

**THOMAS R. CUTLER MANSION
RELTUC INN
LEHI HOSPITAL
WALLACE/ARLENE OLSEN RESIDENCE**

Constructed: 1900-01

Address: 150 East State

Present owners: Wallace/Arlene Olsen

Thomas R Cutler was one of the most prominent men in the early history of Lehi. This was true not only in commercial activities, but also in ecclesiastical ones such as serving as bishop of the Lehi Ward for twenty-four years. Born in Sheffield, England on 2 June 1844, Cutler entered a mercantile apprenticeship at age fifteen with the Manchester firm of S. & J. Watts and Company. Young Cutler was taught good penmanship, mathematical accuracy, diligence, frugality, and how to run a business. On 20 April 1844, he and his brother John, who had converted to Mormonism, left England for America. They arrived in the Salt Lake Valley 5 October 1864.

After working for a season in his father's mill in Big Cottonwood Canyon, Cutler was hired by Thomas Taylor to clerk in his general merchandise store on First South in Salt Lake City. Young Cutler was so sagacious that the Taylor brothers sent him to Lehi to assume managership of the small store that had opened on the southeast corner of Main and Second West (site of the Colonial House now).

Much of the firm's success came about through serving as exchange intermediaries. Local townspeople would bring in eggs, butter, dried fruits, honey and cattle, in exchange for manufactured items. The produce would then be freighted into mining camps at Bingham and into Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana where a dozen eggs often sold for \$2.00.

By the spring of 1869 all Lehi merchants were forced out of business by the Lehi Union Exchange, a co-operative mercantile established by leaders of the Mormon Ward. In 1871, when he found out where the Utah Southern Railroad

would build its depot on State Street, Cutler organized a new firm, the People's Co-operative Mercantile Institution. With a new building across the street from the depot, manager Cutler opened for business on 4 April 1872.

The prosperity of the People's Co-op caused the ruination of the Lehi Union Exchange. The Co-op bought the Exchange's interests. Cutler remained superintendent until 29 April 1893, when he resigned to devote more time to his position as general manager of the Utah Sugar Company, which opened its Lehi plant during the fall of 1891.

Cutler's life remained intertwined with the Utah-Idaho Sugar Company until his seventy-third birthday, 2 June 1917. During those twenty-eight years he guided the company through an immensely prosperous period. Nearly a dozen sugar factories were erected under his direction. Butler's management skills and business acumen were legendary throughout Utah and much of the West. He was Lehi's wealthiest citizen of the time.

In 1900 he began construction of a \$14,000 home on his State Street property--a home that is a near duplicate of the Jesse Knight Mansion in Provo, which was designed by architects Ware and Treganze. The "Cutler Mansion," as Lehi people have usually called the Colonial Revival box-style home, was the "finest residence south of Salt Lake." This was reported in the 17 January 1901 *Lehi Banner* when the place was completed.

Three years after the mansion was finished the family moved to Salt Lake City. During the last decade of his life, Bishop Cutler spent the winters in Long Beach California where he suffered a heart attack and died on 3 April 1922. His funeral was held on Temple Square on April 8. Following the services, Cutler was returned to the town where he had spent the majority of his adult years, and was buried in the Lehi cemetery.

For a time after the Cutler's moved from Lehi, various married Cutler children lived in the mansion. Briefly it was the Reltuc Inn (Cutler spelled backwards) then the Lehi Hospital under the proprietorship of Dr. Fred Worlton. Today the stately mansion, now listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is the residence of Wallace and Arlene Olsen. They have maintained the historical integrity of the home during their ownership.

