

DICKSON HUNTINGTON
INTERVIEWED BY DIXIE THOMPSON
21 JUNE 2022
HUNTINGTON BROS STORE

My name is Dixon Huntington, I'm 82 years old and I guess I was the last person to operate Huntington Brothers. I've been asked to tell some of the history as I can recall about Huntington Brothers Store that was in Castle Dale. There's so much history wrapped up in the Huntington Brothers store it's kind of a bittersweet story, but let's start at the at the first. The store was started by my Grandfather Leonard Fenno Huntington. Len's father was Hyrum Fenno Huntington and they moved to Orangeville from Springville, Utah in 1880's. Grandpa Len was about eight years old at that time. Their history goes back to pioneers, Hyrum's father William Dresser Huntington came with the pioneers in 1847 and his brother Dimick, were great friends of the Prophet Joseph Smith so they're tied into the Church that way. But anyway, Len descends from that line of Huntington's.



He, like most people in this area in that time frame were ranchers, farmers and kind of sustained themselves with what they raised on the land. Len had a ranch also, and had his childhood here. About 18 years of age, he attended BYU and took some courses in business. He was always known for his business acumen with his bookkeeping his whole life. It came from the BYU training and he was a meticulous guy in his accounting.

Len married Caroline Ingeborg Sitterud, his sweetheart in 1900 and they had nine children my Father Stanley Huntington, being the middle son. In 1925 Grandpa Len purchased a Mercantile store in Castle Dale, the building lied on the corner of Center and Main Street. It was near the street and had a warehouse in the back. The store was small, I would say a couple of thousand square feet, anyway they started in the mercantile store and expanded the inventory to sell groceries. They had dry goods, clothing and hardware like bolts, nuts oh, just a lot of things. I remember a cabinet that had hat's and they extended a lot of credit with their customers. It was in the depression days and they gave credit to hard working farmers then when the farmers paid their bill at the end of their growing season, Grandpa would always give them a new Stetson hat. That practice was phased out over time. It was amazing that during the depression he was able to extend credit like he did and still remain in business.

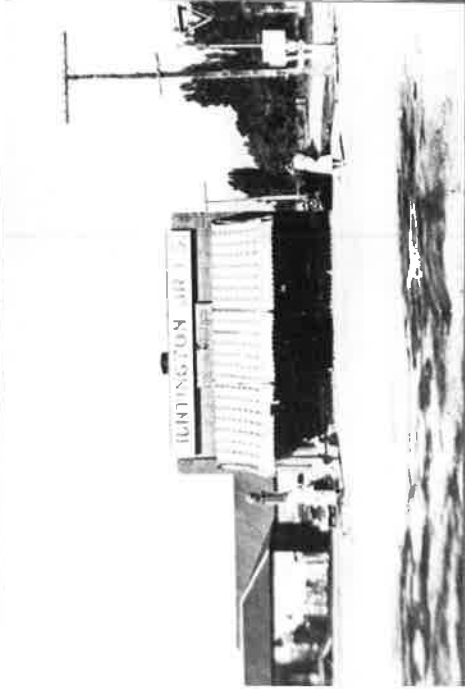


In 1926 he was operating the store with one of his older sons Lloyd, and then in 1927 he incorporated that business and got a charter that was now a corporation. I still have the original papers in my possession. At that time there were six Huntington sons that got a share of the store and Grandpa also purchased some private property in the Wilsonville area to run some cattle. Grandpa Len always had quite a few cattle and permits on Trail Mountain and out in the Hambrick area. He was quite an entrepreneurial guy to my recollection. When I was very young, I spent a lot of time with him and I was only eight or nine years old when he died. Uncle Lloyd operated the store, I assume with some help from Grandpa.

My father Stanley Huntington, who was born in 1911, recorded in his history that he had the best life that a young man could have in Emery County, he drove a team of horses, and farmed. When he was old enough, he went to Utah State University and got what they called a normal degree and moved back and taught school in Ferron, Orangeville and Emery. In 1940 they needed him in the store and I think Grandpa was pretty much out at that time because he had other endeavors, such as bookkeeping for a number of businesses, he also had the sheep shearing business in Mounds, along with being active in the community.

My Dad, Stan Huntington came into the store in 1940 and at that time the store sold clothing, groceries and my dad cut quite a bit of meat. He built up the meat business, where they killed some of their own cattle and sold it through the store, along with a lot of hardware and other things. I remember Dad went to work in the store during the day and then he'd come home at night and he'd go out and lay linoleum, put in appliances or do plumbing. They extended the store business by doing all kinds of things and that's the way that store operated for quite a few years.

The store operated with Uncle Lloyd Huntington and my dad, the other two sons Feno and Grant operated the cattle business but it was all under the same corporation. Uncle Morris and Royal were a little bit younger but Uncle Morris did have a piece of the stock in the store. My



Uncle Royal was killed during World War 2 during the Battle of the Bulge. So, the store plugged along to the 70s when the energy boom kind of hit this area. The power plants were being built and the population was expanding.

I had I left Castle Dale pretty much after high school in 1958 and went to Utah State University and graduated in 1961 with a business degree. During what they called the Berlin Crisis in 1961 the government was drafting for the military. As soon as I graduated from college instead of being drafted, I joined the Army and spent three years in the service. After I went to work for Phillips Petroleum for a couple of years and left there to go back to Utah from Washington. I bought a transportation business in Salt Lake City driving a route starting in Evanston, Wyoming up the Western part of the State delivering produce with the proper authority to all the stores. It gave me a great back ground as to how to operate a store by getting to know all the men I delivered to.

With the energy boom hitting Emery County, my father and Uncle Lloyd were getting along in years and we thought this would be an opportunity to take over the store. My Brother, Ross Huntington who was five years younger than I, had a lot the same back ground by going to Utah State University with a business degree, also went into the Army. Ross was a meticulous accountant living in Castle Dale working at the Hunter Power Plant with the construction of unit three. Ross was very well qualified and would be a great partner in the store.

I sold my business Salt Lake and moved to Castle Dale in 1974 and started operating the store as it had been run while we were building the new store on the back side of the existing store. Ross continued to work for the power plant during that time. In the old store I remembered the things they had had like mincemeat that they sold at Christmas time for people to make their pies. It was sold in bulk and customers would come in and purchase as much as they wanted. We had some Danish people that lived here and they wanted this salted cod fish that they enjoyed in their native country. It was in a box and it smelled terrible. The store also had a variety of cheeses in big blocks; over all it was an amazing store with the variety of specialty items.

Ross and I made arrangements to buy the corporation with all of its businesses, and we paid off all of the brothers that had shares. Two years after we took control then we moved into the new store that was finished in 1976. Ross being a very detailed person with accounting and I was a little less so, but we all started managing certain parts of the store and we had a successful operating business making sure it was very clean. We had wonderful customers, with Dad running the meat department and being very good with the customers with his social skills. I was also helping Dad with the meat department teaching myself how to cut the meat into desired packages so Dad could get off when he wanted to in his later years.



We had run the store successfully for about eight years when it became known that Safeway was looking into the city and building a big new store. The town had increased in size and that looked attractive to a big chain corporation. They built their store and opened in about 1984 and we knew we were in for a struggle to continue in business. Safeway was so large and had everything available. We had a complete line of groceries but not the extent that

Safeway was able to offer. We did keep our Levi franchise along with tack and a few things. It was very difficult to compete with the big stores especially when they had such a variety. At that time there were thousands of mom-and-pop grocery stores that under went the same type of experience we had in trying to compete as they slowly went out of business. When Safeway came we could see it wasn't going to work out so Ross went back to working at the power plant and I continued to run the store. I bought out the equity of the store from Ross, although he still owned half of the building. It was a struggle for us but we still had wonderful customers but I had some losses and so I decided it would best to close. I was able to pay off the mortgage so then we closed the door and that was a low point in my life. The people that bought it didn't want to operate it as a grocery store so they didn't need the coolers. My good wife who was a school teacher along with raising five children went back to teaching school. I fell back into the thing I knew that was available and that was driving truck and drove for ten years. During that time, I kept building up the ranching business so after ten years of driving truck I retired and became a full-time rancher/farmer. With the times changing, Huntington Bros went the way of many small stores despite so many years of operation.

Huntington Bros Store

Dickson Huntington

Date	Description	Amount	Balance
1875	Jan 1		
1876	Jan 1		
1877	Jan 1		
1878	Jan 1		
1879	Jan 1		
1880	Jan 1		
1881	Jan 1		
1882	Jan 1		
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1896	Jan 1		
1897	Jan 1		
1898	Jan 1		
1899	Jan 1		
1900	Jan 1		

Date	Description	Amount	Balance
1875	Jan 1		
1876	Jan 1		
1877	Jan 1		
1878	Jan 1		
1879	Jan 1		
1880	Jan 1		
1881	Jan 1		
1882	Jan 1		
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1898	Jan 1		
1899	Jan 1		
1900	Jan 1		

SHERIFF'S DEED

THIS INDENTURE, Made this 30th day of January A.D. 1925, between O.W.Sitterud, Sheriff of Emery County, State of Utah, party of the first part, and International Life Holding Corporation, a corporation, party of the second part,

WITNESSETH, WHEREAS, In and by a certain judgment and decree made and entered by the District Court of the Seventh Judicial District (Emery County) of the State of Utah on the 13th day of May, A.D. 1924, in a certain action then pending in said Court, wherein International Life Holding Corporation, a corporation, was Plaintiff and Harry J. Robinson, Stelle F. Robinson, his wife, Mrs.R.W. Sloan, V.L.Olson, and ----Olson, his wife, James C. Clawson, and---- Clawson his wife, Fredrick Anderson and--- Anderson, his wife, Martin Anderson Jr., Administrator of the estate of Martin Anderson deceased, Utah Credit Adjustment Association, a corporation, were Defendants, it was among other things ordered and adjudged that all and singular the premises in said judgment, and hereinafter described should be sold at public auction, by and under the direction of the Sheriff of Emery County, State of Utah, in the manner required by law; that either of the parties to said action might become purchaser at such sale, and that said Sheriff should execute the usual certificates and deeds to the purchaser as required by law:

AND WHEREAS, The Sheriff did, at the hour of 2 O'clock P.M., on the 11th day of June A.D. 1924, at the front door of the County Court House in Castle Dale, County of Emery, State of Utah, after due public notice had been given, as required by law and said judgment, duly sell at public auction agreeably to law and said judgment, the premises and property in said judgment and hereinafter described; at which sale said premises and property were fairly struck off and sold to International Life Holding Corporation, for the sum of Two Thousand Four Hundred Fifty eight and 44/100 Dollars, they being the highest bidders and that being the highest sum bid at said sale;

AND WHEREAS, said International Life Holding Corporation, thereupon paid to the said Sheriff said sum of money so bid, and said Sheriff thereupon made and issued the usual certificate of such sale in due form, and delivered one thereof to said purchaser, and caused the other to be filed in the office of the County Recorder of the County of Emery, State of Utah:

AND WHEREAS, more than six months have elapsed since the day of said sale, and no redemption of the property so sold has been made;

AND WHEREAS, Said International Life Holding Corporation, a corporation and the International Company of St.Louis, purchaser as aforesaid, did, on the 17th day of December A.D. 1924, sell and assign and transfer said certificate of sale and all rights thereunder to Len Huntington, the said party of the Second part, and duly authorized said Sheriff to make a deed for said premises, in pursuance of sale sale to said Len Huntington .

NOW THIS INDENTURE WITNESSES, That the said party of the first part, Sheriff as afore said, in order to carry into effect said sale in pursuance of said judgment and of the law, and also in consideration of the premises and of the money so bid and paid by the said International Life Holding Corporation, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, has granted, sold, conveyed, and by these presents does grant, sell and convey and confirm unto the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns forever; the following described real estate lying and being in the County of Emery, State of Utah, having all the right, title, claim and interest of the above named defendants of, in and to the following described property, to-wit:

Commencing at the Northeast corner of Lot Four (4) in Block Ten (10) of Castle Dale Townsite Survey, in Emery County, State of Utah, thence West 148 feet; South 107 feet, West 66 feet, South 13 feet, East 214 feet; North 120 feet to place of beginning, with an undivided one half interest in and to a right of way for a road adjoining the South side of above described premises.

Revenue Stamps \$8.00

Together with all and singular the tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining, to have and to hold the same unto said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns forever.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Said party of the first part has hereunto set his hand and seal the day and year first above written.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered in presence of O.W.Sitterud (Seal)
Sheriff of Emery County, Utah.

Vern Petersen

State of Utah)
) ss
County of Emery)

On the 30th day of January 1925, before me, Herbert Moffitt, Clerk in and for the County of Emery, State of Utah, personally appeared O.W.Sitterud, Sheriff of Emery County, State of Utah, personally known to me to be the person described in said who executed the foregoing instrument, who acknowledged to me that he executed the same as such Sheriff, Emery and voluntarily, and for the uses and purposes therein mentioned.



Herbert Moffitt
Clerk, Emery County, Utah.

Recorded at the request of O.W.Sitterud, Sheriff of Emery County, State of Utah, February 10th 1925 at 10 A.M. in Book A-8 of Deeds on pages 7 and 10.

Arvid Peterson
Recorder, Emery County, Utah.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF EMERY COUNTY, STATE OF UTAH.

Lee Charles Miller
Plaintiff

vs.

C.H. Morehouse, Edith E. Morehouse,
Price Commercial & Savings Bank, The
Federal Land Bank of Berkeley, California
Defendants

CERTIFICATE OF SALE UNDER FORECLOSURE.

I, O.W.Sitterud, Sheriff of the County of Emery, State of Utah, do hereby certify that under and by virtue of the final judgment and decree of foreclosure and order of sale of the Seventh Judicial District Court of the State of Utah, in and for Emery County, in a certain action lately pending in said District Court, at the suit of Lee Charles Miller plaintiff, and against C.H. Morehouse, Edith Edith E. Morehouse, Price Commercial & Savings Bank, and The Federal Land Bank of Berkeley, California, defendants, duly certified to me under the seal of said Court on the 13th day of December A.D. 1924, issued to me as such Sheriff, duly described and delivered, whereby I was commanded to sell the property hereinafter described, according to law, and apply the proceeds of such sale towards the satisfaction of the judgment in said action, amounting to the sum of \$591.30 together with legal interest thereon from December 13, 1924 and costs of sale on the 21st day of January A.D. 1925, at two o'clock P.M., at the front door of the County Court house, in Castle Dale Emery County, Utah, I duly sold at public auction, according to law, and after due and legal notice, to Lee Charles Miller, the plaintiff, who made the highest bid therefor at such sale, for the sum of \$621.38 which was the whole price paid, the real estate and property in said final judgment and decree described, as follows, to-wit:

The North Half (N½) of the Northeast Quarter (NE¼) of Section Seventeen (17) in Township eighteen (18) South, range nine (9) east of the Salt Lake Meridian, containing eighty (80) acres or land: together with two hundred fifty (250) shares of the capital stock of the Huntington Canal & Reservoir Association, with all ditch and water rights of every nature, however evidenced. To be sold and sold subject to a first mortgage for sixteen hundred (\$1600.00) Dollars. All above property in Emery County, Utah.