

Henry James Maudsley Pioneer Moment by Rex Jensen



Rex Jensen

The Holmstead Ranch where we meet for our scholarship dinner in September was originally known as the Maudsley Ranch. My grandmother on my mother's side was born there at the Maudsley Ranch. The spring on Monte Holm's ranch is still known as the Maudsley Spring.

Henry Maudsley was the son of Sutcliffe Maudsley. Sutcliffe was an artist, a profilist, and is well known for his famous profile painting of the Prophet Joseph Smith. This portrait (a profile) and many others he painted of Emma and other early church leaders is used in numerous church publications and has been used in the Ensign numerous times.

Sutcliffe never came west, but his son Henry did.

Henry Maudsley was born in Lancashire, England, married Sophia Martha Foremaster in 1860, and died at the Maudsley Ranch in 1908.

After arriving in Salt Lake City, Brigham Young asked Henry why he was not married. He indicated he had not yet found a girl worthy to marry. Brigham Young suggested Sophia Martha Fuermeister, a recent convert and immigrant from Prussia. Henry, after a brief courtship, married Sophia (known as Mary). They had one child born in Salt Lake City, then one in Richfield, then a third and fourth child were born in St Thomas, Nevada. Then six additional children were born at the Maudsley Ranch near Pine Valley.

St Thomas, now in Clark Country, was originally in Lincoln County. Once Lincoln County learned that St Thomas was in fact in Lincoln County, Nevada, they demanded back taxes, in gold. The saints there had no gold and virtually no other resources. They simply could not pay the back taxes. So Brigham Young in 1871 released the saints in St Thomas to leave Nevada and return to Utah. All but one family left St Thomas and returned to Utah. Many of those saints went to Orderville and participated in the United Order there. Henry Maudsley lived in Orderville a short while, then moved to Pine Valley for about a year before settling on the Maudsley Ranch in 1878.



Some of you may know Malin Cox of St George, who served in the Utah legislature for several years. Malin was my mother's half brother. William Snow Cox was a polygamist who had two wives; Lizzie Cannon and Sophia Martha Maudsley.

The Maudsley cabin, where my grandmother was born, has been repaired/restored and is still in use today on the Holmstead Ranch. – Rex Jensen