

# Aaron Larson, Local Livestockman Dies From Exposure Mon.

Aaron Ernest Larsen, 50, well known stockman, died at the Washington county hospital Monday at 12:15 p.m. of pneumonia, meningitis and a brain hemorrhage complicated by exposure.

He was discovered Sunday afternoon about eight miles south of St. George and brought to the hospital after he had failed to return to his home from a visit to his sheep herd which was located on Black Rock mountain, thirty miles south west of here. Mr. Larson had left town for his herd on Thursday morning. His herder, Alex Taylor, reports that Mr. Larson was sick when he arrived and that he was still sick the next morning when he started for St. George.

When he failed to return to his home by Sunday afternoon, his son-in-law, Fergus Wallis and Jack Averett, Mr. Larson's foreman, instigated a search for him. They discovered his truck about a half mile off the road about a

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## ERNEST LARSON

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mile north west of Little Arizona. They then trailed him and found him lying unconscious and very sick. Mr. Averett returned for a doctor while Mr. Wallis remained. Dr. Milo Moody, who made the examination, reports that both his feet and legs were badly frozen in addition to the other complications.

At first it was thought that Mr. Larson might have met with foul play, but Sheriff John H. Cottam made a thorough investigation and states that he is convinced that it was because of the illness of Mr. Larsen that he left his truck and wandered away. In tracing the truck from the time it left the camp, Friday morning he states that it showed that Mr. Larson was having trouble to keep it in the road and was evidently very sick at that time.

Sheriff Cottam placed the time that he left his truck and started to wander at near 11:00 a.m. as the truck was seen by the CCC boys who are working in that district. In his wanderings he came within 200 yards of Little Arizona, went on over near the Escalante oil well, had returned to within 200 yards of his truck and had then gone away from it to where he was found, Sheriff Cottam said.

Funeral services were held in St. George Stake Tabernacle Tuesday afternoon at 3:00 under the direction of Bishop Harold S. Snow of the South ward.

The opening number, "I Know My Heavenly Father Knows," was given by a quartet.

The opening prayer was offered by Joseph T. Atkin.

David H. Morris told of Mr. Larson's fine ancestry who were pioneers to Dixie and told of their accomplishments in the building up of this section. "The death of Mr. Larson is to be regretted," said Mr. Morris and there is a certain mystery surrounding it. He left his camp a very sick man and coming home the tracks of his car show he had very little control over it. Mr. Larson's career is ended; his record is complete and anything we say here will not change his condition. We believe that the Gospel of Jesus Christ was restored to earth for the salvation of men. There are certain fundamental rules set down by our Heavenly Father by which we can come back into the presence of our Father. Ernest Larson was

born under the new and everlasting covenant and those born under it have certain blessings given to them. He has been a loving husband and has provided for his family in a noble way. He has sacrificed things in life that his wife and family may be provided for. I feel it is a very sad experience for his wife and children, and my heart goes out in sympathy for them and particularly for Sister Larson. May the blessings of the Lord rest upon her and may the power of the Lord strengthen her." He closed by praying that the Lord would bless them in their sorrow.

George H. Lytle stated that he had known Mr. Larson as long as he could remember his living here. "I have ridden with him," said Mr. Lytle after cattle in the mountains out on the Arizona strip day after day several times. He was honest, cheerful and I have never heard him profane. He was a friend of everyone. He has been an energetic young man and has worked to have something to support his family. He has been beneficial as a citizen. I had dealings with Mr. Larson; he was honest; he was straight and he would tell you things that were straight. I pray that the Lord will bless his wife and family and may we give a word of kindness to this family and to this son and encourage him and help him."

Walter Cannon made mention of Charles Foster, who had lived 87 years. "We paid our last respects to him yesterday," said Mr. Cannon, "and at about the same time today we are paying our respects to another man whose life has been snapped out almost as a candle. He had the desire, energy and strength to accomplish things and he strived to do them for his family. He was still a young man but I think he has been very successful and what I say for him must apply to his wife who has reared four lovely daughters and one son. If we will analyze his life, his work, his ambitions, his thrift and honesty we cannot help but think his life has been successful." Mr. Cannon prayed that God would temper every wind that blows over Mrs. Larson and her family. "And let us not forget that a kind word and a kind deed will be a blessing to them," he said.

George W. Worthen spoke words of comfort to the family, quoting from the scriptures on the resurrection of the dead and life hereafter. "I was impressed with the remarks of Brother Lytle who stated he was an honest, square and upright man. What wonderful characteristics for an individual. He had expressed a desire to go to the temple but did not want to go until he was worthy," said Mr. Worthen. He prayed that the Lord would bless the family and the relatives at this time.

Bishop Harold S. Snow stated that he had been privileged to become acquainted with Mr. Larson

and said, "he was one of my friends. I feel that all that has been said of this man is true. He has never been a hypocrite but the things he has done in his life he has done before you and before me." Bishop Snow thanked all who had taken part during the services and expressed the appreciation of the family for all kindnesses shown them at this time.

A vocal duet, "There is a Land,"

The closing prayer was offered by H. T. Atkin and the grave in the city cemetery was dedicated by John T. Woodbury Jr.

Aaron Larson was born at Bloomington, Utah, February 13, 1886, a son of Lars James and Isadora Andrus Larson. He spent his boyhood there where he attended school. Through his association with his father and other fine characters he obtained while still a young man a splendid knowledge of fruit farming and cattle raising.

On October 5, 1909, he was married in St. George to Miss Clara Fawcett, a daughter of George W. and Louisa E. Fawcett of Lund, Nevada. To this union five children were born, all of whom survive. They are Mrs. Beatrice Wallis, George M. Larson, Mrs. Edith Laurence, Mrs. Grace Wallis and Miss Maude Larson, all of St. George.

While he resided at Bloomington, fine crops were raised and he was able to continue with his stock raising. He gave employment to many of the young men of this city, both at this time and later when he sold his cattle and went into sheep raising. He served as water master at Bloomington and also served for some time as superintendent of the Sunday school.

In 1929 he moved with his family to St. George where he purchased the George Jarvis home where they have since lived.

Besides his wife and children he is survived by one sister, Mrs. Granville Fullerton and the following half brothers and sisters: Martin Larson of St. George, Mrs. Maude Kelly of Lyndall, Mrs. Margaret Fawcett, Mrs. Zella Riding, Mrs. Elsie Carpenter, Rueben, Charles, LeRoy and Ellis of St. George and Mrs. Martha King and Mrs. Elizabeth Smith of Salt Lake City, and his stepfather, John M. Larson. People from out of town who attended the services were, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Kelly and children, Helen and Keith of Lyndall, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Fawcett and Claud Fawcett of Lund, Nevada and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Laurence and sons, Thomas and Ernest Laurence and Mrs. Harry Pershall and daughter of Cedar City.