

This story by Aunt Frances
her about 1894.

from things he told

A Sketch of the life of Arza Erastus Hinckley.

Arza Erastus Hinckley , son of Lois Judd and Nathaniel Hinckley was born in Bastard, Leeds Co., Canada, August 15, 1826. His parents were citizens of the United States and did not long remain in Canada. His Father died when Arza was five years old. His mother married Evi Judd and Arza went to live with his grandfather Arza Judd to whom his father had given him before he died. Here he did all the chores and herded sheep. For a number of years he was the only support his grandparents had.

When Arza was nine years old his grandfather joined the L.D.S. church and his household did also. They all moved to join the body of the church in Illinois. "We went up in John E. Page's company . We landed in Dewitt in time for the men and boys who were old enough to take part in the battle . After the battle we moved on to Caldwell Co., about three miles from Far West, and in a short time moved into Far West and were there during the surrender when Pres. Joseph Smith and several of the leaders were betrayed into the hands of the mob by George M. ~~HINKLEY~~ Hinkle." He was in Nauvoo on a visit when Sidney Rigdon made his plea to become guardian of the church.

Early in the spring of 1845 he worked on the temple stone quarry. One day Brigham Young said to him and two other boys, when the rest had gone to dinner, " Go ahead and complete the temple and prepare to go west and come back to the starting point , the center stake of Zion." He worked on the temple till the capstone. He received a blessing ,with many great promises through Patriarch John Smith. He worked on an island in the Mississippi River getting out logs for the Nauvoo House. An attack of ague stoped his work here.

In Nov. he went to Springfield to ~~xxxxxxx~~ to get a team to take his grandparents west. He and Ira got a bull team and were ready to start to Nauvoo when word came that their grandparents were too old to travel west and were coming to Springfield to live with their son Ira(?Ju So the boys traded their bulls for guns and started to Nauvoo on foot. Many people questioned them about the Mormons that they were going to see for themselves. The trip was a hard one and Ira suffered much with sore feet. Ira staid in Nauvoo and came west with Uncle Beason Lewis's boys. Arza we went out to Mt. Pisgah with Joel Ricks (his future father in law tho at that time Temperance was only about twelve, and not interested). Joel Ricks furnished three yoke of oxen and two wagons to haw~~e~~ church property. Arza drove them to Council Bluff. Here he learned what short rations~~x~~ fare meant. There were six boys hale and hearty and they had a cup of milk each and a thin flapjack between them for breakfast, varied with a small pot of mush to go with their milk for supper. When they came to the Mississippi River Arza worked two days on the ferry boat then went down to Missouri street to trade for provissions. The rest of the journey was not so hard.

After this A. E. went to the river and assisted in ferrying the Saints accross, until [the call came from the government came for five hundred men to go to Mexico, to tight the battles of a nation whose citizens and officers had mobbed and driven ~~the~~ was even then driving them out of Illinois; with the promise that if the men were not furnished ,the Saints should be entirely wiped out. Arza enlisted in the company B. of the Mormon Battalion. Fres. Young said, "Go, my brethern, be faithful saints and soldiers and you shall everyone return again to the body of the church." He also promised them they should not have to fire a gun at their enemies. This promise was fulfilled. The Bat. started July 16, 1846.