly dedicated St. George Temple and completed several important ordinances. Del's mother records that the Temple had been dedicated only 10 days when they arrived in the area. "By direction of Pres. Young, we were the first ones to receive administrations in the Temple," she writes. On Jan. 12, 1877, Del and Lucy received their endowments and had their marriage sealed. Del's older brother Thomas had had his marriage sealed the day before, and their late sister Albina was baptized by proxy Jan. 16.

The company left St. George Jan. 17, 1877, and arrived at the Salt River near Tempe, Ariz., on March 7, 1877. They lived in tents the first summer and the weather was so hot they had to pour

water on the tents all day to keep their heads cool. In the fall the Church called Del's father to lead a company farther south to the San Pedro River, and Del and Lucy joined this company. Two years after helping establish the colony of St. David, Lucy became sick and died at 23, leaving Del with three children under the age of 4.

Del's mother cared for these children until Del married Alice Rosemary Beebe on New Year's Day 1886. Then, Del and Alice took Seth Adelbert Jr. to live with them. The other two children, Almira and Orson Pratt, remained with their grandmother until they married. Del served as Sunday School superintendent in St. David from January to September 1882, and as a high councilor in the St. David stake beginning in 1898. Del died in Safford, Ariz., Sept. 25, 1901, at age 42 after a year of suffering, leaving behind three children from his first marriage and five from his second.

PATRIARCHAL BLESSING **Seth Adelbert Merrill**

Brother Adelbert, I place my hands upon your head and bestow upon you a Patriarchal Blessing, and I desire that the spirit of the Patriarchs, that has power to bless, may rest upon me at this time, for my heart is full of blessings towards you because you're of the seed of the prophets, and your spirit was among that number that the Lord showed to Abraham in the spirit world, who were noble and were to become his rulers.

His watchcare has been over you from childhood until the present time and when your life has been exposed to dangers and death, his angels have watched over you and preserved you, and you life has been preserved that you might do a particular work in assisting to establish the restoration of your father's house.

And the Lord will bless you with wisdom and with a penetrating power of his holy spirit that you will have power to see things that are afar off and be warned in times of trouble.

You will be a leader and a counselor in assisting to redeem Zion. And you will be among those who will be called and chosen to go back and assist in carrying out the principles of the United Order. And there you will see the power of God made manifest in delivering Israel on the right and on the left.

You will see the sons of Lamam assist in this great work by tens of thousands and you will have exceeding great joy in your labors. You are chosen as one in your fathers family to do a great work in the redemption of your father's house. And your brothers in the spirit world are hunting up your genealogy, and your ancestors by the thousands and in due time they will be revealed in the House of the Lord.

And I say unto you Brother Delbert be thou blessed with health and strength, be thou preserved from the shafts of the destroyer, that your life may be precious in the sight of our Heavenly Father that you may live to accomplish all the good that is in your heart.

The Lord will bless you in your family and the spirit of the Gospel will rest upon them from their childhood and you shall have great satisfaction in their labors in the midst of Israel.

The Lord will bless you in your labors and the day will come when all your time will be spent exclusively in the interest of Zion. And all these blessings I seal upon you through your faithfulness in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

A Patriarchal Blessing given by Samuel Clairidge upon the head of Seth Adelbert Merrill, son of Philemon C. Merrill and Sirene Dustin, born at Farmington, Utah on the 10th of August, A.D., 1859.