

HISTORY OF LEWIS HENRY GOODRICH

Lewis Henry Goodrich was born in Dixie, Piute County, Utah on June 27, 1870 to George Albert Goodrich and Eliza Ann Taggart.

His parents had been called to settle the Muddy area by the Prophet Brigham Young. The settlement where they lived was about one hundred miles south of St. George, Utah. Due to droughts and poor productivity of this area, the prophet told the people they could leave and go to other areas. They lived there about two and one-half years. Lewis was the fourth child of Eliza Ann Taggart. The other children at this time were George Leonard, Fannie and Mary Augusta.

The family next moved to Morgan Utah where they lived for about fifteen years. When Lewis was about seventeen years of age they moved to Vernal, Uintah County, Utah.

Lewis's first schooling was in Morgan. He stated that his formal schooling was of short duration. Each student had to furnish his own books and slates and pencils. The students sat on long benches and held their slates on their laps. One of his teachers was his father's third wife, Rhoda Slade. He thought Aunt Rhoda was a wonderful woman.

While the family lived in Morgan, Lewis and three other young boys spent many hours herding cows. One day they obtained some wagon grease and greased the rails that ran through Morgan for about one-half mile, then they hid in the willows and waited for the train. Soon a heavily loaded freight train came and the wheels slipped so badly on the grease that the train had to stop and the men on the train had to get out and put sand on the rails before they could go on.

Lewis loved to dance and play ball. He was hard to beat as a catcher and played many ball games.

The family moved to Vernal when the United States Marshall was searching out and putting in jail all men with more than one wife. They had heard about Ashley Valley, so decided to move there.

Lewis was considered a good-natured cheerful fellow, but he claimed he had a few fights in his younger days when he chose to fight to help someone he felt was being ridiculed or treated unfairly.

Lewis was married when he was twenty years old to Josephine Merrell on October 2, 1890 in the Logan Temple. Apostle Merrell married them. The first night after their marriage in the temple they stayed at the home of Rodney Remington in Paradise, Utah. When they went to bed they found that the family had fixed the bed so it fell down. They went to Logan in a covered wagon and on their way home they spent

one night with Rodney Badger, a cousin to Josephine's mother, Harriet Remington Merrell. Rodney Badger was married to John Taylor's sister.

Lou, or L. H. as he was called, worked at many jobs. He farmed and freighted. He hauled freight into Vernal from the railroad station at Watson with a four-horse team. He hauled the first loads of freight into Vernal City. He worked for fifteen years at a sawmill for three men named Griffin, Johnson and Lybbert. He worked at the Bonanza shearing corral as a foreman for a few years. His wife Josephine and their eldest daughter Gladys helped cook for the men there. He sheared sheep for many years, using blade shears. Many times in the spring he took his boys and went shearing. They all learned to shear and tie wool at this time.

He served as a Constable or peace officer for two years.

Lewis's father went on a mission to Tennessee after he had three wives. He met a man who was one of the mob who murdered Joseph Smith the Prophet. George Albert asked him if he ever regretted his part in this action and the man answered, "I'll show you." He called his oldest daughter in and her face looked like it was ready to bleed. He said he felt it was a mark left on her caused by her mother seeing the prophet killed.

Lewis had a great love and respect for his parents. He has told his children many stories of their lives. He said his father George Albert stood guard in Echo Canyon when Johnson's Army came to Deseret to, as they said, put down rebellion. He said he remembered a song the Saints sang at that time:

We hang each man that has three wives,
We have the ropes quite handy,
That is to say we would have done
But Lot Smith burned them out on Sandy.

Lot Smith burned Johnson's Army supplies at a place called Sandy.

Lou had a strong testimony of the gospel and served in positions in the church. He served as YMMIA president for two years. His counselors were D. L. Richards and George Perry. He served as adult Sunday School teacher for some time and also taught the young people's Sunday School classes for two years. He said he remembered vividly the day he was baptized and confirmed a member of the church. He said when the Elders laid their hands upon his head he felt the spirit of the Holy Ghost very strongly, and said this feeling had never entirely left throughout his life. He loved the gospel and in his later years every winter he read all of the Standard Works of the church and other church literature.

He liked to go ward teaching. One of his partners was Lon Haws. They met at the Goodrich home and knelt in prayer before going out. In each home they would stand behind a chair and preach.

He was a charitable man and never found fault with others. He was always willing to help less fortunate people. He was called out often to help administer to the sick and many people had lots of faith in him. He seemed to have a special blessing in the healing power of the priesthood. He was called on many, many times to bring a doctor to someone as he had a telephone and a good horse and buggy.

He was always good to other people. He had lots of people stay in his home. He was especially good to his wife's people and took his team and wagon to help move them around, and was always helping them. At one time a family was passing his house in a wagon along the highway. They had a very sick child. He took them in and helped them--complete strangers. After several weeks the child died. He helped bury the child, giving them a burial spot in his cemetery lot.

Lou was a staunch Democrat and very interested in the government and politics. One son, Wallace, served in World War I and II. Ashley and Clifton served in World War II. He listened to the news daily on his radio. A few years before his death he stated he wanted to live long enough to see how things came out. He always stood tall and straight and at age eighty-two was as straight as when he was a young man.

He had twelve children. Two of them, Lewis Merrell and Selma Hope died as children, but the other ten lived to maturity. When the oldest child was born, the doctor told his wife Josephine that she couldn't have any more children, and that if she did it would kill her. She had eleven others and was well enough to care for them, and lived to be eighty-two years old.

When her son Porter's wife died of the flu, leaving four little girls, she took them into her home and kept them for nine years until Porter married again.

They always worked hard and never had much material wealth, but they loved their family and their family loved and respected them. The children always loved to go home and eat a meal with Ma and Dad. They are all proud of their Goodrich name and heritage.

By Ezma Goodrich Reynolds