

## **Silas Smith II (known as 2<sup>nd</sup> Silas) and Elizabeth Orton**

Written by Leona Bryner Christenson –granddaughter of Silas and Elizabeth. April 1980

Silas Smith was the youngest of Asael Jr. and Elizabeth Schellenger. He was born in Stockholm, St. Lawrence County, New York, June 6, 1822. He was baptized into the church on June 29<sup>th</sup>, 1835 by Lyman E. Johnson, at the same time his father and mother were baptized. He was age 13 years. He resided in East Stockholm, St. Lawrence County, New York, his birthplace, where most of Asael Smith I family resided at this time.

He was 8 years of age in 1830 when his grandfather, Aseal I, died, having read the Book of Mormon and declaring that his grandson, Joseph Smith, Jr. was indeed a prophet of God, and the one he had long known would come into his family. Silas was probably present at the burial of his grandfather.

In the spring of 1836, Silas Smith moved with his family (the Asael II (Asahel) Smith-Elizabeth Schellenger) from Stockholm, New York to Kirtland, Ohio to join the saints there and be with the family of the Prophet Joseph Smith, his cousin. Silas was almost 15 years of age when this move to Kirtland took place. He was present at the first Smith Family Reunion, May 17-18, 1836 honoring their aged grandmother Mary Duty Smith, age 93, held at the home of the Prophet Joseph Smith.

Silas, now age 22, assisted in the washing, dressing and preparing for burial, the bodies of Joseph, the Prophet and his brother Hyrum who were martyred in Carthage Jail, June 1844.

He was present at the meeting of saints when the mantle of Joseph Smith fell upon Brigham Young who became their leader and president of the church.

Silas married Elizabeth Orton 9 Feb. 1844. She was born in Lebanon, Clinton County, Illinois, 1 Jun. 1826 and was the daughter of William Reed Orton and Rebecca Heesy (Hewey). They received their endowments in the Nauvoo Temple 28 January 1846.

On April 17, 1845, a son was born to Silas and Elizabeth in Nashville, Lee County, Iowa, who as christened "Silas Marion".

As previously related, on August 17, 1846, the Aseal Smith party left Nashville, Lee County, Iowa on the perilous journey across the plains to Utah. Included in the camp were, Asael, Jr. and wife (Betsy) Elizabeth Schellenger Smith; his son Elias and wife Lucy Brown Smith, his youngest son Silas and wife Elizabeth Orton Smith and their small son Silas Marion; William Reed Orton and wife Rebecca Heesy (mother and father of Elizabeth) their nine children and several other saints.

They had 12 wagons, 17 yoke of oxen, on span of horses, 12 cows and some sheep. They traveled a few days and camped near Iowaville, Wapello County Iowa. Finding water and feed for their cattle, they stayed her for some time on account of illness and the death of their parents, Aseal, Jr. and Elizabeth Schellenger Smith. Elizabeth died 12 October 1846. Asael II died July 20, 1848.

They did not make another start until May 10, 1851. They arrived in Salt Lake City, 9 September 1852. Two children were born to Silas and Elizabeth while they camped in Iowa. They were Julia Elizabeth, born July 29, 1847 and Frederick Asael, 24 January 1850, both at Kanessville, Iowa.

On 15 September 1852, he bought a farm and moved the family to Provo, Utah. On 17 June 1853, Mary Jane was born (She is Louella Jones Downards's grandmother and lived in Spring Glen, Utah, near Price, Utah).

In 1854 Silas Smith was called on a mission to the Hawaiian Islands, known then as the "Sandwich Islands". He left Provo the morning of May 8, 1854, leaving a wife and four small children to provide for themselves from the produce from their farm. He was 32 years old. Several missionaries were in the group; they were: Silas S. Smith (cousin, being the son of First Silas and brother to Asael II) also, Joseph F. Smith (cousin, son of Hyrum and Mary Fielding Smith, and a future president of the church) age 15 yrs, 6 months (Joseph F. Smith born November 1838) Also, Ward E. Pack, Simpson M. Molen, George Spiers, Elie Bell, William Cluff and John R. Young.

Journal of Silas Smith –May 1854 to January 1858 ---

They traveled with Governor Brigham Young who was making a visit to southern settlements of Utah, by wagon train. They traveled only as far as Springville the first day, President Young held meetings along the way. It was 21 May by the time they arrived in Cedar City, Utah, and 11 July by the time they reached San Francisco, where they stayed long enough to earn money for their passage to the Islands. On 8 September, 1854, they sailed for Honolulu on board the vessel Vaquero, or Schooner Vaquero 4 months enroute. They arrived in Honolulu, 27 September 1854.

They were received hospitably by the natives. He (Silas) readily and easily learned the native language until he was able to stand up and bear his testimony in the Maori tongue and also preach the gospel. He was 32 years of age and probably the eldest in the new group of missionaries. Silas helped his cousin, Joseph F. Smith, age 16 (almost) the youngest missionary in the group, in adjusting, learning the language and not to succumb to home-sickness. They were missionary companions for several months. Their first field of labor was Kula, Maui, and in area near Kula.

On July 24, 1855, Conference was held at Palawai, Lanai, to which all the missionaries in the Islands attended. President Lewis was released and Silas Smith was ordained the new President of the mission.

(Taken from L.D.S Biographical Encyclopedia \*Volume 4 page 341---)

SILAS SMITH: President of the Hawaiian Mission from July 1855 to October 6 1857, was born 6 Jun 1822 in Stockholm, St. Lawrence County, New York, a son of Asael Smith and Elizabeth Shilling. He was baptized Aug. 27, 1835, came to Utah at an early day, and was called to fill a mission to the Pacific Isles, April 7, 1854. He arrived in Honolulu September 27, 1854, acted as president of the mission from July 24, 1855 to October 6 1857, and sailed on that day for home on the ship "Yankee". Elder Smith died June 11, 1892 in Meadow, Millard County, Utah.

In 1856 he organized and taught the first English School on the Islands. He did some masonry and carpenter work for 40 cents per day on the side in order to help keep himself on his mission.

He arrived home in Provo, Utah, January 19, 1858. He was made Bishop of Provo City. After his return home, he prospered exceedingly well. He first made his living by teaching school, then became a lawyer. He did well at this profession, serving as a district attorney and also as a probate judge. He owned much property in Provo, including a beautiful farm and estate on Provo River. Children born were: Prince Henry October 20, 1858, Franklin D. December 29, 1862 and Vienna, on June 16, 1864.

On February 9, 1858, Silas married Sarah Orton, his wife Elizabeth's younger sister, in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City, Utah. They were the parents of six children; only three of which lived to maturity.

In 1864, the church made a call to settle southern Utah. Silas Smith was called to leave his home and property and profession in Provo to help colonize Millard County. He sold his property and home at a great sacrifice and moved to Meadow, Millard County, Utah in 1865. Here they again suffered the hardships of pioneer life, the country being sagebrush plain with no roads, canals and farming being the only industry by which they could earn a living. While living in Millard County, Silas Smith and family were very active in the church and also in civic affairs. Silas helped to survey and lay out the towns and cities of Millard county. He also practiced law, owned farms and did stock-raising.

On October 8, 1869 Martha Eliza Smith was born. She grew in Meadow and married John Ulrich Bryner on January 1, 1894 and moved to Castle Valley (Helper and Price Carbon County, Utah)

Vienna Smith died on 17 August 1873 and was buried in Meadow, Utah Cemetery.

Silas died at his home in Meadow, June 11, 1892 and was buried in the Meadow, Utah Cemetery. His wife Elizabeth Orton Smith lived until November 27, 1902, at the home of her daughter, Mary Jane Rowley (Louella Jones Downard's grandmother) in Spring Glen, Carbon County, Utah. She was taken to Meadow for burial beside her husband Silas Smith. He was 70 years old and his wife, age 76 at the time of death.