

HISTORY OF ORSON MANWARING

Information assembled by sons Orson Elwood Manwaring and Fred Whitney Manwaring,
July 2, 1983

Orson Manwaring was born in Granger, Utah, on July 2, 1882. Today he'll be 101 years of age. He was the son of Clarissa Wilkins and Herbert Manwaring. He had seven brothers: Hyrum, Levi, Charles Herbert who died in infancy, Walter Henry, Arthur, Horace and David Heber. Orson was the fourth son.

Orson's parents moved to Mapleton, Utah, where he attended school to the eighth grade. He worked on the railroad in Bingham and farmed with his father. Another time he worked in Canada in a sheep sheering camp. His companions at work bet Orson that he could not lift a 300-pound bag of wool. He picked it up and ran with it the full distance they specified. He was an efficient and hard worker.

Orson met Jessie Colista Whitney long before he departed for his two-year LDS Mission to the Illinois area in 1904, but he didn't pay any attention to her until he came back from his mission. They met in Mapleton, which is southeast of Springville, Utah. After his return they began dating. They were married in the Salt Lake Temple on February 24, 1909.

In the fall of 1910, Orson and his brothers Levi, Walter and Arthur came up to Idaho looking for land. Orson bought his 40 acres in Groveland. Arthur and Walter bought 80 acres together. Orson and Jessie lived in the house on the southwest corner of Groveland Road where it turns west to the cemetery, while building their future home. It was of gray brick and took two years to build, 1910 to 1912. Orson later purchased an additional 15 acres north of the 40 acres, making a 55-acre farm. He raised sugar beets, potatoes, hay and grain.

Aunt Teresa Manwaring, Arthur's wife, and Jessie traveled by train from Mapleton to Blackfoot when Elwood was one year old. Elwood was the first child of Orson and Jessie and was born December 13, 1909. Aunt Teresa didn't have any children at that time. She says that Elwood bawled all the way to Idaho.

Uncle Walter built the white home on the northeast corner of their 80 acres on the west side of the road. Uncle Levi built the house across from Orson and owned 30 acres. Arthur later bought Walter's 40 acres, and Walter moved to Rexburg. Walter died at an early age from gall stone surgery that showed a cancerous growth in his stomach. He had surgery in Salt Lake City February 26 and died February 27, 1922.

Arthur gave the house and one acre to Herbert and Clarissa Manwaring (his parents). Levi later sold out and moved to Provo where he found work with the railroad shop. He lived the longest life of any of the seven brothers. Hyrum went to Rexburg as a teacher and became president of Rick's College.

Elwood and Fred remember their father relating how he was initiated into the order of the Yellow Dogs. For an initiation joke the members had Orson lie down and they opened his shirt and put grain on his hairy chest. Then they put a rooster on his chest, and it pecked off the grain.

Orson and Jessie had three boys. Orson Elwood born December 13, 1909, at Mapleton, Utah; Leonard Herbert born in Groveland November 3, 1911; and Fred Whitney born in Groveland June 5, 1923, in the home where he presently lives, which is the home Orson built. It is 1½ miles north of the Groveland store on Groveland Road.

Elwood remembers his parents taking them on camping trips, which they all enjoyed. The most memorable trip was when they packed up the 1926 Chevrolet and drove to Yellowstone Park where they camped for a week. Uncle Wayne and Aunt Anna Johnson went with them in their 1926 Ford. Cousins LaRell and Eugene and Elwood and Leonard were inseparable and sighted many bears, moose, elk and wild waterfowl. On another trip they went to Lava Hot Springs for four days along with other Groveland families. They also loved to go to baseball games with dad at the Groveland Townsite ball field on Saturdays.

Gathering wood for the winter was quite an adventure. They would go to the Lava area north of Groveland; one load they hauled had three cords of wood on it. One year they got seven big loads of wood that lasted them all winter.

In his earlier years Orson was in the bishopric with Bishop John Bowker. He served on the High Council for many years traveling by horse and buggy from Blackfoot to Springfield, and all southwestern Bingham County; Aberdeen included. Elwood remembers going with him on three or four of these assignments.

Bishop Bowker and a Brother Gardner and Orson had a sheep company together. They took the wool to the Baron Woolen Mills in Brigham City, Utah, and traded it for beautiful woolen blankets.

Orson was chairman of the Groveland School Board, District 34; he was instigator in getting the power lines and telephone lines to Groveland. He was also influential in the construction of canals and getting a new paved road to Groveland.

Orson worked on the Zion's tunnel in Utah with Uncle Lew Whitney. Fred was about six or seven years old at the time and remembers going to Springville where he and his mother stayed while Orson was working on the tunnel. Elwood and Leonard stayed and work on the farm during this time.

The boys remember Orson having attacks of gallstones. He was afflicted with erysipelas, which affected his balance and hearing. Also, he was talking on the telephone about 4 pm one afternoon when an electrical storm struck the telephone line. He was thrown to the floor in the kitchen by the lightning impact. Fred was only 13 years of age, and gave

his father artificial resuscitation or he wouldn't have made it. Mother was there and Francella Callister was the first other person to come to help take him to the hospital. Elwood and Leonard were in Logan, Utah, attending college at the time.

Orson was employed as a fieldsman for several years for the Upper Snake River Dairyman's Association, and was instrumental in getting the Co-Operative Creamery going with his persuasive personality.

Orson Manwaring died March 31, 1945, from a massive stroke (brain hemorrhage). He was buried in the Groveland Cemetery. His wife, Jessie, outlived Orson by four years, living at home with Fred who took excellent care of her. Elwood and Leonard both quit their jobs in Utah and moved home to Groveland after their father passed away. Elwood bought the Gaffner home with 20 acres, north one-half mile from his father's farm, and his family lived there for 28 years. Leonard took over his father's field job with the Upper Snake River Dairyman's Association and eventually served as manager for several years. He moved to Idaho Falls.

Elwood and Leonard and families took care of mother Jessie while son Fred served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Jessie died in Leonard's home in Idaho Falls July 17, 1949, at the age of 66. She is buried beside her husband in the Groveland Cemetery.