

Letterhead on page:

PW SHEEP CATTLE

Plank & Wright

Winsper, Idaho

Farmington, Utah

Februar[y]

Daughters of Utah Pioneers

State Central Co.

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Amos Wright

After residing in Salt Lake Valley for a rather brief time, the Wright family moved to Brigham City where Judge (Jonathan) C. Wright, as he was later familiarly known, continued to reside the remainder of his life. While living in Brigham City he reared a large family besides his first family of four children. He held many positions of honor and trust, both civil and ecclesiastical, among these were that of Probate Judge of Box Elder County, representative from that County to the State Legislature and he was counselor for many years in the Stake Presidency to the late President Lorenzo Snow.

It was while growing up in Brigham City that Amos Wright, eldest of the Wright family, acquired a speaking knowledge of the Indian language. When about fifteen years of age he left Brigham City with a colony of Saints for Fort Lemhi, Idaho, with Jesse Smith as president of the party. This was about the year 1855. Whether he was chosen in the first place to go along as Indian Interpreter, or whether it was not until later that he was chosen is not known. Brigham Young made a visit to the colony and just as he was leaving the Fort on his return to Salt Lake City, his attention seemed to be drawn to Amos Wright (my father) and he said, "My son, you will become a good interpreter of the Indian language." He laid his hands on him and among other things blessed him to that end. The blessing was literally fulfilled. After remaining there long enough to build a fort which they named Lemhi, located about fifteen miles from the site of what is now Salmon City, the Indians became hostile and headed by Chief Arimo, they came upon the colonists, drove away and killed some of their livestock, and even killed some members of the group. After the Indians had made the raid on the fort they withdrew to a position across the river and were making ready to renew their attack. Father, but a boy of fifteen, obtained the president's assurance that he would return alive then swam the river on a small pony, rode fearlessly through the ranks of warring Indians, up to Chief Arimo's lodge and made a plea for the lives of the colonists. The chief's only and final answer was that the colonists would not be further molested upon condition that they leave the country within the space of a few days. When Father was about the attempt to cross the river on the same pony he had come over on, the chief invited him to get on behind him. He was riding a big, fine animal. He took father across the river and let him down, and told him to tell his chief that if the company left the country within a few days all would be well with them, otherwise he would make no promises. As a result the

colonists returned to Utah. I have my father's statement that it was never Brigham Young's intention that the colonists should go so far north as they did. It was supposed by him that the colonists would settle somewhere in Snake River Valley, possibly in the neighborhood of the present site of Idaho Falls.

Father served four mission among the Indians and the Wind River Indian Agency and baptized several hundred Indians. Records of his missionary work exist in the archives of the church as he made reports of all he did. He also served conducting Moses Thatcher and President Lorenzo Snow one summer through the Wind River Agency and on through Yellowstone National Park. He also played an active part in the early settlement of Bear Lake County in the dealings of the early pioneers with the Indians, largely because of his ability to speak their language; and he was among the first to settle that valley in 1863.

E. M. Wright