

JOHN BROWN WAYMENT AND SARAH EAST

Several short sketches on the lives of John and Sarah (as they will be referred to hereafter) have been carefully checked for ideas. Older members of the families have been contacted and incidents they described have been duly considered. Ship records, records in the Weber County Recorder's Office, Church records in the Genealogical Library and records of the Norwich Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which included Whaddon, Bassingbourne and other communities in Cambridgeshire, England, and the personal records of John and Sarah East Wayment have been checked to verify dates and events. From these and the personal knowledge of the writer the following biographies have been written. These are not complete and revisions or additions will be made as more verifiable information comes to light.

John Brown Wayment, born Thursday, April 13, 1854, was the sixth child and fifth son of William and Martha Brown Wayment. Two older brothers (Aaron born November 14, 1842, who died the following day, and William, born March 1, 1849 and died in June 1850) were deceased before John was born. So he knew Joseph and Samuel as older brothers and Emily as an older sister. He had one younger brother William Thomas and a younger sister Martha.

John was born into a family of modest means, but of high character. We assume, as was the custom and as his older brothers had done, that John went to work at an early age. He likely wore the same kind of smock clothing that other children of the area wore. This clothing has been described as resembling a long sack with sleeves set in the corners and a hole in the end between the sleeves to put your head through. It came down below the knees which prevented a person taking a long step. To run or jump a ditch it had to be pulled up. Often the jumper landed in the water of the ditch, much to his embarrassment and to the amusement of others. If the smock became wet it seemed to shrink and cling to the body. Usually one had to have help to get out of a wet smock. John probably would have had his share of such experiences.

Of John's life in England, his son Nephi told that his father

worked on the farms in the Whaddon area. Among other things, he learned to stand the bundles of grain up in small groups, called "shocks" to dry. When dry the grain was stacked in high pointed stacks to shed the rain while waiting the threshing. One time when a tall stack was finished, John and a man were at the top. Someone asked how they would get the boy down, someone else said to just throw him down. That is about what the man did, and John's brother Samuel gave him a flogging for it. John suffered a broken leg that put him in a hospital for three weeks.

The Wayments (spelled Whayment, then) were a religious family. They attended the church of the community, but when missionaries of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints came into the area they recognized the truth of their message. John's father was baptized May 28, 1850, and his mother was baptized May 1, 1857. This Wayment home became a center for the missionaries to hold meetings, also for food and rest. So John was acquainted with the missionaries and the principles of the gospel. On May 7, 1860, when John was six, he watched his brothers Joseph and Samuel and his sister Emily be baptized into the L.D.S. Church, done at night to avoid mobs.

In the summer of 1863, John, then age nine, watched with mixed emotions as his brother Joseph, whom he had looked up to all his life, pick up his luggage and leave home on his way to emigrate to America. Joseph booked passage on the ship AMAZON with 881 other saints and sailed from London, England. (This group of Mormon saints and their trip on the Amazon were the subject of an article in the March 1980, issue of the L.D.S. Magazine the ENSIGN.)

Three years passed and John, now age twelve, was baptized into the L.D.S. Church by John Jacklin on April 15, 1866. Six years later, March 4, 1872, John was ordained a priest in the Aaronic Priesthood by George Wilkins in Whaddon. This was an important time for John, because he was undoubtedly making plans to join his brothers Joseph and Samuel in America. Samuel and his bride had emigrated to America in 1868 with a group of 449 saints on the ship CONSTITUTION.

John worked and saved money. By the summer of 1873 he was ready to leave for America. He booked passage on the 2,000 ton ship NEVADA with a group of 283 saints and sailed from Liverpool, England July 9, 1873. This group of saints was under the leadership of Elijah A. Box. We have no information of life on the ship, but Nephi and Laurence said their father did not get seasick. On the ship list his name appears as John Waymont, age 19.

The boat arrived in New York Harbor July 23, 1873. In New York City John saw his first tomatoes and they looked so beautiful. It is reported that he said that they were the prettiest fruit he had ever seen. He used some of his meager funds and bought one. When he bit into it--What a shock! It was the nastiest thing he had ever tasted!

At New York City, John boarded the railroad train with the other saints and they came across the continent. Here again, we have no information of life on the train. (However, from other sources, we know that at depots or stopping places the saints could leave the train and buy fruits, vegetables and other food stuffs. Some places vendors came onto the train and peddled their foods to the passengers.) The group arrived in Salt Lake City, Utah Territory on August 1, 1873. But John was met in Ogden by his brother Joseph who took him under his wing. They set up bachelor's quarters in Joseph's cabin in Salt Creek (now Warren) Weber County, Utah Territory.

John lived with Joseph and probably found work with him and other settlers in Salt Creek and Plain City. Nephi stated that his father worked a lot for Lyman Skeen and lived with them at times. He probably lived there after his brother Joseph was married on Friday, August 7, 1874, which broke up "bachelor's quarters."

In 1876 the George East family moved into Salt Creek and almost immediately had an effect on John Waymont's life. The East and Waymont families were friends in England. They both listened to the messages of the L.D.S. missionaries and members of each family were baptized into the Church.

Responding to the instructions of the missionaries to emigrate

to America, the East family booked passage with a group of 322 saints on the ship WYOMING and sailed from Liverpool, England, September 23, 1876. Crossing the continent by train, the main body of saints arrived in Salt Lake City on October 3, 1876. The East family spent a short time at Lehi, then moved up to Salt Creek in Weber County. It should be noted that the two oldest children of this East family--Amos age twenty-two and William G. age nineteen, chose to remain in England when the rest of the family came to America. George East learned horticulture in England and wherever he settled he planted fruit and shade trees.

After the George East family settled in Salt Creek, John renewed his acquaintance with them. His eyes fell upon their petite young daughter, Sarah. Their ideas and aspirations proved compatible and they made plans to be married. On October 1, 1877, Charles F. Middleton married this petite young lady, fifteen and a half years of age and weighing less than a hundred pounds, to John B. Waymont, a man 5 feet 10 inches tall and eight years her senior.

Sarah East, daughter of George and Rhoda Stanford East, was born Saturday, April 12, 1862, in Bassingbourne, Cambridgeshire, England. She was the fourth child and first daughter in a family of eleven children--nine boys and two girls. They were, in order of their birth: Amos, William G., Joseph, Variah, Sarah, David, James, George, Henry, Naomi Florence, Frank, and Phillip who was born in Utah.

Very little is known about Sarah's girlhood in England, but from a granddaughter, Afton Waymont, we learn that she had poor health. From the Whaddon Branch records we find that Sarah was baptized into the L.D.S. Church April 4, 1876, by William Waymont, who later became her father-in-law. This was just eight days before her fourteenth birthday and fourteen days before her brother Frank was born.

Sarah and John set up housekeeping in Warren, where Sarah began a long history of keeping a neat home. With loving care she became a good mother and a helpmate to her husband. She cooked substantial meals, washed prodigious amounts of clothing, bottled

"orchards" of fruit, and raised thirteen children--eleven boys and two girls.

The first few years of their married life were rather unsettled as they looked for a permanent place to set their roots. Their first child, John, was born Sunday, July 21, 1878, in Warren. Two years later they were living in Slaterville where John had gone to work on a farm. Nephi told that his father fished and hunted on Mill Creek that ran through the area to supplement their food supply with fish and wild ducks. While in Slaterville, George William, their second child was born Sunday, April 18, 1880. A year and a half later they were in Plain City where their third child Cornelius (Neal) was born Sunday, January 1, 1882. Neal's place of birth is affirmed by his daughter, Mae Wayment East.

John probably worked for Lyman Skeen or members of the Skeen family. While thus engaged, their fourth child and first daughter, Emily Laura, was born Sunday, June 22, 1884. A short time later they moved to Warren and made their home in a log cabin built by John, one of the first in Warren, that stood where Theodore Wayment lived on the east side of 5900 West and about 1238 North, where Weston Wayment now resides (April 1980). Three of their children were born there.

The first of the three children was Charles, born Sunday, November 14, 1886. Charles' birthplace is affirmed by his daughter Afton Wayment. Two years passed and another son, Ezra, was born there Monday, December 10, 1888.

On one occasion, John had his eldest son, also John, with him when some embarrassment developed over the boy picking some fruit. It so upset the father that he resolved that he would plant orchards of many kinds of fruit, so that his family would have plenty of fruit to eat. In this he probably got help from his father-in-law, George East, who had learned horticulture in England. Many of John's family and friends have enjoyed fruits from his orchards. Another fruit he cultivated was watermelons, the quality and sweetness of them were well known.

In the summer of 1889, tragedy struck the family when John their eldest child died Friday, July 19th, from blood poisoning after he stepped

on a rusty nail. It wounded his heel. Infection set in which they could not stop. He was buried in the Plain City Cemetery (some years later his body was moved to the Warren Cemetery). The members of the family strengthened each other and they moved ahead in their day-to-day living. Two short years later the vacancy in the family was partly filled when another boy was born Friday, May 1, 1891, whom they named Rodney.

In the winter of 1893, John and Sarah completed preparations and went to the Logan Temple on February 23rd, where they received their endowments and had their marriage sealed.

From an interview with Laurence Wayment, reported by his nephew Elvin T. Wayment, we learn that in the spring of 1893, John moved his family to a farming area about 3 miles west of the main part of Warren that was referred to as the "Range." They lived in a log cabin that was built on some property he was homesteading.

Laurence was born there, Wednesday, November 1, 1893. Three other children were born there also: Joseph on Thursday, April 16, 1896; Basil on Saturday September 24, 1898, and Ruth Afton born Wednesday, January 2, 1901. Nephi said he remembers his parents talking about pasting paper over some cracks in the wall to keep the wind and cold out. This was to fill the chinks between the logs and probably some places along the perpendicular boards of the lean-to.

When the Indians came around they would try to peek through the cracks to see if anyone was home. Sarah fed lots of Indians, especially in Slaterville.

During the 1890's a very important irrigation project was completed to the Warren-West Warren areas. A large canal was built to carry water to the farms, financed by an electric and railroad Co. for \$85,000. John and 3 of his brothers, Joseph, Samuel and William T., contracted to do the work on part of this project, above Four Mile. After the canal was completed in 1896-98, John was the first water-master to look after the canal. John gave the company a right-of-way for the canal to be built across his property.

An incident happened while John and his family were living on the Range that shows the great strength of faith that he had. John's sister, Martha W. East, and her family were living in the same area. Their baby daughter Lola, became very ill with whooping cough. Late one evening two of the boys, Alvin and Earl, were sent by their mother to go and get Uncle John to come and administer to the baby.

The following is in essence what the writer heard O. Earl East tell:

We could tell by the tone of voice and the expression on mother's face that it was serious. We ran practically all the way over to Uncle John's house. He left immediately and walked so fast it kept us almost on the run to keep up with him. Earl said, "I was so frightened and took hold of Uncle John's hand. I could feel a strength from him." He said his uncle John had great faith and that Lola began almost immediately to get well after the administration.

Lola's sister Irene E. Rose, said she remembered this incident. And that shortly after Uncle John had administered to Lola, she showed signs of getting better.

John was involved in homesteading and purchasing land on the Range area. He received Patents for two parcels of land. (A "Patent" is an official document which secures the right of ownership to land given by the United States Government after certain requirements were met.) The first Patent was for 160 acres. It was filed in the Weber County Recorder's Office January 21, 1899. The second one for 159.32 acres was filed April 1, 1899. Both of these pieces of land were in Section IV, Township Six North, Range Three West of the Salt Lake Meridian. We have thought it not pertinent to research further to determine about lands he purchased.

About 1901 or 1902, John moved his family back into the center of Warren, into a home that had been built on some property that he had purchased. It is located about 1089 North on 5900 West. This became their home the rest of their lives. Two more children were born

into the family in this home: Nephi Brown Wayment on Tuesday, October 27, 1903 and Elmo Glen Wayment on Monday, July 23, 1906.

John and Sarah were good neighbors and supported projects for the benefit of the community. They were also kept busy with events in the lives of their children. They supported their son Neal on an L.D.S. mission to Kansas City, Missouri from January 14, 1903 to March 24, 1905. Neal had been gone only a few months when his brother George married Mary Melvina Thomas, daughter of James Madison Thomas and Mary Geddes, in the Salt Lake L.D.S. Temple on May 20, 1903. Neal returned after a successful mission, and a few months later he married Cedenia Willis, daughter of Merrell Erastus and Nancy Cedenia Bagley Willis, on June 21, 1905 in the Salt Lake Temple. A short time later Laura accepted the courtship of Arnold Elmer Rose, a widower with four children, and they were married December 19, 1906. Elmer's parents were William Arnold and Agnes Ann Calihan Rose.

There was music in the family. John, their father, had a good voice and sang many songs to his children and grandchildren. George inherited a good voice and loved to sing. Joseph had an excellent voice, deep and resonant. He had some training from Douglas Brian, and sang more in public than any of the others. Nephi played the mandolin. Basil loved to play the mouth organ. Laurence said that Joe had a deep voice and sang at public gatherings until he was stopped by cancer of the throat. Nephi also played the violin. After his marriage he and his wife played piano and violin for children's dances for several years.

John and Sarah were kept busy with their family, making a living and encouraging them to assume their responsibilities with their families. They enjoyed the grandchildren as they came along. The children continued one by one to move out on their own. On July 3, 1910, Ezra, their sixth child, married Jessie Kenley, daughter of William Small Kenley and Katherine Garden.

Sorrow swept over the family when Neal's wife Cedenia passed away February 14, 1911, leaving three small daughters, ages 4-1/2, 3-1/2, and 1-1/2. Relatives helped Neal in providing homes for the girls.

Sarah was handy in helping sick people, but a second tragedy struck the family that required help beyond her ability. Their second daughter, Ruth Afton, became a victim of fast acting diphtheria and died October 3, 1912. She was only eleven years and nine months of age. All the family and many friends were saddened by her sudden passing. Again the family pulled together and life returned to normal activities.

John became involved with an activity that was somewhat different from his neighbors. His son George bought a net to seine fish in the Little Weber River. Circumstances changed for George, so John and his son Laurence paid for the net. It was used many times, even by business friends from Ogden, who came out to seine more as a sport. This was not fishing to make money. The fish they caught were given to other people. When seining was done, the game warden was often there to check. The fishermen were allowed to keep only the carp and suckers. Game fish like bass and trout had to be thrown back immediately. Laurence and Nephi both worked on the seine. Vernal Wayment, a cousin to the boys, affirmed the seining and the checking by the game warden. Laurence said his sharpest memories of being tired were from pulling on that fish net.

The boys participated in the summer Farm Bureau Baseball League and helped win many games. Every fall there was duck hunting as well as harvesting of crops. John was always one of the first, if not the first, to start digging sugar beets each year. In the winter there were the jack rabbit drives, trapping for furs, sleighriding and community events.

Starting in 1915, Rodney pressed his courtship with one of the Bullock girls. Everything went well and he married Ellen Bullock, daughter of Thomas Henry and Jane McBride Bullock on October 27, 1915. This happened to be the same day Nephi turned twelve years old. Two years later Rodney and Ellen got their endowments and were sealed in the Salt Lake Temple on September 13, 1917.

On February 28, 1916 Neal married Ada Mae Rose. She was the daughter of Arnold Elmer and Mariah Eveline Taylor Rose.

Two old school buildings had been condemned. They were at Warren and Burch Creek, and John was employed as supervisor for the tearing down of these buildings. All seemed to go well in razing the building at Warren. Some of the men that worked on the Warren building also went with John to the Burch Creek job. One day as they were working on the walls, there was some misjudgment, as a sudden gust of wind caused a section of wall to topple, crushing one of the workers. John's son-in-law, A. Elmer Rose, Laura's husband, was killed, on July 1, 1916. The nature of this death, so sudden and unexpected, affected most everyone in the community. Laura was left with six children to look after for a while.

In late summer 1916, two young women, Marie Winn and Beth Groebli, came to Warren to teach school. They boarded at the home of Arthur and Hazel Marriott. One of these young women, Beth Groebli, stirred a responsive note in Charles. After a period of courtship, Charles and Katharina Elizabeth (Beth) Groebli were married on November 1, 1917 at the Court House in Logan, Utah. She was the daughter of Jacob Albert and Elizabeth Rhoner Groebli.

John and Sarah were helpful where they could be with their children's families. They assisted both Neal and Laura during their problems. Their daughter Laura, feeling very much alone, accepted the courtship of Ora "L" Lake, son of Heman and Amy Friezt Lake, and they were married May 23, 1918.

World War I was raging in Europe. Its effects were felt in Warren. Among others Laurence enlisted. Joseph was also in for a while but was discharged because of a throat infection. Laurence served about eight months before the Armistice.

The year 1918 saw a great flu epidemic sweep across the United States. The people of Warren were not spared. There was much illness and some sorrow. This was another time when Sarah used her skill in helping the sick, including members of her own family. John assisted her as much as he could. Their family survived the first two years of the flu, but their son George was stricken and died of the flu February 7, 1920, leaving a wife and nine children. They were living in Abraham, Millard County, Utah. It was a hard

time for them.

There were two chores in the house that John claimed and did. For years he took care of the yeast for making bread. He watched it "work," and added the necessary ingredients to keep it alive and have enough when needed to make bread. With a large family, that was often. Another chore in the house he always did was keeping the coal oil lamp chimneys clean. Each evening John could be seen checking the lamps for oil and cleaning the chimneys if needed.

Nephi reported that George W. Larkin, associated with the Larkin Mortuary, and John B. Wayment grew up together in England. After both came to Utah, they continued as friends. Later in life, George Larkin became very ill. John went to see him. At the same time the President of the L.D.S. Church came to see him. They visited while waiting and John told of his friendship with Larkin. When they were told that one at a time they could visit with Larkin, John deferred to the President of the L.D.S. Church, but the President said that a boyhood friend went before the Church President.

Laurence said of his father, "He was a good talker." Nephi added, that "he had the ability to meet and talk to people." Both sons emphasized that their father was not given to loud or boisterous talking. Laurence stated further that his father was stern, but kind. He always knew what he had to do and did it. He helped his boys with their teams and farm work when they had special problems. Laurence had a team of high spirited Morgan horses that when hitched up they usually took the wagon out of the yard on the run, and were not always easy to handle. John would often ride with Laurence to help to control them.

John was big hearted with his friends and neighbors and would give them his last piece of bread or dime if he thought they needed it worse than he.

Melvina T. Wayment, a daughter-in-law said that her father-in-law was an honest man and a good citizen.

John was acquainted with David Eccles, and hauled logs from

the mountains east of Ogden for him when he opened his lumberyard in Ogden. John used the running gears of his wagon to haul the logs down from as far east as the edge of Monte Cristo, and later even on top of the mountain. These trips usually took several days and nights in the mountains.

In 1916 John bought one of the first Model T Ford cars in Warren. This was somewhat of a trial in his life. One day when driving into the yard he misjudged and took the gate and gate post out. Another time he ran against the material at the end of the leanto of the granary and killed a setting hen and broke her eggs she was setting on. Another time when he drove into the garage he yelled "Whoa!" but the car went right on through the end of the garage before he could collect his thoughts and remembered what to do. But he did continue to drive the car and handle it well. They made some lengthy trips, down to the Delta area and up to Paul, Idaho where their daughter Laura was living with her family.

Laura's son, John Rose, remembers his grandfather walking out in the field where they were digging potatoes, "spuds" as they were called in Idaho, beautiful long Idaho Russetts. John Rose said his grandfather was so thrilled he picked up an armful of "spuds" like an armful of firewood and carried them back to the car.

When a railroad spur was built from Plain City to Warren about 1918, John was a construction foreman.

John was always up early to get his chores done to be ready for the days work.

Nephi said, "His father always liked to start on Friday, getting preliminaries done and then be ready to work on Monday."

One fall John bought himself a pair of white "gum boots," which he wore for several years to do his chores in the stormy weather. Basil was heard to say that when he first saw his father out in the yard with those white boots on, he thought he was barefooted in the mud, with his overalls rolled up to his knees.

Ida Hansen Johnson, a grand niece, who lived across the street from John and Sarah, said, "Uncle John was a kind man and liked helping people. He always called me 'Honey.'" She also said, "Aunt Sarah John (as she referred to her) was the sweetest, kindest woman you could ever meet. She was understanding to a great degree; could give advice when needed. She helped me many, many times. She dressed neatly but never showy. She canned huge amounts of fruits, did big washings and prepared hearty meals. She also served as a midwife for some of the women in the area. She sewed much of her own clothing. Aunt Sarah had varicose veins. A time or two the veins in her legs ruptured and she had to be off her feet while they healed. Etta Bullock worked for her at such times, and did all she could to keep Aunt Sarah John happy and the family well cared for."

A daughter-in-law, Vinie, George's wife, said of Sarah, "that she was a very loving, affectionate, and kind mother."

Laurence said, "his mother was kind, mild, unassuming and a little bit shy. She had a good sense of humor and was the best cook in the world. She had long black hair with natural curl and was in her seventies before it started turning gray. She loved children. She kept some of her English Brogue all her life." He said his father lost most of his early.

A grandson, Dwayne E. "Slim" Wayment wrote about his grandmother, Sarah East Wayment:

"I remember her as a warm, protective 'Grandma' who defended me and saved me from many corrective spankings. She was also a buxom woman and I recall enjoying being cuddled by her. I further remember her at the Little Mountain on Easter Sundays, and especially in her kitchen when she prepared those fantastic meals and fed the haying and threshing hands. The meals I remember, not only due to the good food but because she always found a place at the table, with the men, for Ed and myself. That makes a small boy feel like a king just to sit and eat at the same table with men

as big as my uncles and father were. . . . Many Bible stories were first heard at her knee. (She knew the Bible well.) She (used) many of the lessons contained therein to teach. . . . a better way of life. . . . Some of these lessons were used to shape my destiny and I'm better off as a result of them.

The memory of the butter churn, water pump and wood pile also brings a smile, because what was chores at home was fun at Grandma's. The (original) Wayment home remains in my memories with its out buildings and the big Tamarack Tree which shaded the kitchen during midday, trumpet vines, flags, Iris and all flowers are recalled, as well as the garage and the "Model T. Ford" that Uncle Joe was forever working on. I remember my Grandmother riding in the Model T to Church and back but do not think she ever drove the car."

John carried a desire all his life to return to his homeland of England for a visit, to see again the verdent vegetation, walk along the flowery country lanes and knock at the door of his home.

Sarah had no such desires, because her memories of England were clouded with clearer visions of poor health. She preferred to stay in Utah, where her health had been so much better.

John had been a farmer all his life. He had helped in many community projects and activities. He was distinguished by his stature, his gray hair and his beard.

In his sixty-ninth year his health failed and he died September 30, 1923. His funeral was well attended. He was buried October 3, 1923, in the Warren Cemetery beside his two children who had preceded him in death.

After John died, Sarah lived in their home in Warren with her five unmarried sons, Laurence, Joseph, Basil, Nephi and Elmo. They were very kind and wonderful to their mother. The boys continued their regular farm work and helping each other, also participating in

the community activities. Nephi found congenial association with other young men and women of his age group. A young woman of Huntsville, Utah caught Nephi's eye, then his heart and after a period of courtship he married Mae Melle, 28 April 1928. Mae was the daughter of Edward and Nellie Lind Melle.

After Nephi's marriage, Elmo began to look around for a partner and found more interest in young women. He found a young woman who lived in Taylor about the stature of his mother when she was young. After a successful courtship he married Helen Maurine Green, daughter of Benjamin F. and Helen Bartlett Green, in the Salt Lake Temple on November 11, 1931.

Sarah was a widow for 16 years. Time took its toll, and on Monday, February 27, 1939, she died at her home in Warren. Her funeral was well attended. She was buried Thursday March 2, 1939, beside her husband and two children in the Warren Cemetery.

Thus ended two pioneer stalwarts. The example of their lives is carried on in their growing posterity.

A special thanks is given to all those whose names appear in the body of the biographies. Others who helped with pictures and other materials are: Marcene W. Montgomery, Mae W. East, Ione W. Ross, Mary W. Hunt, Rex and Willard Wayment. Martha M. Hansen has given invaluable help.

When two or more persons referred to the same incident it has been included. In spite of our best efforts for accuracy, some errors may be found. It is hoped that none of these are serious and that no one will be hurt.

Compiled and written by Alma W. Hansen
Ogden, Utah, April 1980

