

LIFE SKETCH OF ARNOLD WESTOVER

Arnold Westover was born 16 March 1895 to William Ruthvin and Ruth Althea Rowe Westover in Rexburg Idaho. He was the sixth child. His sister Hazel Ann Westover had passed away just a month before he was born.

At the age of six he went with his father to Star Valley Wyo. going by a team in a covered wagon. They made the trip in two days, crossing the Snake River three times by ferry.

Arnold started school when he was seven. He walked two miles and crossing a narrow foot bridge made from a log hewed flat on the side with a 2x4 nailed on each side to make it wider and in had a rail on the side. He was not able to complete high school because home pressures required him to be elsewhere.

He was baptist 1 August 1903 in a canal by J.A. Sorensen. Arnold was confirmed the next day 2 August 1903 by A.A. Anderson.

On the 29th of October 1903 Arnold's father passed away of cancer. He now had four brothers older than he, he had two sisters and a little brother younger than he.

Very early he learned responsibility and patience. He was able to assess a different situation and choose the best solution.

His mothers health gave way under the strain of trying to cope with the needs of her big family. Young though he was he tried to comfort and help her. His compassionate assistance learned then would be called many times in his life.

As his brothers married more and more of the home responsibilities became his. He spent hours, days and weeks caring for his mother who was so ill and in helping with the younger brother and his sisters.

In about the year 1909 Arnold first became acquainted with Mary Ann Smith. They met at his home in Rexburg at the time he was working on a thrashing machine.

In the winter of 1909 he with his brother Ray made a visit to Victor Idaho (known as the Teton Basin) it was located ^{first} west about 150 miles near the Great Teton Mountains.

Arnold took training in shop the years 1909-1910 and gradusting in 1910. In 1911 he built his brother a one room house. About this time he went to work on the railroad at \$1.65 for 10 hours a day.

In 1913 Arnold and Ray started to run the old homestead, since their fathers death it had been rented as the other boys were to young or had places of their own.

In the fall of 1913 Arnold was running a binder cutting grain for his brother Floyd on his dry farm at Clementsville Idaho, when he recieved work that if he reported when the sugar factory started he could have a job. He reported for work and had to drive five miles with a horse (Babe) and a one seated buggy and taking hay tied on the back to feed his horse. The factory was located at Sugar City Idaho which was four miles from Rexburg. Arnold was made foreman over the lime kiln. He was only a young fellow of 18.

Arnold built his mother a five room home just a few months before she died April 14, 1914 his mother passed away after a long illness. The younger children were taken to live with relatives.

Arnold got married to Mary Ann Smith on September 19, 1914 by Bishop Henry Flamm and they went to the Salt Lake Temple to be sealed 11 June 1915.

He along with others of his family had inherited a portion of the farm homesteaded by his father. He and his brother Ray had married sisters. They bought the shares of the farm from their older brothers and they now shared their farm and their mothers small house.

They gave \$1500 per share. They raised sugar beets which went from 7 to 10 ton an acre and they got an average of 6 to 8 per ton. They also raised hay, grain, seed peas. They had two to five milk cows and also raised pigs selling from 10 to 20 each spring.

They got along well together inspite of the fact that the farm simply didn't produce enough for both families, let alone for the payments that came due.

Arnold and Ray also acted as sextons at the ceme tary, building cement vaults in order to help out.

Arnold had a special skill as a carpenter and this now began to provide much of the income for his family as well as to help with the payments.

The first world war with Germany started in 1915 and times then were really hard. They had to eat substitute bread in order to save on wheat. They had to eat mostly barley bread. There were sweetless and meatless days. Prices were high butter was 93¢, bread was 15¢ for a pound loaf, eggs 85¢ to a dollar a dozen. The farmers were needed at home so badly that Arnold was deferred from the army. The Armistice was signed November 11, 1918.

As the children were born the crowded conditions and his carpenter skill encouraged him to build a home for his family. He brought some land near his father's farm from Lester Thomson. This he did and it was a nice comfortable home.

In 1918-1919 was the time of the influenza epidemic and Arnold and Ray were very busy at the cemetery due to the many deaths.

In the spring of 1919 Arnold went to Victor to help his Father-in-law put in his spring crops. While there he was called home at the death of his third son, Veral, who was seven months old. He was born 27 Oct. 1918 and died 19 May 1919.

Although he was busy earning a living he was active at church. He was a Sunday School teacher in 1923 when he attended leadership week and met Apostle Melvin J. Ballard. It was in February and they had occasion to ride together in a sleigh from Ricks College to the tabernacle---- a memorable experience to him.

By March 1924 he was serving as second assistant to Thomas A. Archibald in the Elders Quorum. On July 27 of that year he became president of the Elders Quorum.

About 1925 Arnold started in the chicken business. He built a brooder coupe and in the spring got 100 baby chickens, white leghorns. When they were about six weeks old he would sell the roosters and keep the pullets for laying hens. He received from \$3 to 10 per case for eggs at that time and they sold fryers for 25¢ to 35¢ per pound dressed. The six week old cockrels sold around 20¢ a pound.

At this time Arnold did many jobs around the neighboring towns and in Rexburg. The carpenter wages were \$5 per day. The years from 1921 to 1925 he worked at Victor Idaho doing garages and many remodeling jobs. From 1917 to 1940 he worked for contractors, working on the Rexburg Court House. He worked for himself and contracted jobs around the area.

Arnold was always active in his church work. Callings and administering to the sick. He spent the night with Patrioc Hansen when he died. One winter night he went on horseback 30 miles to take some medicine to his brothers little girl that was very sick. Many times he was called to help with the sick and help prepare the dead for burial.

In 1926 he was called to serve a short term mission in the Eastern States Mission. His call was from November 1, 1926 to April 1, 1927. His mission president was B.H. Roberts. In his book of remembrance he let his testimony for posterity. It follows:

One day in the winter of 1927 a young man came to the L.D.S. District Headquarters in West Virginia, where I was laboring as a missionary. He asked if the Elders could go with him to see his father who was very ill.

My companion (Elder Ballard) and I left immediately with the young man for his home twenty miles away. Upon arrival we found a man lying in a bed on which he had not moved for ten days. When we asked his trouble and if he was in pain, he said his pain was mental as the doctor had just told him that if he was to live at all, he would never be able to walk again. He had been injurt whild working in the mines. His backbone had been so badly dislocated that at best he could never have any use of his legs.

He stated that some years ago he had met two Elders of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and had accepted the gospel. But, he had lost his identiy in the Church by moving about the country. He and his patient wife asked us to administer to him, which we did. After spending the evening with the family, we returned by train to headquarters.

About a week later I returned to see how the man was getting along. I was met at the door by the man's wife with tears streaming down he cheeks. I Thought that it was best that the man die.

rather than be a permanent cripple. Great was my surprise to find that it was tears of joy that his wife shed. She said her husband had been working for four days.

I wish to bare my testimony to the truthfulness of the gospel. I hope and pray that I will always live worthy of the many blessings that come to all through their faithfulness.

I pray in Jesus name. Amen.

At this time he had six children, five boys and one girl. Together with their mother they took care of the chores on the farm and supported him.

When he arrived home his wife Mary met him in Salt Lake and they enjoyed some time working in the Salt Lake Temple. This was their first opportunity to be there since they were sealed.

It was during this time that they saw their first movie which was a talky¹⁵, up to this time there were only silent pictures. It was just a few years before this time that the radio was new and they had to put tubes in their ears to be able to hear it.

Arnold took a course in architect from the Internation Correspondence Soranton Penn from 1917 to 1920.

About 1933 Arnold took a Civil sevice exam for carpenter work in Yellowstone National Park which was about 140 miles from Rexburg. He recieved 100% on his exam, they they were giving 10% military perference, which always made him late getting called to work in the spring, as they only worked a few months as there was so much snow.

This proved to help so much financially that the farm was left largely to his brother Ray, while he worked in the park.

At First he came home on weekends, then it seemed better to have at least part of his family with him. He worked for ten years in the carpenter shop. Most of the time he world go all over the park to do different jobs.

In about 1936 the government provided a good tent for him. They furnished the lights and had ice delivered and garbage picked up. Eventually Mary and the younger children were living with him. Other members of the family visited from time to time and took care of the home on the farm. They all enjoyed

the beauty and wild life in the park. Fishing continued to be a favorite part time *sport*

Sometime in 1939 or 1940 a fire took the tent and it was necessary for them to secure a cabin in Gardiner Montana just out side the park. Later a home in Gardiner was rented for the summer.

In February 1941 Arnold and Mary went on their first trip to California. They left Rexburg and went to Boise and visited the State Capital while the legislature was in session. They went from there to Portland Oregon and visited the capital in Salem Oregon. They took the coast route through the Red woods and into San Francisco then on to Los Angeles and on to San Diego and Tia Juwana. They came back through Las Vegas Nevada and visited Boulder Dam. They went through Utah and then home. They drove 4,000 miles and only had one flat tire. Lodging was from \$1 to \$1.75 per night. Meals 25¢ to 40¢, shows were from 20¢ to 75¢. Oil for the trip was \$4.36 and gas \$31.22.

By now war clouds had gathered and on Dec. 7 of 1941 Pearl Harbor was bombed. After concerned for their son Loris, who had been at Pearl Harbor had lessened a bit, Arnold decided he too should try to help in some way. The family was soon very much involved with the war effort. He now looked briefly at opportunities in Salt Lake during February of 1942. When he returned home a few days later he found he had a call to work in the shipyards at Bremerton Washington.

His carpenter skills were again used in his employment and although he was very busy he looked for a place for his family. Because the waiting list for housing was so long he decided to buy a lot and build a home. He chose a spot just out of town in the nearby woods. It was a beautiful area and he set to work clearing an area for a home. By June of 1945 part of his family joined him. Darrell and Artell came and soon the house was finished.

There were other members of the church who were also working in the Navy Yard and building their homes on this project. In 1944 Arnold was made president of the project. Arnold would help others get their palces so they could have a place to live.

As they moved into the new home they became part of a new ward. Arnold had served in the bishopric in Rexburg for a time as counselor to Bishop Lester Peterson. Here his assignment was to be chairman of the genealogical committee. He made several trips to Olympia Washington to do research and worked on his own records in addition to assisting others.

The government had ballons all over Pudget Sound for protection from an attack, Bremerton and Seattle would have black outs. If you wanted to go to a show you would have to stand in line or if you want to go to a cafe you would wait for a table because everything was so crowded.

Everything was rationed, you were given so many stamps according to the number in your family. Men would double up in cars and trade off in order to save on gas stamps. Red stamps for meat and dairy products, blue stamps for canned goods and they also had oil stamps. Most dry good items were hard to get along with many other items such as ladies hose, cigaretts and nearly impossible to get karo syrup for babies.

As the war was coming to a close he realized that the employment situation could drastically change for his family. Arnold was well set at the ship yard, but what would his boys come home to? He looked around for a place where they might work as a family. Because he had always taken pride in his work and several of his family had good building skills, he knew he could help in teaching them things they would need to know. Finally the small town of Quincy Washington was chosen.

In 1947 Arnold took a months leave from the ship yard to go to Quincy to work with his boys. He arrived back in Bremerton worked one week then gave his notice.

Mary stayed in Bremerton to sell their home. This she successfully did and on August 14, 1947 Zola and Eldon came with a truck to move them to Quincy. One week later they learned the Bremerton house had burned. Insurance covered it so they did not suffer loss. They stayed with their daughter until their basement was ready.

The business is known as the Westover and Hope General Contractors. They do all kinds of commercial jobs and most anything that comes their way. Arnold worked hard to keep his boys in work.

The wages that the company had to pay in comparison with the wages Arnold made as a young man are quite different. The labor gets \$2 per hour, skilled labor \$2.75 and the foreman wage is \$3 per hour.

The branch in Quincy had been organized March 2, 1947, with Elder M.P. Monson as presiding elder and Arnold as first assistant. Elder Monson was gone most of the time so the duties fell largely to Arnold. April 25, 1948 the Quincy Branch joined the Ephrata Branch and Arnold was made Branch President. He served in his capacity until Nov. 7, 1948 at which time he was called to be Priesthood Supervisor for the Wenatchee District.

He was active in community affairs also and in 1950 aserved as president of the Chamber of Commerce on Quincy. His youngest son Gordon played football and basketball on the high school teams. Arnold and Mary attended many of the games. They enjoyed this very much.

Although they worked hard they found many things that gave them pleasure. One could always find them at the Ice Follies if it was in a nearby city. They also loved rodeos and movies. Ice cream was a favorite food--many times they'd buy a quart and sit in the car at a beautiful spot as they ate it with spoons kept in the car for that purpose.

August 26, 1950 Arnold was assisting with one of the jobs and the scaffolding broke. He dropped down into a trench breaking his leg and shattering his knee. He was taken to Sacred Heart Hospital in Spokane where they labored to set his leg and get the knee back together.

Because of the intense pain he suffered, he was given morphine. After several days of this he noticed that he was looking forward to his shot of morphine. Recognizing what was happening, he refused any more of it. He preferred the pain to addiction. He remained in the hospital for three weeks then convalesced at home. It was some time before he could use the crutches to get about and even longer before he could do without them.

In 1953 Arnold and Mary took another nice trip to California and New Mexico. They spent thanksgiving with Leon, Darrell and their families, then they traveled down the coast of California.

They visited Gordon and family in Alamogordo, New Mexico and they went to Carlsbad Caverns. It was to be their last big trip as Mary's health began to fail. They made smaller trips to places like Vancouver, B.C. but no more long ones.

Arnold was called upon once more for the compassionate service he knew so well how to give. Mary went to the hospital in August 1954 seriously ill. She was never really well again and she died February 14, 1959.

August 21, 1959 Arnold remarried to Adelia McIntyre. He continued to work for the company and to serve at church.

He soon began to experience problems with his heart and had several years of ill health. He died of heart failure on July 20, 1971.

All his life he enjoyed the outdoors, fishing was a favorite pass time. He also loved being with his children and their children and doing things with them.

Arnold has always been most considerate of other people many times placing their desires above his own.

Arnold had a testimony of the gospel, he had no doubts about the church. He showed this not only in his attitude but also in his actions toward his fellowmen.

He will be long remembered and loved by his family and friends. May they always remember his teachings and example that they may dwell together in the eternities to come.

DEDICATION TO MY HUSBAND

by Mary Ann Smith Westover

May the Golden Path of Heaven,
Be the one you trod
And may your name be written
In the Autograph of God.