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Booklet on Hyrum Don Carlos Clark

Life Sketch of Myrum [Hyrum] Don Carlos Clark [Hyrum Don Carlos Clark] the sixth child and fifth son of Ezra T. and Mary Stevenson Clark, born 13th of February, 1856 at Farmington, Utah. At the time of his birth all the people in Utah were on rations as the food supply was very limited. The baby was too weak to sit up and was carried about on a pillow. He grew to be near six feet tall but was generally thin. He had black curley hair; never became bald. Eyes a deep blue; high forehead and wore a beard that was dark red.

The boy Hyrum was studious throughout his life. He excelled in math.and elocution and was an excellent marble player and checkers player and was a member of the select base-ball team. he was a good hand with horses and often drove a four-horse team on a heavily loaded wagon.

Hyrum accompanied his Uncle Edward Stevenson on a mission to Tennessee in 1877 but after five months was released on account of maleria fever. This was a great disappointment to him and he seldom ever mentioned it.

Married the 11th of Nov. 1880 to Ann Eliza porter, daughter of Alma and Minerva Deuel Porter who was born at Porterville, Utah a settlement founded by her Porter forebearers. The newly wed couple spent their first year at Georgetown, Idaho on the raw and beginning ranch of the Clark Family. In 1882 they moved to Oakley, Idaho and settled on a sage-brush homestead on the Goose Creek. Here they spent six pioneering years and where their next three children were born. The older settlers had appropriated all the irrigation water available and the land being very dry, they were unable to raise field crops.

Hyrum took to freighting with a fourse-team taking heavy loads of grain to the mining towns of Hailey Rocky Bar. He contracted Inflamatory Rhumatism which came near costing him his life. He rode a saddle horse back to Georgetown and then on into Salt River Valley in western Wyoming where he bargained for a homested of 160. acres. This was in the late 1887. The next April saw the family of Parents and four children arriving at the new location. But the land was not yet surveyed. After the survey all homesteaders had to file on their claims. The neighbors rushed in a took Hyrum's meadow except for 60 acres. He was obliged to accept hill land. it was a severe blow. The winter of 1889-90 was extreemly sever. Nearly all the horses and cattle in the valley died of starvation.

The meadows continued to produce about a ton of grass hay per acre. Father borrowed money and bought weaned calves in the spring at $5. per head and bought hay to feed them at $2.50 per ton. The hulls were full of grass so that by holding the calves to summers and one winter he made a fair living.

By 1901. Father had bought out several neighbors and thus obtained a thou and acres of excellent meadow land and some hill lands. He was elected County Commissioner and at the same time built a large house. The children increased to thirteen, being six sons and seven daughters. All lived to maturity and all had families. Today, 1972, there are still ten children living with a total posterity of over 200.

The name Salt River Valley was chamged about 1890 to Star Valley due to the tall starlike peaks in the easter range of mountains.

There were no high schools and few doctors. The Mothers became practical nurses. The children were sent to high schools and colleges in Idaho and Utah. The family moved to Farmington, Utah in 1908 due to Mother's poor health Some of the married sons looked after the Wyoming ranch. Always the family was active in church and all Mormons by faith. All the sons filled missions.

After Mother's death in 1927 Father married a widow woman named Mary Robinson. She had five children. This made nine sons and nine daughters.

Father met death by an accident in July, 1938. His body lies beside his two wives in Farmington Cemetery where his Parents and. numerous other Clarks have grave markers.

Father was a dominant figure and exerted a wholesome but powerful lead ship among his many associates. As Marshall of the Day he rode a beautiful horse at the head of a hugh parade in a Pioneer celebartion at Afton, Wyoming in July 1904. Here he was a most striking and impressive figure.

Respectfully submitted by Heber D. Clark.