

DUP AF Book 1 page 245

Biographical Sketch

of

William Kershaw

Pioneer Year 1855

Sailed on the Juventa

Born 10 Dec 1849 at Afton, Lancashire, England

Married 1 May 1876 to Emma August Dickerson

Died 15 May 1927 in American Fork, Utah

William Kershaw was born at Afton, Lancashire, England, December 10, 1849, his parents being Daniel and Ann Kershaw, and during his childhood at the time of his mother's death his uncle Peter Horricks and Mrs. Horricks brought him across the Atlantic Ocean on the ship "Juventa" in the year 1855, this same trip being made by the late James G. Gardner of American Fork, and they traveled through to Salt Lake City, the same year, where they established residence at Second East and Second South in Salt Lake City, and where he spent his early boyhood days.

In 1871 Mr. Kershaw moved to American Fork, and on May 1, 1876, married Miss Emma August Dickerson, a daughter of John and Ruth Dickerson, and from this union there were born seven children, six boys and one girl. His wife and the following five children survive him: Mrs. William Asher of Lehi, Joseph H. Kershaw, Glendale, California, William H. Kershaw of Salt Lake City and also Byron S. and Earl of Salt Lake City. There are also twelve grandchildren surviving. On May 1st, 1921, Mr. and Mrs. Kershaw celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary at American Fork.

Mr. Kershaw's business experiences in life began first by making two trips across the plains, bringing emigrants and freight from Missouri river to Salt Lake with outfits furnished by his uncle Peter Horricks. He later became private messenger for General Caseman of Caseman Brothers, contractors, who constructed the Union Pacific Railroad. He stayed with Gen. Caseman in this capacity until the Union Pacific Railroad was completed and connected with the old Central Pacific Railroad, now the Southern Pacific Railroad and was present during the ceremony of driving of the Golden Spike, at Promontory, Ogden, connecting the Pacific Ocean with the Atlantic Ocean by rail.

His next activities were in the saw mill business in Big Cottonwood Canyon in Utah, being there engaged with Faramore Little and Squire Wells. He cut considerable amount of timber used in the construction of the Salt Lake Tabernacle and other historical buildings.

After leaving Cottonwood Canyon, he took up the lumber and saw mill business in American Fork Canyon, in partnership with James Swift and Worth Nash, establishing the first steam saw mill in this locality. He also at this time operated a lumber yard on the present site of the American Fork Public Central School. About this time he was receiving and checking clerk of the Central Pacific Railroad and mining companies at American Fork, where the narrow gauge railroad in American Fork Canyon connected the mines with the main line. He also took an active part in the construction of the wagon road in American Fork Canyon which was a toll road and wherein he was a stockholder. After disposing of his lumber interests he engaged in the agricultural industry at American Fork and he also had a ranch in the Uintah Basin.

In his later years of life he disposed of his agricultural holdings, but continued to reside at American Fork, where surrounded by his wife and children, he died at 5 o'clock in the afternoon, May 15th, 1927, of old age and general debility, closing an active pioneer life of the West at the age of over seventy seven years.