

Silas Horace Tracy 23 March 1830

This information is taken from the records of Weber Co. and much is learned from personal testimony of grand daughter Sarah Slater & Nellie Clark.

Grandfather-Silas Horace Tracy was born 23 March 1830 at Ellis Burgh, N.Y. the son of Caleb Tracy and Susanna Calvin the 13th child.

He was baptized a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in April 1844. Three older brothers were baptized about 1840, Moses, Lorenzo, Joseph.

Silas Horace married Almira Bebee (Beebe) in Kanessville, Iowa in June 1849 she had joined the L.D.S.Church in 1841.

Their first son was born 20 June 1850 and died the same day at Kanessville, Iowa. He was named James Thomas.

They had a total of twelve children: James, Lachonias Maroni, William Wilson, Eliza Ann, Susan Almira, Silas Horace, Caleb Edward, Sabriah, Abram, John Mount, Warren Franklin, and Ensign.

Sometime in 1851 they began the journey to the Salt Lake Valley.

His brother Moses had immigrated to the Valley with his family in 1850 with three brothers, Caleb Ensign, Joseph, and Lorenzo. Tracy,

Silas and Almira brought with them Almira's widowed mother Eliza (Elizabeth) Vorhus Boles (Beebe). Church records show that Silas Horace married his mother in law, Eliza, through the advice of the Church Authorities as she traveled west with them, and made her home with them until her death.

Almira told her granddaughter, Sara Ann Tracy Slater, they walked bare foot most of the way.

Upon arriving here in the Valley Silas located his brother Moses and family who had settled some distance north of Salt Lake City, on what is now known as 12 street in Ogden, Utah. They had built a log cabin close to a small river, now called Mill Creek, about a half mile west of what is now Washington Blvd.

At that time there were no roads, plenty of sage brush, wild animals and Indians and willows along the river. Silas settled his family close to his brother Moses.

A call came from the Church Authorities for the scattered settlers to build a fort and move into it as a protection against the Indians. The Tracy's tore down their log houses and moved them to Brigham's Fort, located about where 2nd St. is now. A short time

later they moved out and located about one mile west of their first location and on higher ground. This new location they called "Brooms Bench", one of the early settlers, John Broom, who later built the Broom Hotel on 25th and Wash. had settled there.

The reason for moving to higher ground was flooding conditions in the spring of the year. The little river was unable to carry the run off water from melting snow coming down the canyon.

The pioneers soon solved this problem by digging a new channel west from upper canyon road. This diverted the water. This is now the Ogden River. It was dug by hand.

Silas settled west of his brother Moses about one half mile. There he built a log cabin with an attic for sleeping quarters. The other three brothers left and went to California and Oregon.

The families must have moved south at the time of Johnsons trouble. The record shows Moses family moving south.

Almira and Silas were blessed with thirteen children.

March 9, 1858 Silas and Almira went to the Endowment House and were sealed for time and all eternity.

March 9 of 1859 Silas Horrace entered into polygamy and married Fanny Marilla Garner from North Ogden. They were married in the Endowment House and sealed.

Silas Horace was a farmer by trade. His land was very suitable for fruit, garden, and vegetables, the best melons in the valley. He was a lover of beauty, he soon had trees, flowers, and grass flourishing around their home. There was a cool refreshing spring at the south east corner of their home.

Moses passed away in Aug. 1858 about a month after their return from the south. He left his wife Nancy Naomi with four small children, the oldest eight years old.

They hadn't been able to plant crops because of the move south. Volunteer grain, roots and wild berries, were their food. For two years after her husband's death Nancy kept her family together.

Nancy was a great scripturian and quoted from the bible where it claims, "A brother should marry his brother's widow." Silas who had been helping her with the farm work, finally married her in April 1860. They had one daughter, Nancy Miranda, who married Alex Moyes. Nancy Naomi was 14 years older than Silas. Her children and his two wives were very much opposed to this marriage.

In 1869 the railroad was being built through Utah. Silas contracted to build a section between Ogden and Hot Springs. He took his

second wife, Fanny Marilla, and a young girl, Annie Tracy to do the cooking, washing and etc. He took his oldest sons along to help, as much as they could, to help lay the track. Their home was a box car pulled by horses. After they had completed their section of the railroad they worked as laborers and helped complete it until it met at Promontory Point. They were paid \$3,000.00 and some worthless railroad stock.

With \$2,000.00 they built an adobe house. A very beautiful home for those days. This home stands today, a credit to the builders, it is in very good condition. The Huggins family own and live in it now. When it was first built they often used the upstairs for neighborhood parties and dancing.

The two wives, Almira and Fanny, lived together for some time. They loved each other and got along very well together. Later Fanny Marilla moved to a home on a small tract of land owned by them. It was located in the northwest part of Marriott. This home was torn down later and the lumber used to help build the home where Sara Ann Tracy Slater now lives.

Almira was a sweet mild person and although she was opposed to the third marriage she accepted it. Fanny Marilla was of a different nature, a very good women, but she had spunk and determination. Later on abt 1878 she moved her family out to Park Valley, then to Yost, Utah.

A Bishop's court granted Fanny Marilla a divorce from Silas Horace the 17th Sept. 1879, two years before he died. She was granted the home she lived in and three acres of land, or \$150.00 in cash and some sheep.

At an early age Silas suffered from rheumatism and in his later life was confined to a wheelchair. From this chair he directed his son in the farming and watering. One time while watching the head gate a neighbor hit him over the head with a shovel. He never completely recovered from this attack.

When the railroad came through Ogden it was built through the Tracy property, with Moses Tracy on the east and Silas Horace on the west side of the tracks. Silas was known as the most honest and trustworthy man of his time. He passed away July 29 1881 at the age of 51.

This record is taken from the history of Silas Horace Tracy by Fern Devries. G.G. Granddaughter.

SILAS HORACE TRACY

We the Tracy family are now living in the 36th and 37th generation of our ancestry. The Tracy's have been traced back to the 8th generation.

Lt. Thomas Tracy of the 29th generation came to America from England in the year of 1636. He and his early descendants played an important part in the founding and settling of this great country of America.

Five generations later, the 34th, a descendant of Lt. Thomas Tracy was born in 1786. His name was Caleb Tracy. He was born in Vermont. He married Susannah Colvin and their union was blessed with nine sons and six daughters.

The youngest of these 15 children was our great grandfather, Silas Horace Tracy, born March 23, 1830 in Ellisburg, Jefferson County, New York.

When Horace was four years old his older brother Moses and wife joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. They left Ellisburg and joined the Saints in Farr West, Missouri and then went on to Nauvoo, Ill.

During the years they lived there Moses and his wife made three or four trips back to visit the Tracy family and explain the new message they had embraced. One trip, Moses' wife, Nancy stayed quite some time with them, while Moses fulfilled a mission.

When Silas Horace was fourteen years old he was baptized a member of the L.D.S. Church, in April 1844. Two other brothers, Joseph and Lorenzo had been baptized about the year of 1840.

The records do not record any other baptisms.

We next hear of Silas Horace in Kanesville, Ohio. Here he married Almira Bebee (Beebe) in June 1849. She had joined the L.D.S. Church in 1841.

May 24th, 1853 their third son was born, William Willson Tracy, (father to Sarah Ann Tracy Slater).

This couple, Almira and Silas Horace, were blessed with thirteen children. James Moroni born 20 June 1850 died at birth.

Lachonias Moroni born 14 July 1851, William Wilson 24 May 1853, Eliza Ann 4 Dec. 1854, Susan Almira 21 April 1857, Silas Horace 24 Oct. 1858, Caleb Edward Sept 1859, (he passed away when 10 months old) Sabra Sophroni 18 Mar 1862, Abram 24 Nov. 1863, (he died when two years old) John Mount 24 Aug 1865, Warren Franklin 21 Nov. 1867, and Ensign Lorenzo 14 Dec 1870.

March 9th 1858 Silas Horace and Almira went through the Endowment House and were sealed for time and eternity.

At an early age Silas suffered from rheumatism and in his later life was confined to a wheel chair. From this chair he directed his sons in the farming and watering. One time while he was watching the head gate, a neighbor hit him over the head with a shovel. He never completely recovered from the attack.

He passed away 29 July 1881 at the age of 51. Seven of his 13 children, by his wife Almira, preceded him in death.

One daughter Susan Almira passed away at the age of 21 a few days before his death 18 July 1881. Eliza Ann died at the age of 25, 17 March 1879 leaving five small children in the grandparents care.

Sabra Sophonia, a young lady of 17 passed away the same year as her sister 20 Feb 1879. Lachonias was 18 when he passed away.

He had swallowed some sample pills and suffered for sometime from this before his death in Dec. 1869. The other children died in infancy.

The loss of these children was very saddening and heartbreaking to this couple.

Ensign, the youngest son by Almira said, "They were blessed with wonderful parents, kind, loving, honest, charitable and religious. They made for their children a beautiful and happy home."

Ensign said his father was a stocky man of sandy complexion.

P.S. Church records show Silas Horace married his mother-in-law Eliza (Elizabeth) Vorhus Boles Beebe, through the advice of Church Authorities as she traveled west with them. Then she made her home with them after arriving her until her death.

This marriage was unknown to his descendants until later years while hunting genealogy in the library at Salt Lake City.

This history was written by Fern Slater Devries (G.G. Granddaughter)

Additional notes in another copy of a history written by Fern Devries.

1. His three brothers that left the S.L. Valley are reported as going to Oregon and California.
2. The amount received from the railroad is reported as \$3,000.00 with \$2,000.00 of it being used to build the house.
3. When the railroad came through Ogden it was built through the Tracy property, with Moses Tracy on the east and Silas Horace on the west side of the tracks.
4. Silas was known as the most honest and trustworthy man of his time.