

James Hyrum Cook and Emily Alder **by Barbara Christensen and Max Ralphs**

James Hyrum Cook, born 10 Sep 1855 in Manti, Utah, was the fifth child of James Cook and Ann Lane. James and Ann emigrated from Bilston, Staffordshire, England and settled in Manti Utah. James was a stone mason, and worked on the Manti Temple during its construction.

Emily Alder, born 26 Sep 1856, in Schwellbrun, Appenzell, Switzerland, was the daughter of Johannes Alder and Anna Barbara Alder. Johannes owned a clothing store in Switzerland before emigrating to Utah.

Hyrum Cook married Emily Alder on 16 Jan 1878 in Mt. Pleasant, Utah, and they were sealed in the Endowment House in Salt Lake on 27 Jun 1878. He moved his young bride to Molen in the Fall of 1878, just one year after the colonizers, under Orange Seeley, entered Castle Valley in 1877. Their daughter, Millie Ferron Cook, was the first white child born in Castle Valley, 30 Nov 1878. Molen was settled before Ferron because it had more flat arable land, and was not plagued by prickly pear infested benches.

Hyrum was the first Postmaster on Ferron Creek. He had started a little store to the side of his house which offered a logical place for townspeople to come in and pick up their mail. He eventually expanded his mercantile business by taking a team and wagon to the coal camps loaded with fresh produce, eggs and other necessities to sell to the miners.

The Cooks moved up to Ferron about 1898-1899 and lived in a small house on the hill on the east bench. Hyrum built a smoke house down under the hill from his house to cure meat. This was done by making a brine, dipping the meat in the brine, then smoking it. He used apple limbs to smoke the meat, which gave his meat a delicious flavor. The meat did not spoil, even in the hot months of summer. Many people brought their meat to him to smoke.

Hyrum served as Justice-of-the-Peace in Ferron for many years. He was also a fine carpenter. He built fine furniture, and was the primary source for building coffins in the community.

For many years, Hyrum smoked a pipe. One morning upon arising, he said he had been reflecting on this bad habit. He took the pipe and placed it on the mantle along with the sack of tobacco, and never touched the pipe again. He later served a mission for the LDS Church in Pennsylvania. Barbara Christensen has possession of his Book of Mormon that he used on his mission. On the fly leaf is written "Life has no pleasure nobler than friendship."

When his health began to decline, his daughter Blanch took him in to live with her family in Moore. He became despondent because he couldn't get well. After a long illness, he died 7 Sep 1937. Emily died 26 Sep 1916.