

## **WM. FOTHERINGHAM.**

### **Biography from the Lehi Centennial History**

William Fotheringham, a patriarch and a veteran elder in the Church, was born April 5, 1826, at Clackmannan, Scotland, the son of John Fotheringham and Charlotte Gentle. He was baptized in the fall of 1847 by Elder John Sharp, ordained a teacher March 19, 1848, by Elder William Gibson; ordained a seventy in the winter of 1849-1850, by Joseph Young; ordained a high priest December 3, 1870, by Jehu Blackburn; ordained a bishop, in 1877, by Apostle Erastus Snow, to act as bishop's agent in Beaver stake; and ordained a patriarch January 22, 1905, by Francis M. Lyman.

He was one of the first settlers of Lehi, Utah County, locating there in 1850, and in the spring of 1852 he accompanied President Brigham Young on an exploring tour through Utah, Juab, Sanpete, Millard, Beaver, and Iron Counties.

In 1852-1855 he filled a mission to India, during which time he traveled more extensively than any other elder who has ever performed missionary labor for the church in that country. He traveled 2,200 miles in a bullock wagon, and went as far inland as the Himalaya mountains. In the province of Orissa he resided six months close to the Temple of Juggernaut..

After his return to Utah he accompanied President Brigham Young on an exploring expedition to Salmon River (now in Idaho), and the following winter participated in the Echo Canyon campaign.

In the spring of 1861 he left Salt Lake City for his second mission, this time to South Africa. In crossing the plains he assisted Captain Ira Eldredge in taking charge of fifty wagons to the Missouri River, and was ninety-nine days making the voyage from London, England, to Capetown, South Africa. He presided over the mission until 1864, when he returned to Utah.

At the Missouri River he assisted in the immigration of the Saints and acted as assistant captain to Warren S. Snow in leading the last company of the season m (84 wagons) to Zion. The trip was a severe one, as nearly all the teamsters were inexperienced in handling oxen.

Since Elder Fotheringham became a member of the church, he has proven to be true and faithful to the cause of Christ. Over forty years of his life he spent as a zealous Sunday School worker, with the exception of a few months, being Sunday School superintendent forty years.

He labored considerably as a home missionary, and led a mission to the St. George Temple from the Beaver Stake as an ordinance worker for four years, and in addition acted as a member of the high council, and as first counselor in the presidency of the Beaver stake.

Of civil offices he has held quite a number, having acted as alderman of Lehi City, mayor of Beaver City, probate clerk of Beaver County for sixteen years, a justice of the peace of Beaver precinct, and has been a member of the Utah Territorial Legislature from Beaver and adjacent counties. In his youth he learned the trade of ship carpenter, and after his arrival in Utah he helped to build the old tithing office in Salt Lake City, together with other buildings.

He married his first wife in April, 1856, a second wife May 25, 1857, and a third wife October 10, 1865. By these three wives he has had thirty children, eighteen sons and twelve daughters. Elder Fotheringham departed this life on February 27, 1913, having proved himself staunch and true to his God, to his family, to his friends, and left behind memories worthy to cherish.