

Samuel Thomas Pearson

Samuel Thomas "S T" Pearson was born about 1853 in Massachusetts.¹ He *may* have been the youngest son of the Samuel and Mary Pearson family who lived in Roxbury, Norfolk, Massachusetts from 1850-1870.² It is certain that S T was a book keeper in Silver Reef, Washington, Utah Territory in 1880. He was a school board trustee in Silver Reef from 1881-1884.³

In 1882, S T headed a petition with 118 signatures, all residents of Silver Reef, to build a new road from the black ridge to the town. For several years the inhabitants of Washington County built and repaired the public roads that the business interests of the county needed. They asked for a state appropriation of \$5,000 to repair the current road which "was impassable at times on account of its rocky broken character".⁴ He also participated in a petition to the state legislature to change the boundary line between Kane and Washington Counties. The bill was passed.⁵

In 1883, S T and Mr Lund started a meat market in Silver Reef.⁶ S T also "occupied a confidential position with the firm of Woolley, Lund & Judd and their predecessors"⁷ and had an office in their store.⁸ He married before 1885⁹, when he had "earned the distinction of being one of our most competent and reliable business men and many friends of him and esteemed lady".¹⁰

In 1885, S T and his wife moved to Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah Territory, where he worked in the warehouse of Spencer & Kimball department store on Main Street.¹¹ In 1893, he ran for city recorder.¹² In 1895, he erected a home on Brigham Street near Eighth East.¹³ About this time he is referred to as Colonel Pearson.¹⁴ He served as secretary and treasurer of The Marion Mining Company and secretary of the Herschel Mining Company.¹⁵ He was an incorporator and the first vice president of the Geyser-Marion Gold Mining Company.¹⁶ He was the manager of the Bingham Placer Mining Company, operating in Idaho. He spent a lot of time traveling to and from the mines in Idaho.¹⁷

He was elected secretary of the Sanpete Valley Railway Company¹⁸ in 1895 and three years later became the auditor.¹⁹ He resigned in 1901 to become the manager for the Nevada company in Austin and Berlin, Nevada.²⁰ He was the president of the State Bank of Nevada in Austin, Nevada.²¹ In 1906, he filed for incorporation and served as president of the Goldfield Blue Bell Mining Company.²²

¹ United States Census, 1880.

² United States Census, 1850, 1860, 1870; Massachusetts State Census, 1855, 1865.

³ Silver Reef School Board Minutes.

⁴ *Salt Lake Herald*, 8 February 1882, p. 5.

⁵ Council Journal of the Utah Legislative Assembly, 1882, pp. 101, 176-7.

⁶ *Silver Reef Miner*, 30 September 1882, p. 4; 27 January 1883.

⁷ *Salt Lake Herald*, 10 June 1885, p. 8.

⁸ *Salt Lake Herald*, 22 February 1885, p. 8.

⁹ "Mrs S T Pearson" was mentioned 62 times in the Salt Lake City newspapers between 1890-1900.

¹⁰ *Salt Lake Herald*, 10 June 1885, p. 8.

¹¹ *Salt Lake Evening Democrat*, 23 April 1887, p. 6.

¹² *Salt Lake Herald*, 28 September 1893, p. 8.

¹³ *Salt Lake Tribune*, 2 June 1895, p. 4.

¹⁴ *Salt Lake Herald*, 15 September 1896, p. 3.

¹⁵ A Hand Book on the Mines, Miners, and Minerals of Utah, pp. 141, 163.

¹⁶ *Salt Lake Tribune*, 9 February 1897, p. 6.

¹⁷ Engineering and Mining Journal, Vol 65, p. 591; *Salt Lake Herald*, 6 July 1899, p. 6; *Deseret Evening News*, 14 May 1900, p. 6.

¹⁸ *Salt Lake Tribune*, 1 Jan 1895, p. 9; utahrails.net/utahrails/spvry-1874-1908.php

¹⁹ *Salt Lake Tribune*, 9 February 1898, p. 6.

²⁰ *Deseret Evening News*, 29 August 1901, p. 2; *Mining Magazine*, Vol 7, 1903, pp. 167, 307.

²¹ Proceedings of the Annual Convention of the American Bankers' Association, 1901, p. 244.

²² Report of Secretary of State, Nevada, p. 103; Curb, Mining, Oil and Industrial Securities: 1916 Handbook, p. 60.

He was one of the owners of the King Midas Mining Company.²³ He disappeared from the newspaper sources after 1927, but it is unknown when and where he died. Mrs Pearson continues to appear in newspapers in Utah and California until 1916, but it is not known when or where she died.



(Image from the *Silver Reef Miner*, 30 September 1882, p. 4; 27 January 1883)

Research by Elaine Young, PhD, 2016

Please email eyoung@youngzones.org for additions and corrections

²³ *Los Angeles Herald*, 3 November 1909; *Intermountain Industry and Engineering*, Vol 15, p. 26.