



DUDLEY CHASE

1835-1906

On 27 May 1835, in Sparta, Livingston, New York, Dudley Chase was born to Ezra Chase and Tirzah Wells. While he was in his early childhood, his parents were contacted by missionaries of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and joined the church about 27 April 1839. Desiring to be with others of their faith, the family moved, first to Kirtland, Ohio, and then to Nauvoo, Illinois, in July 1841. In the fall of that year, they moved to a home and farmland about three miles southeast of Nauvoo.

Dudley's father became an ardent supporter of his new-found faith, and he was one of the men sent to Wisconsin to obtain lumber for building the Nauvoo Temple. He later was called on a mission to Cole County, Illinois, to explain to citizens the truth concerning the wrongful arrest of the Prophet Joseph Smith. Then, when persecution mounted, Ezra disposed of his farm property. Church leaders asked that he give the money to them to pay the fine that had been imposed on the Prophet.

The Chase family purchased a lot next to Heber C. Kimball in Nauvoo for \$900. When the Saints were driven from Nauvoo in 1846, Ezra sold this lot for a mere \$35, and joined the westward exodus in May 1846 with his family.

In late June they arrived at Trading Point on the Missouri River below Council Bluffs. In July they crossed the river and traveled north to Florence, where they spent the winter. On 7 August 1846, at a meeting of the Council of the Twelve Apostles, a decision was made to have the families on the west side of the river settle together, and a municipal high council was organized. Dudley's father Ezra was one of that council. In the spring of 1847, the families moved back across the river to Highland Grove, not far from Council Bluffs. In the spring of 1848, these families began their westward trek in the Lorenzo Snow Company, arriving in Salt Lake City on 20 September 1848.

Soon after the Chase family arrived in the Salt Lake Valley, they were asked to move and help settle Weber County. They built a log home on the north side of the Ogden River in Mound Fort and soon diverted some water out of the Ogden River for irrigation purposes.

That fall and winter Dudley and one of his brothers herded cows barefoot while the ground had a light covering of snow. They did this to save their shoes for more severe winter weather. The boys later related that they would let the cows lie down long enough to melt the snow, then they would make them move one at a time so they could enjoy the warmth left from the body of the cow.

Dudley's father Ezra had been conservative, placing all of his family members on rations from the time they left Nauvoo, so the family was never without food. They were able to raise a crop in their newly established home during the summer of 1849.

On 2 May 1850, the Chase family was called to accompany Brigham Young to colonize and carry the Gospel to the people in California. On 9 July 1850, they arrived at the head of Deer Creek, about ten miles west of Mud Springs, El Dorado, California. In September 1853, they settled in the San Jose Valley about seven miles east of San Jose City, and then in September 1856, they moved to San Bernardino. While there, Dudley met Samantha Crismon, daughter of Charles and Mary Hill Crismon, and they married on 19 July 1857.

On 24 July 1857, when church leaders became aware that Colonel Albert S. Johnston was being sent with his army to Utah to suppress the Mormon uprising, those who were serving missions were directed by church authorities to return to Utah. Accordingly, in December of that year the Chase family began their journey, traveling as far as Santa Clara, Utah, by January 1858, then on to Salt Lake City in August of that same year.

In December 1858, Dudley started for Los Angeles for freight, returning in April 1859. He took another journey to Sacramento for freight in June, returning in 1 May 1860. Both trips were made by ox team.

On 4 September 1861, Dudley moved with his wife and young daughter to Harrisville (now Farr West) where they homesteaded 160 acres of land. Existing records indicate that the land includes property in Farr West now lying west of 1200 West Street and south of West Harrisville Road. Dudley's family records indicate the family lived in a wagon box placed on the ground while he built a log cabin.

Dudley was called to serve a short term mission for the church to Vermont, and left home in November 1871. While laboring there, he walked into a field to contact some men who were working there. One man said in a not-too-friendly voice, "Well, if I was looking for a Chase to kill, you would be the first victim." Dudley countered, "I'm your man; that's my name."

On 25 Jul 1868, a petition was submitted to the Weber County Court to have the Harrisville district enlarged and made into a precinct. When the petition was approved, Dudley Chase was elected constable. In 1870, when leaders in Harrisville organized blacksmithing as an institution based on cooperative principles, Dudley was named treasurer of the organization. Four years later when the United Order was organized in Harrisville by Apostle Erastus Snow, Dudley was named one of the directors. On 28 May 1877, when the Harrisville Ward was first organized, Pleasant Green Taylor was sustained as bishop with counselors William C. Rawson and Dudley Chase.

Dudley and his first wife Samantha Crismon, whom he had married in San Bernardino, California, had five sons and five daughters: Luella Crismon Chase (1859), Dudley Wells Chase (1862), Charles Ezra Chase (1864), Mary Ellen Chase (1866), Cynthia Adeline Chase

(1869), George Frank Chase (1872), Henry Albert Chase (1874), Abby Gale Chase (1877), Juliett Chase (1879), and John Weiller Chase (1882). Samantha died 9 July 1899, in the family home in Farr West, Weber, Utah, and is buried in the Ogden City Cemetery.

On 30 May 1863, Dudley Chase took Emma Jane Dixon as a second wife in Salt Lake City. She was born 1 September 1846 in Council Bluffs, Pottawattamie, Iowa. She died 20 August 1863 (no children) in Harrisville and is buried in the Ogden City Cemetery.

He married a third time to Amanda Melvina Richardson, 15 August 1868, in Salt Lake City. They had four daughters and two sons: Tirzah Chase (1870), Ezra Chase (1871), Dudley Chase, Jr. (1872), Lola Ann Chase (1874), Elsie Chase (1875), and Nancy Elotta Chase (1878). She died 9 January 1913, in Ogden and is buried in the Ogden City Cemetery.

Dudley Chase died 24 February 1906, in Idaho Falls, Idaho. He is buried in the Ogden City Cemetery.

SOURCE:

Taylor, Brian L. "Dudley Chase, 1835-1906." Unpublished manuscript. 2006.

Chase, Abby Gale	Chase, Nancy Elotta
Chase, Amanda Melvina Richardson	Chase, Samantha Crismon
Chase, Charles Ezra	Chase, Tirzah
Chase, Cynthia Adeline	Chase, Tirzah Wells
Chase, Dudley Wells	Crismon, Charles
Chase, Dudley, Jr.	Crismon, Mary Hill
Chase, Elsie	Crismon, Samantha
Chase, Emma Jane Dixon	Dixon, Emma Jane
Chase, Ezra	Johnston, Col. Albert S.
Chase, Ezra Chase	Kimball, Heber C.
Chase, George Frank	Rawson, William C.
Chase, Henry Albert	Richardson, Amanda Melvina
Chase, John Weiller	Smith, Joseph
Chase, Juliett	Snow, Erastus
Chase, Lola Ann	Snow, Lorenzo Snow Company
Chase, Luella Crismon	Taylor, Pleasant Green
Chase, Mary Ellen	Wells, Tirzah
	Young, Brigham