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Biographical Sketch

of

John Conder

by Vine C. Varney

Pioneer Year 1850

Born: 7 Apr 1849, St. Louis, Missouri

Married: Hannah Hansen, Sep 1867, Endowment House, SLC, Utah

Died: 15 Jun 1908

John Conder, son of Edward and Ellen Pierce Conder, was born April 7, 1849, in St. Louis, Missouri, the eldest son of a family of nine. His parents joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and made preparations to gather with the Saints, leaving their home in the spring of 1850. They arrived in Salt Lake City in the fall of that year when John was 29 months old.

In the year 1852 the family moved to American Fork which they made their permanent home. His father worked mostly at farming, some little at timbering. John went to Provo valley and lived with Aunt Sarah Conder. While there he lost his younger brother, Edward.

John as a boy, was a great deal away from home. He went a great deal with Uncle Jack Shelley, as he was commonly called, hauling supplies to places along the Stage line, also assisting as teamster in hauling goods from Carson City to Salt Lake City for different stores there. This work was all done by ox team and required a great deal of time and exposure to cold and also to Indians, who were very troublesome to travelers. He arrived at one of the government stations called "Canyon Post" just after it was burned and the agent killed by the Indians.

In September he was married to Hannah Hansen, daughter of Christian and Inger Mortensen Hansen, in the Endowment House of Salt Lake City.

To this union eight children were born:

John, June 27, 1870	Inger, Oct. 30, 1880
Ernest, September 3, 1873	Claude, December 15, 1885
Oscar, March 25, 1875	Hannah Lovinia, April 11, 1888
Ellen, July, 1877	Emma

In the year 1879 diphtheria broke out in American Fork. Their Family consisted then of three boys and their baby girl, Ellen. Inside of two weeks all three of their boys were taken from them by this dreaded disease.

John died March 30, 1879 at the age of 8
Oscar died April 5, 1879 at the age of 4
Ernest died April 13, 1879 at the age of 6

Leaving them with only their baby girl, Ellen, then nearly two years old. This was indeed a severe trial to come to them in their early married life. Yet thru it all, their hearts were as one and struggle on together taking great comfort in their baby Ellen, for it seemed as though she was left to them for their comfort and blessing. Their home was then just below Robinson's Hill where the water works are now. What is known now as the Fourth ward.

In March 1888 they moved into their present home in the now Second Ward. Both parents being lovers of flowers their home was soon made beautiful, and Mother often said, when she died if she was with children and flowers she would be satisfied.

In September 1892 their daughter, Inger, was called by death. The four remaining children married as follows:

Ellen - Parley Smoot of Provo
Emma - Heber Cutler of Salt Lake City
Claud - Hilda Strong of Alpine
Davinia - Earl Varney of American Fork.

All left their home nest except Lavinia, who with her husband occupies part of the home which afterwards proved a blessing to father, for on June 15, 1908, mother was called to the great beyond, a sorrow indeed to the family, but we his 4 children, 19 grandchildren, and 3 great grand-children, are pleased our father and grandfather and great grandfather is still with us.

And we hope in our lives we may comfort and bless
That our joy may be ever for his happiness
That when Mother we meet, she may say to each one
You have done for your father what I would have done.