

History of

Leo Alva Snow
and
Lula Pendleton Snow

by

Ronald Lee Snow
son of Leo Beman Snow
grandson of Leo Alva Snow

Written June 2008, revised June 2020

Preface to Leo A. and Lula P. Snow History

As a child growing up in the southern states, I knew little about my western U.S. heritage. Trips to St. George were rare and recollections of my grandparents are limited. But a vivid memory came from an event in the summer of 1954. During that trip my grandfather, Leo A. Snow, learned that I had not been baptized, then encouraged taking me down to the St. George Temple where my father performed the ordinance. I was confirmed the following day, July 4, 1954, in the church building a block below the St. George Tabernacle.

In December 1958, Leo and Lula Snow made a singular visit to our home in Morganton, North Carolina. Grandma Lula subsequently passed away in August 1959, and Grandpa Leo died four years later. By happenstance, my mother, brother, sister and I were in St. George for his funeral in July 1963. We had been on a summer driving tour to visit a maternal aunt in the Chicago area and were encouraged to push on to St. George when we learned of Leo's imminent demise, arriving after the fact. This provided a rare opportunity to meet with my Snow aunts, uncles, and many cousins.

Reunions with Snow relatives thereafter were difficult to attend because of distance and my own educational pursuits. It wasn't until publication of the Andrew Karl Larson biography of my great-great-grandfather, Erastus Fairbanks Snow, that I gained a greater understanding of my roots. Dad sent a copy of the book to me and it sat on a shelf until I mistakenly mentioned it to my Branch President Richard Rust sometime in 1976. He didn't hesitate to ask me to speak about my illustrious ancestor in sacrament meeting. The task hung over me like an anvil, but after some "tender mercies" a reasonable summary was prepared.

My talk about Erastus Snow went so long that President Rust had to ask twice, politely, for me to conclude my remarks. The seeds had been planted and appreciation for my heritage blossomed. Thereafter I was led to Sharon Pitchforth, a St. George native, and "the rest is history." Moving to St. George in 1979 has certainly increased my interest in family history. Snow family reunions could now be more easily attended, and stories of my ancestry were frequent, as

townspeople would remark about my father and grandfather, expecting me to uphold the good family name.

When the responsibility for the 2008 Snow Family Reunion fell to me, the impetus was there to explore in depth the life and accomplishments of Leo Alva Snow. Many hours were spent with various autobiographical summaries, remembrances by family and friends, and the archives of Dixie State University where most of his memorabilia resides. The current pandemic has prompted an expansion of that previous work and a desire to produce a more permanent record of my Snow grandparents. It is my hope that this volume will serve as a fitting tribute to the legacy of service and sacrifice in the lives of Leo A. and Lula P. Snow.

Ample archival black and white photos were used to supplement the text and enhance the appreciation of our ancestors and their lives. The few modern color photos were reproduced in black and white for consistency in maintaining the time frame of events and places.

A sincere “thank you” to all those who have helped and encouraged with this project including Gale Judd Case, Lorraine Judd, Alora Howard, Doug and Elaine Alder, Camille Snow Johnson, Lynn Snow, Gordon Snow, Debra Snow, and especially my patient wife, Sharon. Without her painstaking proofreading and help with the intricacies of computer word processing, this would still be on the digital shelf.

Ronald L. Snow
June 2020

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Leo Alva Snow
Drawing by Alma Millett - 1946

Leo Alva Snow

Ash Creek Bridge

It was quite an event that September 17, 1925! Almost 1,200 people were there and someone counted 190 automobiles. The Dixie orchestra played while people danced on the new bridge. After the dedicatory prayer everyone joined in singing “*America*.” Leo A. Snow, chairman of the program committee and emcee, then introduced the speakers including Utah Senator David Hirschi, Mayor C. C. Heslin of Salt Lake City, B. J. Finch of the U.S. Public Roads Bureau, and President Heber J. Grant of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. After speeches, the celebration resumed with a banquet of Dixie fruit and melons, and more dancing.

This bridge across Ash Creek at the top of the notorious Black Ridge was the last link in the fine highway U. S. 91 between Salt Lake City and St. George and from there on to Los Angeles. Prior to completion of this bridge, motorists had to negotiate a rugged old road down the east side of the Black Ridge. A Utah Parks bus had recently been swept downstream while trying to ford the swollen Ash Creek. The journey could now be made in relative safety.

There were smiles and handshakes all around, but it was a bittersweet success for the engineer and supervisor of construction who had won the bid on the project. A deposit of loose volcanic conglomerate (instead of compact bedrock) was encountered on the south side of the creek requiring considerably more expensive concrete for that supporting end. A partner in the project simply declared bankruptcy, leaving the entire debt of \$20,000 (equivalent to \$400,000 in 2008) to Leo A. Snow.

Ash Creek Bridge is barely visible now by travelers on Interstate 15, but still serves a few farmers and ranchers just south of New Harmony. This vital connection on the old Arrowhead Trail is otherwise forgotten, though it holds important lessons for the posterity of the builder.



Leo A. Snow with transit



Ash Creek Bridge - 1925

Family Heritage

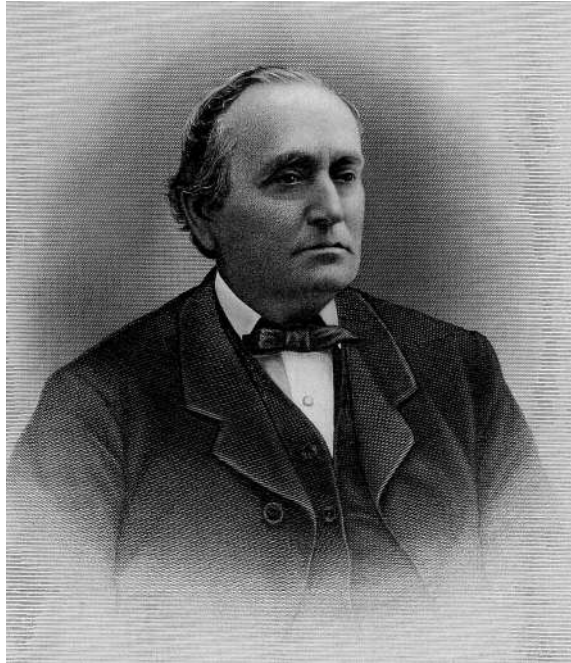
In the October General Conference of 1861, President Brigham Young called 309 families under the direction of Apostle Erastus Snow to leave the Salt Lake Valley, go 300 miles south to the Virgin River Basin and there establish a community to be called St. George. Many of these faithful Saints had been with Brigham Young on the Westward trek of 1847 after leaving Nauvoo the year before. Now they were being asked to leave their comfortable homes, farms, and businesses to tame this hot, barren, desert land. It was a severe trial of their faith and obedience. The outbreak of the Civil War had restricted supplies of cotton and Brigham Young was convinced that the “Cotton Mission” of Utah’s “Dixie” could produce it in quantity and bolster the self-sufficiency of the Mormon territory. Refusing entreaties from Samuel Brannon and others to come and participate in the California Gold Rush, Brother Brigham also sensed the importance of securing every source of water in the Great Basin against an expected flood of immigrants once the railroad was completed. Water, not gold, was the most precious resource in this arid land.

On December 1, 1861, the main party arrived in the valley which was flanked by dark volcanic ridges and bordered on the north by red sandstone cliffs. They made their encampment near the current site of Dixie State University. Culinary water was brought down from the east springs of the Red Hill and plans were made to irrigate the “fields” area from the Virgin River. On Christmas Day it began to rain and continued intermittently for the next forty days. Living in tents and wagon boxes, the Saints and their meager belongings got soaked. Crops planted with great expectation withered in the summer heat. The Virgin River repeatedly defied attempts to be tamed as dams were washed away during springtime floods.

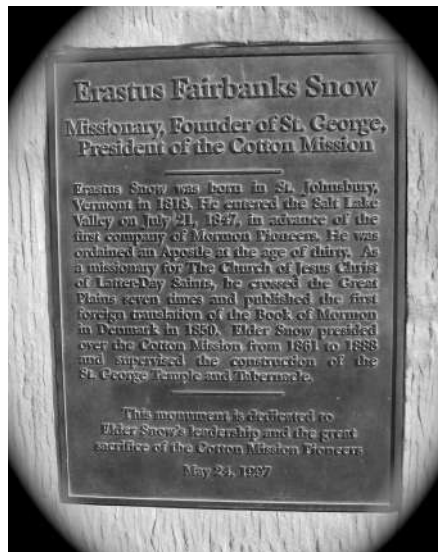
When Brigham Young visited the struggling community in September 1862, he immediately recognized the problems and the peril to his plans to develop and hold this part of the territory. He asked the faithful to begin building a meetinghouse large enough to seat 2,000 people. For a community of 1,200-1,500 souls, this would be a monumental task. All the tithing resources from Cedar City south were put at their disposal and the work commenced June 1, 1863, infusing a new spirit of hope. The St. George Tabernacle stands today as a monument to their faith, craftsmanship, and hard work.

President Young spent winters in St. George and in April 1871, with work on the Salt Lake Temple stymied, he decided that a temple should be built here. The Tabernacle project was nearing completion, thus skilled labor was available. The men needed another work project and were paid in tithing script, which helped the local struggling economy. Those who had administered the ordinances in the Nauvoo Temple were aging and needed a place where this could be done and others trained. The relative isolation of St. George would keep it out of view of the federal government and the national press. With considerable effort and sacrifice, the beautiful white St. George Temple, first in the West, was completed and dedicated in April 6-8, 1877, just six months before the death of Brigham Young.

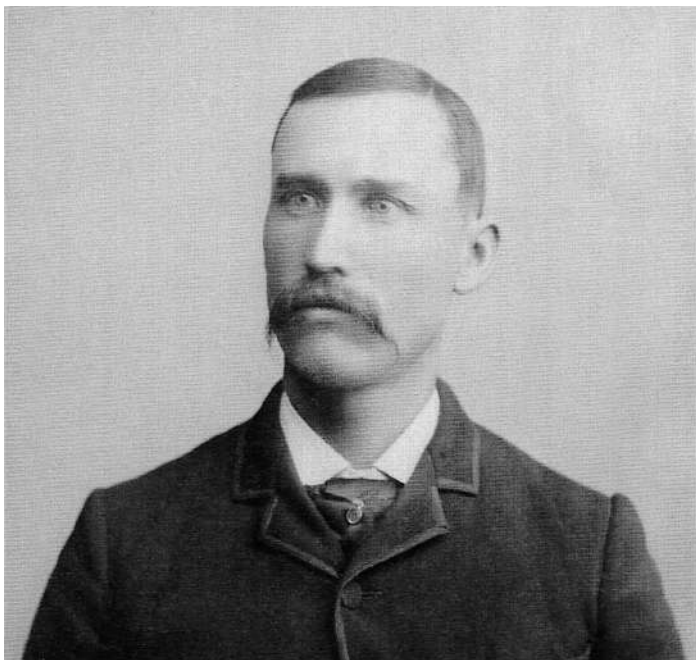
Among those St. George saints was a young man named Erastus Beman Snow, son of Apostle Erastus Snow and the Apostle's first wife, Artemesia Beman. Erastus Beman was eight years old when the family moved to Dixie and as he grew he stayed busy with all the chores of rural life along with learning carpentry work on the Tabernacle and Temple, casket making, and accompanying his father on frequent trips in the territory. He married Elida Crosby in October 1874, when he was 21. Their first child, Artemesia, was born in November 1875, and a second child, Erastus Beman Jr. was born in November 1877. One month later on December 25, 1877, he received a mission call to the Zuni Indians of Arizona, and to the people of New Mexico and Mexico. He served several missions for the Church intermittently between 1878 and 1880, including England and Scotland, returning to St. George to resume his carpentry trade and tend his farmland in the Washington Fields. His third child, Leo Alva Snow, was born September 5, 1881. After additional Church missions in Mexico, Erastus Beman continued his ecclesiastical work in St. George and established a home furnishings business that became E. B. Snow Furniture located diagonally across from the St. George Tabernacle.



Erastus Fairbanks Snow



Erastus Snow plaque at
St. George Tabernacle



Erastus Beman Snow



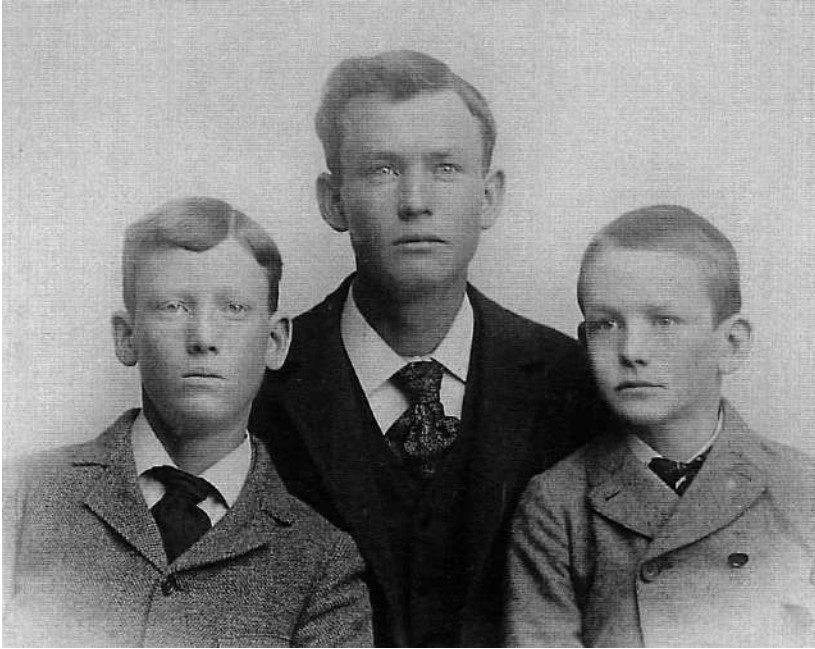
Elida Crosby Snow



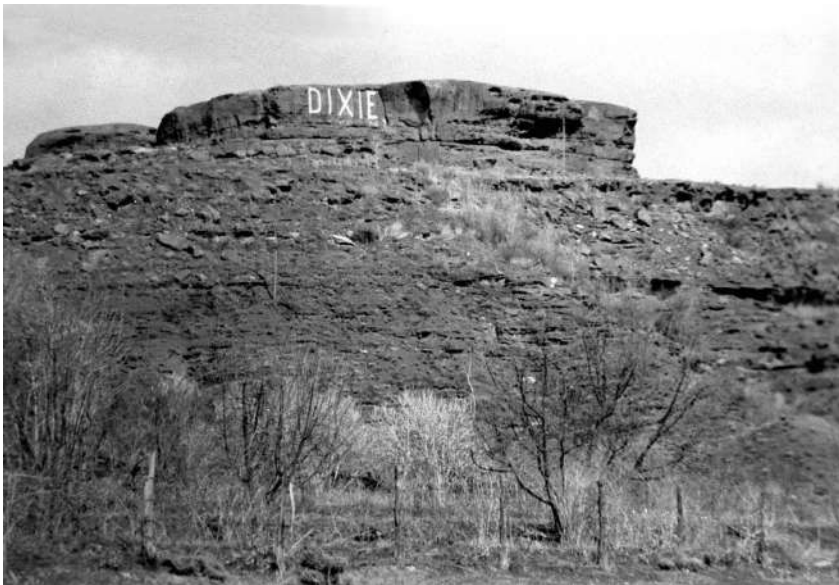
Leo Alva Snow - 1882



Erastus Beman Snow Family - 1886
 Standing: Artemesia, Erastus "Ras" Beman Jr.
 Seated: Elida, Lawrence, Josephine, Leo, Erastus Beman



Leo Alva, Erastus "Ras" Beman Jr., Lawrence



Sugarloaf on the Red Hill

Childhood and Youth

Young Leo A. was an adventurous lad. At two and a half years old he decided to have a visit with his Grandmother Crosby. In the company of “Old Frank,” the family dog, he was guided the five blocks to her house, never in danger, but causing his mother considerable grief until he was found several hours later.

Leo’s only recollection of his grandfather Erastus Snow was when he was five years old. He and his cousin Antone Ivins were playing in the basement laundry room of the Big House, primary residence of Apostle Snow. He relates, “We had gathered together some chicks away from their mother hen and had put them in one of the wooden wash tubs that looked like one-half of a barrel with metal stays to hold it together. We were attempting to wash the chicks in the tub with a plunger and they were fleeing or dying with each stroke at the time we were caught in the act. We each fled in a different direction and I found myself running toward home by way of the path through the lot. My speed was halted by the extended arm of my grandfather who gently drew me in front of him, having been warned by the screaming voice at the Big House to catch the culprits. My grandfather tilted my head up with a thumb under my chin and peered deep into my eyes as he kindly said, ‘You do not look like a bad boy.’ I felt that he was looking through to my toes. That incident has been a powerful influence and given me a desire to always live worthy of his great name.”

One day cousin Antone and Leo were playing at Antone’s house and they were admiring Uncle Tone’s beautiful horses and jersey calves. Leo said he’d like one of the calves and Antone said, “You can have it for six dollars.” Leo took it seriously and somehow he raised six dollars, met Uncle Tone on the street, handed him the money and said, “Here is the money for my calf.” Uncle Tone asked what calf that was and Leo explained what Antone had said. Uncle Tone smiled but Leo got his thoroughbred calf and raised it to be a wonderful jersey cow that supplied the family with milk and produced a dozen calves.

With daily chores of chopping wood for the stove, milking the cow, feeding the chickens, caring for the dog and horses, tending the garden, taking water turns, and helping with laundry, there wasn’t much time for sports. There was no radio, TV, automobile, air

conditioning or phones that we take for granted today. Games were played outdoors, often with homemade toys. Communication was by letter and news came via the weekly newspaper or word of mouth. Dances were a regular social event and, though described as awkward, Leo did enjoy square dancing.

Leo attended grammar grades in the basement of the Tabernacle and began high school in the new Woodward School. At age eighteen (1899) he went to Provo and attended the Brigham Young Academy (BYA) for business training. He stayed in the home of his married older sister Artemesia, and shared in the cooking, washing, and other household chores. Returning to the BYA in the fall of 1900 he was forced to drop out almost immediately at the sudden death of his father at age 47 due to diabetic complications. Leo's older brother, Erastus Beman Jr., was away on a mission until November, and the responsibility fell to Leo to be the casket maker, tend the farm, and help with the furniture store. Leo resumed his studies at the "Y" in January 1901, returning to St. George later that year.

Having always been a faithful member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and possessed of a strong testimony, Leo was ordained an elder on February 2, 1902, by his uncle and Stake President Edward H. Snow. Diligent in his various callings, he dutifully visited numerous Sunday Schools of the Church in southwest Utah, noting those visits in his personal records.

After completing high school at Woodward as president of the first graduating class in 1903, he resumed an earlier interest in a Miss Penelope Bleak. "Naturally I was attracted to such a beautiful young lady as Nellie and did my best at courting her," said Leo. She was working in the Washington County Recorder's Office and later as the first cashier at the Bank of St. George. The ill health of her father required her to continue work to support the family so she was not ready or able to consider marriage.

He applied for and quickly obtained a teaching certificate and began teaching grades 5 - 8 in Santa Clara for \$30 a month, riding his mustang "Kinkie" to and from that assignment. In the summer of 1904 he was appointed Watermaster in the Washington Fields, a prime agricultural area. On that job he developed a severe respiratory illness, and was sent to Pine Valley for several weeks of recuperation.



Woodward High Class of '03; Leo Snow (5), president



St. George
Tabernacle and
Woodward
School





Penelope Bleak



Leo Alva Snow - 1908

Young Adulthood and Marriage

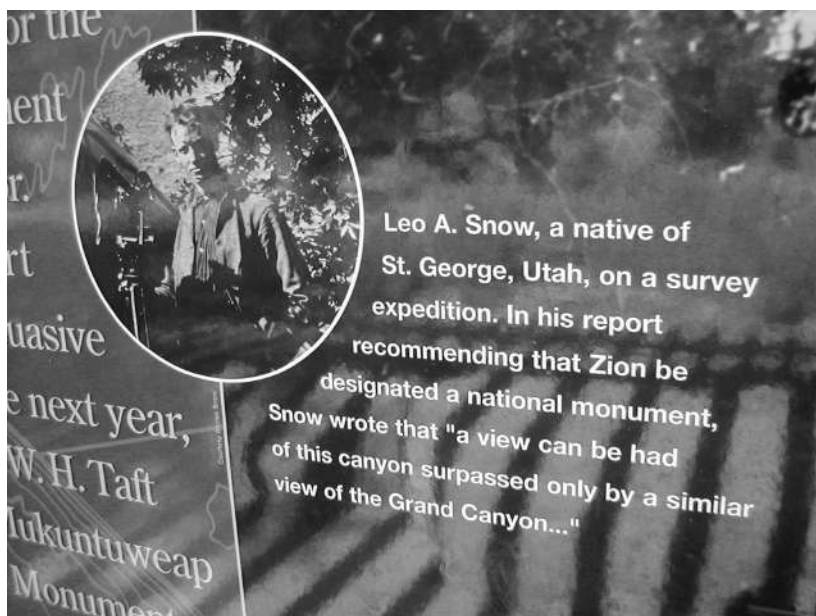
Leo reportedly considered a career in medicine but ultimately decided on engineering and entered the University of Utah School of Mines in the fall of 1904. This was made financially feasible through the generous hospitality of his sister Artemesia and her husband who had since moved to Salt Lake City. Summers were spent in the mines at Alta and he received his B.S. in Mine Engineering in June 1908, one of only two people in Washington County to hold a college degree. In addition to his studies he was Business Manager for the Utonian yearbook.

Upon graduation he took a contract for a U.S. Public Lands Survey that summer to survey what is now Zion Canyon. With a degree and a job it was time to fulfill another adult role. He married Penelope Bleak November 18, 1908, aware that she was quite ill, but feeling it was the honorable thing to do after courting her for eight years.

To support his new wife and cover expenses until he could be paid for the government work, he approached his uncle, Edward H. Snow, who was associated with the Bank of St. George. Uncle Edward explained that loaning money to a relative who had no collateral might prove embarrassing so he suggested contacting Uncle Ashby Snow with Zions Bank in Salt Lake City. "My guess is that Uncle Ed paved the way for a successful interview that day. I shall not soon forget my encounter with Uncle Ashby. His voice was highly pitched and his words were clipped. I told him I might need as much as \$10,000 but I'd like to start with \$500 now. He picked up the phone and said to the cashier 'Charlie, give my nephew whom I'm sending to you now, any sum of money he wants.' From that moment on I resolved to never dishonor our good family name."



Zion Canyon – Angel's Landing in foreground



Leo A. Snow display at Zion Natural History Museum

Zion Canyon Survey

Work began almost immediately for the tall, thin, newly appointed U.S. Deputy Surveyor. Leo was easily recognized by his khaki shirt and pants and the broad-brimmed hat covering his red hair and shielding his easily sunburned face. Interest in the area of southwest Utah had been building since a description and paintings by artist Frederick S. Dellenbaugh had become available. That artwork became the center of attraction in the Utah section at the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair, but skeptics remarked that there couldn't be such a place. A young man from Rockville, Utah, David Hirschi, (who would later become a U.S. Senator from Utah) heard these comments as he passed through St. Louis on return from his European mission and testified to a gathering crowd that they were indeed real.

Leo Snow was the first to formally survey the picturesque but very rugged territory and was struck with its beauty. "I was assigned to survey the townships on the east and west sides of what is now Zion Canyon. In doing so we had to cross by foot up around the north end of the canyon and back down on the west moving from east to west. Big flags were set up on the east side and trees were our spots on the west side. We triangulated a distance of 2 ½ miles across and in doing so got a chance to see the canyon from all sides." In his report he stated that from Observation Point:

A view can be had of this canyon surpassed only by a similar view of the Grand Canyon of the Colorado. At intervals along the west side of the canyon streams of various sizes rush over the edge of the chasm forming waterfalls from 800 to 2000 feet high. The stream in the bottom of the canyon appears as a silver ribbon winding its way among the undergrowth and occasionally disappearing from view. In my opinion this canyon should be set apart as a national park.

The report was dispatched to Washington in June 1909, and President Howard Taft signed a proclamation in July 1909, creating Mukuntuweap National Monument. Awareness of this scenic jewel grew over the next several years and Utah Senator Reed Smoot eventually introduced a bill to change the name and designation. In November 1919 the bill was passed by the U.S. Senate and signed by President Woodrow Wilson establishing Zion National Park. Leo

Snow was honored for his work at the dedication of the ZNP Visitor Center in 1961. His surveying transit and other memorabilia are on display in the Zion Natural History Museum recognizing him as a major force in preserving this unique gem for the enjoyment of travelers from around the world. His affinity for this natural wonder was like that of a father for his child.



Lula, Leo, and Esther Snow - 1915

Death of Penelope Bleak, Marriage to Lula Pendleton, Family and Early Career

Meanwhile, many things had transpired in the life of Leo Snow. His dear wife, Penelope, died in September 1910 of kidney disease secondary to diabetes as he was launching his general civil engineering practice. They had no children. Despite his grief, he busied himself with a survey of the town of Ivins, with plans for and construction of the Ivins Reservoir and canal system. Two years later, September 24, 1912, he wed Lula Pendleton, a cousin of Penelope (their mothers were sisters) and their first child, Esther, was born November 15, 1914.

As a member of the St. George City Council from 1913-17 Leo was involved in many projects that improved the city infrastructure and services. The block "D" on the West Black Ridge, aligned with Tabernacle Street, was engineered gratis by Leo Snow and then whitewashed by Dixie College students in 1915. This ended a battle between the Classes of '13 and '14 who repeatedly painted their number over the other, near the DIXIE on the Sugarloaf. He served as Washington County Attorney from 1917-18, and began service with the Washington County Selective Service Board, a position he would hold through two World Wars and into the Korean conflict, eventually retiring as chairman in 1950.

The Ivins Reservoir project was eventually completed in 1918. Previously arid land at the mouth of Snow Canyon could now be farmed, substantially raising its value. He never asked for a dime beyond his standard fees, but his benefit to the landowners was recognized years later. He designed a canal and siphon pipe under the Virgin River bridge to bring water into the St. George valley on the east side of the river, enhancing its agricultural use.

He fulfilled a one-year contract with the Bureau of Public Roads in 1920 and took a job in Overton, Nevada, surveying for a canal and reservoir off the Muddy River. This was a lonely time away from home, missing his family that now included Nellie, born in April 1917, and Alva, born in October 1919.

Fourth of July was always a time for community celebration. Daughter Nellie relates being awakened by several rounds of the

cannon fired from atop the Red Hill above their house. She and Esther, sleeping on the screened back porch, really got the full effect. Then they would hear the music of the old “Marshall Band” which played in all the parades and other important occasions. Father Leo frequently dressed as “Uncle Sam” and rode a horse during the parade. Later in the day, there were gunny sack races and relays, prizes and food and music on the Tabernacle grounds. There were no paper cups and paper plates in those days and no hotdogs or hamburgers. They barbequed half a beef, salads and desserts were all homemade, and the lemonade was in a barrel with a tin cup tied to a string for everyone to use.



Leo A. Snow as Uncle Sam and Dixie Woodbury as Miss Liberty



“D” on the West Black Ridge
E. B. Snow Furniture in upper right



Leo and Lula with Nellie, Alva, Clarence, and Esther



Ivins Reservoir



Engineer's Drafting Set and Drawing Tools

Family and Career 1921 – 1932

From 1921-29 Leo was the St. George City Engineer and Watermaster with the responsibility for designing and constructing the first sanitation system and installation of curbs and gutters. During this time three more children were born into the family including Clarence in September 1921, Beman in December 1922, and Vivian in May 1927. While Clarence was still an infant they camped in a tent near Pintura while Leo worked on bridges in the area including the Ash Creek Bridge, that final expensive link on Highway 91. In the mid-1920s, Leo became a member of the Washington County Board of Education and was chairman when he retired from that in 1942.

The United States was in the grips of the Great Depression after the Crash of '29. Paying jobs of any kind were difficult to find as Leo was trying to feed his family and pay down his debts. For a while in 1931-32, they rented out their house on the hill and moved into the Snow Hotel after the manager left town one night with all the week's receipts. Lula managed the little restaurant while Esther, Nellie, and Alva tended the rooms and washed dishes. It was close to Leo's office above the E. B. Snow Furniture store and the children would often drop by on their way home from school asking for a penny to spend. He was always happy to see them and kept loose change in a little coin purse for them. Katherine joined the family in January 1931, as the seventh child.

Clean culinary water was a precious commodity in Dixie and Leo Snow recognized the need for improvements in the supply from Pine Valley. A ditch had been constructed many years before, but the water was frequently fouled by grazing livestock and diminished by evaporation and other losses in the long course to St. George. In one of his crowning achievements, Leo engineered and completed the Cottonwood Project in 1931, which replaced the open ditch with a pipeline to bring water down from the Cottonwood Springs at the 7,000-foot-level of Pine Valley, sixteen miles over lava rock and into the city. With modifications and upgrades, that pipeline is still in use today.



Cottonwood Springs, south face of Pine Valley Mountain. Scott Taylor, Watermaster, removing cover plate exposing the spring. Ross Taylor inspecting the pipeline.

Family and Career 1933 - 1939

The Civilian Conservation Corps, or CCC, was initiated in 1933, under the New Deal of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and employed two million men planting trees, building dams and fighting forest fires. Another New Deal program during the Depression Era was the Works Projects Administration, or WPA. It put eight and a half million unemployed workers into construction jobs building roads, bridges, parks, airport runways, public swimming pools, and other projects. The WPA also created jobs in the arts for actors, musicians, writers, and others who were jobless. Though criticized for “make work” or unnecessary projects, Roosevelt believed that offering employment for wages was better for the workers’ morale than simply giving them welfare checks.

Sometime in the early ‘30s, Leo was driving with a few of his children out on the Ivins Bench. Remember, this previously worthless land was now fertile through his efforts to engineer and construct a reservoir and irrigation system. Stopping near a field of ripe melons he crossed the fence and picked a few. As he was loading the fruit into the trunk an irate farmer came running toward them, intent on preventing such blatant theft. Upon reaching the car, the farmer recognized Leo, instantly quenched his anger and politely said: “Oh, it’s you! Do you have enough? Can I give you some more?”

From 1933-35, Leo Snow worked as a supervisor on several CCC projects and with the U.S. Forest Service at Widstoe (now a ghost town near Escalante, Utah) building a dam and bridge across the Escalante Creek. These were hard times as he lived on the site in a tent away from his beloved family for months at a time. His daily handwritten letters described his loneliness and the difficulty of managing a diverse group of men from all over the country who lacked the work ethic and morals to which he was accustomed. In one such letter he wrote to Lula, “No one is dearer to me than you and the family. I long to be at home and I sometimes wonder if the time will come when I can again be home and help you carry the load.”

Finishing that assignment near Escalante, he returned to St. George and assisted L. M. Winsor in drawing plans for the Winsor Dam, which still stands on the Santa Clara Creek. He then began a two-year stint as the St. George City Engineer and jobs with the Public Works

Administration. From 1937-39 he did general planning for the town of Kanab including supervision of pipelines and a water storage tank. He was also the Resident Engineer Inspector for Beaver County, supervising school and library projects in Beaver, Milford and Minersville. This took him away from home and family for extended periods and he missed the infancy years of Rosemary born in December 1933, and Margaret born in November 1935. Esther had married in 1934 and moved to Kanab, but there were still eight children under his roof. In 1939-40 he was back in St. George and Washington County as the Engineer, supervising construction of the Virgin River Bridge below the city of Washington.

One day Uncle Edward H. Snow (Stake President) caught up with Leo on the street and remarked, "I'm ashamed of you," to which Leo responded, "Why?" Uncle Ed exclaimed, "Your name is not on the Tithing Record," and Leo replied, "I just can't pay tithing while I'm paying on that \$20,000 [debt] every year." Uncle Ed rejoined, "I'll promise you this my son. If you pay your honest tithing the way will be opened for you." Following that interchange Leo paid his tithing regularly and later stated, "Whatever financial headway I've made since then I feel I owe to my obedience to this and the other of the Lord's commandments."

In the summer of 1939, oldest son Alva left to serve in the Eastern States Mission with assignments in New York state. Regular typewritten letters to Alva using the "hunt and peck" method (both index fingers moving rapidly) kept him advised of happenings at home and usually included a few dollars to cover monthly expenses. A long letter each Christmas Day would recount the excitement of the younger sisters with their gifts of the day and some fatherly advice like the following: "Truly it is more blessed to give than to receive. We grow by giving, if not of money then of our time, our thoughts and ourselves. We get joy out of service to our fellows and remember it the longest. That is one reason why men work for the public without compensation. Their pay is the joy and satisfaction they get out of it."



Leo A. Snow, seated, with work crew



Virgin River Bridge and Winsor Dam



Leo A. and Lula P. Snow Family – 1936
 Front porch of the family home
 Back: Ernest Judd, Beman, Clarence, Alva, and Leo A.
 Front: Esther holding Ben, Katherine, Vivian, Rosemary,
 Nellie, Lula holding Margaret



St. George swimming pool - 1940

Family and Career 1940 - 1955

A milestone event in Leo's life occurred in 1940, which he recalled in a written history. His pattern of living had been simple and not given to luxury. Raising a large family during the Depression was particularly difficult and made more so by failure to be paid for work he had provided on a wide variety of jobs. But by faithfully paying his tithing and fulfilling his various Church responsibilities the Lord always provided adequate means. Though rarely mentioned, Leo carried a heavy load of debt from the overruns on the Ash Creek Bridge of 1925. Quoting from his life history:

I lost \$20,000 on the contract to build bridges in connection with the highway. This money was repaid at the Bank of St. George and the Hurricane Bank . . while my family was growing up. [One day] I received a note marked "Paid in Full" from the Hurricane Bank where the last of this money was owing. I took the note to the President of the Bank stating there had been some mistake for I had not paid the last \$1,300 (2008 equivalent of \$25,000). He looked up the account and told me my brother Ras had paid it. The tears burst forth and failing words, I left. Reporting to my precious brother, he'd always been so gentle with me as a boy, he was four years older, and now he had done this wonderful thing! He merely said to me, "I know of the struggle you are making and I had it on hand and couldn't think of anything better to do with it."

Through the selfless generosity of his brother, the burden of fifteen years had finally been lifted. The relief was inexpressible.

The first public swimming pool in St. George was constructed just below the Sun Bowl as a WPA project in 1940 under Leo's supervision. The recreational benefits to the community were substantial and he took great pleasure in that project, commenting, "It is a credit to any community several times the size of St. George." He was also instrumental in establishing the adjacent municipal power plant that provided reliable electricity through diesel generators, augmenting the capricious hydroelectricity generated from the Cottonwood Pipeline.

In May 1941, tragedy struck when his oldest daughter, Esther, died of complications following an appendectomy. Her four children – Ben (5 ½), Gale (4), Norman (2 ½), and Steven (14 months) – were brought into Leo and Lula’s home and lovingly raised as their own. Leo’s older children were now beginning to leave the nest through marriage, mission, military and schooling, so these grandchildren gave continuity to the household. Vivian, Katherine, Rosemary, and Margaret now became “big sisters” and playmates to their Judd niece and nephews, and mother’s helpers during the transition.

With the U.S. entry into WWII, the CCC and WPA soon ceased operations, and our country’s young men were sent to fight on two fronts. Many would never return. Leo began a twelve-year career with the Soil Conservation Service and supervised an important agricultural census in 1950. He retired from that job in October 1955 at the age of 74, assured that his own children and Judd grandchildren could now manage on their own.



Judd Children - 1942

Later Years

Ecclesiastically, he had served faithfully as Sunday School superintendent, seventy, high priest group leader, and stake missionary. In his later years he expressed regrets at having never served a full-time mission for the Church. He related, “In 1904 when I wanted to attend school at the University of Utah, I talked with Uncle Edward Snow because my bishop indicated that he may call me on a mission soon. I told Uncle Ed that I did want to return to school after a lapse of four years. He assured me that he would see to that, and he did. So, I’ve never been called on a mission. Once I mentioned this while Alva was on his mission. The party I was speaking with observed, ‘You are certainly on a mission now while you are supporting your son.’ I gained comfort from the thought.”

He had a firm testimony of the gospel of Jesus Christ as expressed to Alva in one of his many letters, “We do not fully realize what a wonderful age we live in nor what a wonderful opportunity we enjoy through the light and knowledge of the gospel. We need to be thankful for the light that has come to us and the understanding that is ours. When one meets with men who have studied the Bible all their lives and seem to be well informed, still they do not understand the gospel as we do. It seems to take modern revelation to make it [plain] and simple to us... It takes the Spirit of God and the testimony of the Holy Ghost to make it clear, and that is where the Latter day Saints have the advantage if they live worthy of it.”

Leo’s beloved Lula passed away in August 1959 after years of ill health. She had been a faithful companion and wonderful mother to a large family and extended family and he missed her sorely. He married Marva Spencer the next year and she helped him through his declining years until his death July 1, 1963, at age 81.

Leo A. Snow had fulfilled the dream of Brigham Young and the mission of his grandfather Erastus Snow to “make the desert bloom like a rose.” The community of St. George and surrounding areas of Nevada and Arizona are indebted to him for his contributions to their well being through provision of culinary and irrigation water resources, the building of roads, bridges and buildings, sanitation systems and recreational facilities.

His posterity has honored his legacy through exercise of the principles he silently taught: hard work, honesty, sobriety, faithfulness, education, service, integrity and love. Let us always strive to emulate these qualities in our own lives as we remember them in his.



Leo A. Snow with granddaughter Shelley Snow



Leo A. and Lula P. Snow Family Reunion - 1948



Leo A. and Marva Snow Reunion - 1961



Lula Pendleton Snow
Drawing by Debra Snow - 2020

Lula Pendleton Snow

(Extracted from remembrances by Nellie Millett, Gale Judd Case, Lula's sister Alice, and others, plus letters and a talk written by Lula)

Youth

Lula Pendleton Snow was one of those “salt of the earth” wives who quietly kept the home fires burning while Leo, her hard-working husband, was frequently away on his many civil engineering projects. She was born September 15, 1892, to Benjamin Franklin and Amelia Thompson Pendleton just thirty years after the first settlers arrived in St. George. Her grandparents had helped settle the valley and her parents had been born there in the difficult and harsh beginnings. The people were still poor and struggling to support their families, often surviving by their home gardens, a milk cow and a few chickens. Despite the hardships she was a much loved and well cared for child.

She lived in the days of horses, wagons and buggies, coal oil lamps, black iron wood-burning stoves, teakettles to heat water, outhouses, #3 tin tubs for Saturday night baths, clothes washed on the washboard, treadle sewing machines, apples in a bin in the cellar, a crock for jam with a cloth over the top (and it never molded either!), yeast starts . . . there was a special yeast crock with a lid. There were watering turns and flood irrigation. Woe be to anyone who forgot his turn, forgot to divert the water after his turn, or tried to “steal” from his neighbor's turn.

Babies wore bonnets and long stockings pinned up to their diapers and high-top shoes laced up. During the day women wore dust caps. You didn't have to fix your hair first thing in the morning; you just put on the dust cap. They were fancy, made of net and rows of ribbon and lace, with ties or elastic. Mattie said, “We used to make dust caps for all our girlfriends; we had several.” Hair was worn long and because the water was so hard they gathered the root of a plant that grew on the hillside to soften the water and leave the hair silky. There were no electric refrigerators, no radios, no airplanes and no miracle drugs. There were no vaccines for measles, mumps, typhoid and a host of other communicable diseases. The 1918 influenza epidemic wrought havoc around the world.

A quiet person, fair skinned and blue eyed, Lula never sought the limelight and generally avoided public speaking. Academically she was a good student and well-liked by her classmates. During WWI she joined with other young women in the Athena Club to do Red Cross sewing. After the war they decided to carry on as a literary and current events group and she continued in this “club” for the rest of her life. When it was her turn to review a book she struggled a bit with it but always enjoyed reading. *The Ladies Home Journal* came monthly to her home for over forty years. She was a lady, and always influenced others for good.



Lula holding daughter Esther; Amelia (mother) center,
Sisters, from top left clockwise: Alice, Mattie, Millie, and Agnes

Marriage and Family

Leo A. Snow, eleven years her senior and a widower for two years since the death of Lula's cousin Penelope Bleak, began courting Lula in 1912. Because of their association in Aunt Matilda's family they knew each other and he began to "call" at the Pendleton home to see Lula. They tell of a time when Lula and Leo were "talking" on the front step (and it was only three steps---not even a porch) when younger sister Millie hung around and hung around until finally Lula told her to go in the house where she belonged! Millie always remembered that.

They were sealed (married) in the St. George Temple by her Grandfather William H Thompson on September 24, 1912. She received her Endowments the day before and wore the same white dress her mother had worn to the temple, all hand embroidered.... shadow embroidery, with a camisole and ruffles of embroidery. Her white pumps were size 3½. She had a long white wool challis dress with satin embroidery that she did herself. It was her best dress. Lula was shorter, about 5 feet 2 inches to Leo's 6 feet tall. From Leo's diary, "Witnesses included her parents, grandfather William H. Thompson, grandmother Alice Pendleton, Leo's mother Elida Crosby Snow and D. H. Cannon."

Following their marriage Leo and Lula lived in the northeast room of her Aunt Matilda's house. This room had an outside door and was fixed up for a one-room apartment. Leo, one of few university graduates in St. George and busy as a Civil Engineer, was able to provide the necessities and some of the nicer things for his new bride. Lula's sister, Agnes, who was not quite five years old, spent a lot of time with Lula while they lived at Aunt Matilda's. Lula liked to make pretty clothes for her and curl her hair, and Leo carried her around on his shoulders.

After Grandma Pendleton moved out of her little house to live with son Frank and wife Amelia, Leo and Lula moved in there, probably just before Esther was born on November 15, 1914. A second daughter, Nellie was born into their home on April 22, 1917. By now Leo and Lula were building their own brick home a block north of the Washington County Courthouse at 198 North 100 East. When Nellie was a year old they moved into this new house with four large rooms and a bath, a full porch across the front and a screened porch across the back. The cellar was under the two south rooms but was unpaved. This



The Athena Club
Lula, back row, second from right



St. George Temple

house was planned and built to use electric heat, with a heater in each room, but it didn't prove satisfactory. They relied upon a wood/coal stove in the kitchen until an oil furnace was installed.

Lula always looked nice. She kept a clean orderly home in which Leo could take pride. In the morning she was up promptly and dressed for the day, rarely without a clean white handkerchief. She loved her family and was always home when her children came from school. Health issues plagued her during much of her adult life. At the birth of Alva in 1919, she developed erysipelas and most of her hair reportedly fell out due to the strong medicine she was given. It came back in white and curly. In the '30s she developed hypertension exacerbated by Leo's work away from home while she managed a growing household. Her medications often worsened a concurrent anemia. She had a problem with hay fever in later years but a "swamp cooler" helped and later air-conditioning was a chance for real relief from the Dixie heat.

As a talented seamstress Lula made clothing for her children and others on a Singer treadle sewing machine. Buttonholes were made by hand, stockings had to be darned, and knees on the boys' pants often needed repair. She once remarked, "I have a piece of material that I think would make a nice dress for my granddaughter." Other beautiful handiwork included crocheted tablecloths and ceramics.

Bread was made almost daily, fruits and vegetables were bottled, soap was made, and clothes were washed with a scrub brush and wringer washer. Leo would often help with the heavy work on washday to relieve Lula, and prided himself on getting the laundry out on the line to dry before his friends did. A favorite evening meal was homemade bread and grapes with a little honey. Special treats included hand-cranked ice cream, homemade root beer and rice pudding.

Grandkids recall sitting under the big round kitchen table pumping the butter churn until the butter formed. Red sand from around the Sugarloaf was brought down to the house and used to make sand pictures on the sidewalk, usually eliciting a "You are going to clean that up aren't you?" from Grandma. But she didn't seem to mind when they pulled games out of the toy cupboard and played in the hall under the swamp cooler.

Firstborn daughter Esther died unexpectedly May 30, 1941 from complications following appendicitis, leaving four children. Their father, Ernest, was unable to provide for them so left the children in the care of Leo and Lula following Esther's death. The Judd children, Leo Ben (5 ½), Gale (4), Norman (2 ½), and Steve (14 months), were brought into the household, held together, and reared as their own. Benjamin Pendleton, Lula's father, dug out a bedroom and a storage room in the basement of their home to accommodate the boys.

In a letter to Alva (on his mission in New York area) shortly after the event Lula wrote:

I hardly know where to start or what to say . . Esther stayed such a little while with us and yet she endeared herself to so many. She stood for all that was good and true and virtuous, was so sweet and patient in all she had to do . . Just to have had her presence with us is a thing of beauty and a happy memory . . Anything we can do to take care of her children so they will be worthy to join her again and make her proud and happy will be a pleasure . . The children are so lovely and well trained too and everybody is so willing to help we can't fail in such an important job. It's a big adjustment for all of us . . We are trying to take it just one day at a time and trust that time will heal the wound. I think nothing is required of us but that some way will be opened whereby it can be done.

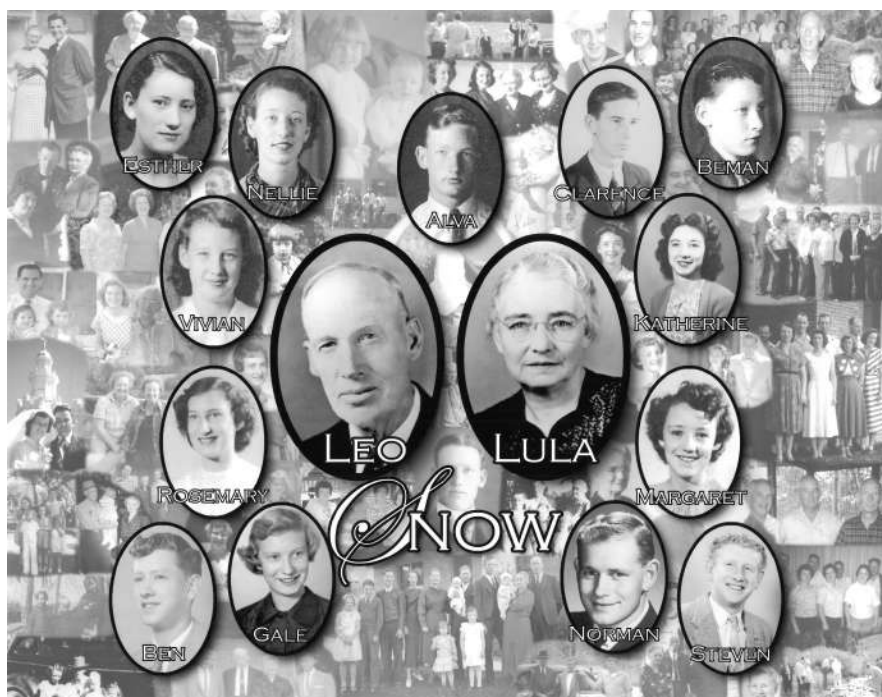
Later Years

Years later at a missionary farewell for Norman, she delivered these remarks:

I'm very happy that Norman is worthy and willing to accept this call. It's been nearly eighteen years since the Judd kids, as we affectionately call them, became part of our immediate family. During that time they have always been a united family unit, sort of a family within a family, loyal to each other. It's an unnatural situation for little folks to grow up with grandparents, but they seem to have survived and we feel are giving a pretty good account of themselves. This indeed gives us a great deal of joy and satisfaction.

Family cooperation offered Ben the wonderful opportunity of a mission and is now giving Norman the same privilege. It's this same spirit together with the blessing of our Heavenly Father that has helped us as grandparents to realize the fulfillment of our mission of raising these children. They are fairly well grounded in the principles of right and wrong; for this we are deeply grateful to all those who have had an interest in them and have guided them in their activities in the Church and schools as they have grown up. Today is one of those special days when the thankfulness in our hearts sort of spills over and we feel we have just a little piece of heaven right here. And as Norman leaves I think he knows that he has our love, faith, and confidence to sustain him in this calling.

From 1914 through 1935 Lula Pendleton Snow gave birth to and raised nine of her own children, then her four grandchildren. Lula passed away August 21, 1959, almost sixty-seven years of age and after forty-seven years of faithful and devoted marriage.



Leo A. and Lula P. Snow composite family photo



Leo Alva and Lula Pendleton Snow Gravestone
St. George City Cemetery

One Family Group Record

Where was this information obtained?

Husband

NAME IN FULL Leo Alva Snow
 RESIDENCE St. George, Utah
 DATE OF BIRTH Sept 5 1881 PLACE _____
 DATE OF CHRISTENING _____ PLACE _____
 DATE OF MARRIAGE Sept. 8, 1912 PLACE _____
 DATE OF DEATH _____ PLACE _____
 DATE OF BURIAL _____ PLACE _____
 Other marriages. If he marries more than once he should appear on separate sheet with each wife.
 Number of times he married 2
 His Parents, if known, should appear also on separate sheet as husband and wife with their children.
 His Father's name Croesus Beman Snow
 His Mother's maiden name Clida Crosby
 Name of HEIR Croesus Snow Baptised 13 Sept 1887
 Relationship of HEIR to above named HUSBAND _____ Endowed _____

Wife

HUSBAND

He is No. _____

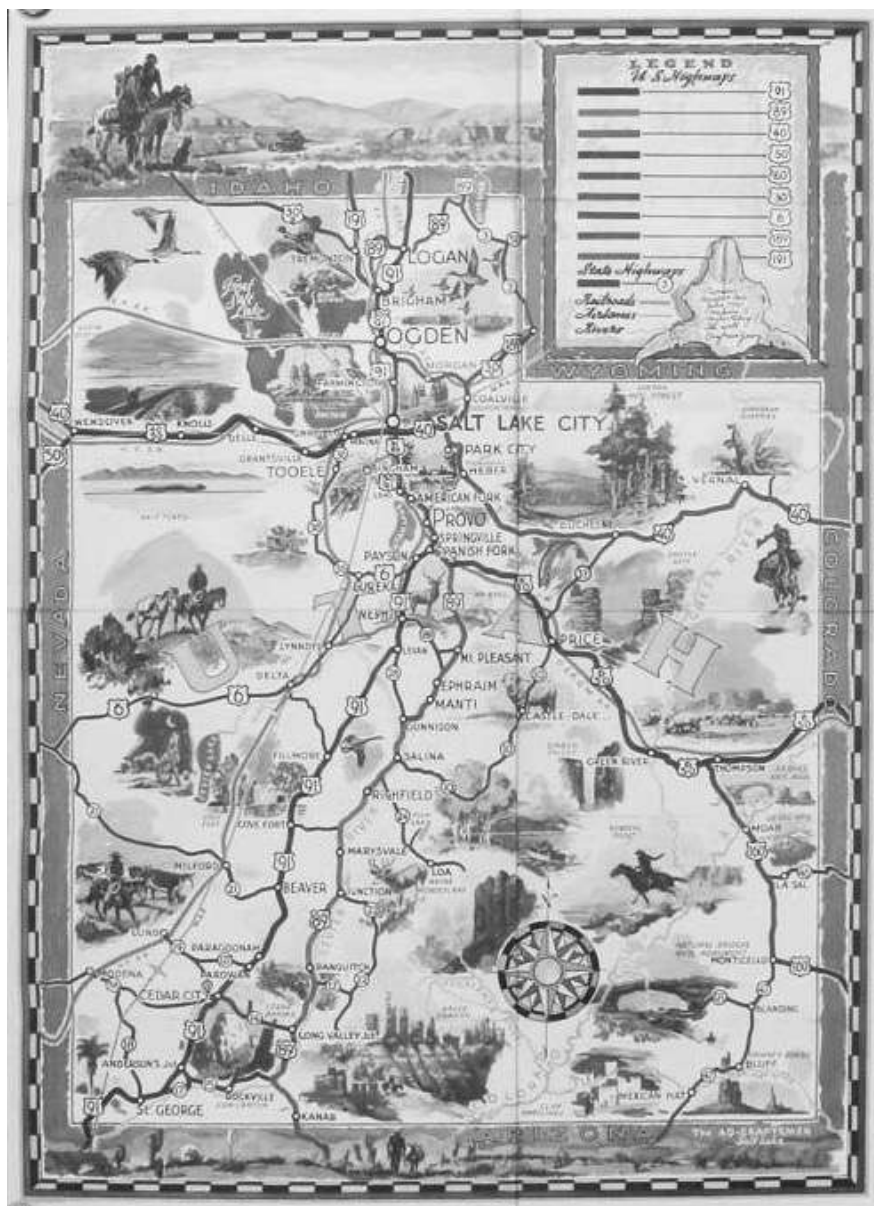
MAIDEN NAME IN FULL Lula Pindilton
 RESIDENCE St. George, Utah
 DATE OF BIRTH Sept 15, 1892 PLACE St.
 DATE OF CHRISTENING _____ PLACE _____
 DATE OF DEATH _____ PLACE _____
 DATE OF BURIAL _____ PLACE _____
 Other marriages. If she marries more than once, she should appear on separate sheet with each husband.
 Name of other husbands none
 Her Parents, if known, should appear on a separate sheet as husband and wife with their children.
 Her Father's name Benjamin Franklin
 Her Mother's maiden name Amelia Young
 Name of HEIR _____
 Relationship of HEIR to above named WIFE _____

	CHILDREN	WHEN BORN*			WHERE BORN			WHEN DIED†			BAP.			END.			S. To P.		
		DAY	MONTH	YEAR	TOWN	COUNTY	STATE OR COUNTRY	DAY	MONTH	YEAR	DAY	MONTH	YEAR	DAY	MONTH	YEAR	DAY	MONTH	YEAR
1	Cathie Snow	15	Nov	1919	St. George	Washington	Utah				5	Aug	1922	1	Nov	1934			
2	Pellie "	28	April	1917	"	"	"				5	May	1926	9	July	1940			
3	Alva Crosby	10	Oct	1919	"	"	"				11	Oct	1927	8	July	1939			
4	Clara Pindilton	26	Sept	1921	"	"	"				9	Oct	1929						
5	Leo Beman	1	Dec	1923	"	"	"				9	Dec	1931						
6	Vivian Clida	26	May	1927	"	"	"				19	June	1935	20	Aug	1946			
7	Katharine	8	Jan	1931	"	"	"				12	July	1939						
8	Rosemary	19	Dec	1933	"	"	"				14	Jan	1942	29	Aug	1950			
9	Margaret	18	Nov	1935	"	"	"				10	Nov	1943						
10																			
11																			
12																			
13																			
14																			
15																			

ed, 1966
cal SocietyWrite HISTORICAL DATA and additional SOURCE REFERENCES on reverse side.
Also give on reverse side name and address of person sending this record to the Archive.Printed in the U. S. A.
Distributed by Desert Book Co.*If christening date is known, and not birth date, write christening date in birth
†If burial date is known, and not death date, write burial date in death column.

Resources for Leo A. and Lula P. Snow History

Diaries of Leo A. Snow 1900 – 1904; 1912 – 1917
Personal correspondence of Leo A. Snow from 1920, the “Muddy River” series
Personal correspondence of Leo A. Snow from the ‘30s transcribed by Leo Beman Snow
Various autobiographical sketches from Leo A. Snow
Leo A. & Lula P. Snow Memory Book by Gale Judd Case.
Summary of family correspondence in the early ‘60s by Marva S. Snow
Letter from Lula to Alva regarding death of Esther
Lula’s Missionary Farewell comments for Norman Judd
Recollections and remembrances from Nellie Millett, Gale Judd Case, Alora Howard, Anna Snow Clements (Leo’s sister) and Millie (Lula’s younger sister)
Obituaries of Leo A. and Lula P. Snow
Family Search.org entries for Leo A. Snow, Lula P. Snow, and Penelope Bleak
Tale of Two Bridges by J. L. Crawford
A History of Southern Utah and its National Parks by Angus Woodbury
Washington County News article about Leo A. Snow, October 13, 1955
Extensive research of Leo A. Snow memorabilia in the Dixie State University Special Collections
Personal visit to Cottonwood Springs with St. George Watermaster Scott Taylor and Ross Taylor, his father
Archival Snow Family photos
Archival photos of St. George and environs from Lynne Clark
Photos by Ronald L. Snow



Utah Road Map - 1940