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Date: **06/01/2024**

July 16, 1931 — January 9, 1912

E Claybourn M. Elder

History of Claybourn M. Elder

Written by Eva Elder Kelsey —

Grand Daughter

Claybourn M. Elder was

born in Bedford County, Tenn.,

June 2, 1827. He was the son of

David elder and Louise

Montgomery. He had one

brother, David Elder, who was

older and a sister, Martha Elder,

who was younger. They both

died at the age of four years.

His father died when he was

young leaving him and his

mother to face life alone.

His mother, feeling

downcast at the loss of her two

children and her husband

decided to take her young son

and move to Nauvoo. Clayborn

soon became acquainted with

the Prophet Joseph Smith. They

had many games of ball

together.

In his early youth he

suffered many hardships and persecutions that the saints were subjected to at that time. One day Clayborn and his friends were out flying kites when the mob came hunting Joseph. They asked the boys if any of them has seen Joseph. They said, "Yes, we saw Joe and Hyrum going to heaven on a white horse yesterday", and that they were now sending them their dinner in a basket on the tails of their kites. The mob left in disgust.

Later Clayborn's mother married again. Clayborn had a mind of his own and he resented his mother's marriage. It caused friction and unrest in the home and resulted in conflict between Clayborn and his stepfather. So

when he was fifteen years old he decided he would go for himself. It made his mother very unhappy but he insisted that she give him her consent, which she did, and from that time on he went his way and made his own livelihood.

In the year 1850 at the age of 23 he crossed the plains with an ox team company and upon his arrival in Utah he settled in Grantsville. He served through the Echo Canyon episode of the Indian War. He also served in the Walker and Blackhock Wars. While in Grantsville a courtship started between him and a young woman Mary Caroline Pratt and they were married in 1858. Clayborn was 31 years old. He and Mary had

five children.

In November of 1860 he married Martina Peterson of Denmark. Her first husband Gibbs joined the church in Denmark but could not stand the persecution they received. He did not want to come to Utah, but he let Martina make her own decision. So Martina with her baby girl Hannah and _ her brother Jorgen Peterson left Denmark, and crossed the plains in a handcart company. To this union seven children were born: Don Carlos, Maria Martina, Eli, Alfred, Clayborn Lorenzo, George and Florence May. Don Carlos was drowned in about the year 1874.

In 1861 with the two wives and three children, Clayborn

was called by Brigham Young to serve with General Wells to protect the Mormon people from Johnson's Army. There were twenty-five men in this group from Bradger, Utah, in Echo Canyon. While on _ this important mission, with the

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army outnumbering them several times they had to think fast. They kept riding their horses around the different ridges so Johnson's Army could see them against the skyline. They put their hats wrong side up, coats wrong side out and rode any way they could to make themselves look different to deceived the onlookers.

When Johnson's Army decided to make a treaty with Brigham Young so they could get into Utah, Johnson asked Brigham Young how many men he had in his army. President Young told him twenty-five. Johnson would not believe him. He said he had counted 150 men himself on the ridges.

In 18612 Clayborn was called by Brigham Young to go to Dixie to help squall the Indian disturbances in that section of the territory. He had the two wives and _ three children. They went though many hardships. One of their greatest hardships was finding something to eat. Their principle diet was came seed bread and sorghum.

Mary and Martina had their children one about every year for five years. In about 1863, Clayborn married Frances Elizabeth Pratt who was a sister to Mary. Frances was 19 years

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younger than Clayborn. To this union eleven children were born. At one time Clayborn and had three babies born, one to each of his wives, within three months of each other in 1864. Two were girls and one a boy. A short time later he married

Nancy Ott who was a widow
with one son David.

Clayborn was very active
all his life as well as a great
lover. He was always on the
move. He moved 23 times in
one year and he said it was not a
good time for moving either.
He moved from Kolob Co-op
cattle business to the sawmill,
which he bought and operated in
Mountain Dell. He left Dixie
and went to Parowan and got
another sawmill in the canyon.
Then he moved to Buckhorn
Springs where he stayed one
winter, then to a ranch called
Greenville below Beaver on the
river. This ranch location was
sometimes called Pan Cake. He
stayed here one summer and
then moved to Minersville, then
to Shauntie about 1875. His

wife Frances didn't move with
him this time. She and her five
children stayed in Minersville.
While in Shauntie, Clayborn
worked in a smelter. He then
moved to Iron City in Iron
County. He stayed here one
winter and worked in a foundry.
Then he decided to move to
Antelope Springs on the Cannon
Ranch about 40 miles southeast
of Saint George. He stayed
there one summer and then
moved to upper Kanab and
started on the McDonald
sawmill. Then he decided to
change and go to Leaman
sawmill 20 miles out of
Gendale. Here he purchased a
few mild cows, about 50 head.
Clayborn worked at the sawmill
and the women and children
took care of the cows, the

milking and the churning. Then they moved to Stanford Ranch in Arizona and stayed there for awhile. In the spring of 1885, Clayborn came back to Duncan City, Utah, and rented another sawmill on the Trumble

Mountains about 75 miles south of Saint George and operated it for four years. They would move into Saint George for the winter where the children could go to school. While at the mountain Clayborn and the older boys would run the mill and the younger boys and women would milk the fifty cows and make cheeses and butter.

The churn was a large wooden barrel with rockers on it. Two of the children could churn the butter by rocking

themselves to sleep one on each side of the churn. The butter was put into large wooden barrels and buried until someone went to Saint George and they would send it to market.

About 1880, Clayborn went to Arizona where they contracted grading on the Santa Fe Railroad. About this time a team of horses ran away and threw Clayborn out of the wagon and broke his legs between the knee and the thigh. He never had them set so it took about two years for them to heal. He went on crutches for some time and left with a limp.

They also had Indian troubles in Arizona. The Indians had been killing women and children. One day Frances

saw a bunch of Indians coming, so of course, she thought it was their turn next. She hurriedly took her children down to the creek and hid them in the willows. She left her son Jim at the house and told him to feed them melons as they had a large crop. When the Indians came

they asked Jim if squaw was afraid. He said, "yes." He fed the Indians melons and more melons until they could hold no more. They finally left, but the next day they saw the Indians coming again only there were more of them than the day before, so the woman took the children and left again, but this time Clayborn was home.

When the Indians rode up they asked about the squaws and the papooses and wanted him to

bring them back because they had a big deer all roasted and wanted to treat them. So Clayborn sent for the women and children and although they were scared, they came and enjoyed the meat. The Indians ate melons while the family ate meat.

In about 1873, while living in Dixie, confusion developed somehow and Martina secured a divorce from Clayborn and she took her children and moved to Kingston, Utah, and took up a homestead. Here she and the children worked clearing and breaking up the ground with their ox teams. The older boys went to work to earn money to help run the farm and to buy seed. The first year they raised 1,000 bushels of grain. Martina

spun wool from the sheep she
 raised and made clothes for her
 children. Before going to
 Kingston she lived a year or two
 in Parowan, Utah. While in
 Parowan she married a man
 named Paul Smith and had a
 little girl name Vivian. Martina
 got a divorce. She lived in
 Kingston until her family was
 grown and married. She built a
 small home in Junction three
 miles from her homestead where
 she lived until her death in
 1910. She was buried in the
 Junction Cemetery.

On April 19, 1887 at Saint

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George, Utah, Clayborn's wife Frances Elizabeth died in childbirth at the age of 41.

Clayborn stayed in Saint George until 1888 and then moved to Hinckley and lived there for five years. He then moved to Ferron, Emery County, and lived there until he was 80 years old. While at Ferron he met and married a Mrs. Fulsfer in 1908 at the age of 81. They only lived together a short time. Clayborn then went to Leamington and lived with his son Parley for three years.

Clayborn joined the church when he was 17 years old and always prided his connection with the church and retained a living testimony of the truthfulness of the Gospel. He was a very rugged type of man and always wore high top boots and a large hat. He was an excellent carpenter. He could build almost any kind of structure he decided upon. He was an apprentice carpenter in his youth and he helped to build the Prophet's mansion. He made the benches for and helped to build the school-house in Hinckley in 1875.

Clayborn was a very good musician. He could really make the old fiddle talk. He played for many a square dance in different communities and all the neighborhoods that he lived in throughout his life.

It is reported that 19 children survived him, 116 grandchildren and 26 great-great grandchildren.

Clayborn passed away at the home of his son Parley in Leamington, Willard County, Utah, on January 9, 1912. He was laid to rest in the Leamington City Cemetery.

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Back row l-r: George Henry elder, Maria Martine (Elder) Sudweeks, Clayborne Lorenzo Elder. Middle row: Joseph Alfred Elder, Hannah (Gibbs) Sudweeks, Micha Martine Margrete Katrine (Petersen) Gibbs Elder Smith, Eli Alonzo Elder. Front row: Vi-

vian (Smith) Barnson Green Stephens

Martina and her daughter Vivian never went by the name 'Smith'; they went by 'Elder'. The first time Vivian used her true maiden 'Smith' was on her wedding license. She never knew or saw her father Paul Smith until she married and had two children. He was on his way to Salt Lake Conference from Snowflake, Arizona on a wagon and was passing through town.