

## **JOSEPH JOHNSON SMITH.**

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

Joseph Johnson Smith was the son of William and Sophia Brooks Smith, and was born April 8, 1821, in Kempston, Bedfordshire, England. He learned the trade of blacksmith and wheelwright and became a proficient mechanic in this line.

On March 1, 1840, he married Mary Ann Smart and on September 23, 1841, he was baptized a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints by John Sheffield.

In May, 1843, in company with his father, mother and some of his brothers and sisters who also had accepted Mormonism, he emigrated to Nauvoo, Illinois. On the 8th of August, 1844, his wife died, leaving him with three small children and in April, 1845, his mother died.

Soon after this his father returned to England, where he later married and raised another family. Joseph J. left Nauvoo in May, and in company with Bishop David Evans and others lived at Bonepart during the summer. In September Bishop Evans and company moved forty miles west of Pisgah on the head waters of Nodaway, intending to settle there, but their provisions gave out and their cattle died, so they were compelled to move into Missouri for supplies.

On the first of January, 1850, Mr. Smith was married to Ann Coleman, daughter of Prime and Sarah Thornton Coleman, by Bishop David Evans at Maryville, Missouri, and the same year they crossed the plains, arriving in Salt Lake City, September 17, 1850. They lived in Salt Lake City for one year, when, on the solicitation of Bishop David Evans, they moved to Lehi.

Mr. Smith was the first blacksmith to settle in Lehi and took an active part in the building up of the community. He made plows for the farmers of wagon tires which Johnston's army brought; made the first iron rollers for crushing sugar cane

in the manufacture of molasses; and made nails and tools of various kinds. This work occupied his spare time in winter and in the summer he followed farming.

Being of an industrious disposition, he was able to surround his family with all the necessities and some of the luxuries of life and was considered well to do in those days. He was a stockholder in many of the industries and enterprises launched for the building up of the country. He was active in furnishing supplies for those were out on Indian expeditions and after the Church immigration. He was among the first to launch out in the bee industry.

He homesteaded a quarter section of land some distance north of Lehi on Dry Creek, which he brought into a high state of cultivation and also built a saw mill, using the water of Dry Creek for power. On February 10, 1865, he married Sarah Ann Liddiard and all together raised a very large family, as follows: Children of Mary Ann Smart: Caroline (Mrs. Wm. Skeens), Mercy, and Joseph. Children of Ann Coleman: Sarah Ann (Mrs. Samuel Southwick), Joseph William, George, Hyrum, Aldura (Mrs. James Roberts), Julia Elizabeth, (Mrs. James Taylor), Alfred James, Samuel Abraham, John Franklin, Rebecca, Jacob, David, Albert, and Moroni Alma. Children of Sarah Ann Liddiard: Florence Sopho (Mrs. J. E. Cotter), and Elizabeth.

After a lingering illness of heart trouble, he died August 6, 1902.