

LEANDER BUTLER

My great-grandfather on Dad's side of the family was born in Winchester, Randolph County, Indiana on May 7, 1842, the son of Samuel and Hannah Barker Butler. He was the next to the oldest boy. The family moved to Miami County, Indiana in 1846. At this time Leander had three brothers: Philander, Alma and Alva. Seven more children were eventually born into this union, but not all of them lived. Those living to maturity included the boys already mentioned, along with Neri, Eri and Nephi, and a girl, Maranda. Two more daughters, Samantha and Mary, passed away when they were young, along with two brothers, Lehi and Elbert. It was a common thing in those days to lose children at an early age or at birth.

Leander's mother died on March 24, 1856 when he was only fourteen years old. So he'd lost a mother, two sisters and three brothers before he'd turned fifteen. His father was left a widower with nine children as he'd married Hannah Barker after his first wife's death and had a son, Steven, by his first marriage. It gets very confusing.

While they were living in Indiana, missionaries from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints came to call. Samuel and his family joined the Church and made preparations to go to the Salt Lake Valley. (It is interesting that three Book of Mormon names were chosen for Alma, Nephi and Lehi.) Samuel was reported to have been a Methodist minister before becoming a Mormon. He was mobbed for preaching Mormonism in Indiana. He sold his land for \$1,000.00 and on Aug. 5, 1856, began the trek to the West with the pioneers. The family first joined up with the Saints in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Leander's brother, Nephi, almost died at Winter Quarters in the cold winter of Jan. 1857.

Upon reaching the valley, the family settled on the southeast bench area, later known as Butlerville. Samuel became disgruntled and felt like the Church should have been established in wealthy CA. For some unknown reason, he eventually went on to CA with his daughter, leaving his six sons behind to fend for themselves. He left in Jan. of 1858, when Leander was only fifteen years of age. The boys were left with no goods or means of support. Apparently, Leander never saw his father again. It must have been heartbreaking for these six young boys. I can only imagine how they must have felt.

Five of the Butler brothers (the sixth settled in the Bountiful area) and four McGhie boys made their homes in the area around the mouth of Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons. The story is told that a vote was taken to name the community and since there was one more Butler than McGhie it became known as Butlerville. However, LDS records show the place was named in honor of Alma Butler who was the bishop at the time.

Great-grandfather was a farmer. He owned a large plot of land at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon. Aunt Eva had fond memories of this dear man. She said, "His home was on the bench above our place, and I can remember he used to walk to our place to visit. He walked with a cane. As he left he would always say, 'Peace be unto this house.' "

He married Eliza Chugg in 1864 when he was twenty-two. Their first two children were born in So. Cottonwood. The girl, Eliza, died as a child and the boy, Leander Neri, was my grandfather. On Sept. 27, 1878, he took a second wife, Agnes Coult. Eventually, Leander married a third wife, Teela Wilhemina Johanna Chlarson. (She went by the name of Minnie.) The children of both his first and second marriages developed close ties with the children of his third marriage. These children must have been very unselfish.

Eliza (my great-grandmother) died from childbirth at the age of forty-eight. The infant died also, but two young children were left behind. "Aunt Minnie" moved in to care for the children, but it was a difficult situation and eventually the girls went to live with their oldest brother, Leander Neri (my grandfather) and the oldest sister. Minnie filed for divorce on March 15, 1904. She died on Feb. 23, 1917.

Great-grandfather lived with his daughter, Edith Butler Boyce and her family for several years. He died from the effects of Diabetes on May 31, 1918 when he was seventy-six years old. What a challenging life he had. I'm grateful for his fine example and his faithful endurance.

ELIZA CHUGG BUTLER

I have very little information about my great-grandmother on Dad's side of the family. She was born in Devonshire, England on Sept. 14, 1844, the oldest daughter of John and Elizabeth Lovering Chugg. Her family joined the Church of Latter-day Saints while in England. Her father was not well to do, but wanted to get his family to Zion. He saved whatever he could to put in the immigration fund. In 1862, he sent Eliza to America with his younger brother, William, and William's wife.