

**Leon Parley Ralphs and Surelda Crawford**  
**by Walter Ralphs**

Leon Parley Ralphs was born 16 Nov 1886, the second son of Parley P. Ralphs and Hannah Hansen. He was 16 when his father died. He worked on the farm until he was called on a mission to Texas. Hannah helped to support Leon on his mission. When he returned, Leon ran the cows for a few years and took the increase for his start.

Surelda Crawford was born 17 Nov 1886 to Nathaniel Crawford and Evalyn Lowery in Manti, Sanpete County. At an early age, Surelda moved with her parents to Castle Valley, locating in Ferron, Emery County.

Leon married Surelda Crawford 27 Oct 1909 in the Manti Temple. They first lived in the house where Preston Thompson lived on Canyon road. They moved a log house up to their present lot and lived in it for a while.

Leon and Mirl each purchased land from the Rochester Ranch Co. in the spring of 1923. The Company bought up the land on the flat and then sold land shares to individuals. They enlarged the canal and helped build a concrete dam in the Muddy River. Leon built a little log house on his property near the lane going up to Mirl's homestead. He had a large bunch of cattle.

Leon was appointed the first Post Master of Rochester. Aunt Surelda managed a small store called the Blue Bird Cottage. Later, they sold their land and moved back into Ferron. He invested his money in the Ferron Merc. Store where he worked in the store for a while with Lew Peterson. Leon was Post Master of Ferron for many years. They also operated the telephone exchange. Later in life, Leon and Surelda served a mission together in Kansas.

Leon and Surelda adopted Hazen William Draper in 1918. He was born 20 Mar 1916 in Lewiston, Cache County, UT to William Harris Draper and Mary Nelson. Hazen died 29 Jan 1929 at Moore.