

CHAUNCEY SMITH CRITTENDEN

Born December 26, 1834, at Conway, Massachusetts. He was the son of Willard and Parthenia Dickenson Allis Crittenden. He lived on a farm until he was 21 years of age and labored at such work as could be found. There were six living children and two died in infancy in the family. He and an older brother, Edwin, were the only ones in the family to come to Utah.

On April 29, 1856, he went to work at Winstead County in the cutlery there and remained until April 23, 1861, five years. He returned home and the next day he enlisted as a volunteer soldier in the civil war, this being the first call for volunteers by President Lincoln. He enlisted for three months, and when he had served his time, he was honorable released; after which he went to work in the Remington Armory at Illion, New York. He voted for Abraham Lincoln for President.

In 1864 he started for Utah in company with John and Ebenezer Young. In Omaha he bought a team of horses and a wagon, and traveled as far as Julesburg. They stopped here for some time on account of Indian trouble. Mr. Young having crossed the plains before understood the indians. The three, with the wagon full of provisions started out. All three sat in the seat with the two on the outside holding their guns, while the one in the center drove. This was for protection from the Indians. Whenever they saw indians they would call to them in indian fashion and throw them crackers or other food and drive on, Upon seeing they were friendly, the indians would let them go unmolested.

Chauncey told of an experience of seeing an indian sitting with his back toward him on the end of a long log on the river bank. His first impulse was to slip up and push the indian into the water, but he decided not to harm him as he had caused no trouble. A little later this same indian helped them when their wagon broke down.

After the three travelers has plodded through dirt, cold, and storm, they finally reached Salt Lake City, October 3, 1864. In January 1865, Chauncey decided to come to Hoytsville, or Unionville as it was then called, where his brother, Edwin, had a home he had made the year before. Here he took up farming and carpenter work to earn a living.

On February 1, 1865, after only three days of courtship he married Elizabeth Wareing. To them were born five sons; Willard, Oscar, Chauncey Herbert, Irwin and Lyman.

He was baptised a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in June 1868. He and Elizabeth later received their Endowments in the Salt Lake Endowment H ouse.

He did much toward building up the community. He was called by Pres. Cluff of Summit Stake to help build the Stake House. He worked on the building from the beginning until it was completed for use. He worked from the foundation right up to the roof and never missed a payment when due on this or any other obligation he undertook. It was indeed a labor of love as he didn't receive enough money to buy a pair of shoes from this work. He helped on all the early church and school buildings in the community and was usually assisted by his brother Edwin. He helped with the old rock school house in Coalville.

Chauncey Smith Crittenden

He loved music and singing and learned to play the organ by note when he was quite old. He and his brother Edwin always sang in the choir and often had to do the singing by themselves. He sang bass in a male quartet when he was a lad in Conway.

He was very devoted to his brother, Edwin, and never missed a Sunday in visiting him in his last years of sickness.

He was always prompt and punctual. It was said of him that he was never late for a meeting. His favorite song was "Onward Christian Soldiers." The organ he bought and learned to play was donated to the Hoytsville Ward by the family after his death and was used for many years there for all music.

The mail for Hoytsville was brought to his home and people called there instead of going to Coalville. His home was a stopping place or inn for travelers going to and from Salt Lake. One who never failed to make his night's lodgings at Crittendens was Sandy Glenn, a peddler. He was school Trustee and served as secretary for the Water Ditch Company.

He was very devoted to his wife and family and in spite of the short acquaintance before marriage, there was never a happier or more devoted couple. They bought land and built a log home where they lived until they could afford a better one. They built a large brick home which was later occupied by Irwin Crittenden. Mr. Crittenden bought more land and improved it and the home by planting small pine trees around it that he carried from the hills on his back. He didn't think half of them would grow, but by the time he died, he had a small forest around the house.

He was about five feet seven inches tall, was never very heavy, weighing about 140 pounds. He had blue eyes and black hair which later turned a pretty white. He always stood very straight and was never very sick in his life. The family celebrated his 85 birthday in his home which was then owned by his son Lyman. His wife Elizabeth died May 5, 1909. He was proud of his family and loved to have them gather together and sing around the family organ. He died August 4, 1919 at the age of 85 and was ~~buried~~ buried in the Hoytsville Cemetery.