

Azer Richard and Emelie Osterloh Briggs 1850-1950 Lehi Centennial History

Azer Richard Briggs, known as “Aze”, was the son of Samuel and Emma Thomas Briggs. He was born in Lehi, Utah, February 6, 1882, and here received his public school education.

When he was sixteen his father died. The next year the United States, being at war with Spain, made a call for volunteers to participate in the Phillipine Islands. Obtaining his mother;s consent, he enlisted at Fort Douglas, Utah, with the only completely volunteer army in American history. His friend, William Herron, was his companion throughout the campaign.

Enroute they endured a hazardous three days in a typhoon in the China Sea. He saw twenty-one months of active service in Northern Luzon with Company E, “34th” Regiment, United States Volunteer Infantry, under the personal command of General Charles Lawton. During this time he suffered much with malaria fever.

After the regiment was discharged, he came home where he was employed by the Utah-Idaho Sugar Co.

In 1902 he went to Canada with a group of Lehi People, who pioneered a district of Magrath, Alberta, which became known as “The Lehi Field.” By working as a ranch hand he acquired a quarter section of land.

Seven years later he financed himself on a mission to West Virginia, under the presidency of Ben E. Rich.

June 11, 1913, he married Emelie Osterloh in the Salt Lake Temple. She was born July 2, 1888, in Provo, Utah, the daughter of Herman and Hermine Osterloh.

When she was eight years old the family moved to Lehi where she received her early schooling and assisted her parents in the bakery and restaurant business. After attending the Brigham Young University, she taught school at Highland and Lehi. Emelie enjoyed participation on the Young Ladies Mutual Improvement Association Board, Alpine Stake, teaching in the Church, and was a talented member of the original Areo Glee Club and choir. In 1910-11 she filled a mission in the southern States under President Charles Callis.

Emilie and Aze moved to Canada and made their home on the farm near Magrath for over 30 years. To them nine children were born, Alice (Mrs. Emile E. Aldrich), Elizabeth (Mrs. W. Gordon Hackney), Virginia, Ernest S., Don H., Fred A., Hermine, Emma Louise (Mrs. Ronald w. Price), and James O.

Besides being a master farmer, Azer Briggs was active in civic affairs, having served on the local school board for many years, and in various agricultural enterprises.

In a religious capacity, Azer and Emelie were ardent missionaries, having sent four of their children on missions. In 1945, Aze filled a second mission in Southern California. He also served in the bishopric of the Magrath Second Ward, was a teacher in the Sunday School, and at the time of his death was an active member of the High Priests Quorum of the Taylor Stake. As a result of a tractor accident, he died September 30, 1949, at the age of 67.

By their children they are spoken of as faithful, loving parents; and all who know them remember their kindness and generosity.