

NEWSLETTER JAN. 2003

OVERVIEW

In this issue we will report on the Farr meetings in November, the monument project update, our initial foray into the use of DNA for tracing our roots and plans for our upcoming Farr Family reunion scheduled in 2003. Also included is a story of the Johnstown Flood and a remarkable dream. We will also update you on the progress of our web site.

We will discuss early Farr Family Organizations in the early part of the last century, continue our biographies on Lorin Farr and Winslow Farr Jr. Also we have a remarkable story on one of our most durable and strong family members, Zoe Farr Wixom. We also will include the 2002 Financial report on our activities as a non profit organization. Remember your contributions are tax deductible!

Brother Tad Callister, our Area Authority, was our visitor at my stake conference here in Mission Viejo, California. He is the brother to Douglas Callister who was instrumental in making a contribution of valuable journals, correspondence and of the other Lorin Farr items to the Church Historical Department through Elder Richard G. Scott. These items are from the estate of Helen Monday, descendant of Lorin Farr and Nicholine Errickson. Apparently there are some additional items we may find of interest which I am trying to obtain. I have done much research on the historical materials donated at the library and will be including that in the future biography installments of Lorin Farr.

OFFICER TRUSTEE MEETING.

There was only four of us in attendance at this meeting due to

conflicts with our November 2nd meeting. Small but vocal group. We had a good time discussing the early meeting of our ancestors who were trying to continue the temple work and research of our family in the early part of the last century. See the article regarding them. We had a more full report in our recent research letter. Remember that letter comes out once a year to those who have contributed to our research efforts so if you haven't received it make a contribution to research and we will send it to you. If you have contributed already and are not receiving the research letter let us know so that we can include you. Jagger Lawrence reported on the reunion and plans to make it a successful venture.

RESEARCH MTG.

We enjoyed having Harold Armstrong, Joe Reimann, Tim Farr, Karen Kauer, Dean Hunter, Nina Palmer, Jagger Lawrence and Dave Farr in attendance at our research meeting. Dean Hunter reported on a day he spent in England in Berkshire and surrounding area doing original Farr research. Dean was looking into a Farr family deed made in about 1640 and holding the property until 1709. Then the family moves out of the area and settles in London. There are other deeds on that same property showing various transfers within the family members until the sell off. Other deeds and wills relate to other business between Farr family members coming down the generations. Dean felt it a very productive day as these deeds are not obtainable anywhere else but in England. He will be giving this information to Reed Hunter to put on these families together in pedigree charts for tracing and comparing to what we have already on the CD that the Hunter's have produced to see how the families connect. Then where they can they will put families together so we can see where temple work can be done. We are in process through Joe Reimann of doing temple work on the earlier Farr families. We hope to have enough Farr names to do endowment work at the temple part of our reunion. As our researchers create Personal Ancestral File records it will be needful for us who do work to be sure to get the complete temple cards back to Joe so we can enter the

temple work with the names done.

We learned the good news at our meeting that you can now verify temple work on line if you are a church member. You go to the church site-familysearch.org and then click on sign on in the upper right hand of the screen. You can then register as a church member by inputting your membership number and your confirmation date. You can secure a printout of these items by requesting a copy of your membership record from your ward clerk. Then you insert your ancestors name and other relevant names at the search sight. Before putting those names in you should click the IGI on the menu to the left on the search screen. Then whatever ordinances have been done will come up. This source is current work than found in the family history libraries. The church's hope is to get temple ready on their web site at some point so you can clear lists of names rather than individually as now is the case.

Harold Armstrong, our downline chairman, was at the meeting reporting on the progress he is making. He has around 7,000 direct Farr descendants from Winslow and Olive. Lately he has been in touch with Aaron Farr descendants-Neil Farr and Marcy Bramwell sending them their family lines to work on. It is good to see the activity in the Aaron Farr line. Marcia Nelson is over 100 pages into a biography on Aaron which we will eventually begin to serialize in this news organ. Marcia and hopefully Neil and Marcy will be at our reunion to connect with other Aaron descendants. A class on Aaron will be presented led by Marcia. Harold commented that he has a published book on another one of his lines (not related to us) Jessie E. Smith, a great great grandfather of his. He had five wives and forty four children. This book lists 50,000 names on the downline. This he said is the size of the town of Springville, Utah. Drawing an analogy he felt there would at least be 50,000 from Aaron, Lorin and Winslow Jr. who had 12 wives and over 60 children among them. Ah, the miracle of compound interest and compound families! Harold is volunteering for the military and maybe located in Fort Collins, Colorado. He will continue as our chairperson and co-ordinate from

where ever he ends up. We wish him well and appreciate all his efforts!

Tim Farr and Karen Kauer continue their excellent work on cleaning up our upline ancestry setting things as right as they can through their own research and using the services of Andrew Pierce. They hope to have a brand new pedigree of both Winslow and Olive on the same chart by reunion time showing all the corrections they have made and we have reported on from time to time. We so appreciate their unselfish service. You can see the link to all the work they have done by going to our website and then clicking over on Farr Family Tree.

DNA TESTING

Since our June newsletter of last year we have discovered a new DNA testing service that seems more organized and forward thinking than the BYU project. Tim Farr had uncovered this group called Family Tree DNA. Their website is www.ftdna.com/family_reconstruction.html You can get a good sense of what they do by visiting the site. DNA testing for genealogical purposes is in its infancy. It has great potential for finding the areas where our Farr ancestry came from so we are more sure that we are looking in the right countries for ancestors.

In certain media surveys it is found that there is over 50% of the population interested in finding their ancestry. It is the fastest growing hobby in the United States. DNA is another tool to meet this growing desire of families to track down their roots.

We wrote about this in our Research Letter in December 2002. In the letter we wrote that by taking a sample DNA (a swab from inside the mouth) and sending it into the company we can build a DNA data base showing our relationships and hopefully with descendants from our country of origin. Family Tree DNA sends you a kit which you fill out paperwork and send in a swab from your mouth.

Your sample DNA is locked in a refrigerator at the University of Arizona Lab. The DNA kit includes 25 years of storage at no additional charge. The Lab has done DNA testing for the FBI and the National Institute of Justice so they are highly accredited. At the lab they test for 12 genetic markers which can be matched against other family descendants to prove common ancestry. By setting up a Surname Project, which we have done, we can add our samples which will be stored as stated. The results will be posted to their internet sight where you can access your own test. Then we can match them against Farr or related line descendants from other countries to get a bead on country of origin. If it proves to be England as we currently feel then we are justified in continuing our research there.

We need six participants to begin with but will take as many family members as would like to begin this project. The cost will be \$99 and borne by the family member desiring to participate. We would like to have a test run on the descendants of Aaron, Lorin and Winslow Farr Jr to have a comparison. These tests will be matched against FTDNA data base to see if there are any matches to compare with. It will be a very interesting project so let us know by email, phone or mail of your desires. We will add your name to the list we already have and then arrange for kits to be mailed to you for the test.

Tim Farr has a special project of seeing if one of our lines is valid, that of Kezia Presbury (known ancestor-see 242 on our Farr chart) who married Edmund Freeman. Kezia is purportedly the daughter of Stephen Presbury married to Deborah Skiffe. There is some doubt as to Kezia's parentage as she was born before their marriage. One explanation we have surmised is that perhaps Kezia was born to them out of wedlock. By locating proven descendants through other children of Stephen and Deborah (not Kezia) we can see how our markers match up. If we get a close enough match then we will know that indeed we do come through Kezia and her purported father, Stephen. We are in process of locating other descendants of the Presbury's.

AN ENDURING FARR

Zoe Farr Wixom is a good example of the kind of strong pioneer genes passed down from a noble and strong ancestry. Usually this kind of article is printed as an obituary but not this one. Zoe was in a traumatic accident Oct. 21, 2001 when a careless driver ran her down on an Idaho road. She remembered nothing until January 2002. A severe brain concussion took some memories from her but not the will to fight on. She suffered two operations that removed parts of her left leg. As she said she was released from the convalescent hospital to her home in June 2002. She had entered a program of therapy to get her self together using a walker and other means to strengthen her limbs. While using the walker she fell and broke her shoulder. I learned of this challenge to Zoe in a letter from her explaining why she was late with her dues for our newsletter. In the last part of that note she exclaimed, 'but I am still a Farr!' And what a Farr. She sets a great example of courage and fortitude for all of us in facing difficulty.

She has always had a feeling of gratitude about her pioneer ancestry. Zoe and her sister, Marilyn Freeman wrote, compiled and edited an 834 page book on the, 'Ancestry and Posterity of Raymond Valasco Farr'. This was completed in 1995. It is available for review in the Church Family History Library. The story of her personal courage continues as she marches forward with her daily exercises, reading and compiling her personal history. She has especially enjoyed reading the Book of Mormon. Zoe feels that it relates so much to what is happening today. She goes to Church Meetings when she can. Zoe served in both the War and State Departments during and after World War II. While with the State Department she was in Germany after the war. There Elder Ezra T. Benson encouraged her to come back to the United States and get her college degree. She got a scholarship and her masters back in New York. She taught in college for a time and then when she married F. Don Wixom they moved to

Idaho where she taught English and Driver's education.

We are planning our Farr Family Reunion Friday August 1st and Saturday August 2nd at Kaysville & Salt Lake City Utah. Our schedule is as follows:

Friday

3:00 P.M. Salt Lake City Cemetery-
Dedication of Winslow Farr Sr.
Monument.

5:30 P.M.-Family Meeting SLC Temple
in chapel. If available Elder
Richard G. Scott will address us.

7:00 P.M.-Farr Endowment Session

Saturday

7:30 A.M. Sign in at Ward across from
Cherry Hill Camps Ground, Kaysville

8:30 A.M. Farr Family Meeting-Chapel

9:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M. - 50 Minute Class Periods
on Farr Family Research, family
biographies & history and other family
history subjects.

2:00 P.M. Family picnic at Cherry Hill (Applewood
Pavillion)

We will be taking Farr related names through the temple that we have gathered in our research. In our class periods you will have the

opportunity of taking four different classes on Saturday Morning related to our family history. We will be putting the subjects and presenters on our website in the next few months for your review. Among other seminar leaders we will feature David Rencher who is one of the leaders at the Church Family History Center. Keep your eyes posted for further details. Tim Farr and Karen Kauer will have a new family pedigree chart correcting names and dates which their research has proven out. There will be other Farr family items for sale also.

Above all this will be a great opportunity to mingle with family cousins from all over. Be sure to plan to be with us. Enclosed is a sign up form for the reunion so we can get an idea of how many to expect. Also enclosed is a sample class set up from our 2000 Reunion that will give you an idea of the kind of classes and some of the presenters you might see.

AARON FARR

Marcia Nelson is working on a biography on Aaron. She has over a hundred pages compiled. She is hoping to have some information on Aaron for our reunion. She is willing to teach the class on Aaron hopefully having other Aaron descendants there to contribute. She needs information on Persis Atherton to include so if you have any pictures or history please email it or send it to her. Any other information or pictures(Aaron, wives, children, grandchildren) would be appreciated. She is considering going down two generations in her biography if she gets enough information. If you know any Aaron descendants that perhaps are not getting letter please pass this information on to them.

You can contact Marcia at 8607 147th Ave. S.E. Snohomish, WA 98290 Ph. 360-862-1112. Eml. nelsons1rock@aol.com She thanks you any help you can give her.

LORIN FARR

Lorin purchased a fair sized piece of land from his father in law, Ezra Chase just below the mountains and near the Ogden River. He built the first saw mill and grist mill in league with Charles Hubbard. Later Lorin bought out Hubbard and later took his brother Aaron in the milling business. (History of Utah, Orson Whitney, p. 107) Due to troubles with the Shoshoni and Ute Indians the Ogden settlers under advice from Brigham Young and others constructed a fort which came to be known as 'Farr's Fort.' President Young had suggested to the settlers not to settle too loosely or carelessly on the Ogden and Weber Rivers. (A History of Ogden, Utah State Historical Society, p. 23) The fort was five acres in size with cabins build end to end around its border, except on the north where Mill Creek acted as a shield to the settlers. Strong cottonwood poles twelve feet in air were placed firmly in the ground which were closely tied and interwoven together. Lorin Farr's house, sheds and corrals occupied the south border. In the center a log cabin 30 x 20 feet was used for school, church and recreation purposes. School was also taught here, a Mrs. Chrila Abbot being Ogden's first teacher. Fresh spring water was obtained from in the southwest corner of the fort which was flowing year round. Three Farr babies-Joseph, Alertus and Tirzah were born in the fort. (LF, P. 110-111)

John Farr gives a good review of his father's ownership of land in Ogden over the years. He said Lorin had around 400 acres of land widely scattered. There was the East Farm part of the Farr Fort, the Saw and Grist Mill. Later there would be a Woolen Mill installed where the Grist Mill was. John Farr related that the land had been in the hands of the family continuously for 106 years when he wrote this in 1956. John purchased it himself in 1890. The West Farm was 150 acres located about three miles north west of Ogden. Its north boundary is now second street. The property known as the Pasture was west of Grant Avenue and north of the present 21st street and consisted of 30 to 40 acres. The Mill Lot consisting of about 50 acres which ran from 19th Street to Canyon Road. Part of this Lorin gave to his brother Aaron. Upon this property (19th & Washington) his new 100 barrel flour mill was located. Another piece of property was south of 20th Street east From Washington to Adams Avenue, south to the middle of the block between 21st and 22nd Streets. Some land was west of Washington Blvd. Another part of his land he sold cheaply to unfortunate friends,

immigrants and others who needed it. Lorin's great desire was to help others. (JF, pgs 20-21)

The soil was rich in Ogden and the 100 acre farm located there was used to raise corn, wheat, oats, sugar cane, broom corn, hemp, vegetables, berries and fruits. The balance of the farm was in meadow and pasture. Ezra Chase reported to Brigham Young that the land could produce a hundred bushel of crickets to the acre and fifty bushels of mosquitos. Many times the sun would be hidden from view by the hordes of grasshoppers. Fighting grasshoppers was an annual affair. Many new settlers began to pour in which required a system of settlement and organization. They assisted on another by building homes of log cabins, adobe huts and dug-outs, also sheds for stock, built of poles, willows and bull rushes. Roofs were covered with canes, hay, straw, etc. and later, with sugar cane squeezings. Some huts provided buffalo robes for doors and window which gave them some protection from deep snows while northerly winter blasts of freezing winds roared over the sage brush flats. Roads, ditches and waterways were constructed. Hundreds of years later it is hard for us to visualize the trials and hardships those hearty pioneers were called on to go thru. (LF, p. 112) Lorin Farr discussed the importance of irrigation to Utah when he said 'I came in 1847 to Utah with the first ten wagons. All the country about Salt Lake and Ogden was then a wilderness without a break in it. How it was transformed everybody knows. We began to irrigate the country, and I learned irrigation, till now I think I know as much about it as nearly anybody that lives. Irrigation has done astonishing things for Utah, yet we have large areas of what are called dry lands and produce twenty bushels of wheat to the acres.' (LF, p. 292-3)

We have a description of the early frontier homes that these pioneers built from Matilda Olson Sprague: 'We lived in a wagon box when we first came to Bingham's Fort. In November, father built our first house between Harrisville and Five Points. He dug a hole in the ground, eight feet square, and then placed two logs on each side and put poles and willows and sod on top for a roof. A little window was at each end. When the snow came it covered our house until one could not see where we lived. We had to dig our way out in the winter. When spring came the melting snow ran into the dugout and we had to dip it out with pans. For furniture we had three wooden stools, a chest that made my bed, and some poles driven into the

earth wall to make a bed for my parents. Father used to have to break a trail through six feet of snow in the winter when I went to school.” Sarah Dixon Walker described her first home in Ogden as follows: “It was a humble little one-room dugout with one door and one window, a dirt floor and a dirt roof. The stovepipe chimney stood just above the surface of the ground. The furniture consisted of a stove, table, four chairs, one large bed and a trundle bed which was rolled under the large one during the daytime, and a large wooden spinning wheel about the size of a wagon wheel.” (BBLP, P. 99)

Other pioneer journals describe living in their wagons before building homes. A description was left of Lorin Farr’s first house. This one built in 1850 had the advantage of floors made of sawed logs covered with rag rugs. All of the furniture was homemade, and each bed had a straw mattress and a feather tick. (BBLP, p. 100)

The census of 1849-50 showed a population of 1,141. Of the twenty seven who died that year, eighteen died from cholera. Practically everybody farmed but only 200 were listed as farmers. Twenty were listed as blacksmiths, nineteen carpenters, ten tailors, eight masons, six school teachers, five coopers, shoemakers, sailors, merchants, three saddlers, millwrights and yeoman (gentlemen farmers who hired their work done. In addition two curriers, potters machinists, engineers, woodcarvers, dentists, cabinet makers, soap makers, dairy mans, wheelwrights, printers, peddlers, bookbinders, bakers, artists, chair makers, tanners, butchers, soldiers, sail makers, stone cutters, and saddle tree maker. (A History of Ogden, Utah State Historical Society, p. 23)

Ogden continued to grow. In 1870 the population was 3,127, in 1880 it was 5,246 and in 1890 it had grown to 14,889 people. (LF, p. 232)

Lorin Farr’s first home would be known as the East Farm. It was well built with good wooden floors of thick planks. Tables and chairs were made of home cut cedar and oak lumber. Nancy had made rag rugs for each room. The beds had fresh straw mats with selected feathers. The pillows for the most part had goose feathers. Soap, candles, shoes and other necessities were made by the Farr’s. They had learned their growing up years to make these needed articles. Nancy taught her children all the household arts. (LF, p. 120)

While Lorin Farr supervised the building of his fort, Captain James Brown, the first Mormon Settler in Ogden, was building his for (actually relocating it to higher ground to avoid flooding). There was a friendly rivalry between the two men as they worked. After the building of his fort, Brown, was accidentally killed by his coat being caught in cogs of the cane rollers in his molasses mill. It was a sad day for Lorin Farr to preside at his funeral. (LF, P.118)

Lorin Farr worked with the other settlers in building homes of log cabins, adobe huts, dugouts, sheds for stock. Roofs were covered with canes, hay, straw and other material available. Often pans and buckets were scattered through their cabins to catch rain through the leaky roofs. Some huts had buffalo robes for doors and windows as protection from northern winds and snow which blasted the settlers. (LF, p. 112)

Farr's Fort was built on approximately 5 acres of land where Monroe Blvd and Canyon Road now intersect. It was built right one and a half miles northwest of the mouth of Ogden, Canyon, about a block north of the Ogden River. The five acres of land were closed in the fort by the houses, which were joined end to end, facing the inward square. The spaces between the cabins were stockaded with pickets placed deep into the ground and extending upward some twelve feet. The north wall of the fort was never completed. A school house and a store occupied a central place in the enclosure. The school house was 20 by 30 feet and served both as a school and a meeting house. During the Indian troubles of 1850-52, especially right after the killing of Chief Terikee, practically all the settlers on the north side of the Ogden River lived in the fort. After this period most of the settlers moved back to their farms or built homes down on the site of Ogden. Lorin built a new home on 21st Street and Washington Blvd. In 1853. By then Farr's fort was completely abandoned. From this time forward the saints did not enclose themselves. The building population soon expanded to include the region of Farr's Fort. (BBLP, p. 74-5)

The log cabins in the fort were hung by leather or buckskin straps used for hinges. There were wooden latches for locks with a buckskin string extending through the door which hung on the outside to gain entrance to the cabin. (Rich Family History Tour Book)

The first store operating in Ogden was established in 1850 by a Mr. De Vorsen. It was located inside Farr's Fort in a one room log structure with a dirt floor and roof. Mr. De Vorsen, a 'Gentile,' exchanged horses and cattle for merchandise. When he had accumulated a small herd of animals he drove them to California and sold them. (Heart Throbs of the West, Kate Carter, Vol. 3, pg.266.)

Ezra Chase, John and Ambrose Shaw, Charles Hubbard, Jonathan Campbell and others helped Lorin Farr build the Farr Fort. Cabins were built end to end around its borders except on the north where Mill creek acted as a shield to others. The twelve foot poles in between the cabins already mentioned were tied together in a protective wall. Lorin Farr's house, sheds and corrals occupied the south border while John, Ambrose, William Shaw, David Moore, Jonathan Campbell, Richard Berrett, the Montgomery Brothers, John Bybee, Charles Hubbard, George and Frederick Barker, Clinton Bronson, Amos Andrews, Francillo Durfee, David B. Dille, Moses Tracey and others occupied the outside border. (Our Pioneer Heritage, Vol. 9, pg. 122, Kate Carter)

Right to the west of Farr's Fort, near what is now Canyon Road, Lorin would supervise the building of a Saw Mill and Grist Mill in 1850, and later the Woolen Mill in 1867. (Pioneer Forts in Ogden, Utah, Feb. 1996 by Ogden Pioneer Chapter Sons of the Pioneers.) Lorin Farr built the original grist mill with Charles Hubbard in the summer of 1850 after which he bought Mr. Hubbard out and ran the mill himself for several years before taking his brother Aaron into the business with him. (History of Utah Vol. 1V , Orson F. Whitney, pg. 107)

In August of 1850 Governor Young, Heber C. Kimball, Orson Pratt and other came to visit Lorin Farr. After a good meal with the family they sat down to plot out the city of Ogden. There were many visits by the leaders to Ogden. Later Lorin Farr was asked what was the most interesting period of his life. He replied, 'All of It.' Then in reflection he replied more in depth to the question that it was, 'the hours of association with the prophets of the Lord and the building of a city. The taking of a native land, where only wild

animals and wild Indians have trod and make dreams come true in the building of a city for the good of friends and neighbors. That is real joy.” (LF, p. 119)

Brigham Young with others formally laid out a city between the forks of the Ogden and Weber Rivers on the site selected by the President the year before. The new city was the continuation to the northeast of Brownsville and lay to the south of Mound Fort and southwest of Farr’s Fort. Brigham Young suggested they name it Ogden City in honor of the Hudson Bay trapper, Peter Skene Ogden and of the river on which it was located. This was recorded on January 31, 1850 with Governor Young signing a bill passed by the General Assembly of the State of Deseret giving the name of Ogden City in Weber County with the boundaries outlined. While laying out the city the Mormon leader suggested the people move from their forts to the city. They were to build substantial homes, school houses, a meeting house and other necessary buildings. (BBLP, p77)

Early in 1851 Lorin Farr directed Henry Sherwood to survey the Ogden town site. From 1850 through 1870 and 1877 through 1878, Lorin Farr would serve as Mayor for, much of the time without pay. In 1854 William Dame and Jesse W. Fox completed more surveying the town. The farming land was divided into blocks a half a mile wide and one mile in length. Streets ran north and south every mile and east and west every half mile. Each farm contained twenty acres, fronting the streets east and west. This survey covered an area approximately six miles square. (BBLP, p. 77-9)

In the summer of 1851, Lorin Farr saw people were taking up choice spots of land at their pleasure throwing the county into confusion. So he engaged Surveyor-General Lemon to survey those portions adjacent the plat of Ogden City. Lemon, who died, was followed in this project by the aforementioned Dame and Fox. The farming land was laid off in blocks half a mile wide by one mile in length. The streets ran every mile north and south, every half mile east and west. Each lot contained twenty acres of land ending or fronting the streets east and west. (Heart Throbs, Vol 4, p. 328 kc.)

When Lorin Farr received the appointment from Brigham Young to

serve as Ogden's mayor (later confirmed by popular vote) he was given a right to the land in the city. He sold lots to city residents. He also traded land for what is now known as Lorin Farr Park. A Miles Jones bought land extending east of Jefferson Avenue and south of Canyon Road. Separated by two residences were the Jones and Farr Groves. These groves were used as picnic and playgrounds. Later Farr's Grove was renamed Glenwood Park and a dancing pavilion was built. Many city celebrations along with the 4th and 24th of July celebrations were held in these groves. (Heart Throbs of the West, Vol 5, KC, pg. 125-6)

A great proportion of immigration in 1850-51 was sent to Ogden by Brigham Young. Lorin Farr attended the State of Deseret formative meetings where Salt Lake was incorporated with Jedediah Grant as Mayor. The city was divided into four municipal wards. This established patterns for future cities in Utah revealing the New England influence on these western communities. (LF, p. 124) On February 6, 1851 the State of Deseret incorporated Ogden, second only to Salt Lake. A city council was created to consist of a mayor, four aldermen and nine councilors. Lorin Farr was appointed mayor by Brigham Young and as mentioned served twenty two years in that office being re-elected every two years. Voting was very informal with the citizens gathering at some point within the city to elect the nominated officers. There was usually only one set of candidates who had been nominated by church authorities. (History of Ogden, p. 26)

In the fall of 1853 acting on orders from Brigham Young Bishop Erastus Bingham began the construction of what would be known as 'Bingham's Fort.' Located north of 2nd Street and west of Washington Blvd., the fort extended westward along the Harrisville Road. The fort enclosed about 40 acres. Each family within the fort were assigned a certain portion of walls to build. Some completed the assignment, others did not. They did not have much lumber so mud, poles and willows comprised much of the construction. Wilford Woodruff wrote of preaching to the 753 inhabitants of the fort in December of 1854. Finally in 1856 after the fear of Indian attack had lessened Brigham Young recommended moving into Ogden City to help build that up. (BBLP, Pg. 86-90) In 1855 the city council passed an ordinance providing for a wall six feet wide and eight feet high to be build around the Ogden City area within what is now Madison and Wall Avenues

and 21st and 28th Streets. Wall Avenue received its name from the west wall of the fort. The building of this fort cost the citizens about \$40,000 and made a big impression on the Indians. The fort was never completed and the need faded for it as the Indians calmed down. (BBLP, p. 91)

In 1853 Lorin Farr completed a new house located on the southeast corner of 21st Street and Washington, which contained twenty one rooms. It was a two story building with a large basement and furnished with homemade articles. As the people achieved greater prosperity houses were being built of lumber, brick, rock and concrete replacing the older adobe homes. Most of the houses were planned and built by Shadrach Jones. Jones and his father, expert masons from Wales, constructed the most beautiful homes of early Ogden. (BBLP, p. 102)

The pioneer housewives had to be resourceful in furnishing their homes of varied structure. A very useful plant found abundantly in Ogden was the 'cat tail.' It is a tall growing marsh reed which fluffs into a down substance from which the women made mattresses and pillows. They would fill their 'ticks' with this substance and it was said that the resulting mattresses were as soft as feathers. Ticks filled with straw were probably the most common bedding used, but corn husks were also used. An ideal sleeping arrangement was a cat tail tick on top of mattresses made with straw or corn husks. When enough chicken or goose feathers were accumulated they made even better beds. (BBLP, p. 109)

These industrious people made their own soap from lye. Lye was made from wood ashes placed in a frame called a leach. A leach was made by putting four posts into the ground in the shape of a rectangle. A trough was built through the rectangle with the lower end projecting out to drip into a bucket. The trough was half filled with straw and wood ashes placed over the straw. Then water was poured over the mixture to drain through the straw into the bucket. This water was heavily laced with lye. Another method was to place several days savings of ashes in a barrel to which water was added. After repeated stirring and skimming waste ashes settled to the bottom. Then the clear lye water was ready for use. For months the housekeeper would save all their fat trimmings from their meals. Then the lye water was heated and the fat added to the mixture. The contents were cooked in a kettle for several hours until the skilled soap makers found the

mixture firm and white. Then the mixture was poured into tubs to cool and harden. Often mint, lavender, dried rose petals or some herb were added for a more appealing aroma. (BBLP, p. 110) This was necessary as Lorin Farr in his early days in Vermont had described the vile odor coming from the grayish colored soap mixture and wondered how such awful stuff could get clothes so clean and good smelling. (W & OF, p. 13). Homemade matches were produced by cutting box elder wood into small flat strips dipped into melted sulphur. The earliest homes were lighted with a rag placed in a dish of fat. These were called, 'bitches.' Candle wicking or string was looped over a stick and used double for the candles. Tallow, usually mutton tallow, were heated in a deep receptacle, after which the wicks were dipped in and hung over a tub to cool. Several dozen candles could be made in one day. The wicks were dipped several times, then cooled until the right size was obtained. (BBLP, p. 110-111)

The ladies also made starch by grating potatoes, placing the grated pulp in a tub of cold water and then stirring vigorously until the starch separated from the pulp. After the starch dried it was broken into pieces and placed in containers for household use. Starch was also obtained from grated corn. The resultant product was used for starching clothes, making puddings and sauces, as a powder for babies and young girls. (BBLP, p. 111-112)

The father of the household or a carpenter made the household utensils from wood. Butter bowls, flax wheels, reels, churns, cheese pressers, butter ladles, milk bowls, dish pans, straw splitters and rollers, food choppers, knife and fork boxes, comb cases, spinning wheels, knitting needles, carding combs, potato mashers, rolling pins, ironing boards, breadboards, napkin rings, walking canes, musical instruments, washboards, buckets, tubs and barrels were produced. Knives and forks were even made from wood. Tin was a good substitute when obtainable. Candleholders, candle molds, plates, cups, dippers, biscuit cutters, night lamps, and lanterns were made. Often tin was obtained from wagon trains going through to California. The industrious fishermen made fish hooks out of wire, braided fiber for line and used a rock for a sinker. (BbIP, p. 112) Those lucky enough to be skilled in fly fishing could find success in this technique to catch trout. Wilford Woodruff, fourth president of the church, found early success as a boy in Hartford, Conn. He carried a fishing rod

from his earliest recollections. He reported catching trout in the Provo River weighing up to 40 pounds. (Wilford Woodruff, Francis M. Gibbons, P. 4-5) President Woodruff reported success in learning to fly fish with Father Richard Smithies on the River Ribble in England. Smithies was renowned as a top fly fisherman. (Op, cit. P. 101) In the July 1847 crossing of the plains Wilford reported hooking up his fly rod and reel that he had purchased in England to fish some trout streams near Fort Bridger. He reported taking twelve beauties while those fishing with grasshoppers and other meat bait failed to catch any. (Op cit. P. 126) He recorded later experience in having much success with the fly on various streams in Utah. (Op, cit. P. 178-179). Fly fishing would become an avid past time for many Utahns including various settlers in Ogden. They would have no concept of limits catching hundreds of fish when given the opportunity. (Lorin Farr History, pgs. 78-88 in possession of Dave Farr)

MYSTERY SOLVED

In our research letter in December we reported on early Farr Family Meetings first recorded in 1916 minutes that were found in the Church Historical Department. These minutes covered through the early 1940's. There were interesting notes about reunions, monies collected, temple work done and other interesting notes. If you didn't receive the research letter and would like to get on our mailing list please send in a contribution to our research efforts. We will send you the December 2002 letter with research letters to come each year in the future.

One of the mysteries was to identify who Sarah Farr was that was so active in taking minutes and doing research. I received information from both Nelda Chadwick and Diane Warner informing me that the Sarah Farr was Sarah Ann Mitchell Graham Farr, wife of Winslow Farr Jr. Besides her prominence in these meetings she also was a Physician indicating a lot of education. She was Winslow's fourth and last wife. She was born in 1851 and died in 1928.

We also mentioned in that article that we didn't know who Stella Spangleburg was. Marcy Bramwell, an Aaron Farr descendant, wrote

saying it was probably Olive Estrella Farr Spangleburg, her mother's father's sister. Often referred to as Aunt Stella. She was born in 1859 and died in 1934. Joanne Farr Bair was excited to learn that her father, Hal Farr, was elected president of the family organization in the 1940. We want to publicly thank these three family members for their response on the article helping us clarify these individuals. It was good to see that there were representatives from all three of the Farr brothers, Aaron, Lorin and Winslow Jr. If you want the complete article send for the Research letter as suggested above.

READERS COMMENTS

It is always encouraging to hear from our cousins who let us know that they appreciate the work in which we are involved. It is exciting to many to be involved in one way or another to push forward or search for early ancestors, get their temple work done and also tell about their heroic lives. To me it brings strength and endurance to know what our ancestors went through in making a living, raising families, living true to their religious principles and displaying other traits of admirable character. We appreciate these comments that I am printing feeling that they apply to all involved in one way or another to make the family organization what it is.

'A tardy but heartfelt note of appreciation to you and to all the family members who have contributed so wholeheartedly to our Farr Family Organization. I am especially grateful for the excellent genealogical materials you have made available to us all. I have recently got my ancestral and descendant lines tidied up and have felt most grateful for the research made available to me on the Farr lines. Kindly express to all my appreciation for all they and you have done. May the Lord bless you all!' Sincerely Martha Stewart Hatch.

"Just a note to say how much I enjoyed reading about the early Farr family meetings in the latest research letter...I think the group has made giant strides forward since then-I'm amazed at what is being accomplished...it's so thrilling to see the progress! May this new

year see even more progress.' Sincerely, Joanne Farr Bair.

A continuing series of excerpts from
Winslow Farr Jr. Diaries
with his own words and spelling

In the spring of 1868 Winslow Farr Jr. was called by the church to serve a mission in Great Britain. Winslow's first missionary journal from the spring of 1868 to April 1869 is missing. His second missionary diary begins with the date of March 18, 1869 and concludes on the date of May 28, 1869.

Winslow arrived in Liverpool, England July 31, 1868. He was appointed to labor as a traveling elder with President Moroni Ensign as his companion.

The following excerpts from Winslow's diary records events the few days before he and brother Ensign journeyed to Belfast and Dublin, Ireland. This is followed with a diary description of their travels in Ireland

[April 13] very fine morning went out for a walk got very bad cold went up to Liverpool called to see our photographs was pleased with them they were not quite ready Br Ensign went to get his boot mended I went up to 42 Islington (church offices) came home in the evening to Bottle

[April 15] Cold not much better went out for a walk to the railway station wrote some in my journal Br Ensign and myself went down to the exchange

[April 11, 1869] Sunday went to meeting at Liverpool Bore my testimony went with Br Ensign up to Br McLeerys to dinner afterwards went up to the Botanic gardens had a look around and came to an open place and held a meeting in the open air I read some in the Bible Br Ensign made a prayer I opened the ball on the first principles of the gospel then Br. Ensign spoke for some length after we got through some men shouted and asked how many wives did Brigham Young have we want to know that before you go any further (unfortunately Winslow does not record how they handled this question)

[April 12] very fine morning wrote in my journal went down with Br Ensign to the sea and had a good bathe came back and wrote to my wife and went for a walk around the docks to see the shipping.

station to take train for Fleetwood left Fleetwood by the steamer Prince Patrick for Belfast at half past eight a.m. We went steerage passage very rough weather on the way cost us 5 shillings

[April 16] we landed and went up to Br John Reid at 15 Christopher street at Belfast met with Br Reid he received us very kindly we ate dinner with him and we went out for a walk Br Reid took us around the principle streets in

Belfast see some very fine buildings and had walk around the docks rained quite hard bought me an umbrella for 4 shillings stayed all night at Br Allens very comfortable

[April 17] fine morning after breakfast Br Ensign and myself and Br Allen and son all went to Cave Hill and had a view of Belfast and the entrance from the bay the hill takes its name from a cave in the hill we came across the fields and hills and see some linen plantworks we stayed all night at Br. Allens

[April 18] fine morning went out for walk came back from meeting address the saints a short time not a very large branch here after meeting went for walk held meeting in the open air and preached to people as they passed by Had very good meeting Came back to Br Reids eat supper stayed all ni8ght at Br Allen

[April 20] fine morning Br Allen got my boots mended and made me a
[April 22] we took train from Belfast to Dublin at half past 10 the Bretheren went down with us to the train station we past through some very rough country farmed by poor people soil not very rich aslo see some very nice scenery It rained very hard during the day we arrived at Dublin at 20 to 5 in the evening we called at 116 upper Dorset street at Br Browns he was not in we got a card for the daily hotel on wine tavern street we called for supper after that was over the Bretheren came in to see us we soon got aquainted stayed at the hotel

present of a pair of socks and a linen pocket handkerchief after dinner Br Ensign and myself and Br Allen went up to the hills had another view of Belfast and a distant view of lake Neigh 24 miles long 12 miles wide it is a splendid scenery to look at also see Londerry Tower in the distance this is in the North of Ireland I like this portion of Ireland very well

[April 21] Thomas Allen and myself went down in the city and called at the railway station to see what time we could get a train for Dublin visited some linen works which are very nice after dinner we had a ride on an Irish jaunting car and visited the old Parks Prince Works of linen went through all the various departments which was very interesting it prints 60 yards per minute 6 different colors stamped by copper rollers revolving pocket handkerchief is printed by hand with wooden blocks and copper dies in them met with the Saints in the evening had very good meeting

[April 24] fine morning Br Ensign and myself went up on the Lord Nelson pillar 134 feet in hight 168 steps winding stairs and had a birds eye view of Dublin the capital of Ireland 300,000 population also a distant view of Dublin Bay and surrounding hills also we went to see the American Prize lady 19 years of age weighs 564 pounds eat supper at Br Hughes we went in the evening to Mr. Henhler Circus it was splendid the best I ever saw I enjoyed myself well stayed at the hotel

[April 26] fine day Br Ensign and myself went up to Glassniven cemetery it is the most beautiful Burial place that I ever saw

[April 27] fine day Br E and myself went out to Pheonix Park for walk see great many deer came back and ate dinner at Br Hughes held meeting in the evening at Br Hughes I addressed the Saints for short time stayed at Dalys hotel

[April 28] quite windy went out for a walk to the North Strand inquired at the ticket office what time a steamer would sail for Liverpool

[April 30] Sister Hughes came with us as far as the boat we set sail a little after one o'clock P.M. on the Paddle Steamer Trafaljar had very rough sea Br Ensign was sea sick we hired a birth 2 x 6 feet got into Liverpool about 2 o'clock in the morning but did not go ashore till half past 6 came up to Bottle eat breakfast went out for a

walk wrote in my journal received a letter from my wife we then went up to 42 Islington to see the Bretheren and got our likeness eat supper at Br Chadwick came home to Bottle

To Be Continued

Wilma S. Smith **(see new email address)**

Post Office Box 2467

Ventura, California 93002

Email: wssmit@sbcglobal.net

(805) 659-5936

Randall A. Smith, Esq.

Post Office 853

Ventura, California 93002

Toll Free: 1-800-655-0515

Email: smit1717@pacbell.net