

WILLIAM LEVI BLACK - SHERIFF OF EMERY COUNTY - GAVE HIS LIFE IN SERVICE

William Levi Black moved to Ferron in 1913. He came from Antimony, Utah, and was the son of William and Matilda King Black. He married Clyda Jerusha Barton, daughter of John Henry and Martha Ann Boswell Barton. Clyda was born in Ferron, Utah, and went to Antimony, Utah, to teach school. This is where she met William Black. They were married in the Salt Lake Temple, then Clyda persuaded William to move to Ferron, Utah, her home town, to make their home. They were blessed with six children: Eldona, Glen, Ronald, Thelma, Velma and Merrill.

Prior to being elected sheriff of Emery County, William was a farmer. The first years of his life in connection with his farm, he had range cattle with a permit on Ferron Mountain. He then decided he could make more money by selling his cattle and buying into the sheep business. He later was part owner of a threshing machine where he always ran the steam engine. Later in his life, he went into the timber business and was owner and manager of a sawmill.

The sawmill was on the south side of Big Mountain on the Manti National Forest for a few years until he moved the sawmill to Nine Mile in Carbon County where he had a contract swing mine ties.

William was elected Sheriff for Emery County in 1934. At this time he was also Mayor of Ferron. He had a rich, full life of happiness with many exciting experiences. His life, however, was taken at the age of 48 when he was killed in line of duty as Emery County Sheriff when he was called the morning of August 22, 1936 to settle a water dispute in Ferron.

Clyda, William's wife, was left with children who were of college age. She and her children moved to Provo in order her children to attend BYU. This great lady, not having enough money, rented her home in Ferron and then rented a home in Provo large enough to take in boarders to help with expenses. She was a good cook and a good manager. The Industrial Insurance from her husband's death was only \$39.00 per month until she had used up the full amount of \$5,000.00 insurance.

All of her children except Eldona, who was married to LaVerd Ralphs and stayed in Ferron, graduated with honors. After the children finished college, Clyda again moved back to Ferron. Her life continued there until her death in 1963.



HISTORY OF THE WILLIAM LEVI BLACK AND CLYDA J. BARTON BLACK FAMILY

William and Clyda met in Antimony, Utah, where Clyda and her sister Hazel were teaching school. Clyda's school, known as the "School On The Bench," was on the periphery of this little town in southern Utah. After one year of Clyda's teaching, William and Clyda were married in the year of 1910, in the Manti temple and took residence in Ferron, Utah, Clyda's hometown.

As a schoolteacher, Clyda had saved some money that was used in part to build a house in Ferron on part of the property which belonged to her mother, Martha Ann Barton, who was the widow of John Henry Barton. No sooner was the house constructed when Clyda and William decided to homestead in the area known as Rochester, now known as Moore. The homestead was on the periphery of the desert country of Emery, Utah. Between the homestead and the desert itself was a continuous ridge of pine and cedar trees running northeast and southwest on the eastern fringe of Rochester. The homestead was located on the west edge of this ridge.

As was the practice then in homesteading, William and Clyda lived for several months in a dugout on their new land. In homesteading, the law was that the applicant had to establish residency by living on the homestead property, for a period of time, in order to prove up on the homestead so as to acquire title to their property. A dugout was simply a hole in the ground covered over with available poles, brush, willows and dirt. While living in this dugout, they worked on a log cabin. This was extremely well constructed and still stands sturdily today as a monument to their efforts. Also today, in the year 2000, near the log cabin are remnants of the old corrals and fences of the old homestead.

Many people have expressed amazement that the sturdy old cabin still stands; though it is used now only as a place for cattle to enter during storms. The homestead was supplied, through William's knowledge and skill, with a long winding ditch that carried water from upper Rochester for use in farming and animal husbandry at the homestead.

In the early part of this developmental effort, the climate seemed more favorable in terms of the availability of water and rains than it was a few years after the homestead was established. This, plus the fact that there were more and more settlers wanting the water, became a problem for the Black's homestead. During the first years of the homestead operation there was enough irrigation water to maintain good crops of alfalfa, clover seed, production, a vegetable garden and pastureland. With the growing demand for water and the diminishing supply, and being on the end of the total irrigating system, the operation at the homestead continually diminished in it's production capacity.

Following this change came the great depression of the late 1920's, which found many homesteaders and other farmers in debt. The debt which William and Clyda had, was entered into at the Manti Bank in Manti, Utah. We don't have proof of this, but it is probable that with Clyda's savings from school teaching, they established a family bank account that provided good bank credit. Bankers like to loan to those who like to save.

At any rate, William and Clyda became, with the development of the homestead, seriously in debt. To cap off the difficulty of this period, William bought 2000 ewe-sheep, the payments of which were too difficult to make during the depression period. The sheep and equipment associated with the sheep enterprise were returned back to the sheep lender. This delivered the final blow to the old ranch of William and Clyda.

The homestead area continued to deteriorate so that for many years it has been used only as a desert type spring grazing for large cattle company operations. The cabin has been left to the elements and to the cattle.

William and Clyda moved to Ferron, where for a few years they lived with Clyda's mother, Martha Ann Barton, in her home. They occupied the front two rooms of that house, while the back part of the house was used by Martha Ann. In this way, Martha Ann was very generous in helping William and Clyda get a new start. During their years together, six children were born to Clyda and William, from 1911 to 1921--Eldona, Glen, Ronald, Threl, Velma and Merrill.

William and Clyda spent most of their married life living in Ferron except for about six years when they were living in Rochester. Even then, Ferron remained their headquarters. Williams permit for his cattle was on the Ferron Mountain and shopping for groceries and clothing was all done in Ferron. While living in Rochester, he, with some other share holders, bought a threshing machine. Each fall of the year they would thresh the farmers crops at Rochester and Ferron. If the farmers didn't have the money to pay for the threshing, William would take payment in bushels of grain that they had threshed. Threshing was a fun time of the year. The wife of the man whose threshing they were doing, always cooked big meals for the "threshers". There would be about six to eight men to feed breakfast, dinner and supper. On the threshing crew, one man would run the separator and one would run the steamer or engine that furnished the power for the separator. Two or three men would pitch bundles from the stacks of grain into the separator. This had to be done very exactly or the separator would become clogged and cause a breakdown. One or two men would carry the grain as it was threshed and came out of the spout of the thresher, to a place of storage. The engine received its power from wood or coal shoveled into the fire box. There was a big smoke stack on the engine where the black smoke would bellow out. This engine made enough steam to turn the big belt that made the separator run as it threshed the grain. The engine had a loud whistle that they would blow and you could always tell by the whistle when they had finished for noon or night or had completed that assignment. As they moved from one farm to another to thresh the grain, the young children of the family would run and get on the engine and William would always let them pull the rope that made the whistle blow. This was so exciting for all the children whom William loved..

William had always been very enterprising and mechanically talented. He was an industrious man and always looking for new ways to make a better living for his family. He thus entered into miscellaneous business and employment. One of his main activities consisted of developing a sawmill on the Rochester side of Big Mountain. In this capacity, he provided lumber

for local farmers and business, but this was still during the depression period and too many of these people were also hard hit by the depression and did not have adequate money to buy lumber and pay their bills. The lumber business did not flourish beyond a certain point and in the depth of the depression became almost inactive.

William carried the sawmill enterprise into the Carbon County area. He bought DeLos Olsen's interest in the engine that was used for threshing, so as to furnish power to run the sawmill. Then he sawed ties for coal mining operations. He took his family with him to the Nine Mile area where they camped and lived for the summer. He operated this business until the timber ran out then he sold the steam engine to a fellow from Price and discontinued the sawmill business. He spent one year in a construction job on the Tipple at the newly developed mining town of Hiawatha. He rented one of the miner houses there and again took his family with him. William had an aversion to working in the coal mine itself, where some of his relatives and friends found employment for several years. William was truly an outdoors person, a great horseman, lumberman and farmer type of entrepreneur.

When the Tipple in Hiawatha was completed, the family returned to Ferron and William later found an opportunity to seek the position of Emery County Sheriff. He won this election over a person, who later in William's career shot and killed William in an ambush. Prior to this time, but while William was sheriff, he ran for the office of Mayor in Ferron, where he was also elected, a position he held until his death. Here his leadership was important through some of the depression years. William Levi Black's name, as Sheriff of Emery County, is inscribed on a large marble stone wall in the Utah State Capital in Salt Lake City as having given his life in line of duty. His name is also inscribed on a large stone wall in a memorial garden in Washington D.C. along with others who lost their lives in line of duty.

At too early an age, the age of 48 years, William left Clyda with a family of five children to support. Their second child, Glen, a son, had been attending Brigham Young University, in Provo, Utah, but came home from college very ill with cancer. He died in 1935 and in 1936 William lost his life. The oldest of their children, a daughter, Eldona, married LaVerd Ralphs after she finished high school. She lived in Ferron. At this time, Clyda rented her home in Ferron and took the other four of her children, Ronald, who was married to Evelyn Oveson, Tharel, who had just graduated from Snow College, Velma, who graduated that year from high school and Merrill who was still in high school, to Provo, Utah, to attend school at the Brigham Young University with Merrill at the high school. Clyda had a small county officer's insurance benefit of \$39.00 per month. She took with them, the family milk cow for their use and also to sell milk and cream to others. She also took in two "boarders" who were attending BYU to help with expenses. The children worked at school for their tuition and worked away from home for extra financial help. By this time, Ronald, was financially independent from Clyda. Through the efforts of everyone and especially Clyda's efforts, the children were able to finance their own living and educational program at Brigham Young University. Upon the basis of the University training, all children obtained employment in professional jobs.

After her children were educated at BYU, Clyda returned to Ferron to her own home and became the City Librarian. She had great pride and joy in helping school children with library type assignments and encouraging and helping children to read. Her early role as a trained teacher was valuable to her. This position was largely a part time job but provided a livelihood for Clyda and an opportunity with her frugality to save a small inheritance for each of her children upon her death in 1963 at the age of 79 years.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

T H N O L O G Y



Dedicating the Law Enforcement Memorial Washington, D.C.



THE LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIAL DEDICATION

More than 100 newly-planted trees lined the curving marble walls on which 12,561 law enforcement officers names are engraved. Thousands and thousands of family and friends gathered at Judiciary Square in Washington, DC on the balmy October 15, 1991, afternoon to hear the 24-hour "Roll Call of Fallen Officers" who had been killed in the line of duty. This involved 160 participants reading aloud, non-stop, the names of all 12,561 officers known to have been killed throughout America.

For too long, America's lawmen and women have been the forgotten heroes--forgotten until there's trouble and then needed. More than 10,000 officers and police supporters marched from the U.S. Capital to the Memorial site at Judiciary Square. The families of fallen officers awaited the dedication ceremony with mixed sadness at their loss. President Bush gave the keynote address with the First Lady, Barbara Bush, at his side. This was an inspiring and impressive ceremony.