

ARZA ERASTUS HINCKLEY

*Compiled by
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Arza Erastus Hinckley was born to Nathaniel Hinckley and Lois Judd Hinckley 15 August 1826 in Bastard Leeds, Upper Canada (now Province of Ontario). Arza's father had poor health and was not able to take care of his family, so Arza and his older⁷ brothers Harvey and Levi were sent to live with relatives.¹ Arza, who was named for his grandfather Arza Judd, went to live with him. Nathaniel died when Arza was five, so the older children stayed with relatives, and the young mother kept little two-year-old Ira Nathaniel and baby Rhoda with her.⁴

In 1836 missionaries from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints came to Arza Judd's family, and they were converted and baptized, including Arza.¹ In one of his diaries Arza writes, "on the road in the st of Illinoise I was baptized a member of the Church of Christ."¹

In the meantime Arza's mother Lois had married again, this time to her cousin Evi Judd. They too had been visited by the missionaries and had joined the Church.¹ The whole family was reunited in Illinois, but in 1838 Arza Judd's family moved with the Saints to Far West, Missouri.¹

Friction grew between Mormons and Missourians due to the Mormons' religious beliefs and the fact that Mormons claimed that Missouri was given to them by God. The Mormons had to post a guard around the city because of fear of harassment by mobs. Arza was one of the boys permitted to go past the guards each day and bring the cows into the town.¹

At last Governor Boggs called the State Militia to take over, and Arza records witnessing the male members of the Church being marched into the center of the square and under threat of death, being given the choice of renouncing Mormonism or signing over their property and leaving the state.¹ Arza's grandparents chose to move to Adams County, Illinois, where they settled on the prairie about five miles east of Springfield.¹

In 1842 Arza went to Nauvoo, and three years later he worked on the temple there.¹ Friction was growing between the Mormons and the people of Illinois, again because of their religious practices, but also because

of the growing political power of the Mormons, who voted as a bloc. Mobs again came against the Mormons, and under a form of legality, they had Joseph Smith arrested and taken to Carthage, the county seat of Hancock County. There Joseph was murdered and the Saints decided to leave their homes again and move so far west the mobs couldn't bother them..

In 1846 Arza and his brother Ira prepared to go west with the saints. They went to Springfield to get outfitted and prepared to take their grandparents with them. When they were ready to go, the grandparents decided they were too weak from age to endure long travel, so the young men sold the outfit and walked back to Nauvoo. []

On the 26th of April, 1846, Arza started west, driving a team for Joel Ricks as far as Mount Pisgah. From there to the Missouri River, he drove a Church team with William Clayton. From the new settlement, Kanesville (now Council Bluffs, Iowa), Arza drove a team and wagon loaded with harnesses and feather beds to Missouri to trade for provisions. Then he returned to Kanesville and helped ferry people across the Missouri River. []

About this time war with Mexico broke out and the government asked the Mormons to supply a battalion of men to march to California. Brigham Young urged the men to join and to contribute their wages to the Church to help outfit the Saints for their move west. Arza joined 16 July 1846. []

The "Mormon Battalion" marched from Kanesville, Iowa across the Cimarron Desert (at one time Arza wrote in his diary, sixty miles without water) to Santa Fe. The first day out of Santa Fe, a sick detachment was sent north to Pueblo, Colorado and Arza was among them. December wasn't so bad in Santa Fe, but by the time the detachment neared Pueblo they were in mountains 10,000 feet high, deep in snow. Arza wrote that he was wearing only "a wool hat, hickery shirt, blue drilling pants, a pair of socks and shoes." They reached Pueblo 22 December 1846. [] During the winter the men of the Battalion traded with the Indians until each had a horse. The Infantry had turned into Cavalry.

When spring came, the Battalion detachment, along with many of their families who had made the march with them, went to the Platte River where they intended to meet Brigham Young's group. He had reached there ahead of them, so they followed the "Mormon Trail" into Salt Lake Valley, arriving there just five days after Brigham Young. ~~18~~ 1

The following autumn, Arza went back to Missouri where he stayed for three years, then returned to Salt Lake City. There he worked as a teamster under Daniel Wells. He was teamster for Brigham Young and traveled with him throughout the Mormon settlements. Arza acted as a guard for Brigham Young's home when he was in Salt Lake City. ~~19~~ 1

Arza was always deeply religious. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ In his diary he writes of meetings he attended and of his ordination as a Seventy in the 27th Quorum. He also served as president of the Quorum. ~~19~~ 1 At one conference the meeting was interrupted with word that handcart companies were stranded in snow in Wyoming. President Young called for volunteers to relieve them.. Arza travelling volunteered and went out twice, /400 miles to meet one company and 280 miles for the second. ~~20~~ 2

When Johnston's Army threatened to invade Utah, the Nauvoo Legion was reorganized under General Wells, and Arza was a member of this Legion. ~~21~~ 1 As the soldiers neared Salt Lake Valley, the Mormon legion built a huge fire on the side of the mountain, then marched in front of it two by two, then doubled back and marched past several more times to impress them with the size of their company. Arza was one of them. ~~22~~ 3

In April 1862 Arza joined Lot Smith's Company of mounted volunteers by President Abraham Lincoln who were called/to protect the telegraph line from Indians. ~~23~~ 13 He was a member of the cavalry in 1866 when it went to Southern Utah to put an end to Chief Black Hawk's harrassment of the settlements there. ~~24~~ 13

During all these activities, Arza's family was growing. In 1853 he had married Amelia Woodhouse and in 1857 Temperance Ricks. Amelia died in January 1861 at the birth of her fifth child, who also died. In April of that year, Arza married Mary Christine Heiner. In all, Temperance had ten children, Mary had eight. These, added to Amelia's five, made a total of twenty-three children by 1880.⁴ *(3 of Amelia's + 3 of Temperance's had died by 1880) JAO: + Amelia's other two (Lena + Lois) were married!*

In 1868 Arza was appointed Probate Judge of Summit County, where he had gone as foreman of the Church coal mines.⁵ The County Court had jurisdiction over "first, conservation and disposition of timber. Second, water privileges for irrigation as well as other purposes. Third, districting the County for roads, precincts, school and other purposes. Fourth, levying and collecting taxes. Fifth, submitting to the people ways and means for caring for extraordinary expenses."⁶

After Arza's first court session, the newspaper reported, "The new judge, though very unassuming and modest in his style, shows determined inclination to have the laws obeyed and things move along according to 'Gunter'. Success to him."¹⁴ And apparently that is what he had. His accomplishments were summarized by Frances Roskelly: "He found the County deeply in debt..no public works..their court in ridicule..Arza Erastus Hinckley had officers appointed and succeeded in bringing the court in respect; collected tax of the railroad..spent \$8,000 on roads and bridges..and he left the County out of debt..The Union Pacific Railroad gave the County credit for having the best order of any county on the road."⁷

When the Coalville Stake was organized in July 1877, Arza was ordained a High Priest by Elder John Taylor, who also set him apart as one of the High Council.⁸

*Ira was made H. Pres. of Millard Co
+ moved to Fillmore
Arza's eldest son Len was moved or living @ Ft. Wellington
JBB*

From Summit County Arza moved his family to Cove Fort in 1877. There he worked with his brother Ira maintaining a place where travelers could stop, where the stage coach could get fresh horses, and where there was a U.S. Post Office. ⁹

In 1882, when Arza was in Salt Lake City, he was called on a mission to the Indians in Arizona. ^{10, 15} Joel Ricks, father of Arza's wife Temperance, offered to care for the family while he was gone, so Arza moved his family to Cache Valley. ¹ Arza's wife Mary had died in 1879, so Temperance had all the unmarried children to care for. ⁴

*Mary's family was taken to Morgan to live with her parents while Arza was on his mission
JBB*

Arza and his companion _____ told the Indians that the Mormon Church would like to send families to live among the Indians to teach them farming and to teach the women housework, cooking and sewing. They would also teach the children reading and writing, and would also teach them the beliefs of Mormonism. They went to Mohaves, Chemuavis, Walapais, Pimas, and Maricopas, as well as Navajo, Hopi and Apache tribes. While they were working in the Salt River area, fifteen Indians were baptized. Some of the Indians from Mesa went to the St. George Temple. At a meeting in Mesa 7 March 1884, Papago Ward was organized and Arza was ordained Bishop. ¹¹

The summer of 1884 Arza returned to Utah with the intention of moving his family to Arizona, but he was asked by the Church Authorities to move to Rexburg, Idaho. He took his son Silas the first winter to build a two-room log cabin to house their family of twelve. Arza had real estate in Summit County which he traded for livestock, and in the spring Silas drove the horses and cattle to Rexburg. Arza took the household goods in wagons, Temperance went on the train. ⁹

In Rexburg Arza was a member of the board of directors of the Rexburg Irrigation Company and a supervisor on the road built north of the town. ¹² The crowning point in Arza's life was when he was ordained a Patriarch in the Church, 21 August 1887, when he was 61 years old. He made a study of English grammar to be able to give blessings in a more pleasing manner. ¹

Arza Erastus Hinckley had lived to see the Church exodus from Missouri, from Illinois, to the West, and to see the settlement of many parts of the West, and he had played a part in all of it. He died at age 75, 18 February 1901 at Rexburg, Idaho. ³

REFERENCES

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1274 Barnrock
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to Lamamites ~~14 Oct 1879~~ 9 Oct 1882
in the Council House, Salt Lake City by
Elder Lorenzo Snow assisted by Moses Thatcher
and Jacob Gates - (In poss. Genevieve Johnson)

JEANNE

BOWEN

OLSEN

ANNOTATIONS

BY JBO

SISTER TO JOEL HINCKLEY BOWEN

CHILDREN OF

CHARLES F. BOWEN / MINNIE M HINCKLEY [BOWEN]

MINNIE -CHILD OF

ARZA E. HINCKLEY / TEMPERANCE RICKS [HINCKLEY]