MORRILL SPENCER FARR

AND

THALIS JACKSON

ANCESTRY AND LIFE HISTORY

January 25, 2001

PREFACE

This history is possible due to oral histories which were taken from Morrill Spencer Farr and Thalis Jackson Farr while vacationing at Flathead Lake Lodge in Big Fork Montana. The histories were taken over a period of several years, beginning in 1985. Much of the tape recording of the histories took place during our annual family vacations. My thanks and acknowledgment go to my parents, other family members and friends who have contributed to this history.

This history would not have been possible without the dedication of Claudine Barnett, my valued assistant. Claudine transcribed the oral interview, typing the content into the history and editing it. She scanned the pictures into the history and spent many hours preparing it for print. As a family we owe her our thanks for her great care and effort given to this project.

My gratitude also goes to Alison Farr Brisker, who helped in rewriting, editing and adding to our history, which helped immensely. She helped give the text better flow and interest. Our format has been to quote Thalis and Spence from the oral interviews - letting them tell the story in their own voices, and then later to continue the story in third-person, with input from family members and friends.

Before we begin their personal history, I would like to introduce you to the ancestors who made Spence and Thalis possible. Our family is blessed with an interesting and noble ancestry. I have included short biographies on them.

We have divided the sections using the following abbreviations which represent Spence and Thalis and their children, and include our cousin, Jane Jackson.

MSF-Morrill Spencer Farr
TJF-Thalis Jackson Farr
DJF-David Jackson Farr & family
ASF-Alan Spencer Farr & family
TFF-Teresa Farr Fistere and John Fistere
GAF-Gerald Anthony Farr & family
JJ-Jane Jackson

Thank you

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THE ANCESTRY OF MORRILL SPENCER FARR



Morrill Spencer Farr at Age 22

Pedigree Chart

Chart no. 1

1 **MORRILL SPENCER FARR**
B: 13 Mar 1910
P: Salt Lake City,Salt Lake,Utah
M: 6 Jun 1936
P: Los Angeles,LA,California
D: 26 Jan 1996
P: Inglewood,L.A.,California

THALIS JACKSON
(Spouse of no. 1)

2 **MORRILL NEWTON FARR**
B: 17 Jun 1885
P: OGDEN,WEBER,Utah
M: 23 Jun 1909 (Div)
P: Salt Lake City,SL,Utah
D: 24 Nov 1949
P: Los Angeles,LA,California

3 **JEAN SPENCER**
B: 16 Jun 1888
P: Salt Lake City,SL,Utah
D: 30 Apr 1975
P: Los Angeles,LA,California

4 **NEWTON FARR**
B: 31 May 1856
P: OGDEN,WEBER,Utah
M: 19 Oct 1882
P: Salt Lake City,SL,Utah
D: 16 Jun 1921
P: Salt Lake City,SL,Utah

5 **MARTHA DAVIS**
B: 15 May 1863
P: Salt Lake City,SL,Utah
D: 14 Dec 1929
P: BM,LANDEE,NEVADA

6 **JOHN DANIEL SPENCER**
B: 27 Jun 1858
P: PROVO,Utah,Utah
M: 19 Jan 1882
P: Salt Lake City,SL,Utah
D: 16 Jun 1947
P: Salt Lake City,SL,Utah

7 **CLARISSA H YOUNG**
B: 23 Jul 1860
P: Salt Lake City,SL,Utah
D: 21 Aug 1939
P: Salt Lake City,SL,Utah

8 **LORIN FARR**
B: 27 Jul 1820
P: Waterford,C,Vermont
M: 1 Jan 1845
P: Nauvoo,Hancock,Illinois
D: 12 Jan 1908
P: HOT SPRINGS,BE,Utah

9 **NANCY BAILEY CHASE**
B: 27 Jan 1823
P: BRISTOL,A,Vermont
D: 10 Sep 1892
P: OGDEN,WEBER,Utah

10 **MORRILL L DAVIS**
B: 12 May 1825
P: HF,MONROE,New York
M: 6 Apr 1852
P: Salt Lake City,SL,Utah
D: 3 Aug 1882
P: Salt Lake City,SL,Utah

11 **MARY THOMAS KENNER**
B: 2 Feb 1831
P: C,M,TENNESEE
D: 1 Jul 1870
P: Salt Lake City,SL,Utah

12 **DANIEL SPENCER**
B: 20 Jul 1794
P: WS,B,MASSACHUSETTS
M: 25 Jan 1847
P: FLORENCE,NEBRASKA
D: 8 Dec 1868
P: Salt Lake City,SL,Utah

13 **EMILY SLAFTER THOMPSON**
B: 13 Aug 1819
P: Mansfield,Tolland,CONN
D: 15 May 1895
P: Salt Lake City,SL,Utah

14 **BRIGHAM YOUNG**
B: 1 Jun 1801
P: WHITINGHAM,W,Vermont
M: 15 Jun 1842
P: Nauvoo,Hancock,Illinois
D: 29 Aug 1877
P: Salt Lake City,SL,Utah

15 **LUCY ANN DECKER**
B: 17 May 1822
P: PHELPS,O,New York
D: 24 Jan 1890
P: Salt Lake City,SL,Utah

16 **WINSLOW FARR**
B: 12 Jan 1794
M: 5 Dec 1816
D: 22 Aug 1865

17 **OLIVE HOVEY FREEMAN**
B: 23 Jan 1799
D: 10 Mar 1893

18 **EZRA CHASE**
B: 4 Feb 1796
M: 22 Aug 1818
D: 24 Oct 1873

19 **TIRZAH WELLS**
B: 29 Jul 1796
D: 4 Apr 1867

20 **MELVIN H DAVIS**
B: Aug 1804/1805
M: 15 Jun 1824
D: 1 Jul 1877

21 **PERMELIA LOCKWOOD**
B: 1808
D: 9 Oct 1872

22 **ROBERT HARRISON KENNER**
B: 20 Oct 1794
M: 18 Feb 1822
D: 20 Dec 1877

23 **HANNAH S FOSTER**
B: 25 Apr 1801
D: 7 Nov 1879

24 **DANIEL SPENCER**
B: 22 Aug 1764
M: 9 Jan 1788
D: 26 Nov 1844

25 **CHLOE WILSON or WILLSON**
B: 24 May 1765
D: 26 Jan 1845

26 **MOSES THOMPSON**
B: 30 Sep 1792
M: 21 Sep 1813
D: 27 Sep 1832

27 **TRYPHOSA SLAFTER**
B: 24 Mar 1793
D: 18 Apr 1877

28 **JOHN YOUNG**
B: 6 Mar 1763
M: 31 Oct 1785
D: 12 Oct 1839

29 **ABIGAIL HOWE**
B: 3 May 1766
D: 11 Jun 1814/1815

30 **ISSAC PERRY DECKER**
B: 29 Nov 1799
M: 1820
D: 11 Jun 1873

31 **HARRIET PAGE WHEELER**
B: 7 Sep 1803
D: 22 Sep 1871

07 Feb 2001

MORRILL NEWTON FARR



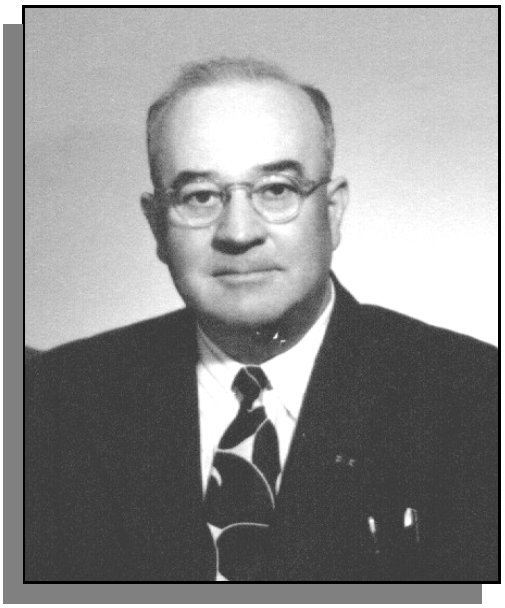
Morrill Newton Farr at Age 21
June 17, 1885 - November 14, 1949

Spencer's Father, Morrill Newton Farr was born 17 June1885, to Newton Farr and Martha Davis Farr. He was a grandson of Ogden, Utah's founding father, Lorin Farr. He learned at an early age to love fishing, hunting and the great outdoors. Spencer often told of how his father would fish the Weber River and how he could shoot the heads off of grouse with his .45. Morrill met and fell in love with Jean Spencer Farr and married her in the Salt Lake Temple, on 23 June1909. He and Jean - or BaBa as she was known to her family - had three children: Morrill Spencer Farr, Frances Jean Farr, and Richard Spencer Farr.

Unfortunately, their marriage ended in divorce in 1934. Morrill Newton tended to be shy, not enjoying social life as did BaBa. This, and other issues, made them incompatible. Morrill Newton was a farmer, a salesman, an electric shop owner, and one of the founders of what later became an international air-filtration business, Farr Company - quite an accomplishment for a person whose education ended in the 8th grade. Morrill enjoyed reading and was self-educated. He was highly inventive and was instrumental in developing many Farr Company products.

He remarried in 1935 and in the 1940's moved to a ranch on the Rogue River in Oregon. As a result, his grandchildren did not have many memories of him. He built the first of the Farr cabins up the Weber River in Holiday Park, still a favorite vacation spot for the generations following. Spencer remembered Morrill repairing the axle of a car that had run off the road to Holiday Park in the early years, by fashioning and installing a sapling tree as a substitute axle.

Although he was descended from strong Mormon pioneer stock, he was never active nor interested in the Church. He once inquired of his cousin, Ben Rich, how he could have his name removed from the records of the Church. Ben Rich, an attorney, replied that he should write on a piece of bond or parchment paper his desire to have his name removed from the church records. His letter then instructed him to roll up the parchment and "shove it" (you know where). Ben stated this was the only way he knew of, that a son of Newton and grandson of Lorin Farr could get his name removed from the records of the Church. Morrill sent a copy of Ben's letter to David O. McKay, then a counselor and later to become Prophet. When McKay read his letter, he replied with a letter of his own suggesting that he might establish Ben's suggestion as a procedure for Bishop's in handling such matters. Morrill Newton Farr died at the age of 64 on 24 November 1949.



Morrill Newton Farr

JEAN SPENCER FARR



Jean Spencer
June 16, 1888 - April 30, 1975

All of Spence and Thalis' children remember Jean Spencer Farr (BaBa) much better than they remember Morrill, because she lived so much longer and they saw her more often. Jean was born, June 16, 1888, to John Daniel Spencer and Clarissa Hamilton Young in Salt Lake City, Utah. She was a grand-daughter of two outstanding pioneer leaders - Brigham Young and Daniel Spencer.

BaBa was very outgoing and loved to be with people. She gave wonderful book reviews, played bridge, and enjoyed sports with the children. She spent six weeks each summer at Holiday Park while raising her children. She told her grandchildren many stories of those early days. Her children looked forward, with great anticipation, to those fun summer months at Holiday Park. Fortunately, that tradition carried on to one degree or another. BaBa attended the University of Utah and at one time was a Stake Primary President in the LDS Church. For two years she was the president of the Utah Women's Club of Los Angeles. She served in the Red Cross as a Gray Lady during WW II, and also volunteered at the Veteran's hospital and the Missionary Home. She loved the nine years she served as a guide at Temple Square.

She was married in 1909 to Morrill Newton Farr. They had two sons, Spencer and Richard, and one daughter, Frances. She had a strong personality and was a good influence on her children and grandchildren. She made marvelous fudge and was a focal point at all family gatherings. Her own children were not active in the church, but she made sure that her grandchildren went to church when they were young. In the last three decades of her life, she spent a great deal of time in church service, and in giving talks and book reviews.

After her grandchildren David and Alan were both married, they enjoyed taking BaBa out to dinner and a show on her birthday. They always seemed to find a convenient parking space whenever they were with her, and thereafter referred to 'BaBa's luck' whenever something lucky would happen for any of them. Everyone loved her dearly.

(David Freed's thoughts on BaBa)
(Spencer's friend of 77 years)

I loved Baba. She was the best talker and had a terrific sense of humor. She was just always laughing and oh, she was fun!

I remember one time I drove her and my mother to California. We were going up to San Francisco and then down to L.A. Gosh, I talked to her practically the whole time. It was sure a lot of fun. She had a terrific personality. She got her storytelling talent from her mother.

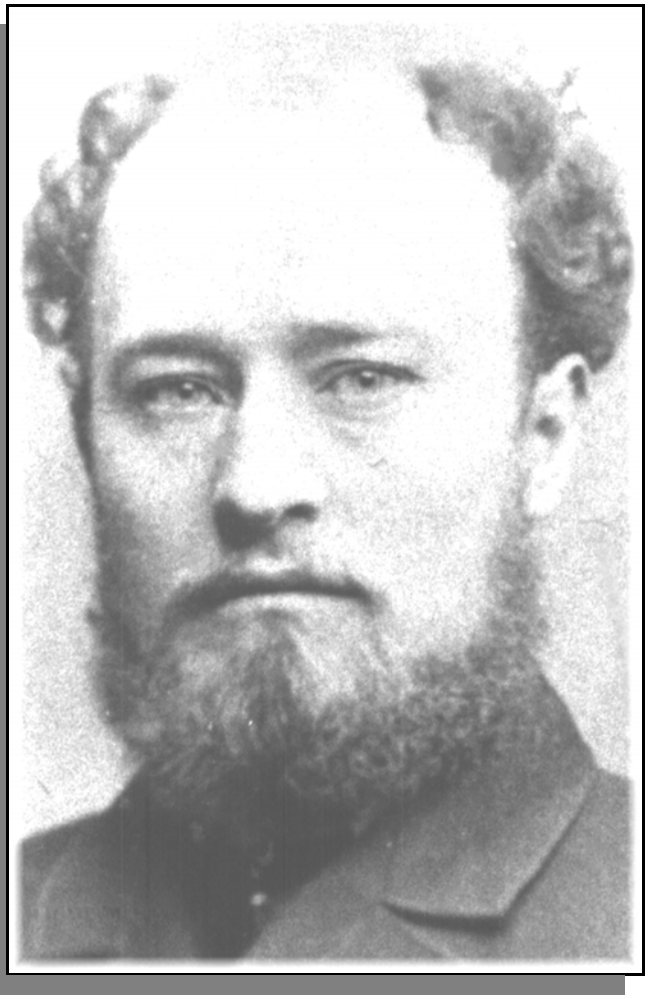


Jean Spencer at 13

NEWTON FARR

Morrill Newton Farr's father, Newton Farr was born 31 May 1856 to pioneer and Ogden Mayor , Lorin Farr and Nancy Bailey Chase. He served a Mormon mission in England from 1880 to 1882, and was married to Martha Davis on Oct 19, 1882.

Newton had a colorful life as an amateur boxer and was a Deputy Sheriff of Weber County. He had a great interest in and helped to develop many mines. Newton also had an interest for a time in his father, Loren's woolen mill business. He was a jack-of-all-trades, but unfortunately did not stick to any one thing for very long. Consequently, he was not a great provider for his wife, Martha and their children, Ethel la Belle, Morril Newton, and Leah. He died of a heart attack on June 16, 1921 at the age of 64.



Newton Farr
May 31, 1856 - June 16, 1921

Newton Farr was Spencer's grandfather. Spencer said of him, *"My grandfather, Newton Farr was an outdoors man and a good boxer. I once heard a story about him during WWI. He was looking at a bulletin board outside the Salt Lake Tribune one day, when some English men began picking on a German. Grandpa Farr became incensed with their behavior and took 4 or 5 of them on at once and licked them, too. He used to do a little amateur boxing, but never used his own name because he feared his wife, Martha, would be shocked. A Mr. Marty O'Brien wrote to him on July 17, 1912, saying that he had seen him in a fight. He felt they could make money if Newton were willing to box professionally with Mr. O'Brien as his manager. He said he had seen the Flynn - Johnson fight in Vegas and was of the opinion that Newton could have whipped Flynn. The letter may have been a spoof, as Grandpa Farr was pretty old at the time the letter was written. He did fight in San Francisco once, when he attended a boxing match where one of the opponents didn't show. He took his place, but boxed under a different name."*

MARTHA DAVIS



Martha Davis
May 15, 1863 - December 14, 1929

Martha was born 15 May 1863. She was the daughter of Dr. Morrill Lockwood Davis and Mary Kenner. The Davis family was originally from New York.

Newton and Martha were married 19 October 1882 in the Salt Lake Temple. Spencer Farr said that Martha was a meticulous house-keeper but did not have many interests beyond that and her family. Spencer's Aunt Leah remembers coming home from school with her mother, Martha, waiting by the window.

Martha's mother passed away and her father remarried - Emily Electa Noble. When her stepmother's two oldest sons became very ill, Martha was a loving and caring nursemaid to them. After this period of illness, the two boys preferred to go to Martha than their own mother.

"She was gentle," Leah recalls, *" the kindest . . . and always looking out for people that she could help. . . . Mother was married when she was 19 because just as soon as her father died her stepmother said, 'Now I'm not going to keep house anymore so you. . . will have to find quarters elsewhere.' Well, my mother (Martha Davis) was going to be married in October anyhow, so. . . Nancy Bailey Chase Farr, (mother-in-law to be) said, 'Now I'll tell you what you do, Matt, you come to Ogden and you put up root for you and Newt for the winter . . . you could spend two months, that way it'll take all of that time.' So that's what mother did."*

JOHN DANIEL SPENCER



John Daniel Spencer
June 27, 1858 - June 16, 1947

John Daniel (JD) Spencer (Spence's grandfather and Jean's father) was born 27 June 1858, to Daniel Spencer and Emily Slafter Thompson, in Provo, Utah. The Spencer residence was in Salt Lake City, but that year many of the Saints ended up in Provo to elude Johnson's Army, which had entered the valley during the 'Utah War.'

JD Spencer was an outstanding insurance agent for New York Life and was blessed with an ability to both act and sing. He participated in over 75 plays and performances in his lifetime and sang at nearly 1,000 funerals. He showed good leadership skills as president of the Utah Life Underwriters Association. He also helped found the original Evans Stephens Home Opera and the Salt Lake Symphony.

He was President of the Library and a member of their board of directors for 32 years. He taught salesmanship at the YMCA, the LDS Business College and the University of Utah.

He was associated with the Red Cross and with Boy Scouts of America as chairman of their reading committee. He involved himself in service to youth, becoming vice chairman of the civic recreation commission in 1920. He was a high priest in the LDS Church.

JD led a very active and involved life. He died on June 16, 1947, in Salt Lake City, Utah.



CLARISSA HAMILTON YOUNG



Clarissa Hamilton Young was born on the 23rd of July, 1860, to Brigham Young and Lucy Ann Decker. She had many happy memories of her youth visiting with her famous father at breakfast, and being part of a very large family of many aunts and half brothers and sisters. She recounted her experiences in a book, 'One Who Was Valiant' where she said, *'that no child ever loved, revered, and cherished a father more than I did mine, but how could I do otherwise, knowing him as I did? My mother looked upon him as the embodiment of all that was good and noble. He had the affection and tenderness of a woman for his family and friends. He was good to look at, and I fail to recall an instance when he was not immaculate in person and dress. He had well-shaped hands and feet, a clear white skin, and blue eyes - the kind that radiate love and tenderness - and a mouth that was firm, commanding respect of all with whom he came in contact. Few could resist the wonderful personality that made him so beloved of his people.'*

Clarissa married John D. Spencer, on January 19, 1882. They had five children: John Allen, Jean, Rehan, Daniel and Helen. She died August 21, 1939.

(David Freed's Memories of Clarissa Spencer)

I remember J.D. Spencer well. Of course, he was married to Clicky (Clarissa). I remember both of them, but I knew her the best. She was a great storyteller and she loved to tell fortunes with tea leaves. I remember Spence's girl, Helen Pratt, coming down to our house and she was telling her fortune and, oh boy, every girl would come there to get their fortunes told. Oh she was a great fortune teller.



Clarissa, Age 6



Clarissa Hamilton Young
July 23, 1860 - August 21, 1939

J. D. Spencer was an actor. He was in the company that performed in the old Salt Lake Theater. He was busy as the dickens. In fact, I think he used to run the theater. I think he was in charge of the whole thing.

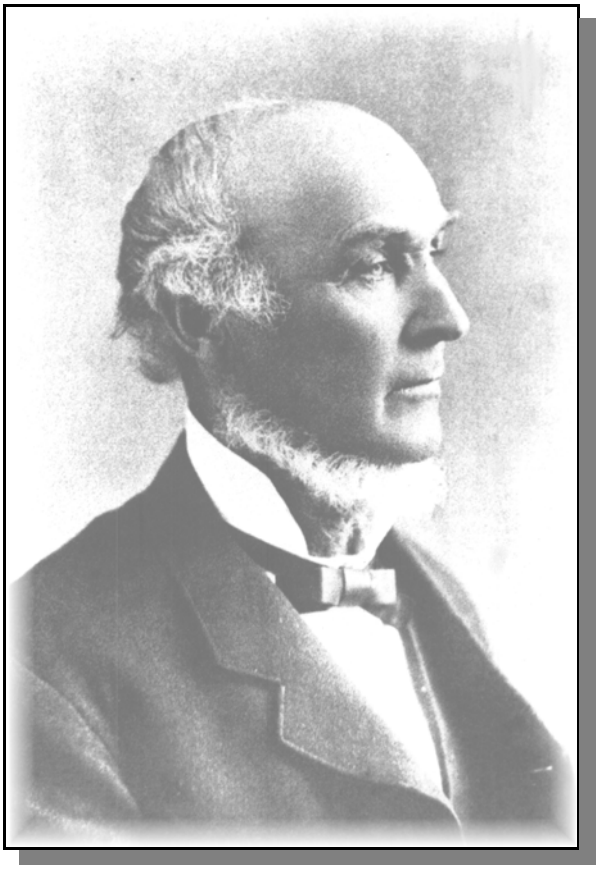
I know a story ... my wife tells it better than I do ... about Clarissa and J.D. They had a girl come in and stay with them who worked for them. Clarissa and J.D. were out of town this particular time - and she was sleeping in their bed. J.D. came home late that night and thought that Clint (Clarissa) was there. He got in bed and went to sleep.

Clint came home and J.D. awoke and saw her and said, "Who in the h—— am I in bed with?" They had slept all night together, unknowingly! That is one of the great jokes of all time.



Spencer Family 25 August 1938: L to R - Rehan Spencer West, Allen Spencer, Clarissa Spencer, John D. Spencer, Jean Spencer Farr, Daniel Spencer, Helen Spencer Williams

LORIN FARR



Lorin Farr
July 27, 1820 - January 12, 1909

Lorin Farr was born July 27, 1820, in Lower Waterford, Vermont to Winslow and Olive Freeman Farr. As a child, he sat in his little rocking chair and listened to his Grandfather Elijah Freeman explain the teachings of the bible. Grandfather Freeman told them that the church of the New Testament was not on the earth, but that he expected the church to be restored. When it returned, it would have apostles, prophets, evangelists and teachers. It would also have the gifts of the spirit that were enumerated in the New Testament. Later when the Winslow Farrs moved north to Charleston, Vermont (just 20 miles south of the Canadian border), the Mormon Missionaries, Orson Pratt and Lyman Johnson, visited them and taught them of the restoration of the church of the Master here on earth. Lorin, then age 11, believed their testimony as it was in line with what his grandfather had taught him.

In 1838 the Farr family migrated West with other members of this newly founded religion. They would end up living in Kirtland, Ohio; Far West, Missouri; Lima, Illinois; and finally, Nauvoo. It was in Nauvoo that Lorin Farr married Nancy Bailey Chase. During the Missouri-Illinois period of Mormon history, Lorin Farr became intimately associated with the Prophet Joseph Smith and his family. He served as bodyguard, secretary and confidante of Joseph Smith. He taught school subjects to Joseph's children. From that time and through the rest of his 89 years, Lorin Farr bore testimony to the truthfulness of Joseph Smith's mission and calling as a Prophet of the Lord.

Lorin and Nancy entered the Salt Lake Valley with the Daniel Spencer Company in September of 1847. They resided there until called by Brigham Young to settle the Weber Valley. Lorin served for 20 years as both Stake President, Mayor and colonizer of the valley. Under his direction the temporal and ecclesiastical affairs of the people were handled. Ogden City and many other settlements were founded under his direction.

As his leadership responsibilities grew, so did his family. He entered into the practice of polygamy and eventually had six wives and 36 children. He took responsibility for all of his growing family, seeing to both their temporal and spiritual needs. Lorin Farr was Stake President and Mayor for 20 years before serving a mission in England, in 1870. When he returned from his mission, he was elected mayor again

and served for two years. He also served in the State legislature and was always ready to serve where needed. Lorin and his associates oversaw the construction of the last 200 miles of railroad connecting the East with the West at Promontory Point, Utah in 1869. Because of his early affiliation with the railroad he was given a free pass for his lifetime. In his later years he traveled all over the western United States, visiting family and friends. Loren would often visit Mr. and Mrs. Leland Stanford (founders of Stanford University and railroad builders) being welcomed in their home because of their early work together on building the Transcontinental Railroad. Lorin died on the 12th of January, 1909, in Ogden, Utah.



Sunday School in Atlanta, Georgia - May 21, 1904
Lorin Farr (far left) visiting two of his daughters and his grandchildren.

NANCY BAILEY CHASE



Nancy Bailey Chase
27 January 1823 - 10 September 1892

Nancy was born, January 27, 1823, to Ezra Chase and Tirzah Wells Chase in Bristol, Vermont. The family moved to the western part of New York State, in Livingston County, where the soil was better for farming. That was quite a journey in those days - 250 miles. The family learned of the church from Joseph Smith himself. They accepted baptism and joined the Saints in Nauvoo, Illinois in 1839. Nancy became very sick with a plague in 1841 and was visited by the Prophet Joseph Smith who healed her instantly.

When Lorin Farr returned from his Eastern States Mission, he became reacquainted with Nancy Chase who had grown into a beautiful young woman. They were married on New Year's Day 1845 by Brigham Young in the Nauvoo Temple. Mobs drove them and thousands of other Saints from Nauvoo. They traveled with the saints along the Iowa trail to Winter Quarters. Nancy drove a spring loaded wagon across the plains, while Lorin drove another wagon. They settled for a few years in Salt Lake near the Temple block and then went to settle the Weber Valley.

Nancy became a celebrated hostess as her husband's position as Mayor and Stake President often required meals and housing for dignitaries. She often said that it cost her more to feed their many visitors than her own family. She made beautiful quilts and rugs and supplied delicious meals. As Lorin entered the practice of polygamy, she became the undisputed leader of his wives and helped to make their large and growing home a peaceful place. Lorin and Nancy had eleven children, eight of which lived to adulthood. Nancy often accompanied Lorin on trips for his work in the legislature or to attend the theater. She was very good with horses and enjoyed taking the reins of the two high spirited horses that pulled their carriage - their primary means of conveyance.

Nancy was well dressed, well groomed and she was a warm and engaging person. She made sure her children went to church and that they received instruction during the week in the adobe school house. She often took them for rides in their three-seated black carriage. During the Winter they enjoyed bobsledding and attending the theater. She had a showplace garden and with the vegetables from her garden, a number of milk cows and flour from their mill, she provided a balanced diet for her family. She predeceased Lorin, on September 10, 1892 at the age of 69.

MORRILL L. DAVIS

Morrill Lockwood Davis was born 12 May 1825 in Honeoye Falls, Monroe, New York to Melvin and Permelia Lockwood Davis. He grew up in a busy home as the eldest of ten children - nine boys and one girl.

Very little is known about Morrill's first marriage to Olive Augusta Smith. She was from the same county in which Morrill was born and it is believed she died soon after their marriage. Long after, in 1870, he was sealed to Olive Augusta Smith by proxy. He must have been very fond of the wife he lost so soon after their life together had begun. Morrill also named one of his daughters Olive.

Morrill pursued a medical career and went to Rush Medical School in New York. The family traveled west, perhaps with their eye on California, and settled again in Iowa. In 1856 Morrill met and married Mary Thomas Kenner. Mary was a member of the church, and she and her family were in Iowa preparing to cross the plains to the Salt Lake Valley. The Kenners departed Iowa on 23 April 1859 in the Eighth Company, under the direction of Captain George Rowley. Although Morrill was not a member of the church, he and Mary accompanied the saints westward. They arrived a little over four months later, on 29 August 1859. Family tradition states that all the men in the party walked every step of the way from Iowa. They replenished their supplies in the Salt Lake Valley and while there, met President Brigham Young. He was very favorably impressed with him, and President Young told him that such men as he were needed there.

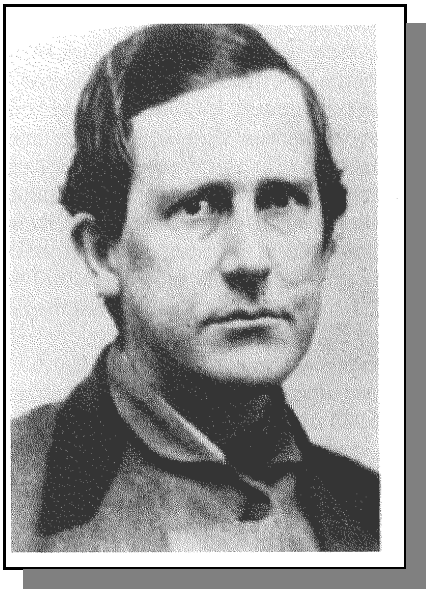
Morrill established a home and business in Salt Lake City on 3rd South and Main, where he kept a busy and successful practice. He was baptized in 1862. Sometime after this, the prophet Brigham Young asked Morrill and Mary to help settle the Ogden area of Utah. They moved there, but Morrill still maintained his office in Salt Lake City. He became involved in the Indian Wars as a physician. He was a member of the Nauvoo Legion, being regimental surgeon with rank of Captain of the Second Infantry, Second Brigade, First Division. His commission was signed by S. A. Mann, Acting Governor the Territory of Utah, and is dated January 11, 1870.

Morrill's attitude towards the Church was not completely favorable. His practice kept him very busy and he did not always make it to all the meetings. A story was told to Leah Farr, Morrill's granddaughter, that his little girl, Martha, became very sick. She was racked with convulsions, and Mary requested that the elders come and bless her. When they arrived, they refused to come near the child, saying she was possessed by the devil. Despite any unfavorable feelings, he and Mary were sealed in the LDS Endowment House for eternity on 25 April 1870. On this same day, he was also sealed to his first wife, Olive Augusta Smith and to Catharine Wroe Kenner, Mary's sister who had died as a young woman. Morrill never knew Catharine.

He was left a widower with three small children when his wife died in 1870. He remarried in 1872. Morrill died 3 August 1882 in Salt Lake City, at the age of 57. He was known for his expertise as a physician and surgeon.

MARY THOMAS KENNER

Mary Thomas Kenner was born 2 February 1831 in Clarksville, Montgomery County, Tennessee. She and her twin sister, Martha, were the fifth and sixth children of eleven born to Robert Harrison and Hannah Stubblefield Foster Kenner. Her father was a wealthy botanical physician who owned a large plantation and a number of slaves.



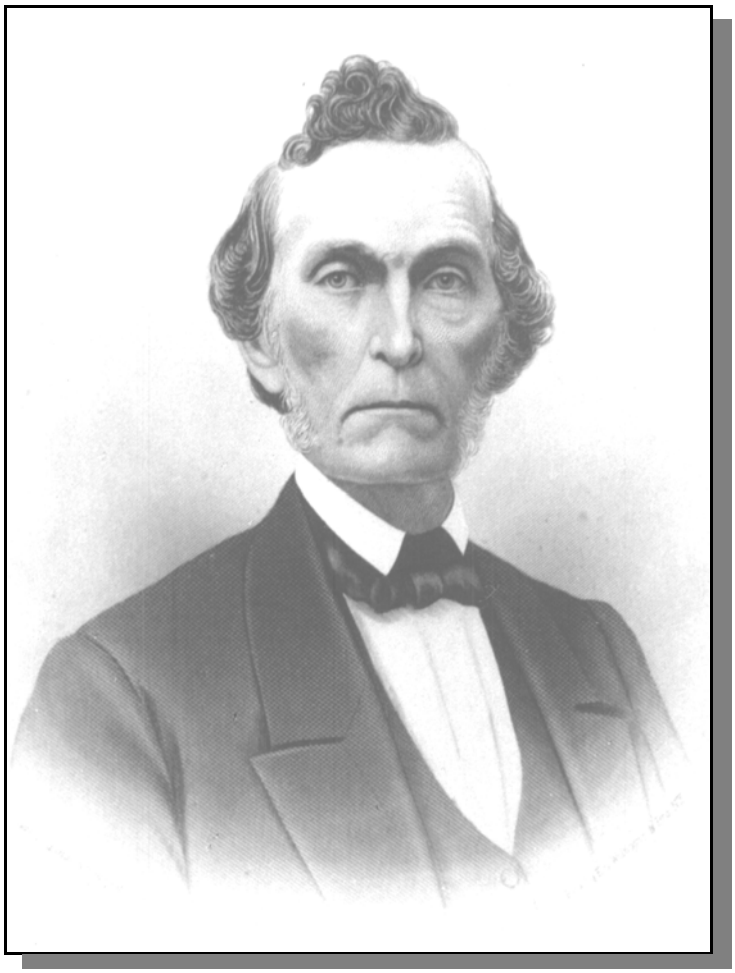
Stephen Collins Foster

It is interesting to note here, that Mary Thomas Kenner is a cousin to the renowned songwriter, Stephen Collins Foster. Her mother, Hannah, was especially proud of her nephew, Stephen and she told the story of his youth often and loved to sing his songs. She expressed how sad she was because he died so young, at age 38. Stephen Collins Foster wrote over 200 songs, many of which are still well-loved and familiar to this day. He received less than $2,000 for royalties in his lifetime, but his songs became so well-loved that the royalties today would be worth millions. Foster was the first composer to write songs for white audiences of the minstrel shows that portrayed the slave as a human being experiencing pain, love and joy. He instructed that his songs be performed with compassion and not the comic style popular in the day. My Old Kentucky Home, Oh! Susanna, Old Folks at Home, I Dream of Jeannie and Beautiful Dreamer are but a few of his well known melodies.

When Mary was about four years old her family was introduced to the Mormon Church. Her mother, Hannah, was the first to join the Church. Soon after her father also accepted in 1835. After he joined the Church, Robert immediately set all of his slaves free. He and his family then moved to Iowa in preparation for a trek west to join other Latter-day Saints in the Salt Lake Valley. It was in Iowa that Mary and Morrill Davis first met. He was a doctor, like Mary's father and her two brothers and it was probably through this common connection that they were introduced. It was not love at first sight. Rumor has it that when Mary, a southern belle, first went out with him she took a knife with her and hid it under her skirts in case she felt the need to protect herself from the "Yankee". The couple married in Iowa around 1856. Their first child, Ella, was born in Iowa and died as a young child. A second child, Ray, was born to them in Iowa in 1858. When Ray was just over five months old they left Iowa for Utah with Mary's family and arrived there four months and six days later on 29 August 1859. They set up their home in Salt Lake City. Morrill was baptized a few years later in 1862. It is speculated that he joined for Mary's sake.

In Utah, Mary gave birth to four more children: Olive, Martha, Mary Labelle, and Robert Harrison. Of her six children, only three of them lived to adulthood - Ray, Martha and Mary. Mary and Morrill were sealed in Salt Lake City, 25 April 1870. He was also sealed to her sister, Catharine who had died at the age of 19. It is believed this was Mary's wish, as Morrill had never met Catharine. Mary died just three months later on 1 July 1870, in Salt Lake City, Utah. She was only 39 years old. Morrill was just 45 and widowed for the second time.

DANIEL SPENCER



Daniel Spencer
August 22, 1794 - December 8, 1868

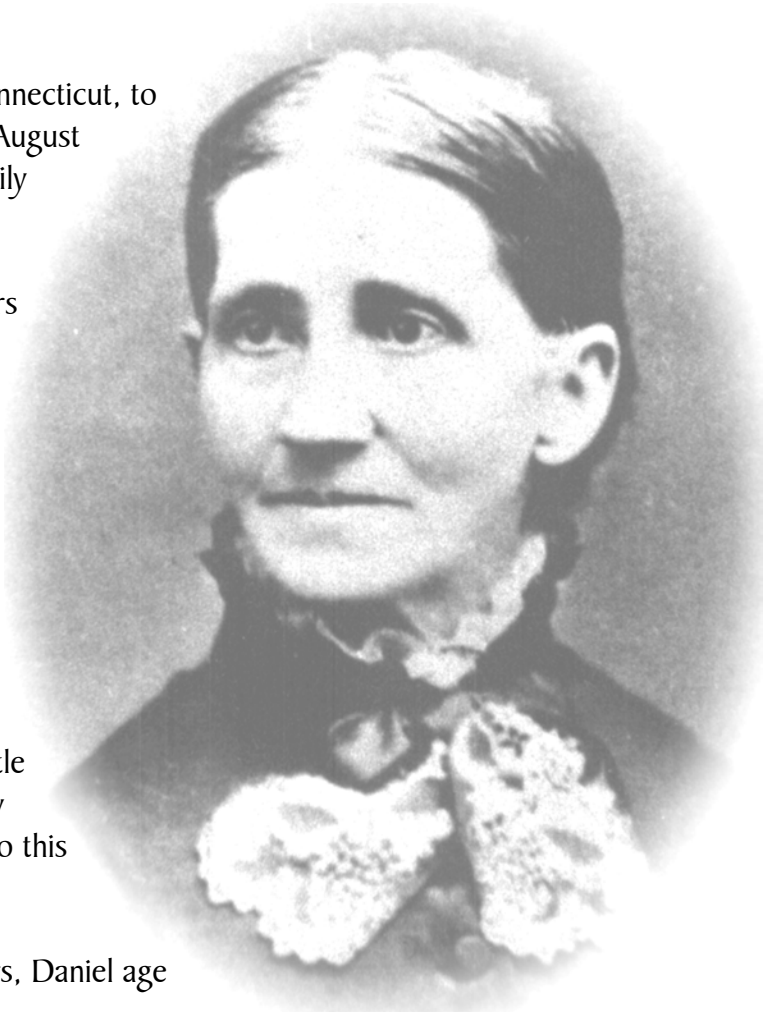
Daniel Spencer was born August 22, 1794, in West Stockbridge, Massachusetts, to Daniel Spencer and Chloe Wilson. Daniel grew up working hard on his father's farm. He was very gifted in business and organizational work and became an accomplished merchant, some days doing $100,000 worth of business.

He learned his trade as an itinerant merchant, hauling goods from place to place. Later, when he settled with his family in West Stockbridge, he farmed and ran a large hotel and a marble quarry. Daniel's partners so trusted his business judgement that they put him in charge of the whole operation. Among his townspeople, Daniel was universally respected and was well known in the region.

He joined the Church in West Stockbridge, after gaining a testimony of the Book of Mormon. He was baptized in the local river by a Mormon elder, with the townspeople and his friends looking on. He left all of his wealth to throw in his lot with the Church.

In Nauvoo he served briefly as mayor. He led a company of saints (including Lorin and Nancy Farr) to Utah, in September of 1847. In Salt Lake he was called as Stake President. Daniel Spencer served under the First Presidency as the spiritual head of the Salt Lake area as well as a civic head until Salt Lake organized itself into a city. He also served as Supreme Court Judge for the territory of Utah. Not only did he make judgments among the saints but he also settled differences among the emigrants coming through Salt Lake on their way to the gold fields of California. He was very respected as a settler of disputes among the people of Salt Lake. He died on December 8, 1868. President Brigham Young preached a wonderful sermon at Daniel's funeral.

EMILY SLAFTER THOMPSON



Emily Slafter Thompson
August 13, 1819 - March 15, 1885

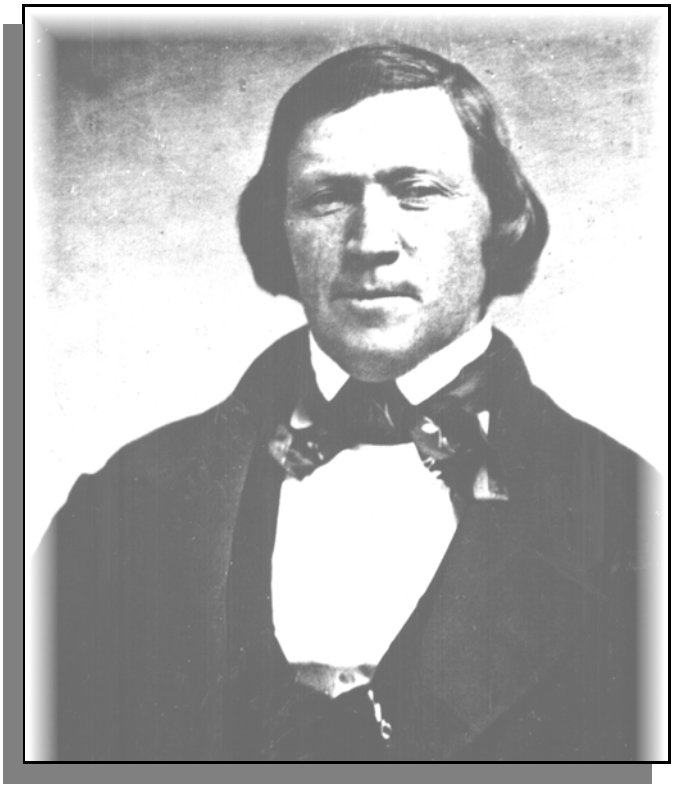
Emily was born in Mansfield Center, Connecticut, to Moses and Tryphosa Slafter Thompson on 13 August 1819. After her conversion to the Church, Emily came to Nauvoo, where she met and married a widower, Hiram Spencer, brother to Daniel Spencer. He had been a widower for three years and had eight children. When the saints were expelled from Nauvoo it was determined in a council at Garden Grove, Iowa, to send some men back to sell the houses and property in order to raise some cash. Hiram was one of those chosen. He took payment for the property in some 100 wild cattle and began to drive them back across the Mississippi by ferry, some 60 miles above Nauvoo, with the mobs bound and determined to stop him hot on their tail. By exerting themselves and driving the cattle for three days and two nights without stop, they were able to escape the mobs. However; due to this exertion Hiram became ill and died.

On January 25, 1847 in Winter Quarters, Daniel age 55, married Emily age 28, in a civil marriage. She was his fourth wife. They departed in a large company of 600 wagons, led by Daniel Spencer, for the Salt Lake Valley on June 17, 1847 and arrived in September. They lived in a fort built that first winter, living off of their provisions and hides that had been scraped and cooked for food, before they were able to plant in the Spring of 1848. Living in a house that Daniel built on North Temple and 300 West, Emily had to replant her vegetables a number of times as early frost killed them off. They had six children - Jared, Aurelia, Sophia, Emma Maud, John Daniel and Josephine.

Emily died March 5, 1885 in Salt Lake City.

BRIGHAM YOUNG

Brigham Young is the most famous of Spencer's illustrious ancestry. He was born June 1, 1801, in Whittingham, Windham County, Vermont. He was one of ten children who were raised as strict Methodists with little fun being part of their upbringing. When it came time for Brigham to raise his families and to lead the Church, singing and dancing were the order of the day. He thought that a religion without joy wasn't much of a religion at all. He first married Miriam Works in 1824, who left him a widower in 1832 with two small children to raise. He was very busy in those early years being a joiner, painter and glazier. He became an expert carpenter and worked hard as a youth and as a married man.



Brigham Young
June 1, 1801 - August 29, 1877

His life changed completely when he picked up a copy of the Book of Mormon at his brother Phineas's home. After two years of diligent reading, examining and praying, he joined the Mormon Church on the 14th of April, 1832. He met Joseph Smith that year in Kirtland, Ohio. Joseph said that one day Brigham would preside over the Church. He was chosen to be a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles on February 14, 1835.

He married our ancestor, Lucy Ann Decker - the first of his 27 polygamous wives - 15 June 1842. He had 56 children altogether. They settled in Far West, Missouri and led the persecuted saints out of Missouri in the winter when Joseph Smith was arrested and held in jail. Some twelve to fifteen thousand saints fled Missouri at that time to the shores of Illinois, across the Mississippi River.

Brigham Young served a very successful mission in England in 1840, where there were almost eight thousand baptisms that year. He helped build up Nauvoo and the temple on his return in 1841. He was serving a mission in the east when he heard of Joseph Smith's death, at Carthage, Illinois, on June 27, 1844. Upon his return, he was unanimously voted on to lead the church as President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.

On July 24, 1847, he led the first pioneer company into the Salt Lake Valley, established the spot where the future temple was to be built, and then proceeded to colonize and build up the Utah Territory. Brigham Young has been referred to as a modern day Moses, a great judge of mankind, a colonizer with foresight, a shrewd businessman, and a loving family man. Volumes have been written of his life and accomplishments. He died on August 29, 1877, at the age of 76.

LUCY ANN DECKER



Lucy Ann Decker
May 17, 1822 - January 24, 1890

Lucy was born May 17, 1822, to Isaac and Harriet Page Wheeler Decker. Lucy's mother was an industrious housekeeper with a set routine. Everyone was up by 4:00 a.m. to have breakfast, with the men in the fields working by 5:00 a.m. The women attended to household chores until 8:00 a.m., after which they attended to spinning, weaving and making clothes for the family. Lucy learned to help at an early age. Early in life she determined she would never inflict such a rigid routine on her family, although the discipline she learned helped prepare her for her coming duties as a homemaker. Lucy was married at age sixteen to William Seeley. Three children were born to them, one dying in infancy. At twenty years of age, her husband died and she was left alone to struggle in the raising of her small family. The Deckers moved to Portage County, Ohio, where they had contact with and joined the Mormon Church. Lucy ended up in Nauvoo, where she met and married Brigham Young, June 15, 1842. She was ill and unable to travel to Utah with the first pioneer company in 1847. She came a year later, still ill and having to remain in a bed in the wagon the whole distance to Utah. She then lived in the wagon, as her home, for the first several months in the valley. That wagon was subsequently made into two tables, which her daughter, Clarissa Young Spencer, kept for several years.

Lucy left the wagon to live in an old fort, north and east of the present Beehive House. Her next abode was an adobe house built by Brigham Young at about 47 E. Temple. The Beehive house was built a year later. Her son, Heber was born before she crossed the plains. Fanny, Earnest and Shemira were all born before she moved into the Beehive House. Her next three children, Arta D'Christa, Feramorz and Clarissa were born at Beehive house. She was given the Beehive House on condition that she never mortgage or give away title to it. She was faithful to that promise. The family garden extended from the Eagle Gate, north to City Creek canyon, then west and south to the location of the present Joseph Smith Memorial Building and was a project started by Brigham Young to give the unemployed work. The children were taught to work in the garden and helped dry the fruit there. Lucy trained her children and others in all the arts of homemaking. People were amazed at how she got by with so little, especially during the plagues of locust that invaded the valley. Her youngest daughter, Clarissa, described her as being medium in height with lovely brown eyes and lovely fine hair. She had a dimple in each cheek and an adorable smile. She had the loveliest skin, without blemish. While being strict with the children, she was always kind. When she said no, she meant it. Clarissa remembers her as a wonderful cook and housekeeper and a fine seamstress. She remembers the fine, colorful dresses that were made for her, as well as the white pinafores. The children loved her to tell them a story or a riddle before they went to sleep. Lucy loved to attend church, read and enjoyed the theater. Clarissa said she was a wonderful woman, a devoted wife and mother. She finished, *" I cannot do her justice in such few words, but my heart is full to overflowing when I think of her wonderful devotion to me and my dear father. "*