

JOSEPH WILLIAM CLARK—1865

Joseph William Clark, second child and first son of William Bell Clark and Frances Davies, was born in Salt Lake City, Nov. 14, 1865. He became a venturesome and ingenious pioneer, a successful contractor, farmer, cattleman, and merchant in the early development of Arizona. And He was a devoted husband and father of high principles, honest and faithful in his obligations to his fellowmen and to God. In his later years he said that "He was proud of the scars he had received in life's battle by keeping faith in himself and maintaining the respect of others." He said, "I am thankful for the tireless efforts of my dear parents in setting examples of honesty, thrift, and courage which have helped me to overcome the obstacles which have beset my pathway." "Life," he said "was an opportunity with a sacred obligation and not a gamble or burden." He had no fear of what the future held for him. At his request, the word, "unafraid" was carved on his tombstone.

Arizona was the one choice spot in the world for Joe, as he was called. He chose it because of its warm climate, rich land, and the challenge it gave him to accomplish and achieve. An extract from one of his poems reflects his love for his home in the valley of the desert.

I do not care to see the sights
Along Pacific's golden strand,
Or Mexico's romantic nights.
To stay at home is now my plan.
Great wonders round the world may be,
But I do not care to roam.
I find there's joy enough for me
Here in my Arizona home.

Travel, wanderer, if you will,
And see the splendors of the earth.
No distant journey can fill
This heart of mine with honest mirth.
Peace and contentment, day by day,
Come with the sunset and the gloam;
So, to the end of time I'll stay
Here in my Arizona home.

Leaving school at 15, Joe's first job was hauling freight for the Ontario Silver Mining Company at Park City. At 16 he was hired to take 2 car loads of mules and horses, wagons and equipment from Salt Lake City to Tempe,

Arizona. The cargo was shipped by rail to Maricopa, Arizona, the terminal of the railroad at that time. From there it had to be taken over dry and wild country down to Hayden's Ferry (the only crossing of the Salt River at Tempe.) He remained in Arizona for three years, clearing, leveling, fencing land, and farming on the 320 acre Crismon Farm, working for \$50 a month. During this time he saved \$1,000 of his earnings.

Back in Utah he took his first sub-contract as a grading contractor for the railroad. His next job was moving a sawmill from one mountain range to another and building a toll road into a new belt of timber. From his toll road he collected a fee on every load of logs he hauled to the mill. He loved to fish and hunt and could bring down game and could hook the wily trout when others failed. While on this job he cut over 16,000 railroad ties. Later he took contracts in Idaho and Nevada. While blasting rock on the last job his back was injured and he lay a cripple for six weeks. Nevertheless, through his industry and frugality, at the age of 25 he had saved over \$6,000. Such thrift enabled him to purchase teams and equipment for his permanent move to Arizona.

Joseph married Mary Adeline Noble in the Logan Temple on Oct. 29, 1891. Mary was the oldest child of Benjamin Noble and Rachel Lee. Her grandfather, Joseph Bates Noble, was an associate and dear friend of the Prophet Joseph Smith. He was a captain of one of the companies who crossed the plain's to settle in Utah in the fall of 1847. Her grandmother, Mary Adeline Beman, a talented school teacher, was a sister of the Prophet's first plural wife, Louisia Beman.

In 1892, when Afton, Joe's first born, was only 2 months old, the family moved from Salt Lake to Lehi, Arizona. This toilsome, overland trip took one month. They traveled down through Utah and crossed the Colorado at Lee's Ferry. Here is his comment: "We had 2 good wagons, a buggy, 8 head of fine horses, and a saddle pony. We had a driver for one of the wagons but handled the

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other units ourselves, occasionally riding the pony to break the monotony. Our wagon was comfortably equipped with an extension box with springs, and had a spring bed and mattresses fixed stationary in the wagon. It was a hard trip for a mother and infant but void of serious accident, save for the loss of one horse.” They settled in one of the oldest houses in the Lehi area, located near the present Lehi Grammar School. It was an adobe building with walls 2 feet thick and had a flat, dirt roof. The old roof was immediately replaced and a new brick wing added. Five children, Joseph, Mabel, Ione, Leigh and Harold, were born there.

Although living in Lehi, Joe's first big business venture in Arizona was farming rented land and raising blooded stock at the Stinson Ranch in Tempe. Those were territorial days in Arizona. Later, at Lehi, he acted as Postmaster, constable, deputy sheriff and ran a general grocery store and creamery. In addition, he served with the National Guard for 9 years, became 1st Lieutenant, and was called to quell a miners strike at Morenci. He also built a brick kiln and manufactured bricks for many of the early homes in that area as well as for Mesa, such as the Masonic Hall and the Riordan Building.

In 1904, following a disastrous fire which destroyed the grocery store, the Clarks moved to Mesa into a new brick home on what is now North Country Club Drive. The original plot was 10 acres on a portion of which he planted an orchard and vineyard. He took an active part in all new civic undertakings, soliciting stock for the Mesa Dairy and Ice Company, acting as one of its directors for 9 years. He helped to establish the Mesa Union High School and aided in its construction and served as a School Board Trustee for 6 years.

In partnership with O.S. Stapley and Frank Davis, the local hardware stock of Abell, Weiber, and Mullen was purchased and the new partnership operated one store as the O.S. Stapley Hardware Company. They supplied much of the equipment, tools and wagons, etc. used in the construction of the Roosevelt Dam. They also purchased interest in the Rogers

Blacksmith Shop, enlarged it, employed 12 men to shod teams and repair wagons for hauling equipment to the Dam site.

In 1909 Joseph went to England on a Mission for the Mormon Church. He was joined there by his sister Bess and his brother Will. Bess was on a tour and Will had just finished his Mission there. Before commencing his labors the three took a tour of England and Wales, then Will returned home and Bess spent several months doing Genealogy Research.

In 1910 Joseph was made president of the New Castle Conference and held this position for 22 months. Among his converts was the family of Edwin Myres. Shortly after his return home from his Mission Joseph sponsored the Myres family's immigration to America.” Eddie" worked in the Clark Furniture Store until he was able to start his own business as painting and decorating contractor in Long Beach, California.

In 1913 he sold his interest in the hardware business, and together with Joe Rogers as partner, established a furniture store across the street from Stapley's Hardware Store. He later purchased Rogers' interest and operated the store for the next 15 years. He also owned and operated 160 acres of farmland originally part of the McQueen ranch just south of Mesa.

Depression years of the 1920's and bank failures finally forced him to sell all his holdings and land in 1927 except the home place consisting of about 25 acres, in order to liquidate with a clean state and in debt to no man.

After retiring he took a part time job with the Arizona Hay and Feed Association. Later he was elected Indigent Officer for the Maricopa County. He held this post for two years, at which time this department of Welfare was turned over to the U. S. Government. During 1924 and 1925 he was a counselor in the 3rd Ward Bishopric.

Perhaps the highlight of Joseph's later years was the celebration of his 50th Wedding Anniversary in 1941. His love and devotion for his life's

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companion and faithful wife is clearly revealed
by his own pen.

Fifty years ago we married, though it seems just a day.
I'd like to go on living thus, if I could have my way.
With time we all must reckon, for it will close the book of life
But it cannot rob me of my jewell, Mary, my darling wife.

The flower of my heart still blooms as grand and sweet and fair
Though time has bleached the brilliant rose and silver streaks her
hair.
The maiden hand I took in mine just 50 years ago
Still holds that gentle, thrilling touch that sets my heart aglow.

Joseph William Clark died September 1, 1948, age 83, and was buried in sunny Arizona that he loved, at Mesa.

The following children were born to Joseph William and Mary A. Noble Clark:

	Name	Birth	Place	Died
1	Afton Ida	20 Jul 1892	Milton, Ut	
2	Joseph Benjamin	27 Jan 1894	Lehi, Az	23 Feb 1894
3	Mabel R	13 Aug 1895	"	10 Mar 1984
4	Ione	21 Jan 1899	"	23 Jun 1901
5	Leigh William	21 Oct 1900	"	
6	Harold Glenn	11 Jun 1902	"	
7	Verdell	13 Apr 1906	Mesa, Az	
8	Jessie Wanda	20 Oct 1907	"	
9	Maurine	7 Sep 1913	"	