

March 6, 1981

Dear Mrs. Larkin,

Here is the information you requested. We are sorry to have neglected getting it to you for so long.

Our apartment house at 95 west 100 south in St. George, near 120 years old with original walls a foot thick, is often referred to as the "old Crosby home." In talking to Henry G. Crosby of St. George, we learned that his grandfather, Jesse W. Crosby, came here in 1861 with the Mormon pioneers and first built a "small stone house" on "1st south Center Street." As he could get the adobes made he continued to build onto the house into 1862, adding a large two-story section in front of the original red rock structure. The new section had large rooms with high ceilings and four fireplaces, two upstairs and two down on either side of the house. It was constructed with one foot thick walls to keep the house cool, foot thick wooden beams in the floor and a center wall three feet wide for support. It was one of the largest homes in early St. George and one of the first finished. For this reason its large rooms were used for church services, community meetings, city court cases, and some school until public buildings could be completed.

Early St. George merchants held meetings in this old home to organize a company to go to California to trade cotton for goods. Jesse Crosby took orders of St. George settlers and went to California to make the trades until the time that Wooley, Lund and Judd was organized (this company described in a book by Albert Miller).

Jesse W. Crosby was a Mormon preacher and "man of God" who filled five missions for the church, although he had to leave a wife and large family (eventually eleven children) to struggle in a harsh country. He farmed, freighted between here and California and made molasses, called "Dixie sorghum." He died in 1909.

The old home left the Crosby family when sold to a builder from Leeds named Stirling about 1949 or 1950. Stirling remodeled the home, lowering the ceilings and making the large rooms into several apartments. In 1956 Andrew Pace bought the home from Stirling. In 1965 Steven L. Hafen bought the home from Andrew Pace.

Crosby grandchildren have expressed the desire to get the home back into their family. We don't blame them. It is an imposing structure, this big old red and white, colonial style, century-old home, and we have taken pride in maintaining it -- for history as well as for ourselves.

Steven and Ilene Hafen