

David Chidester

David Chidester was born 5 June 1840 in Nauvoo, Hancock, Illinois. He was the fifth of nine children of John Madison Chidester and Mary Josephine Parker. David was four years old when Joseph Smith was murdered.¹ The family moved to Montrose, Lee, Iowa in the winter of 1846, where he father built and operated a ferry to aid the Saints in escaping the mobs. Two years later, they they wintered in Garden Grove, Iowa and then continued on to Council Bluffs where David's father built and operated a grist mill for grinding corn. It was not until the summer of 1850 that they actually made the final journey west. In 1850, the family was living in Pottawattamie, Pottawattamie, Iowa.² They crossed the plains and wintered in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah Territory.³ They moved to Bountiful, Davis, Utah, then settled at Palmyra, Utah, Utah, in 1852.

David served at Spanish Fork during the Ute Indian War in November 1853 as 1st Lieutenant in John P Chidester's company [his oldest brother]. He also served at Washington County under James Andrus during the Navajo War.⁴ On the 1860 census, he was a laborer, living with his family in Great Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah Territory.⁵ In 1862, David and his brother-in-law took a herd of cattle, sheep and horses into the mountains near Hebron, Washington, Utah Territory. He was called to the Cotton Mission, sold his share of the herd, and went to settle in Washington, Washington, Utah Territory, with his father.⁶

David was called to return to Winter Quarters, Nebraska, in 1863 to assist the Saints coming west. He was paid for this service with a trunk, a set of dished, a violin and ten pounds of sugar.⁷ He married Rebecca Ann Price in Washington, Washington, Utah Territory. They had eleven children. In 1865, he married Margaret Jane Pearson, stepsister to Rebecca, in Washington. They had six children. The family moved to Hebron in 1866. That year he was called to escort an immigrant train from the Missouri region to Utah. He crossed the plains both ways during 1866-1867.⁸

David served as a private in D H Cannon's Company of the Utah Territorial Militia during the Black Hawk War. He enlisted 11 January 1866 and was discharged 16 January 1867.⁹ In 1869, he helped erect and operate a sawmill in Hebron.¹⁰ On the 1870 census, he was a stock herder, living with Rebecca and Margaret, two children and two step children in Hebron.¹¹ He helped in the erection and operation of a sawmill and was known as a good cheesemaker. On the 1880 census, he was a teamster, living with Rebecca and six children in Leeds, Washington, Utah Territory.¹²

In 1887, David was arrested at Leeds for "unlawful cohabitation", arraigned, pled guilty, was sentenced and served six months in the old state penitentiary that stood in what is now Sugarhouse

¹ Chidester-Chichester Heritage, by Anderson and Anderson, 1977, p. 134.

² United States Census, 1850.

³ *Salt Lake Tribune*, 9 March 1929.

⁴ Utah Applications of Indian War Service Medals, 1905-1912.

⁵ United States Census, 1860.

⁶ Chidester-Chichester Heritage, by Anderson and Anderson, 1977, p. 134.

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ *Salt Lake Tribune*, 9 March 1929

⁹ Utah Veterans with Federal Service Buried in Utah, Territorial to 1966; US General Index to Pension Files, 1861-1934.

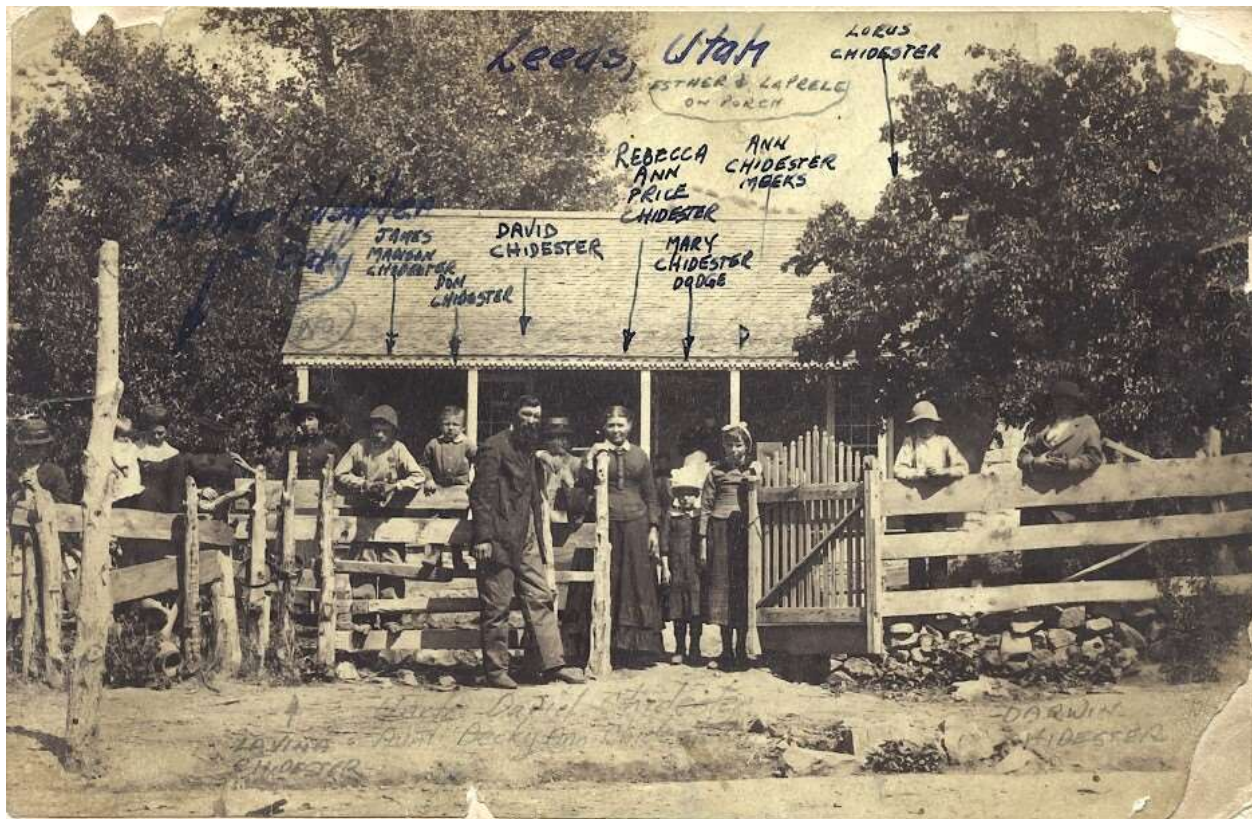
¹⁰ Chidester-Chichester Heritage, by Anderson and Anderson, 1977, p. 135.

¹¹ United States Census, 1870.

¹² United States Census, 1880.

Park in Salt Lake City. While there, he carved a rocking chair from salt rocks.¹³ In 1895, he homesteaded in St George.¹⁴ On the 1900 census, he was a day laborer, living with Rebecca and one son in Leeds, Washington, Utah.¹⁵ He raised turkeys to support his family. He and Rebecca moved to Richfield, Sevier, Utah, in 1907, where they rented two vacant lots and raised vegetables to sell. David also worked as the night watchman at the Sigurd gypsum plant. They lived for a time with their son in Venice and then Delta, Utah., then returned to Richfield.¹⁶

Margaret had moved to Wyoming with her children and died in 1912.¹⁷ In 1920, David and Rebecca were still living in Richfield.¹⁸ They were both bedridden for the last years of their lives.¹⁹ David died 8 March 1929 in Richfield, Sevier, Utah, and is buried in the Richfield Cemetery. Rebecca died two months later in Richfield and is buried by David.²⁰



David Chidester (in front of fence) and wife Rebecca (in gateway) at family home in Leeds (image from *Findagrave.com*)

¹³ *Salt Lake Herald*, 6 December 1887, p. 8; 15 December 1887; *Deseret Weekly*, 28 March 1891, p. 444; Chidester-Chichester Heritage, by Anderson and Anderson, 1977, p. 136.

¹⁴ *Salt Lake Tribune*, 26 September 1895, p. 6.

¹⁵ United States Census, 1900.

¹⁶ Chidester-Chichester Heritage, by Anderson and Anderson, 1977, pp. 136-7.

¹⁷ *Findagrave.com*

¹⁸ United States Census, 1920.

¹⁹ Chidester-Chichester Heritage, by Anderson and Anderson, 1977, p. 137.

²⁰ Utah Death Certificates, 1904-1964.



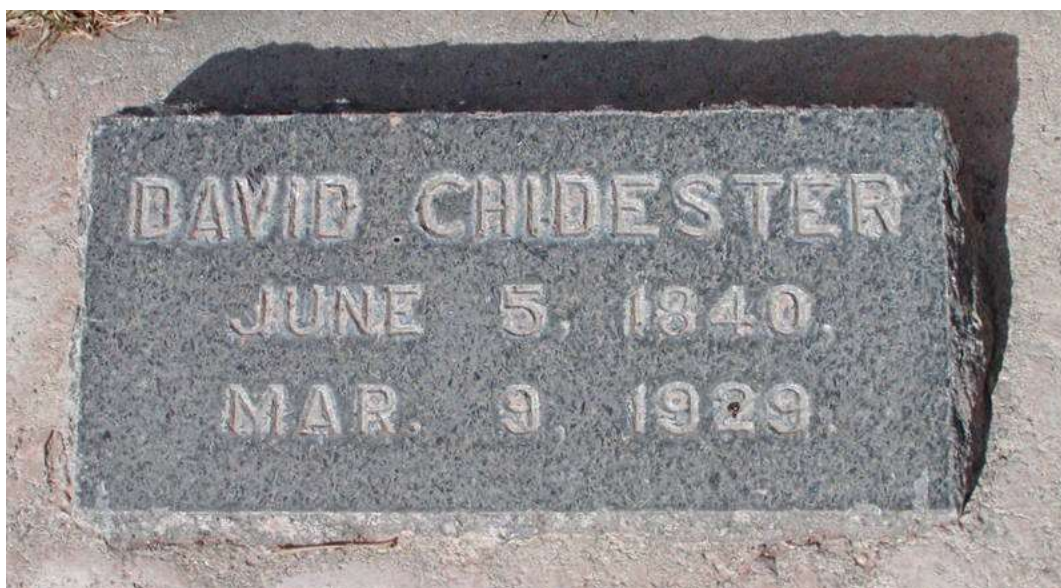
David Chidester home in 1995
(image from Leeds Historical Event in Bits and Pieces, by Wilma Cox Beal, p. 60)



David Chidester (image from *Familysearch.org*)



David, David, and Rebecca Chidester (image from *Familysearch.org*)



(Image from *Findagrave.com*)



David and Rebecca Chidester, about 1923 (image from *Ancestry.com*)