

ALMA TRUMAN ANGELL AND CHARLOTTE BUYS

(as typed up by Glenna McBride Hansen)

Alma Truman was the second child and oldest son of Solomon and Eunice Clark Young Angell. He was born 12 or 22 Jan 1831 in Java, Genesee County, N.Y. His parents heard about the new religion and the Book of Mormon. The Book was passed from one to another of the family secretly to avoid persecution and the Angells believed and accepted it's truths, but Alma's grandparents the Mortons and Morton relatives could not accept nor allow any tolerance for those who did. Nevertheless, the Angell families actively attended meetings and were taught by the missionaries Leonard C. Rich and Aaron C. Lyon. alma's parents were baptized in January 1832. The church was not quite two years old at this time. Two years later 14 Apr. 1834 Orson Hyde and Orson Pratt visited with the Saints and iformed them the Lord had revealed that the Saints were to gather to Kirtland, Ohio.

Alma's father bought a wagon and the needed supplies for the trip. Joseph Holbrook gave them \$7.50 to help them. Joseph was their brother-in-law and also Solomon's cousin. They traveled with Joseph and Chandler Holbrook and families. Alma's grandparents, James and Phebe Ann Morton Angell and Aunt Mary Ann Angell, who became Brigham Young's wife in Kirtland, and his Uncle Truman Osborn Angell and family also joined the Church and traveled to Kirtland to be with the Saints.

Alma's father and mother were in the meeting with the Prophet when Zion's camp was formed to redeem Zion (Jackson County, Missouri) The Saints in Kirtland had," gathered and prepared clothing and other necessaries to carry to our brethern and sisters who had been robbed and plundered of nearly all their effects:. Brigham Young took into his home the families of Solomon Angell and Lorenzo Booth so that they could join the Camp to Missouri to redeem Zion. (See Hist. of the Church, Vol 2 p. 64) Alma was three years old at this time.

After much hardships, hunger, thirst, heat, disease and deaths from Cholera the Camp was discharged at the end of June and the men were given leave to return home. They had been gone just two months and they had failed to redeem Zion and restore the property back to the Saints there. Their enemies were in control.

Solomon returned to Kirtland and his family. How grateful they were that he had survived the great trials and ordeals. But life was getting uncomfortable in Kirtland with the persecutio multiplying rapidly. They continued working on the Temple. "Wih very little capital except brain, bone and sinew, combined with unwavering trust in God, men, women, and even children worked with their might. While the brethren labored in their departments, the sisters were actively engaged in boarding and clothig workmen not otherwise provided for - all living as abstemiously as possible, so that every cent might be appropriated to the grand object, while their energies were stimulated by the prospect of participating in the blessing of a house built by the direction of the Most High, and accepted by Him." (Edward W. Tullidge in Life of Joseph, the Prophet. p. 187-189). The Kirtland Temple was dedicated June 1836.

After they were driven out of Kirtland by the mobs, the gathering place for the Saints wqas Far West, Missouri. Here 500 men put up the cornerstones in one hour, and a new Temple site was laid out. But again persecution prevailed and Joseph and Hyrum Smith were imprisoned. Alma's grandmother, Phebe Ann Angell was the midwife when Hyrum Smith's son, Joseph F. was born at Far West. The Saints were soon driven out Most of the men had to flee for their lives, leaving their wives and children to come as best they could. Some found refuge in a small

town called Quincy. Here they found employment and were able to move into Nauvoo (called Commerce at first.).

Here in Nauvoo again the Lord commanded them to build a Temple and work was immediately begun. The swamp was drained and Nauvoo was becoming a beautiful city of Ten thousand. Soon it grew to Twenty thousand. But again mobs threatened. Alma's father belonged to the Nauvoo Legion, but they could not stem the tide, the Saints had to leave. It had not been enough to kill the prophet and his brother Hyrum. The saints must leave the United States. And so they did, coming across the plains in covered wagons and walking, driving their cattle before them.

A temporary home was established at Council Bluffs, where they built temporary shelters and planted crops for those who would follow them on the long trip west.

They left Elkhorn River 1 Jun 1848 and arrived in Salt Lake 10 Sept 1848. They settled in the 8th Ward and their home was on the corner of 3rd South and 3rd East. Alma was 17 at this time. There was much work to be done to establish a new home here for the Saints, buildings to be built, ditches and canals made to irrigate the crops and farms to be planted and again another Temple to be built to the Lord.

We do not know just when or how Alma met Charlotte Buys. It could very well have been at Alma's home. Some of the homes had one long room which was very convenient for dancing parties and no doubt some of the harvest festivals were held in these homes. One such room was the pioneer home of Solomon Angell which was close in the center of Salt Lake. His friends and neighbors gathered here to have dances and recreation. (Vol. IV p. 410 - Heart Throbs - Kate Carter)

Charlotte Buys was born 11 April 1835 at Albany, Albany, N.Y. She was the oldest child of Hyrum DeBaun Buys and Elizabeth Huntington. Her father was a Methodist Preacher and a descendant of Jans Cornelius Buys, the early Dutch settler in New York, or New Amsterdam as it was first called. The Buys family lived in Albany from 1834 to 1840. They had a comfortable home and money. When the missionaries of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints came to Albany and preached the new gospel, Hyrum realized they had the truth and on 4 July 1839 he was baptized into the true church. We do not have the date when Elizabeth was baptized, but are sure it was near the same date.

Charlotte was named for her grandmother, Charlotte Huntington,. She was four years old at the time her parents joined the church. She had two sisters, one of the twins having died the same day she was born.

The call came for the saints to gather and in May of 1840 they joined other church members to Hancock, Illinois where they settled at La Harpe near Nauvoo. Here on the 4 Mar 1841 her father was called and ordained an Elder and given a license to preach the Gospel by Joseph Smith. He was called to be a missionary and serve in Tennessee while the family stayed at home. In Oct of 1841 Charlotte's first brother was born. Another sister was also born while they lived in La Harpe.

On 3 Aug 1844 her mother and father went to the Temple at Nauvoo and were baptized for her grandfathers and grandmothers, uncles, aunts and cousins who had died. This was a great privilege for all the saints had sacrificed so much to build this temple, the House of the Lord, where they could receive their blessings and do the work for the dead. Their enemies were closing in on them, burning their homes, imprisoning their prophet and other church leaders and they were soon to be driven from the state. How grateful they were to be privileged to enter and partake of these great blessings.

In 1846 after their prophet had been murdered and after being driven out of Nauvoo and the precious Temple burned along with many of their homes and business, the family moved to Mt. Pisgah, Harrison County, Iowa. Here two more brothers were born and Charlotte was thirteen at this time.

On 26 July 1846 Captain James Allen of the United States Army arrived at Mt. Pisgah. The saints at Mt. Pisgah were momentarily thrown into great confusion and excitement. However, they were not being attacked by the United States Army, but instead Captain Allen had come to ask for volunteers of 500 men to form a Battalion to fight in the War with Mexico. Volunteers came from Council Bluffs all the way to Mt. Pisgah.

In June of 1850 the family left Council Bluffs, Iowa to come to Salt Lake City. They had one wagon and an ox team for nine people. Charlotte was fifteen years old and Joseph, the baby, was fifteen months old. Their oldest boy was nine years old. They brought the deed of their home with them and some money sewed inside a feather mattress. As they were crossing a river on the way their wagon tipped over and their mattress with deed and money floated away. There went their savings and their chance of comfort in Zion, but no lives were lost for which they were thankful. They had joined a train of 54 wagons of which David Evans was captain. They made the long arduous trek to Salt Lake arriving in September 1850. They settled at Bountiful, Davis County seven miles north of Salt Lake City. Her father built a one room log house for them to live in. They were members of North Canyon Ward in Bountiful.

These two young pioneers, Alma and Charlotte, met and were married and sealed in the Endowment House 6 Nov. 1852 Charlotte was 17 1/2 at her marriage. She had received her endowment earlier, on 8 Mar 1852. Alma and Charlotte set up housekeeping in Brigham City in Box Elder County. Here their first child, Alma Truman Jr. was born 15 Dec 1853.

They then moved to Salt Lake and established a home there. On 29 Dec 1854 their second child, a daughter Roxy Emma was born. How precious this little daughter must have been to them, but their joy was soon gone for she lived only five months and shortly afterwards their little son passed away also. Six other children were born to them while living in Salt Lake. The last three born all died early, except Willard M. who died at age nineteen. Charlotte's father died in 1855 shortly after they had moved to Salt Lake.

They lived in Salt Lake eleven years and then they accepted the challenge to help colonize and establish towns in southern Utah and Arizona. They were called to go to Kanab in 1864 by Apostle Erastus Snow. Two years later they were called to go to Longvalley. The first year they lived in tents. Indians drove them from Kanab. They left by way of Mt. Carmel. They had to take their wagons apart and let them down over the side of the mountain with chains and windlass. They found a sheltered place and called it Ft. Johnson. The rains came in such torrents and washed down over the mountains into their homes. They dipped water out with pails and tried to keep it as dry as possible. Alma's father and mother and family had been among the number to be called to settle in Southern Utah, also. These rains and dampness caused his mother, Eunice, to develop arthritis. She became bedfast and the rest of her life she spent in bed, the last ten years.

In 1865 Alma and Charlotte went to Arizona with their four children. Willard, the baby, was only a few months old. It was a hazardous journey. The Indians were a problem, also water holes were scarce and crossing the Colorado River by ferry was especially treacherous along with the mountain ridges they had to cross over. They arrived in Snowflake, but were driven out by the Indians so went to Taylorsville for awhile and then on down to the Gila Valley and settled in Ft.

Thomas. Here their daughter Charlotte Elizabeth was born 11 Apr 1867. She died a year later.

The family returned to Utah and lived in Harrisburg. Finally, irrigation water was diverted from Harrisburg to Leeds and the families were encouraged to move to Leeds. Leeds was organized as a town 1 Dec 1867. Alma and Solomon, his father, and their families moved to Leeds May 1868 and Leeds became their home from then on. Seven sons and daughters were born to Alma and Charlotte there. A school house built of Cedar posts and pine slabs was one of the first buildings built.

Alma's father Solomon became the Presiding Elder, but was soon released, 29 Jul 1869, because his work took him away from town so much of the time. He was building a flour mill in Virgin City at this time and probably Alma was with him - they built many homes and buildings in Virgin City, Pocketville, Tocquerville, Harrisburg and Leeds and built a home for themselves in each location. The houses were built of rocks and lumber, some two stories high. They also made furniture for the homes.

Alma built a stone residence in Leeds that was occupied in turn by George Crosby, William Leathan, Oscar McMullin, Margaret Jane Meeks Hamilton and William D. Sullivan who died there in 1946 at the age of 86. In 1875 a stone church house and school house was begun and finished in 1879.

While the people were busy building permanent buildings and raising crops, rich silver deposits had been found in the hills nearby and the mining town of Silver Reef was founded. Miners flocked to the new mine creating a ready market for all that could be raised in Leeds, Harrisburg and many other towns nearby. The people of Leeds had suffered many hardships from crop losses due to grasshoppers and other things. Now vineyards were producing abundantly and making of wine was encouraged. This selling of wine to Silver Reef brought prosperity to the producers.

At this time the ward had 38 families and membership was 178 souls. Eighty-six acres were farmed in Leeds, 22 of them in orchards. The Bishop was George H. Crosby with Alma Truman Angell and Joseph T. Wilkinson as counselors.

Alma also served as a counselor to B.Y. McMullin beginning 17 Jan 1894, but had to be released soon because of illness. He developed Parkinsons' disease (palsy) and spent his time from then on submitting names of hundreds of his relatives to the St. George Temple. Charlotte cared for him and the last nine years of his life he was bedfast. He died 12 Jun 1911 and was buried in Leeds.

After all these tragedies Charlotte moved to Salt Lake and became a set apart worker in the Salt Lake Temple. She was a beautiful lady and stood tall and erect and dressed neatly. She bore her husband sixteen children and of that sixteen only six lived to maturity and married. Charlotte passed away 12 May 1916 in Salt Lake City.

Their children:

Alma Truman Jr.b. 15 Dec. 1853d. 16 Dec 1855

Roxy Emmab 29 Dec 1854d 30 May 1855

Sanford Armondb 15 Feb 1856d.

Emerella Amanda b 23 Dec 1857d.

George Edwardb. 6 Feb 1860d.

Martha Annb. 16 Jan 1862d. 16 Jan 1868

Henriettab. 29 July 1863d. 25 Oct 1864

Willardb. 11 Jul 1865d. 25 Oct 1865

Charlotte Elizabeth b. 11 Apr 1867d. 25 Apr 1868

Helamanb. 13 Feb 1869d.

William Henryb. 6 Jan 1871sd.

Francis Marionb. 23 Aug 1872d. 22 Aug 1887

Luella Mayb. 8 Aug 1874d.

Hyrum Damenb. 20 Jul 1876d. 24 Jul 1876

Lehib. 27 Jun 1878d. 1 Jul 1878

Lullu Vb. 20 Jul 1880d. 20 Jul 1880

References:

Church History Vol 1, 11

Baptism F 6502

Leeds Ward Records F6380

Saga of Three Towns - Marietta M. Mariger

Heart Throbs - Kate Carter

Family Notes