

JAMES ARTHUR JEFFS

James Arthur Jeffs was born in Hiawatha, Utah April 11, 1911, to William Arthur Jeffs and Sarah Ann Stott, who were the parents of seven children: John Kenneth, Una Lucinda, Mark, Frederick, William, James Arthur, and Edmond "Eddy."

He was a fun-loving lad with an outgoing personality. No wonder with his good looks he was popular with the girls. He loved to play baseball and must have been pretty good.

Jim fell in love with a lovely young lady, Zola Jensen. He was not the only one courting her at the time, as she was also seeing Hans Winters. Although Hans was very charming, Jim won her heart and they were married.

Zola and Jim lived in Mohrland where their oldest son Jerry was born. When the mine in Mohrland combined with the Hiawatha mine and was closed, this young family moved to Hiawatha where their twin girls, Sydonia and Silvia, and their son Tracy was born.

Jim's cousin, Arlene Jeffs, remembers when he called her to tell her about the twins, he was thoroughly excited, "Arlene, I wish I could take you and show them to you!" He came to Castle Dale and picked her up so she could help him buy something special for them. They went to Hunter Drugs and he couldn't find just the right gift he was looking for, so they drove on over to the drugstore in Huntington. There he found two darling little lockets for his twin girls and some flowers for their mom. It was very heartbreaking for them when their lovely little daughter Silvia lived only a month.

Jim's nephew Ken Allred has fond memories of going fishing with his uncle Jim and aunt Zola and Jerry when Jerry was about four or five years old. They went to Ferron Reservoir several times. Ken rode with them from the mining camps to Castle Dale to stay with his grandparents and remembers what a good time they had driving along and singing songs to the accompaniment of Zola playing her accordion.

Jim and Zola split up when Jerry was about seven years old and she and the children moved back to Castle Dale and lived in the house on the bench owned by her parents. Jim lived with his sister Lucinda, husband and family for a short while. While he was living there Ken developed a close kinship with his uncle Jim and will always remember Zola with great fondness.

Jim was not only a handsome fellow, but he was kind. He had a big heart. His cousin, Arlene Jeffs, shared "When I was sick he would come and sit by my bed and bring me treats. I was sick then and couldn't get around. He would come and take me in the car for rides." Jim helped take care of his brother Eddy who was sickly throughout his life and who died at the age of 24. Jim must have felt a great loss.

Jim didn't live without problems in his life, but he was a good man and he loved his children. He died at the age of 40 on November 5, 1951, in Ogden, Utah and is buried in the Castle Dale cemetery.

JAMES ARTHUR AND LUCINDA SEELY JEFFS HISTORY

James Arthur Jeffs was the son of William Walker Jeffs and Emma Summers. He was born May 17, 1855, in Liverpool, England. He crossed the plains with his parents with the Murdock Handcart Company in 1862. His father died in Laramie, Wyoming, on the way to Utah. He and his brothers, Loranzo and Ephraim, had to work hard and help their mother support the rest of the family. She was such a courageous woman.

The story is told that when her husband died, he was buried by the wayside without a coffin in a shallow grave not far from Fort Laramie, Wyoming. Emma then had to carry all the responsibility of coming to Utah alone with her four small children. She hated to leave the grave of her dear husband, but she had to go on with the company. The company traveled on just a short way from Fort Laramie. Emma wanted to go back to the grave of her husband once more, so she got some others to go with her. When they reached the grave, they found that the hungry wolves had already dug up the body, and it was nowhere to be found. She was greatly grieved by what she had seen. They went back to the company and traveled on. Emma's heart was broken and full of sorrow, and, thinking all the way what she had seen, she led her little family to Salt Lake Valley, reaching there September 27, 1862.

They were sent to Sanpete County by President Brigham Young, where James Arthur Jeffs met and married Lucinda Seely. She was the daughter of William Stewart Seely and Elizabeth DeHart. She was born in Mt. Pleasant, Utah, November 1, 1859. They were married December 12, 1876. They lived in Mt. Pleasant for a few years, then they were asked to go to Castle Valley. So he with his wife and two small children settled in Castle Dale. They had a two-room log cabin in the southeast part of town.

The family grew larger each year, as most families do, and the two rooms were not enough to accommodate them. So Jim, as he was always known to his many friends, purchased land northeast of the little log cabin and built a beautiful ten-room home. There were five bedrooms upstairs; a parlor, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, large pantry, bedroom and bath downstairs. The bedrooms were always occupied with boarders. It was really a mansion for all of the family, with beautiful yards, and big rock steps leading to the house. They were the parents of ten children: Arthur , Raymond, Emma, Alice, George, James, Elmer, Faye, Zella and ValJean. There are several grandchildren and great grandchildren living in Castle Dale today.

For years he kept several hundred hives of bees. The family always helped extract the honey. It was put in different-sized cans and sold. Jim was a very ambitious man; Lucinda was equally ambitious. She always sewed her children's clothes, and she had lots of boarders to cook for.

They had two large orchards, one on top of the hill and one below. People would come from all over the county to buy fruit. Lucinda and her girls would can lots of fruit and vegetables. They would put it in five gallon cans, sweeten it with honey, and seal it with wax. They had large dirt cellars built into the hill where they kept apples and potatoes in the winter. They built a large ice house where they stored ice in the winter for use in the summer. They would get the ice from the large pond just southeast of the house; it was packed in sawdust and coal dust. Jim built a large one-room house they called the camp house; it was equipped with bed, table and chairs, stove and cupboard, so travelers could take care of themselves. They had plenty of places for their horses if a place was needed; the camp house was usually occupied. Their yard and home was truly a showplace; there were always lots of geese, ducks and ducklings on the pond and lots of fowl and different animals around the yard. Peacocks strutted off their beautiful feathers; and there were turkeys, chickens and pheasants. Lucinda would always pluck the down from the ducks and make real nice pillows. It was so much fun to gather eggs -- it was "like Easter every day." There were nests of eggs in the cow mangers, in the haystack, and so many places. They had lots of sheep pens east of the barnyard, where they would bring the sheep in to lamb. There were pens equipped with heat lamps for the early lambing. She was a very good cook, made biscuits every morning for breakfast for twenty to thirty people. Their home was a home away from home for freighter, travelers and tourists. They were indeed very hospitable people.

Lucinda loved to sing, and she had a very nice voice. She would enjoy taking one of her grandchildren on her knee, in front of the fire, singing the beautiful lullabies like no one else could sing. Jim had a blacksmith shop, which still stands. He did his own repair work. His one son, Arthur, followed his father's trade and was a number one blacksmith. Jim owned a beautiful team of horses; in fact, he owned two teams. He also had several riding ponies. He built the first corn silo in Emery County; it still stands. Tracy Jeffs a great grandson has built a beautiful home on the old property, has maintained some of the old landmarks. They were real pioneers, and they built a place of beauty and interest for Emery County.

James Arthur died very suddenly with a heart attack on February 6, 1919. Lucinda died at the home of her daughter, Emma, January 11, 1925.

-by Emma Dickson Huntington

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For years he kept several hundred hives of bees. It was hard to extract the honey and the family always helped. It was put in different size cans and sold.

Lucinda was equally as ambitious. She sewed the clothes for their children and was a great cook. Every morning she would make biscuits for family and boarders that she cooked and cared for. She had a beautiful voice and the family would sit around the fireplace and sing.

They had two large orchards one on top of the hill and one below. The orchard below is where the Stewarts grocery store is now in Castle Dale. People would come from all over the county to buy fruit. Lucinda and her girls would can lots of fruit. They would put it in five gallon cans, sweeten it with honey and seal it with wax. They had large dirt cellars built in the hillside where they kept apples and potatoes in the winter. They built a large ice house where they stored ice in the winter for use in the summer. They would get the ice from the pond just south east of the house. The ice was packed in sawdust and coal dust.

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feathers, turkeys, chickens, pheasants. Lucinda would always pluck the down from the ducks and make pillows. Their home was a home away from home for freighters, travelers and tourists. They were very hospitable people.

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ALFRED DUSTIN DICKSON

A. D. Dickson was born in Oakville, Iowa. He graduated from Knox University in education. He came out west to teach school in the government Indian school in White Rock. After teaching there for three years he moved to Emery County and taught school in Ferron, Orangeville and Castle Dale. At this time the Spanish-American war broke out and Dick (as he was called) entered his application for enlistment in a Utah troop. His company went to Jacksonville, Florida expecting to go to Cuba. The war ended before he had seen active duty. He then went back to Iowa where he got his law degree. After graduating from law school he came back to Castle Dale where he had left his sweetheart, Emma Jeffs. They were then married at this time.

When he came to Castle Dale the first time, he boarded at the Jeffs home. When he came to the Jeffs home hunting for a place to live Emma was so angry at her parents for taking in another boarder that she would not speak to him. Little did she know he would someday be her husband. Dick was interested in many business concerns holding a directorship in the Castle Dale Co-op, Emery County Seed So. and many other enterprises.

He was elected County Attorney for 10 years and also had his own law practice with Ira Browning. Their office was located over the Emery County Bank.

Dick owned the first car in Emery County which caused his death in 1914. At the time of his death he was President of the Commercial Club, Attorney for Castle Dale and Clerk for the School Board.

Huntington Bros

In 1926 Leonard Huntington and his sons bought the store in Castle Dale from a Mr. Bowen. He and his second son Lloyd ran the store with the other sons help. In 1948 Len died and Lloyd and Stanley took over the store.

The Huntington Brothers store was on main street and was a general merchandise store. The motto of the store was "If we don't have it you don't need it", they carried everything from horse shoes, nails, to ladies dresses, shoes, levies, penny candy and groceries. The store was later sold to Dickson and Ross Huntington Stanley's sons and Len's grandsons. In 1975-76 the old store was torn down and a new modern store was built. The store was again sold in 1985.

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