

## Brief History of Albert Manwaring

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Albert Manwaring, 82 youngest son of nine children, seven boys and two girls, and only surviving member of Henry and Sarah Barber Manwaring, was born 25 July 1869, at Sandbach, Cheshire, England. His father joined the LDS Church in 1860 and his mother the following year. They migrated to Utah in 1871 preceded by the older brother, Herbert, who helped to prepare the way for the family. They settled in Salt Lake for a few months and then moved to Springville. His family lived in a log cabin at 360 East Sixth South, the father engaging in the shoe-making business with Ed Brown.

Mr. Manwaring speaks proudly of his parents whom he described as possessing every Christian virtue. The children were told stories from the Bible, engaged in family prayer, and were taught scriptural readings. They attended church and advanced in the various organizations. Mr. Manwaring is now a High Priest.

As a young boy, he participated in the amusements of the early days, swimming in Spring Creek and in Hobble Creek west of town. With other children, he also went to the molasses mill on the corner of Fourth East and Fourth North street with a little bucket to get molasses skimmings from which they made candy. Later he recalls attending the theaters seeing such fine actors as Aaron, Moses, and Don Johnson and others.

The children in those days were taught to work, Mr. Manwaring recounted, and with others he gleaned wheat for the chickens to earn spending money. They also gathered ground cherries for their mother to make preserves, and took the cows to pasture. As a young boy he also learned to garden.

Homes during Mr. Manwaring's childhood and young manhood, were made of logs and adobe and lighted with candles. He recalls vividly how the grain fields were harvested with scythe and sickle.

There were no paved roads or sidewalks and anyone with a horse and buggy were considered pretty well-to-do, he said. He recalls as a small boy going to an LDS stake conference in Provo in a wagon drawn by oxen. His father said the oxen were trained to know very well the meaning of 'gee and haw.'

About 1891, at the age of 22, Mr. Manwaring went to Salt Lake City to work and had several kinds of employment including working in the baggage room for the Union Pacific railroad. While there, his sister Eileen died and he returned to Springville and began working for John Hafen, selling a picture he had painted representing the Prophet Joseph Smith making the last address to the Nauvoo Legion. He canvassed all through Tooele County, Brigham City, Logan, and all of Cache Valley. While there he and his brother John arranged to have the entire family go through the Logan Temple.

In 1892, he went to Provo and learned the barber trade. The following year he began business in Springville for himself and was very successful. He followed barbering as a trade nearly 50 years.

Mr. Manwaring recalls going to Salt Lake City to witness the placing of the capstone on the Salt Lake Temple and he also attended the dedication ceremonies for the Temple.

Throughout his young manhood and in fact throughout his life, music has been an inspiration to Mr. Manwaring and he still possesses a rich bass voice. He sang for many years in the early days Springville choir, directed by George Harrison and he recalls how the choir traveled in an "old hack" with seats along the side, to the homes of the sick, cheering them up with songs.

He married Bertha Sperry of Provo, June 20, 1893, and their first two children were born in Springville. Later they moved to Provo.

In October 1902, he left on an LDS mission to England leaving his wife and three small children. He recalls that the only money he had was \$20 per month from the rent of his barber shop. His wife worked to keep the family and when he returned at the end of the two years, she had succeeded in saving \$75.

In 1906, he was sustained Bishop of the Fifth Ward in Provo and recalls some of his faithful and efficient co-workers-Don Conover, Arthur V. Southwick, A. N. Merrill, F. G. Warnick, Frank Bennett, Will Williams, Elmer Jacobs, and N. F. Wilson. He served as Bishop for 13 years.

While serving as Bishop his wife died leaving five children. A year later he married Mrs. Ruth Pickering, a school teacher and widow with three children. Mr. Manwaring said it was she who helped in her splendid way to rear the children. They later had one daughter.

Shortly after this marriage, Albert moved his family to Rupert, Idaho, where he purchased a home and a barber shop. They lived there three years and then came depression days and they moved to Green River, Wyoming. In Green River he was sustained President of the first independent branch of the LDS Church and which was later made a ward. He was sustained as the Ward's first Bishop and in this capacity he served ten years and made numerous friends and converted many to the Church. When he and Mrs. Manwaring left, the Ward gave them a farewell. It was a big party and the many tributes expressed at the time indicated the fine work which these people had accomplished. In a story of the farewell printed in the newspaper at Green River, it states: "During these ten years, the work of the Mormon Church has been firmly established here, by Mr. And Mrs. Manwaring. He has held 520 preaching services, baptized 124 people, blessed 142 babies, ordained 97 men, sent 62 people to the Temples, enrolled 548 people on three Church books, and received and applied for LDS Church purposes \$18,446.92 in tithing."

The Manwarings are parents of ten sons and daughters with eight living and they reared a granddaughter. They are: Mrs. W. W. (Stella) Brockbank, Springville, Utah; Mrs. Fenton (Ora) Gardner, Delta, Utah; Sperry and Richard Manwaring, Salt Lake City, Utah; De Mar Manwaring, Ogden, Utah; Mrs. V. J. (Irene) Cursack, San Francisco, California; Mrs. Albert (Grace) Mills, Green River, Wyoming; Mrs. Floyd (Helen) Halstead, Colma, California; and Mrs. Ardeen (Beth) Smedley, San Luis Obispo, California. There are also 16 grand children.

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