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Title: **Ezra Thompson Clark**
Provenance:

Category: **Document**
Person: **Ezra Thompson Clark**
Date: **12/31/1969**

Ezra Thompson Clark, the son of Timothy Baldwin Clark and Polly Keeler, was born in Lawrence County, Illinois on November 23, 1823.

As a young boy, Ezra took part in the Mormon migrations to Missouri and back to Iowa and Illinois. He and Mary Stevenson were married on May 18, 1845, in Montrose, Lee, Iowa. They were the parents of eleven children. Ezra and Mary were in the first encampment which left the Mississippi River in June of 1846, and they spent two winters at Winter Quarters. He arrived in Salt Lake City with his family October 12, 1848. He took a farm in Farmington, Utah, where he moved his family in 1850.

Ezra served many missions as a preacher and as a colorizer. These included a year spent in helping settle Iron County and in 1856, a mission to England. In 1861, Ezra entered the principle of plural marriage when Susan Leggett came, alone, to Utah. They had ten children. In 1867, President Brigham Young asked Ezra to build a flour mill in Weber Valley. Ezra bought an old saw-mill at Morgan and transformed it.

In 1870, Ezra took his third wife, Nancy Areta Porter Stevenson. There were no children from this third marriage.

Also in 1870, Ezra was called to help colonize Bear Lake County, Idaho. His son, Joseph Smith Clark, went in his place to establish a ranch. Ezra filled missions to the East in 1871, to Canada in 1874 to 1875, and to Oregon in 1876. In 1886, he was arrested on a charge of polygamy. He was fined three hundred dollars and sentenced to six months imprisonment. In 1894, he was ordained a patriarch of the LDS Church.

Ezra was a farmer of consummate skills and experience. Soon after arriving in Cache Valley, he had large peach and apple orchards; he raised sugar cane and many kinds of produce. Cattle, hay, and grain were the chief sources of his income. By the time of his death, he owned seven hundred acres in Farmington. He founded the Davis County Bank and was elected its first president in 1891. He assisted in organizing the Commercial Store and was elected chairman of its board of directors. He was also Davis County treasurer.