

DAVID PATTEN WOODRUFF



Born: 4 April, 1854, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah, son of Wilford Woodruff and Sarah Brown

Died: 20 Jan.1937, Long Beach, Los Angeles, California

He was named after an early Mormon Apostle that was killed in the Battle of Crooked River during the Missouri conflict. He was baptized by his father in 1862. He was the oldest child of Sarah Brown, and took a leading role in the family as multiple family businesses were opening to support of the large family. In 1869, at the age of 15 he worked with his older half-brother, Wilford Jr. and foster Indian brother, Keets, operating the West Mountain live-stock operation. He was ordained an Elder in 1870 by William Smith. In 1871, his father, Wilford, moved his mother's family to Randolph, Utah. David helped establish the family there. He helped his father and half-brother, Wilford Jr plowing planting, building fences and digging ditches. Wilford Woodruff also enjoyed his trip to the area because of the opportunities to hunt and fish with David

and Wilford Jr. In 1876, David asked permission to trade some cattle for a home and 40 acres at Smithfield in Cache Valley. He moved there with his mother and his youngest brother and sisters.

On Feb.19, 1877 David married Arabell Jane Hatch. She was born in Manti, Utah in 1859. They were the parents of 11 children (born between 1877 and 1896.) The birthplaces of his children tell of story of a family on the move.* He participated in several Mormon settlement efforts. After settling his mother in Smithfield and starting his own family there, in 1879 he moved to Vernal and was among the pioneers the region. He was assessor and collector of Uintah Co., Utah (1891 –1892). He worked as a freighter between the Ashley Basin and Salt Lake City. He moved to the Big Horn Basin of Wyoming in 1893. He preceded and helped direct colonizing efforts there. His half-brother, Owen the “Apostle,” was in charge of Mormon settlement efforts there. David had several opportunities to work with his brother in this effort. He was a Bishop's counselor and high councilor in the Big Horn Stake. He was also treasurer of Big Horn County, Wyo. (1896-1900) and ran for several other offices on the Democratic Ticket. In 1904, he moved to Cardston, Alberta, Canada. He was Second counselor to Bishop I.W. Allred in Cardston. Six of his eleven children passed away or were married in Alberta, Canada, which shows the importance of the region to his family. He was interested in the livestock business and became well known in the western territory for his blooded stock, particularly his horses. While in Canada, he was involved in the poultry business. He got ahead by bartering in land and livestock. He was also very proud of the construction of the Cardston Temple and attended its dedication. Two of his children moved to Idaho; one to Weiser, the other to Boise. David moved to Weiser in 1918. The area was warmer and better for his wife's fragile health. But the family struggled financial, primarily from demands on financial support from children with broken marriages or illness and death in the family. David found it necessary to go the Willamette Valley in Oregon for employment in Oregon. In his later life David served as a High Councilor, High Priest Group Leader and a missionary. He kept a journal, from which a fairly extensive life story was developed. It not only detailed much of his life, but also detailed successes and tribulation in his extended family. David had his share of success in life, and more than his fair share of tribulation and failure. At one of his low points, he commented that he would succeed because he had “pluck” and it would and did get him out of most of his problems. In 1923, his wife, Arabell Jane passed away, and was buried in Weiser. David then married Sarah Rolph in 1924. They moved to California and had no children. David passed away, in 1937, at the age of 83. He was at his home in Long beach, California. His body was returned to Weiser, Idaho for burial next to his first wife.

[Alan J. Hill, 7-30-20]

SOURCES

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Cowley, Matthias F., Wilford Woodruff, History of His Life and Labors as recorded in his daily journals. Bookcraft, Salt Lake City, UT, c. 1964. 7th printing 1978.

Gibbons, Francis M., Wilford Woodruff, Wondrous Worker Prophet of God, Deseret Book Company, Salt Lake City, Utah 1988.

Obituary Scrapbook, p.53.

Pioneers and Prominent Men of Utah –1847.

Woodruff, David Patton, Life History of David Patton Woodruff from his own Journal, typed, unpublished manuscript.

Footnote [Children of David Patten Woodruff and Arabell Jane Hatch]

Name	Date born	Place born	Date died	Place died
Sarah Amy	10 Dec 1877	Smithfield, UT	17 Jan 1935	MaGrath, AB
Phoebe Aurilla	20 Sep 1879	Smithfield, UT	3 Sep 1954	Weiser, ID
David Patten Jr	22 Aug 1881	Vernal, UT	10 Jun 1929	Hartleyville, AB
Willard Clarence	3 Aug 1883	Vernal, UT	1 Jan 1955	Ogden, UT
Wilford Leslie	3 Aug 1883	Vernal, UT	23 Oct 1930	Weiser, ID
Jeremiah Hatch	23 Oct 1885	Vernal, UT	15 Nov 1976	Lethbridge, AB
Louisa Arabelle	20 Nov 1887	Vernal, UT	31 Jul 1972	Weiser, ID
Mary	14 Sep 1889	Vernal, UT	17 Mar 1963	Emmett, ID
Erma Adeline	7 May 1891	Vernal, UT	19 Mar 1972	Cardston, AB
Torrey Brigham Newton	15 Nov 1894	Sunshine, WY	17 Jan 1947	Boise, ID
Beulah Augusta	1 Oct 1896	Burlington, WU	25 Se[1979	Cardston, AB