



LEANDER SARGENT HARRIS

1860-1945

Leander Sargent Harris was born 20 Apr 1860, in Harrisville, Weber, Utah. He was the son of Martin H. Harris and Louise Sargent. He was the grandson of Emer Harris, a man acknowledged in the 75th section of the Doctrine and Covenants, who was a brother of Martin Harris, one of the Three Witnesses to the Book of Mormon.

Leander grew up in Harrisville in a country atmosphere. He was baptized 14 June 1868. The Transcontinental Railroad was completed when he was nine years old. The Central Pacific Railroad passed through part of his parents' homestead. He often watched the railroads and dreamed of being a locomotive engineer.

When the First Quorum of Deacons was organized in Harrisville in 1877, Leander became a member. Later, he presided over the quorum for five years. He also was called as the secretary of the first Y.M.M.I.A. in Harrisville. Leander worked on the farm until he was 20 years old.

In 1880, he began working for the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad. They were working on a project constructing a rail line through Colorado over the mountains to Santa Fe, New Mexico. He worked for the railroad in various positions and locations.

He continued being active in the LDS church and was ordained a Seventy in 1883. He was a member of the 60th quorum of Seventy.

In 1887, he was promoted to the position of engineer and was paid \$3.85 per 100 miles. He ran the switch engine in Montana, Idaho, and Utah.

Leander joined Company A Second Brigade of Northern Nevada Guard in August 1888. In September he took a leave of absence and went home. On 19 September 1888, Leander Harris married Alice Jensen of Brigham City. They were the parents of three children, Florence P. (1889), Leland W. (1894), and Earl E. (1896). After his marriage he continued his work in the railroad working in various locations.

In 1894, the family moved to Harrisville. During that year he started digging an apple cellar, bought a span of horses, plowed up clover sod below the orchard, and harvested the fruit. He went to Cache Valley and sold the fruit. Later that year, Leander had some carpenters finish the granary and cellar. In 1894, Leander also took lessons on the piccolo.

He was called to act as first counselor to Bishop Levi J. Taylor, 1 October 1895 in the Weber Stake, Harrisville Ward.

In 1896, Leander noted, "On January 4th the flag of Statehood was hoisted. The proclamation was issued at 10:03 a.m. In January the price of butter was ten cents, and eggs were twenty-five cents." That fall, Leander made 350 gallons of apple cider.

Leander was called on a mission in May 1897, and served from 1897-1899 in the Eastern States. He worked in the West Pennsylvania conference. Leander's first wife, Alice, filed for divorce while he was on his mission in 1898. She and the children were gone when he got home from his mission.

After completing his mission, before he went home, he visited several large cities in the east doing genealogy. He was able to obtain the names of several hundred names of his early ancestors. He found they were pioneers to America and came from England to Boston in 1630. They sailed on the ship "Lyon" with Roger Williams, who founded Providence, Rhode Island, in 1636.

In October 1900, he married Eliza Barlow. Their children were Dorathea (1901), Myrtle (1903), Orvil (1906), Awell (1906), Alvian L. (1907), and Thomas S. (1914). The couple settled in Harrisville in the Harris homestead which Leander bought from his mother in 1893.

In February 1902 Leander took over the post office located in the grove. At the end of the year, he discontinued being with the post office.

In 1903 he was elected the water director and incorporated the Western Irrigation Company. In April of that year the family house caught fire, burning an upper bedroom.

Leander continued farming and working on the railroad. He also did a little prospecting. The family moved to Oregon in 1908 and stayed there until October 1910 working on the railroad. At that time he retired from the railroad.

After their return to Harrisville, the family continued farming and dry farming.

For many years Leander was a Sunday school worker, beginning as a Sunday School teacher when only sixteen years old. He served as clerk of the Harrisville LDS Ward and served in the bishopric for 20 years. He served a second mission in California in 1926. He was actively involved in temple work.

Leander also served as a school trustee for a number of years. He died 12 September 1945, from causes incident to age after a two day illness and is buried in the Ogden City Cemetery in Ogden, Weber, Utah.

SOURCE:

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Barlow, Eliza	Harris, Leland W.
Harris, Alice Jensen	Harris, Martin
Harris, Alvian L.	Harris, Martin H.
Harris, Awell	Harris, Myrtle
Harris, Dorathea	Harris, Orvil
Harris, Earl E.	Harris, Thomas S.
Harris, Eliza Barlow	Jensen, Alice
Harris, Emer	Sargent, Louisa
Harris, Florence P.	Taylor, Levi J.
Harris, Leander Sargent	Williams, Roger