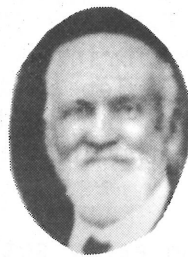


DAVID BRANSON BRINTON

By Vida D. Brinton



David Branson Brinton, the father of my husband Van B. Brinton was one of the kindest, sweetest, most tender man I have ever known. Grandfather stayed in our home for some time in Victor, Idaho and we became very close. It was then I learned what a wonderful man he was; how much he loved his family; how he appreciated his wives and all they had done for him. How much he appreciated the Gospel and all it had meant to him all his life. How true he had been to all the responsibilities that had come to him in his home, in the Church and in the community.

He was with us when our first baby was born, and he and Van administered to me. The doctors had said there was very little hope of saving either of us. He had to help the doctors when they operated and the nurses said he stood there with tears dripping from the end of his white beard. After the baby was here they had worked with her for some time and had laid her out for dead. He asked them to try just once more to bring life into her. They tried once more and she lived and grew to raise a fine family. Grandfather always said Rula was his baby because she would not have been here if he had not insisted they try once again. The doctors said that we were saved by a higher power than they had. Neither one of them were Latter Day Saints. Grandfather has used that power of healing many times in his life.

DAVID BRANSON BRINTON
(1850)

"Great men like torches shine long distances."

The Lord told Abraham to "look now to heaven and tell the stars if thou be able to number them - So shall thy seed be." (Genesis 15:5)

This too, might be said of the Brinton posterity. Across this broad land, in the cities and the states, across oceans - east and west, to distant lands has the influence of the descendants of David Branson Brinton been felt. As missionaries, as Military, as Doctors, Lawyers scientists, etc. have they gone to most of the civilized nations.

David Branson Brinton was born 23 February 1850, in Savannah, Missouri to David and Harriet Woolerton Dilworth Brinton (and is the baby referred to in Harriet's letter to her Father, Caleb in this book). David often said he was credited with being a pioneer, but as the tender age of four months he knew nothing of the hardships of the journey, as he traveled all the way in his mother's arms.

He grew to manhood as a pioneer and early settler, assisting his father on his large farm at Forty-Eighth South and Highland Drive, now Holladay, in Salt Lake County. His first work away from home was making ties for the railroad in Echo Canyon.

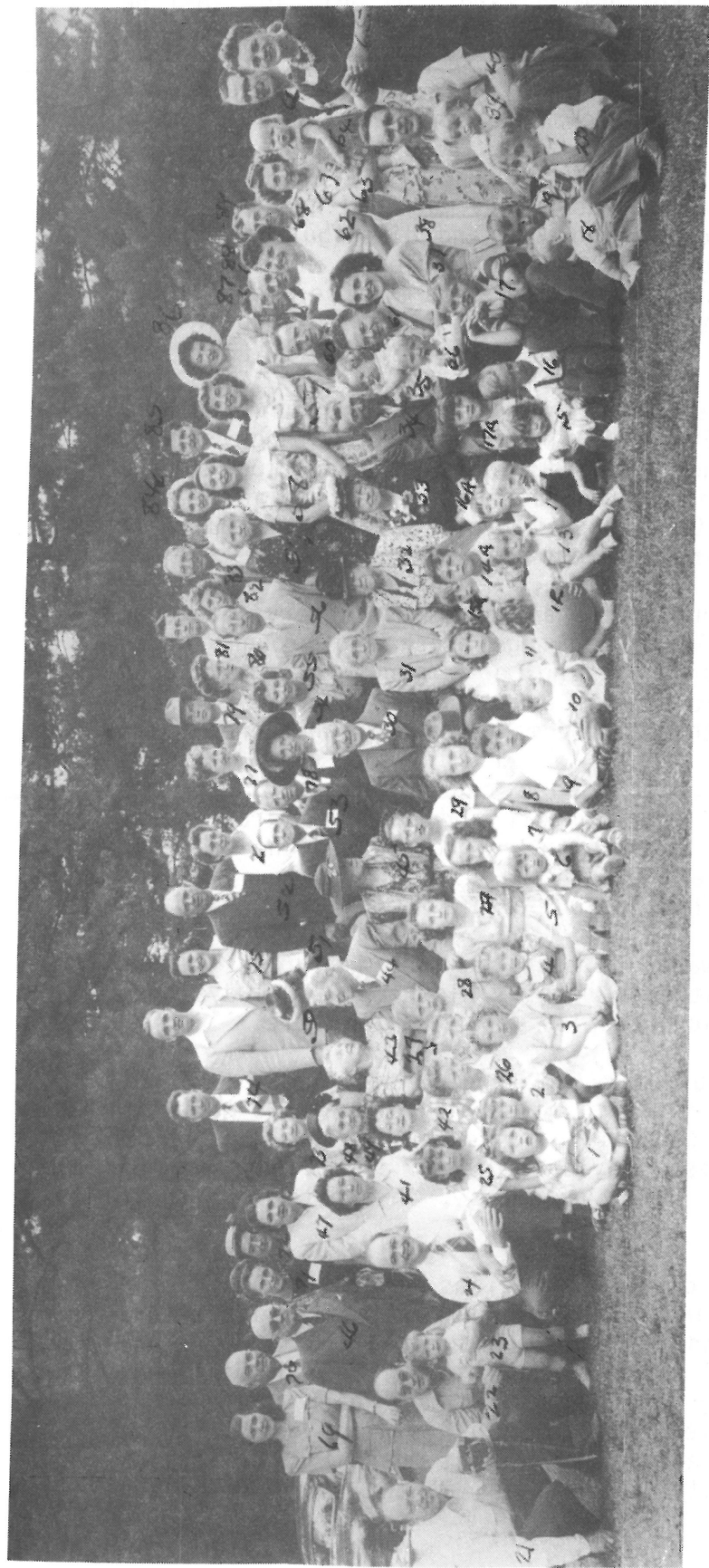
As a small boy David could remember his father, a blacksmith by trade, making a handcart. David's father and his missionary companions put their books, clothing and other effects in it and pushed the cart all the distance to the Mississippi, walking all the way.

David's mother was alone at the time Johnson's Army came to wipe out the Mormons. With her family of small children she prepared to move south. The two older boys, Evans and Caleb, started out ahead driving the cows, horses and a few sheep. David at the age of seven years, was put to drive a team and farm wagon, into which she had loaded all their provisions - food, flour, meat, wheat, a few chickens, their clothing and bedding. She herself drove the horse and buggy. The two little boys - Joseph and Samuel - sat beside her and held the twin babies, each holding a tiny infant. When they arrived in Lehi they found a place to stay with a family who shared their home with them.

They were very happy when President Young instructed the Saints to return to their homes, and even more happy to find their homes just as they had left them. Nothing had been molested.

David was elected constable by the People's Party in 1870 (age 20 years); librarian in Big Cottonwood Ward in 1871, and was the fourth postmaster in Salt Lake County.

In a ceremony performed in the Endowment House by Wilford Woodruff, David Branson Brinton and Susan Erepta Huffaker were married 20 April 1874.



DESCENDANTS AND FAMILIES OF DAVID BRANSON BRINTON 1850. HELD AT LIBERTY PARK, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, JUNE 1947.

1. Susan Cahoon (Richard). 2. ---Flake (Van & Rula). 3. ---Beth Brinton (Allred, Wollerton). 4. ---Flake (Van, Rula). 5. ---Brinton (Van). 6. ---Flake (Van, Rula). 7. ---. 8. Susan Sacks (Evangeline Wagstaff). 9. Joseph Wise (Barbara Brinton). 10. Ann Christensen (Eleanor). 11. Marsha Ann (David). 13. Marlyn (Marshall). 14. Roger Wise (Barbara). 15. Annette Wise (Barbara). 16. Brint Bettilyon. 16A. 17. Robert B. (Reed). 18. ---Milton Wagstaff. 19. John B. (Reed). 20. ---Milton Wagstaff. 21. Reed Brinton. 22. Howard Cahoon. 23. Jim Cahoon (Richard). 24. David (Branson). 25. --- (Branson Neff). 26. Branson Neff II. 27. ---Wagstaff (George). 28. ---. 29. ---Seamons (Louise Wagstaff). 30. Branson. 31. Lue Wagstaff. 32. Dora Taylor. 33. Aunt May. 34. Wollerton. 35. Beth Allreds daughter (Wollerton). 36. Lee Bettilyon (Nadine). 37. Nadine Bettilyon (Milton). 38. ---. 39. Stephen W. Brinton. 40. Marshall K. Brinton. 41. Margaret Bench (Wollerton). 42. Barbara Wise (Branson). 43. Jane. 44. Milton. 45. Valeria. 46. Levi Edgar Young. 47. Helena B. (Reed's wife). 48. Evelyn Neff (Branson). 49. Ethel. 50. Edna Brinton. 50. Horace Christensen (Branson, Eleanor). 51. Silow Bushman. 52. --- (Lue's Virginia). 53. Harold. 54. Emily. 55. --- (Dilworths Van). 56. Dilworth (Van). 57. Vida (Van). 58. ---Bushman (Lue's Virginia). 59. Virginia Brinton (Van). 60. Robert (Harold's son). 61. Milton Wagstaff. 62. Beth Wagstaff. 63. Ruth Wagstaff (David's wife). 64. David Wagstaffs daughter. 65. Margaret B. (Marshall's wife). 66. David Wagstaff. 67. Ruth Wagstaff (David). 68. Paul Wise (Branson's Barbara). 69. Marjorie Cahoon (Richards). 70. Chester Cahoon. 71. Howard Cahoon's wife. 72. Miss Bennion. 73. Evelyn Neff (Branson's wife). 74. Branson Neff. 75. Eleanor (Branson). 76. Virginia Bushman (Lue). 77. Rula Flake (Van). 78. Sam Flake. 79. Richard Cahoon. 80. Louise Seamon (Lue). 81. Boyd (Wilder). 82. Evangeline Sacks (Lue). 83. Van. 84. Leah Brinton. 85. Howe Brinton. 86. Beth Allred (Wollerton). 87. ---Allred (Beth's Husband). 88. George Wagstaff (Lue). 89. Paul Wise (Bransons Barbara).

David and Susan made their home in Cottonwood Ward. On July 15, 1877 he was ordained Bishop of Big Cottonwood Ward, by Daniel H. Wells, and at the age of twenty-seven years, the youngest Bishop in the Church at that time. After serving in this position for twenty-five years, he was released to fulfill a mission to the Eastern States (New York) in 1900. David said of that experience.

"I labored 26 months and enjoyed my labor very much. I had the credit of selling as many books (Books of Mormon) and distributing as many tracts as any Elder in the field. I made many friends and say it was the best two years of my life. During my absence my wife and children managed the farm and things in general at home, and all did their part well."

Typical of the merchandise centers of that day, David Branson Brinton's store on Highland Drive and Forty-Eighth South, was stocked with dry goods, groceries, meat, shoes, lumber and hardware. Here, in addition to the duties of the postmaster in maintaining the Post Office, he delivered mail to Argenta, a post office in Big Cottonwood Canyon, serving the Maxfield Silver mine and numerous other mining interests.

Through the efforts of David Branson Brinton and under his supervision over six thousand acres of land was cleared of sage brush and brought under cultivation. This acreage consisted of choice farming areas and good meadow land. A point of interest to note in connection with his farm, Fort Douglas Army Post was furnished with meat for many years grown thereon.

In addition to the farm, store, post office and religious duties, he assisted in the building of the Utah Central and Salt air railroads; erected many of the school houses in the country; contracted the building of the Yuba Dam on the Sevier River, a Fifty-Thousand dollar project and the Hatch Town Dam at One Hundred Thousand Dollars.

In the capacity of Bishop of the ward, he assisted many immigrants become established in employment and located in homes. His home was always open to these newcomers. On many occasions couples were married there.

During these early days it was customary to send Saints that could not speak English out to the different farms to live until they could get jobs and learn to speak English. They generally arrived in the fall and would stay all winter with these families. David and Susan always had some of these immigrant Saints with them. This, of course, in addition to their own 13 children.

Bishop Brinton always started the day early and was never known to be in bed after four o'clock in the morning. His numerous activities and enterprises are indicative of his boundless energy and capacity for work and accomplishment. His organizational abilities and his skills and efficiency combined with his unusual agility and dexterity made each day one of achievement. The six sons and seven daughters in his family were taught very early in life that time was precious and that it must never be lost or wasted, so there was always activity in the home, at the store or on the farm.



ALICE AND DOLL, AMY
AND DOLL, NADINE AND DOLL
ON LAP OF AUNT MAY
BRINTON, HOWE, GRANDPA
BRINTON



BACK ROW: WOLLERTON, BRANSON, AUNT
MAY, EMILY, WILDER, VAN.
SECOND ROW: MELVINA, HAROLD, VAY,
MILTON.



EMILY HAD NEVER HAD ANY CHILDREN AND
DESIRED THE CHALLENGE OF MOTHERHOOD.
SHE ADOPTED THESE FOUR CHILDREN WHEN
SHE WAS IN HER FIFTIES.



THE FOUR BRINTON BROTHERS
BACK ROW: WOLLERTON, BRANSON, WILDER: FRONT ROW: VAN, HAROLD, MILTON

He possessed the rare gift of healing the sick and traveled all through the county to administer to those who were ill. Many, including this writer, were healed, at times miraculously, under his hands. The night was never too dark, the storms too severe, nor the snow too deep, nor was he ever too tired to go when called to administer to the sick. He would often, with tears in his eyes, tell how one of his own children was healed.

Several members of his family had typhoid fever. After weeks of care, night and day, and they were all improving, he felt it safe to go to the city for much needed supplies. He had just arrived at his destination by team and wagon, when a messenger, informed him that one of his daughters had suffered a relapse. Without delay or attending to any of his errands, he returned homeward on the horse of the messenger as rapidly as the animal could take him, praying with all the power of his soul that she would live until he could place his hands upon her head. He never lost faith or doubted on that strenuous ten mile ride that she would be healed.

He was met by two Elders as he entered the door of his home, who said, "She is gone". He rushed to the side of his weeping wife and their lifeless daughter. Still trusting in the Divine power to heal or even raise the dead, he gave the child a blessing and she was healed. Zua Brinton grew to womanhood, married Samuel Neff and became the mother of ten children.

David Branson Brinton was a Church man, a farmer, a contractor, an engineer and a man of exceptional ability. Early in life he formed the habit of always being prompt for all meetings and appointments. He attended every General Conference held in the great Tabernacle for sixty years. He and his wife, Susan Erepta Huffaker Brinton were the parents of thirteen children. Susan passed away, August 13, 1916, preceded in death by a daughter, Geneve, in December, 1915. She was a lovely lady of culture, refinement and many capabilities and talents.

The fifth of September 1917, David married Mary Jane McFarlane in the Salt Lake Temple. After residing in Victor, Idaho for two years, they returned to Holladay. Here he resumed his contracting business for a short time, then removed to Salt Lake City. Here they planned to work in the Temple, but following two years of ill health, he passed away December 21, 1929, completing a life of service, dying as he lived, a faithful Latter Day Saint.

May McFarlane Brinton survived him, and was loved by all who knew her for her kindness, her patience, thoughtfulness and consideration of others and her quiet dignity. She died October 3, 1965, in Salt Lake City, in her 93rd year.