

Charles Henry Embley

Charles Henry Embley was born 19 January 1859 in Farmington, Fulton, Illinois.¹ He was the second of five children of Samuel Embley and Annie Stones, immigrants from Lancashire, England.² On the 1860 census, Charles was living with his parents in Brimfield, Peoria, Illinois, where his father was working as a farm hand.³ His father died when Charles was four, and his mother had twin daughters with a man named Miller but the girls were raised by an uncle or other family member. In the middle of her difficulties, she sent six-year old Charles to live with a family in Sidney, Iowa. He helped on their farm and did chores around the house. At the age of seven he started to school. He loved books and did well in school.⁴

In 1870, Charles' mother married John Hughes, probably in Colorado.⁵ Charles graduated from Des Moines (Iowa) High School in 1874.⁶ He rejoined his family, and he and his mother and sister headed west Council Bluff, Iowa, to Toquerville, Utah Territory in the spring of 1875. His mother and stepfather ran a store in Toquerville and then in Silver Reef, Washington, Utah Territory. Charles helped his mother in every way possible for three years. In 1878, Charles moved to Richfield, Sevier, Utah Territory, where he worked for Bishop Horn, who eventually converted him to the Mormon faith.⁷

While he was working with Bishop Horn, he met Sarah Ann Duffin. They made a six-week round trip by covered wagon to Salt Lake City to be married in the Endowment House in 1879. They made their home in Gunnison, Sanpete, Utah Territory. One of his first jobs after their marriage was at Axtell where he helped make molasses. He directed plays, called for dances, and did much clerical work. He and Sarah had eight children, all born in the Gunnison-Centerfield area, and raised six of them to adulthood.⁸

On one 1880 census, Charles was a miner, living with his stepfather, mother and sister in Silver Reef, Washington, Utah Territory. His Welsh stepfather had a shoe market. His mother was well known as a successful nurse.⁹ Another 1880 census shows Charles working on a farm and living with his wife Sarah in the household of Hannah Hansen, a widow in Gunnison.¹⁰ In April 1884, he received a mission call to New Zealand. He wrote a letter to President John Taylor, explaining that he was working at a mining camp in Eureka and pleaded that he could leave after October Conference as his little family was struggling. A return note from the president instructed him to prepare to leave in October but until then he was honorably released.¹¹ However, it appears that he didn't leave for his mission until 1893. He served two-and-a-half years in New Zealand, with much success.¹²

Upon his return in 1897, he was the water master of a wide area covering parts of Sanpete and Millard Counties. While on one of his trips, he accidentally shot himself, obliterating the elbow of his right arm. He lost a great deal of blood and it was some time before he reached the hospital in Salt Lake City. In serious condition, he was told by doctors that the only means of saving his life was to

¹ Early Mormon Missionaries.

² *Familysearch.org*

³ United States Census, 1860.

⁴ History of Father, Charles H. Embley, by Della E Anderson.

⁵ *Familysearch.org*

⁶ History of Father, Charles H. Embley, by Della E Anderson.

⁷ Charles H Embley's Life and Mission.

⁸ History of Father, Charles H. Embley, by Della E Anderson.

⁹ *Gunnison Gazette*.

¹⁰ United States Census, 1880.

¹¹ Letter dated 4 April 1884, at *Familysearch.org*

¹² Utah, Salt Lake City, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Missionary Department, Missionary Registers, 1860-1937.

amputate. Charles refused, even when they told him they would not be responsible for the consequences. A priesthood blessing promised him life, and he went to the operating room. He had to learn to use his left hand, but eventually mastered the use of his injured arm.¹³

Charles served as a stockholder in two local stores and the Gunnison Irrigation Company.¹⁴ He ran for state representative on the Democratic ticket in 1898.¹⁵ On the 1900 census, he was a farmer, living with his wife and five children in Gunnison. The next year, his mother came to live with them until she died in 1909 in Centerfield.¹⁶ He began to educate himself for teaching. In 1903, he delivered a lecture on "Child Culture" at the academy building in Ephraim. He earned a temporary teaching certificate in 1807 and passed the state teaching examination in 1908. He was hired as one of five teachers in Centerfield.¹⁷

In 1908, he became the superintendent of religion classes in Centerfield.¹⁸ On the 1910 census, he was a school teacher, living in Centerfield with his wife and three children.¹⁹ That year he was elected a justice for Centerfield.²⁰ He ran for county assessor on the Democratic ticket in 1912.²¹ He was appointed census examiner for Sanpete County in 1919.²² On the 1920 census, he was a farmer, living in Centerfield with his wife and three children.²³ In 1928, his wife died of pneumonia and was buried in Centerfield.²⁴ Charles died peacefully at his home in Centerfield of peritonitis on 17 October 1929 and was buried in Centerfield.²⁵



Charles Henry Embley in New Zealand about 1895
(image from *Familysearch.org*)

¹³ History of Father, Charles H. Embley, by Della E Anderson.

¹⁴ History of Sanpete and Emery Counties.

¹⁵ *Ephraim Enterprise*, 26 October 1898, p. 6.

¹⁶ *Salt Lake Tribune*, 16 January 1909, p. 12; *Ephraim Enterprise*, 14 January 1909, p. 4; *Gunnison Gazette*; Utah Salt Lake County Death Records, 1849-1949; Utah Death Certificates, 1904-1964; Utah Deaths and Burials, 1888-1946.

¹⁷ *Salt Lake Herald*, 2 February 1903, p. 3; 8 September 1908, p. 10; 21 August 1908, p. 5; *Deseret Evening News*, 7 May 1907, p. 7; *Salt Lake Tribune*, 8 September 1908, p. 11; *Salt Lake Herald*.

¹⁸ *Ephraim Enterprise*, 29 October 1908, p. 3.

¹⁹ United States Census, 1910.

²⁰ *Deseret Evening News*, 10 November 1910, p. 7.

²¹ *Ephraim Enterprise*, 24 October 1912, p. 3; 30 October 1912, p. 1; *Manti Messenger*, 1 November 1912, p. 6.

²² *Ogden Standard*, 26 December 1919, p. 3.

²³ United States Census, 1920.

²⁴ *Ogden Standard-Examiner*, 27 February 1928, p. 2; *Salt Lake Telegram*, 27 February 1928, p. 14.

²⁵ History of Father, Charles H. Embley, by Della E Anderson; Charles H Embley's Life and Mission.



Charles Henry and Sarah with three of their children about 1887 in Gunnison
(image from *Familysearch.org*)



The home of the Charles Henry Embley family still stands in Centerfield along the main highway just north of the cemetery (image from *Familysearch.org*)



Charles Henry Embley (image from *Familysearch.org*)

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