

## Shann George Staheli

George or Shann George Staheli was born in Amriswil, Thurgau, Switzerland, 6 February 1825. He was the son of Johannes and Elizabeth Thalman Staheli. He was a man with a lovable character, cultured with an appreciation for the fine arts. George was considerate of his fellow men and a devoted servant of his Heavenly Father. He gave courage, faith and comfort to all he met. George was a fine musician, playing cornet professionally.

In 1847, he was called into the Swiss Army as a bugler. He was a commander in the Army and gave the orders with his bugle when the fight was raging.

He, with three companions, comprised a quartet of brass players who traveled not only over Switzerland, but often crossing the border into Germany to play for dances, festivals and celebrations of all kinds.

After his conversion to the Mormon faith, George, with his wife, Sophie Barbara Haberli, and five of his children sailed from Liverpool, England with a group of 624 immigrants bound for New York City. They were seven weeks crossing the ocean, rested one week, then began their trip to Omaha, Nebraska. From Omaha to Salt Lake City by ox team took ten weeks. Five weeks later the group was called to the Dixie Mission by President Brigham Young. However, after recognizing George's special talents, Brigham suggested that he stay in Salt Lake where he could use his talents to a greater advantage. George, wanting to be with the Swiss people and not knowing the English language, felt inclined to stay with the group. He was given his choice and chose to come to Dixie.

Upon arriving in Washington, a small town just outside of St. George, George's cornet fell from the wagon and was run over. He had it tied to

the bow of the wagon which held the cover. He was distraught knowing that it would be a long time before he would be able to purchase another instrument and it had been his main means of support.

John R. Itten, a member of the Swiss company, inherited 10 band instruments valued at \$80. He gave the instruments to the community and once more George was able to play the cornet and to teach the other instruments to the music hungry settlers. Shortly thereafter George organized a band.

Some of the members were Jacob Tobler, Herman and Jacob Boshart, Professor Conn, Brother Hafen and George.

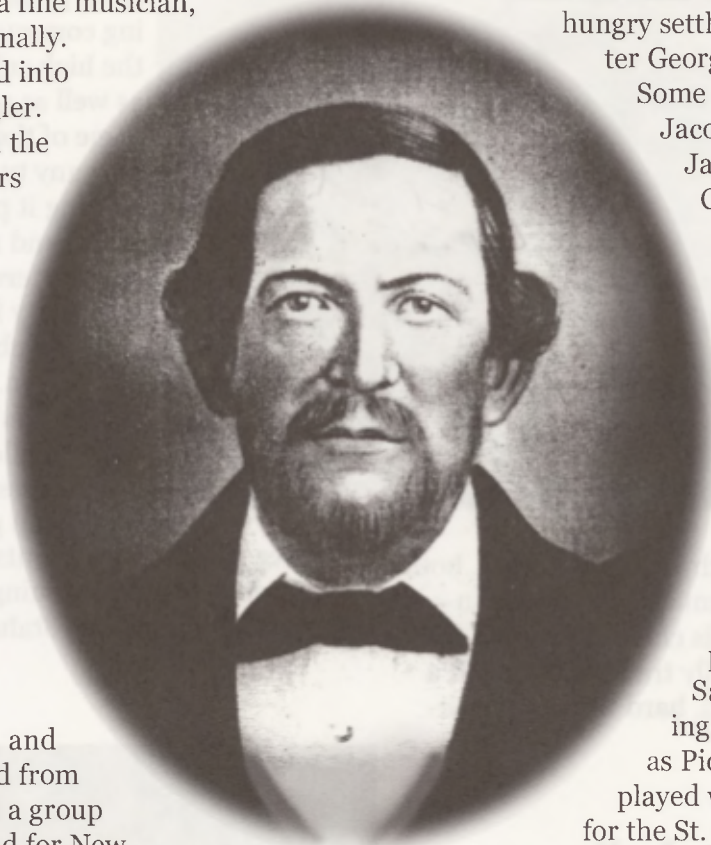
The lack of sheet music was only a temporary handicap because he knew many melodies from his days in Switzerland.

Since he was musically gifted, George was able to write the music for each of the instruments. The band played for dances in Santa Clara and surrounding towns and as far away as Pioche, Nevada. They played when ground was broken for the St. George L.D.S. Temple and later performed from the top of the Temple for the dedication.

He played once a week for a dance in St. George. For his pay, he received flour, potatoes, dried fruit, meat or anything in the line of food for his family.

The brass band and Swiss choir would serenade Brigham Young and other leading authorities as they arrived in Santa Clara. President Young praised George for his music as well as his service to his church and community.

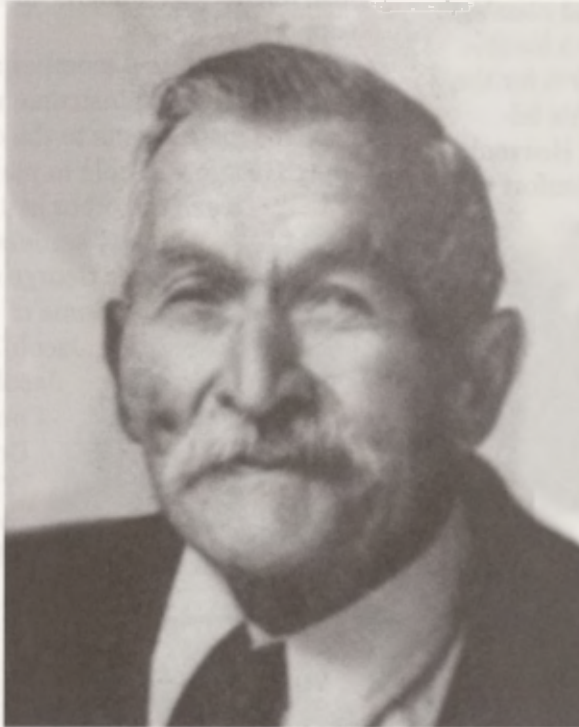
In a letter back to Switzerland, George wrote, "We here love the music. It brings happiness and gaiety in our lives, for all innocent happiness is allowed. Brigham wished that we should at all times be happy and rejoice and be kind with each other."



## John Johannes Staheli

John (Johannes) Staheli, son of Johann George and Sophie Barbara Haberli Staheli, was born 25 May 1855, in Amriswil, Thurgau, Switzerland. He was just four years old when his family immigrated to America. He too, had a love for music along with his brother George. John and George were among the group known as the "Staheli Band". They played at the ground breaking for the St. George L.D.S. Temple. They also played from the top of the Temple when it was dedicated in 1877.

John enjoyed music throughout his life, both vocal and instrumental music was always in John's home. Most of his children learned to play and sing in the family tradition. He left a marvelous legacy of faith, hard work, commitment and refinement.



He was first violin while the well-known Leroy Robertson was playing third.

Roy married Belle Truman and they settled in Enterprise, Utah. There he served in many capacities as chorister in his Church. He played many solos for programs and special occasions on either the violin or trumpet. During a fifty-year period, Roy played for weekly dances in Enterprise, Utah and surrounding communities. He taught at the high school for a few years as well as gave private lessons to some of the students. He could play any tune without music after hearing it played. He loved good music and reveled in the music of the masters. He possessed a deep sensitivity for the expressive powers and subtle nuances of musical expression.

His was a life of quite humble service, filled with the gratitude of the blessings of heaven and for those who preceded him. He lived to see the budding talents of his children and his grandchildren, continuing in the tradition of his grandfather, George Staheli.

## Jesse LeRoy Staheli

Jesse LeRoy Staheli (Roy), son of John and Barbara Tobler Staheli, was born 21 March 1895. He came to a musically talented family still living in Santa Clara, Utah. He learned to play music at an early age. Even as a youngster he accompanied other instruments on the organ for his sister Ida's wedding party. He later became accomplished on the trumpet and violin. Even though he was mild-mannered, his talents of perfect pitch and a good singing voice was a marvel to behold. He taught his children to be quick to overlook the faults of others but to strive for perfection in their own lives. He received his early music training at what is now known as B.Y.U. While playing in the orchestra,



## Karl Staheli

Karl Staheli, son of Jesse LeRoy and Belle Truman Staheli, was born in Enterprise, Utah 22 February 1924. This was a time just prior to the great depression of the thirties. Back then it was a challenge just to provide for the necessities of life. But life went on for Karl and his twin brother, Keith. They learned to sing gospel songs at an early age. Keith would sing the lead and Karl the harmony. The duo was invited to sing in programs at their church and community. Later, Keith started to play his father's coronet in the band and Karl played the school tuba.

After serving in the Navy during World War II, Karl graduated from B.Y.U. with a major in voice and a minor in instrumental music. His first teaching experience was back home in Enterprise in 1951. Four years later he took a teaching position at the Hurricane High School. While in Hurricane, he organized an adult male chorus and enjoyed some great times of fun and special camaraderie found only in groups that were devoted as well as committed.

Through the recommendation of a leading music promoter in the state, Karl accepted a teaching position in Richfield, Utah. During his 13-year tenure there, Karl's high school band received thirteen top ratings. The school's choir/madrigal groups, of which Karl was the conductor, also followed the band's excellence. It was at this time that he received recognition as one of the ten best music teachers in the state of Utah. Because of this he was invited to teach at B.Y.U.'s summer music camp. This was an honor he had enjoyed very much.

During the Richfield era, Karl was privileged to teach each of his five children a musical instrument and other areas such as choirs, musicals, etc. It afforded him an excellent opportunity to be with his children and give them the same love he had for his music. It's no wonder that they became leaders in their bandsections and contributed much to the success of their group.

Karl's last years of teaching were spent in St. George at Dixie High, Dixie Junior High and elementary schools. For the first twenty years, Karl taught all instrumental classes from beginners to their graduation from high school. He expressed a great deal of satisfaction in watching his students develop from beginners to receiving top

honors at high school festival competitions.

In addition, Karl directed a ladies singing group known as the "Crescendos" for over a decade. They were comprised of lovely voices, talent and commitment. This was a select group consisting of fifteen women who were willing to practice at 6:00 a.m. twice a week. They sang at numerous service clubs, at seasonal programs and at many L.D.S. ward sacrament meetings.



## James Samuel Page Bowler

James Samuel Page Bowler was born 4 September 1845 on Pike Street, Leicester, Leicestershire, England a son of John Bowler and Ann Elizabeth Taylor. His mother died when he was five. His grandmother cared for the family. Because it was too much for his grandmother to care for four motherless children, James went to live with his father's parents for a while. After returning home to his family, he was taught the shoe making trade by John Watson, the man who also baptized him into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. By this time his father had re-married and his wife was good to James.

Although it was hard, he found work with William Hardy and finished learning the shoe making trade. He lived with Mr. Hardy and his wife in their home. While he was there he began to study music. He took a great interest in it and spent many hours studying. He later said, "Mr. and Mrs. Hardy were as kind as parents to me. Any success I find in this life, I owe to them."

He met and married Matilda Hill on 3 December 1863. Matilda found out that James was a Mormon about the time their first child was born. He feared that she would leave but instead she decided to join the church herself. This little family enjoyed singing and performed in many places and enjoyed their musical abilities. James taught his children to love music.

A missionary, Zera P. Terry, from Hebron, Utah wanted them to come to America. When they decided to go, they had to give away almost everything they had. The family sailed from Liverpool, England aboard the "Wisconsin" bound for New York.

Their trip was very difficult but they finally arrived in New York. From there they took the Pennsylvania Railroad to Utah. From Salt Lake City they traveled again by rail to Hebron.

The trip took several days. They arrived in Milford in November of 1880 where the last leg of the journey was made by wagon.

In Hebron, members of the LDS faith welcomed them. It was here that Matilda gave birth to their eighth and last child, George Hebron.

James was immediately called to work in the music department in the Hebron Ward which he enjoyed very much. He was anxious to begin work. It had been a long time since they had received any money to live on.

Although their older boys immediately found work riding pony mail and herding sheep, James had to go to Cedar City to find work in a shoe factory. Because of Matilda's poor health he returned to Hebron. Although he had brought the tools and material needed for his work, a few days after returning home, a fire in the tool shed destroyed his tools. After that he went to Salt Lake City for Conference. While there he found work at the Z.C.M.I. shoe factory. He stayed there for two years. Eventually he returned to Hebron to be near his children. He taught school in Hebron that year.

He had heard about the quiet little town of Gunlock with its mild climate, fruit, vegetables and beautiful trees. He found a job teaching there and worked alternately between Gunlock and Hebron for five years.

In 1894 he moved to Parowan to work in the Co-op store, purchased a home and was elected Justice of the Peace. He liked his work



but Matilda wanted to move back to Gunlock so she could be closer to her married children. After moving back to Gunlock, he worked with the Saints teaching them music and leading a choir. He loved music with all his soul and encouraged everyone around him to feel the wonders of music.

In December of 1900 his beloved Matilda died. He thought, at times, that he could never survive without her but in 1902 he married Sarah Canfield and she was a good companion to him.

He got a commission as Postmaster in Gunlock. He was Justice of the Peace, Superintendent of the Sunday school, worked in the MIA as the choir leader. He was also the ward clerk and helped to get the telephone installed in Gunlock. He was reasonably happy again.

After his second wife died, James' son, Harry and his wife moved in with him and cared for him the rest of his days. He died in December of 1932.

Not only did he bless those around him with music but he also blessed them with his poetry.

Children of James Samuel Page Bowler and Matilda Hill Bowler are:

- Harry Hill
- James Samuel Page
- Ann Elizabeth
- John Henry
- Kate
- Mary Ann
- Florence Matilda
- Walter Wallace
- Francis Joseph
- George Hebron



Opposite page: James S.P. Bowler

Above: James S.P. Bowler at organ with his second wife, Sarah Canfield

## Andrew B. Price

When George Thomas Price and Adeliza Alger McArthur married they brought into their marriage a family of two boys and a girl, Don Carlos, Adelbert and Emma Rhoner. Tom's first wife had died leaving him with the two boys. Addie, Andrew's second wife, had taken Emma to raise after her husband had died. Emma's mother had died leaving a family of small children and though Addie never did formally adopt Emma, she raised her as her own daughter.

Together, George and Addie had three more children, Andrew, Thomas and Sara. Andrew Bird McArthur Price was born on 27 September 1887 in St. George, Utah. They were one family with no distinction made as to whether they were half-brothers or not; they were just a family.

Andrew was known as 'Biz' throughout his entire life and was taught to work at an early age. His mother had acquired, with her first husband, property throughout the area and as the boys grew up, they helped their father take care of their holdings. Biz especially enjoyed working with horses. His mother was an excellent horse-woman and had fine horses that were used as teams as well as pleasure horses. Andrew also had a love for horses. He was especially fond of racehorses and owned several thoroughbreds as well as quarterhorses.

His mother owned a millinery shop on the small triangular block situated on 2nd West between Diagonal St. and 300 North. After Silver Reef closed down she bought a building and had it moved onto her lot and added groceries and dry goods to her already established business. It would have been an excellent opportunity for Biz. He learned retail business from his mother. From his father he learned the farm and to raise cattle

on the ranch in Dammeron Valley.

Biz was only nine years old when he learned of the tragic death of his father. His dad was killed while getting a load of wood in the area west of St. George. He died 13 November, 1896. Bert, George's second son, was working with him at the time. He came to town for help as quickly as he could, but it was too late. Despite this tragedy the young family kept together working hard. Their mother carried on with the help of each one of the children, especially the young men of the family.

Biz's Grandmother Alger was living with the family in the home. His mother had added on to the home so it was large and pleasant to live in. This home is still being lived in at the present time. (July, 2000)

Biz married his sweetheart, Annie Charlotte Rencher on January 1, 1914 and they set up housekeeping in a home given to them by his mother at 210 Diagonal Street, which was just across the street from her. In fact, she gave each one of her children a home when they married.



Above: Andrew "Biz" McArthur Price

Below: The Biz-Ray Dance Hall, corner of Main and Diagonal, St. George, Utah. Biz also loved music as you can see by this picture above.