

David Edward Tracy born 5 April 1886

Life story of David Edward Tracy by Bernice Tracy Thompson, his daughter. 5 April 1886

My father, David Edward Tracy, was born 5 April 1886, to David Samuel Tracy and Rebecca Harriet Taylor, at Yost, Box Elder County, Utah. David Samuel Tracy was the son of Sills Horace Tracy and Fanny Marilla Garner. Rebecca Harriet Taylor was the daughter of William Joseph Taylor and Rebecca Harris, who were all members of the church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

My father, David Edward, was born in a one-room log cabin with a bedroom added on by tacking a wagon cover to some ridge poles. He was the second child. There was one sister older than him, Fanny Elizabeth, born 6 October 1884. He had five brothers and six sisters younger than him. Mary Lavina, born 8 April 1888, Andrew, born 18 April 1890, Rosetta, born 17 January 1892, Lydia Jane, born 5 March 1894, Evelyn, born 19 May 1896, Anthon Edgar, born 23 May 1898, Ida Lillie, born 5 June 1900, William Silas, born 25 July 1902, Nellie Rebecca, born 21 April 1905, Charles Weldon, born 18 November 1906 and Oscar Taft, born 4 March 1909.

Father was not born under the covenant but was sealed to his parents in the Logan Temple, 13 September 1893.

Father was blessed 4 July 1886 by E.D. Mecham. He grew up on the farm doing chores and things that other boys were required to do. He especially liked working with horses. At age four he had scarlet fever, his sister Mary, who was two years old, died at that time with the disease.

At age five and a half he started school; it was the first school in Yost, built of logs with a dirt roof. It was furnished with a stove in the center of the cabin with a home made table and benches. They all sat around the table and his sister Fanny Elizabeth said "those of us who couldn't reach the floor had our legs go to sleep. Dave (my father) liked to sleep in school. The teacher used to remark "please be quite, Dave is asleep. Don't wake him up as he is quite when he asleep. Which he never is when awake".

Father was baptized 5 July 1894 by A. Chadwick and confirmed 5 July 1894 by John Beus.

When he was eleven years old he hooked up the horses and took his mother up to Randall's where his father was shearing sheep. On the way home he jumped from the wagon when it appeared it was going to tip over and fell and broke his arm. His mother set the arm as best she could but it left it a little crooked. About that time he had inflammatory rheumatism which may have been the reason for his heart trouble in later life.

He was ordained a Deacon 25 March 1900 by Thomas O. King.

As he grew a little older he helped his father in the store, which they owned. Later he drove the freight wagon. One trip he lost the nut from the wheel and the hub came off the hind wheel of the third wagon, he didn't notice it until the wheel fell off. He had to walk several miles back, late at night, for help. Later he bought an old chain driven truck with hard rubber tires to haul freight.

As he grew to early manhood he took up the occupation of shearing sheep and he became quite skilled at the trade always trying to do his best. In his own words he said "during the years from 1903 to 1906 I became somewhat wayward and rambled about some herding sheep and riding the range and did some things that I do not care to record but they are recorded in my memory". In 1906 he received a call to fill a mission which started him back on the right track. He was ordained an Elder 2 September 1906 by John H. Kroencke.

He met my mother (Mary Elizabeth Richins, daughter of Lorenzo Richins and Lissey Barber) at Yost when he was about 18 years old. They met at church and after about two years they were married 3 October 1906 in the Salt Lake Temple and seven days later he left for his mission, 10 October 1906, in the Southern States mission. He served a faithful and rewarding mission and was very happy.

When he came home he and my mother set up housekeeping in a little log house in Grouse Creek, Utah. He worked at any kind of work he could get. It was here that their first boy was born on 28 July 1909. They named him Lorenzo David. When Lorenzo was about a year old they moved to Yost where they lived with Dave's father and mother for awhile.

It was in Yost that their second son was born on 9 July 1911. They named him Herbert Lester. Later they moved back to Grouse Creek into the same log cabin they had lived in before. There their third child, a girl, Bernice Larena, was born 23 September 1913. They went back to Yost shortly after the birth of Bernice and lived on a farm adjoining his father's place. It was about this time that he had typhoid fever and was very sick. Also during this time he supplemented his earnings by shearing sheep and also herding them.

He was also sheriff for awhile and had quite a few interesting experiences. At one time some men were shooting out the lights at the church and father got the double barreled shotgun and put rock salt in it and shot them, not a deadly shot but a discouraging one. He also had to arrest a man when the man pulled a knife on him.

During this time he also had the mumps, which went down on him and he was very sick with them.

During the flue epidemic of 1919 many of the people of Yost died of the dread disease and some of them were kept in our granary until

father could make coffins for them. He also had to take care of mother and the three children who had the flue.

In 1920 he and his family were called to Malta, Idaho to live and help set up the Raft River Stake Headquarters. He bought a farm from Jesse Shill. It was hard work and not enough water so he dug a large well and pumped water for irrigation. He had quite a few horses and loved working with them. I have seen him cry when anything happened to one of them.

He was sheriff at Malta. One time he had to go after a man named Booth, who had a whiskey still in his home. He drank his own whiskey and when he was drunk he would beat up on his wife. So when father went there Mrs. Booth gave him the starter he used to make the whiskey.

During the depression years of the 30's father worked very hard, and was often worried about taking care of his family. He worked with Joseph Lee at the sawmill for a while. On 30 December 1930 he and Brother Lee went to Arizona to work to provide for their families. During these years he also worked for different people around Malta. He contracted to furnish gravel for the highway when it was built through Malta. About this time he had his teeth pulled and caught cold in his gums. He was very sick and had to have his jaw operated on, leaving a scar on his left cheek. Then while shearing sheep at Delta, Utah he got sick and had to go to the hospital where they operated on him and found a knot tied in his intestines.

He was ordained a Seventy 2 May 1920 by Charles W. Hart, also set apart as one of the Presidents of the Seventies the same day by Brother Hart.

He was ordained a High Priest 6 June 1926 by Stephen L. Richards. At the end of a two week mission in the Albion Ward he received a patriarchal blessing from Thomas E. Harper 17 January 1920.

He was very active in the church, often walking two miles to his meetings. Many times the visitors from Salt Lake stayed at our house. My father also served on the High Council in the Raft River Stake.

Father loved sports, especially baseball, and was good at it. He organized many father and sons outings. The church at that time had set Saturday afternoon to be with the family and father would quit haying or whatever he was doing to spend the time with us.

He used to haul wood from the hills around Malta, which would be a trip of about twenty to thirty miles. He and Lorenzo would take the horses and snake the wood down while Lester did the trimming.

Mother and I would stay at home and do the chores and work that was needed to be done while they were gone.

In 1930 he had to go to the hospital again for a double hernia operation. At the same time I was in the hospital with an operation for removal of my appendix.

He left the farm in 1932 and moved into the town of Malta where he operated a shoe repair shop in the old officer building. In 1936 they moved to Burley, Idaho where he did carpenter work.

He was a very good carpenter and worked at that occupation as long as his health was good. While on one job he cut off his thumb.

He developed a very bad heart and for about ten years he had to be very careful what he did, but he always attended church and was very knowledgeable in church doctrine and was called on many times to interpret it. During his life he taught in the Sunday school, religion classes and different priesthood classes. Besides he served in many Stake positions.

At the time of our graduation from high school (all three of his children graduated at the same time) father was away from home working and didn't come home to see us graduate because he felt it was his duty to work and he wouldn't shirk his duty. Years later he told me how bad he felt about not being there.

He was always careful about what we children did or read. At one time my grandmother Richins sent me the book "Tempest and Sunshine" for Christmas. Father read it through Christmas Eve to be sure it was what he would have me read.

My father had quite a temper and at times we children were somewhat afraid of him, but we loved him very much and knew that most of the times he lost his temper was because of worry and problems and stress he had to contend with. At one time he fell from a roof of a building and hurt his back. It troubled him for a long time but one day he got angry at a cow and picked up the milking stool and hit her with it, in doing this he popped his back again and from that time on it never hurt him. He had many a laugh over this.

Father loved the hills and the trees and all of the beauties of nature. His heart finally gave out on him in the morning of 1 May 1954 and he quietly passed away. He was buried in the cemetery at Burley, Idaho. He was a man respected and loved by all who knew him.