

# LEVI AUGUSTUS AND MATILDA RUTH GURNEY PHILLIPS

## Lehi Centennial History 1850-1950

Levi Augustus Phillips, a son of William James and Sarah Ann Corney Phillips, was born December 14, 1857, in Boston, Mass. He crossed the plains when five years of age and was an original pioneer. His early life was spent in Salt Lake where he was married to Agnes McFarlane in the old Endowment House in 1881. To this union were born four children. He took an active part in the Church and in the community. He was a volunteer fireman, a police officer, a plumber, a member of the brass and string bands, playing the violin that was brought across the plains by his father. He worked on three of the early temples built in Utah. He knew President Brigham Young personally. In 1891 he came to Lehi to work at the Sugar Factory. In 1895 he left for a three year mission to the Southern States. A few months after his return his wife died leaving him with two boys. He again went to work at the factory where he worked for over forty-three years. He was an active block teacher for over fifty years.

Matilda Ruth Gurney Phillips was born May 22, 1875, at Lehi, the eighth child of William and Julia Jeans Gurney. She was baptized in the old mill race, near the spot where the Sugar Factory was later built. She was educated in Lehi schools and attended Sunday School and Primary and later was a teacher in these organizations. In 1902 she was called to take a Relief Society nurse course in Salt Lake where she graduated in a class of eighty-three. She also attended a nursing school in Lehi and has done practical nursing ever since.

On February 24, 1904, she was married in the Salt Lake Temple to Levi A. Phillips. To this union were born five children: Leland, now deceased, Glayds Peterson, Douglas, Agnes Anderson, and Freda Fletcher. Besides these children she reared two step children and was foster mother to her sister's son. She served as president of the Second Ward Primary, Religion Class teacher, stake officer of

Religion Class, assistant secretary to Relief Society, when Rebecca Standing was president, a Relief Society teacher, chairman of Sunshine Committee, teacher topic leader, and Relief Society magazine agent for three years. She was captain of Fort Wall Camp of Daughters of the Utah pioneers for four years and also the class leader.

Mr. and Mrs. Phillips were devoted to their Church, family and community. They sent three sons on missions for the Church and had one son in the first World War and two sons, one son-in-law and two grandsons in World War II. They have also worked in the temple.

Mr. Phillips held all the offices in the Priesthood from Deacon to High Priest, the position he held at the time of his death. He passed away November 3, 1942, leaving his widow, Matilda Phillips now seventy-five years old, four children, fifteen grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.