

HISTORY OF HYRUM STRONG *filed*

Born in Lee Co. Iowa March 30, 1845

Son of Ezra and Maria Louisa (Beard) Strong

Came to Utah from Indiana in 1854 at age of 9

Died 15 March 1915, at Oakley, Idaho

Submitted by Carrie Strong Webb Granddaughter  
Camp Anna Marie Twin Falls, Idaho

County            Historian

Merese Meacham Green

~~HISTORY~~ HISTORY

May 20th 1844  
Look on other records

A short synopsis of the life of Ezra Strong from 1831 to 18\_\_ taken from scraps of record found in old day books, and records which have providentially ben kept from destruction, the regular journal having ben stolen.

I will not pretend in this history to give the exact date of all matters herin related. But will aim at facts as to the subject referd to.

Sometime in the year 1833, Ezra Strong (father to the writer of this book): then a Christian Minister, began to write against the book of Mormon, having for some time previous ben investigating and compareing the Book with the Bible. He was then writing for a paper cald the Baner of Light, published (I believe) in Bufalow, N.Y. On going to fill an appointment in a naboring town, and while meditateing on the course to persue against the Book, the scripture came to his mind, "tush not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm". But still meditating on the course to pursue, there came a voice, as the voice of a man, saying; "Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm". Again meditating on the course to take the voice spake the second time; but more forcibly; at which Father gave up the thought of publishing untill he had time to again compare the two books.

Father soon after went to a place where some mormonites lived, in or near Warsaw, N.Y. for the purpos of more fully investigateing the golden Bible; so calld ~~her~~ Mother was much troubled in spirit because of Father's course. Her grief made me sad. Oft did I hear her pray for God to protect father from the delusion of Joe Smith. She asked her children to pray for father that he might not be deceived. Oft did I go into the woods where I thought no eye or ear could see or hear but God or Angels! There I would pray in my simple maner for God to bless poor me with His Holy Spirit, that I might know how to ask aright for the blessings which was needed. Each visit to the lonely place, gave me greater joy. Each time my prayer was for God's Will to be done on earth as in Heaven. For His blessings on my dear Father, that he might be preserved from the delusions of Mormonites.

DUP PREVIEW PAGE

After several visits to the lonely place in the hemlock woods, each of which was made more and more joyous by the influence of joy which I felt. There arose (on one occasion) a sudden wind while I was at prayer. The trees seemd to wave and bend as though they would fall. I opened my eyes thru fear of some lins falling on me. All was calm. Then I felt that the power of darkness was round me. I closed my eyes and again prayed to God through fear. Again the trees bent, limbs snap't, and the wind blew fearcely. Again I looked round; all was calm, but a great fear came over me. A fealing came for to pray mightily to God for protection from the power of darkness, which I felt was round me. I shut my eyes, not haven risen from my knees, and once more cried unto God for His Spirit to sheald me from harm; to bless my father with the light of His Holy Spirit; in all things His will be done. While thus praying, a bull came close by me - began bellowing and seemd to come strait to-wards me, so close that I quit praying, rose to my feet, looked round but could not see nor hear the bull any where.

But a great fear came upon me. I then started for home. But only a few steps were taken til I felt that I should go back, kneal "There" where God had so oft fild my heart with joy. I return'd, the fear left, winds were calm, beasts were not there to mak afraid. Oh! the richness of thought which God gave me as I prayed to Him for His guideing Spirit to be with me forever.

My Covenants were to be for the right all along the road of life. I ask God to show my father the truth when thoughts came forcibly to my mind that God was now working on earth and that Father had seen and felt the light of God's love, the Holy Spirit of which I would be a witness to the world. Then I felt to pray for Him that had ben the means of my joy, even for Joseph the Prophet,

My joy was great, and I asked God to give me His Spirit to caus me to rejoice in the knowledge of His love and His existance. Impressive thoughts then came that I should be blest with great knowledge, of which I would bare witness to all the world. The knowledge which He would give me through obedience to the law of liberty, would alike be given to all mankind by obedience therto, to know

of their acceptance before Him. A law in which no bondage dwells, except the bonds of love. Then there came over me the Spirit of love to God, Angels, and all men; yea for the beasts of the earth. No more fear was there in my soul. Joy, peace, love to all, filled my heart with thanks to God.

I returned home meditating on the impressive thoughts of Father seeing the light of God's love; and of God working on earth, of which I would be called to be a witness to all the world. On reaching home, Mother asked what the matter was with me. At first I did not feel like telling because of her anxiety for Father. She asked where I had been. Then I told her, and as I told my story, the Spirit of God rested on us. Mother wept with joy. My bosom burned within. Joy unspeakable filled my heart. We knelt down and Mother asked me to pray. While praying my thoughts were for God's will to be done in convincing Father of the truth; that that light which gave so much joy to me (of which I now could testify and of which I should testify in years to come) might rest down on my father, that he with "us" might have the eternal.

Mother prayed more for me than for my Father, thanking God for His Spirit which has been manifest, and for God's will to be done. All of which left impressions for good. Again I went in to the woods, and as the day previous, beneath the bending hemlock bows where "oft" I had prayed, before bowing the knee there seemed to Angelic Spirits or influences hovering round. The place was a Heaven of Joy, and with a knowledge of the past love, and a thirst for more, I bowed down and prayed to God as King, Him to accept my thanks for the past, and again asked Him for that heavenly influence to be increased and that knowledge might be given to me to know God's will. And that I might have that love for truth and humiliation of Spirit as to ever lead me to give all the praise to God Who is the giver of this life of joy and light which was now shining round me.

Then from the midst of the light, there came a voice as from a man saying, "Look! behold the light which is the light surrounding the Throne of God". I opened my eyes and beheld that I was surrounded by the light of which had been

spoken, and of which my father had ben made to partake. Again a voice from the midst of the light said unto me, "follow the example of your father" and "continue thy praise to God in humiliation, for thou were chosen of God for a time to come".

"The glory of that hour and day will be known when all shall alike know God, and have received of that crowning light and glory".

In 1831 I had many verry strange dreams. And in concequence of my Mother being somewhat a believer in dreams, I was led to test the truth of some which came to me. All so tested, proved to be from a source of truth, or light, because by that "light" all things are seen. And without that "light" nothing is seen except with the natural eye. At times I would dream of enemy's persueing after me, when sudenly there would a bright light appear in the air before me, and I would rise in the midst of the light and soar far above them. At times would come close to them, then they would sometimes try to lay hold on me. Sometimes I would soar beyond the "light" and through fear of some other obstruction would light down on the earth. Often in the day I would fancy to myself that I could understand the very thoughts of the hearts of all that tryed to entrap me. All these thoughts would come while meditating on the "Dreams of flying". So positive was manifestations of this kind, that often I was lead to say and do things by intuition. Thus I was guided by a prompting of the then unknown "mesenger of truth", untill I had learn'd by experiance the purport of this silent premonition. Believeing it to be Divine, I would often follow after its dictates in many strange ways. I would visit the house where there were sick children. Take a babe in my arms and would feal this strange influence prompting me to pray that the healing Spirit of God's love might rest on the sick, yea all. Though this was done in silence, yet I would go away with a faith in the promptings, and in the restitution to health.

Eacch occurance placed me on a more shure foundation in the belief of the "Still small voice of God" that whispers pease to the contrite child of God. As I grown more acquainted with the spirit promptings, and became more convercent with the gospel of salvation, so much more was this intuition and whispering of God's

Spirit confirmed in my mind. Therefore I sought unto God for the light and knowledge that should ever guide my life. Going into a secluded place where prayer had ben made before, I there felt by this same impulse that God had and would bless me with knowledge by which I might know the diference between the spirit of truth and the spirit of darkness. I was told by the voice of the Spirit, one would caus joy and peace by its impressions, leaveing no shudering or chilling sensation, no doubt. The other influence (though great in its force) leaves a man in doubt, with a chilling fearful sensation, no joy, and no love of the spirit manifested. Let it suffice to say that at that time there was much joy given to me. The light of love shone bright to my inward understanding, giving great richness and elasticity to thoughts which emanated from a fountain of light.

At a certain time one Br. Willice preach't at my father's house and talked about the near approach of the Son of Man, saying that Jesus Christ would come in the brightness of His glory, when the wicked would be consumed, all of which would come to pass inside of five years. An impression came over me that the Brother had stated a falshood or an untruth. After meting was out I said the Doctrin taught of Christ coming was false. Father reprimanded me sharply for my doubt of the coming of Christ in five years. Br. Willice then said, "if Christ did not come in side of five years, he would burn Bible, Book of Mormon and say goodby to religion". "But I kneed not say if He does not come, for I know by the gift and power of the Holy Ghost that He will come inside of five years, which I now prophecy in the name of Jesus Christ". Such was his language, and with such force that I began to doubt as to my own position. Then there came a thought to test, by the rule of love and light, all things which claim to be of God. By this rule his prophecy was made false.

Again when Joseph and Hyrum Smith were gon to Missouri, when the Bruster's and Norris party were out off from the Church. There came a mighty rush of light to mind, and a great love for those Bruster and Norris Bretherin. While they were defending themselves the rule to test all things claiming to be of

God, was in my mind. I say many who did not know of themselves the kind of spirit that was moveing them. Others were acting for mastery. All seemed to be moved by a zeal without knowledge, therefore blind, and leading the blind.

When the contrary vote was cald (after a unanimous voice was given to cut them off from the church) I was compeld by this ever abiding love and the light of God's spirit, to lift my hand. At the same moment I looked round, saw no other hand up, then raised my hand high, then sprang to my feet, tiptoed and whirled round two or three times with both hands extended, and only one hand up besides mine at the last act of mine. Some 3 or less hours after, there came 3 teachers to my Father's house desireing to correct the great evol of his son Ezra, who had voted against the Kingdom of God. Father then asked if I had voted as they said, then I said I did not. They thought then to prove me a liar. They then rehersed my lifting my hand, then higher, and glorying in my shame had sprang to my feat and tiptoed quivered my hands, whirling round thus voting against the Kingdom of God which was to fill the earth. And you deny voting against God and His Kingdom? Yes I do, was my reply to them. Father then asked me if I voted, and in the manner they described? Yes I voted as described but for the Kingdom of God, and all the church voted against the Kingdom and against the light and truth of Heaven.

As I thus answered my Father, there came a spirit upon me which made my soul burn with joy and gladness. Then I repeted that "I know I voted for God and His Kingdom. And I know the Church all voted against the Kingdom and against the light and truth of God. After counciling me to repent, and asking Father and Mother to try to reclaim their son, they left, saying they would come again.

Again 3 teachers came, and as before with kindness of heart, and a desire for my welfare, saught to turn my mind from the light of Heaven to the darkness of an ignorant, blind and superstitious zeal. Again 3 dearly beloved bretherin came, but to no good. They asked father and Mother what they wore going to doe with their son? (me). Both answering, "We will sustain our son Ezra. He is a strange

boy. We were notified that if we did not repend, mak restitution and confess our fault, we would be cut off from the church, and given over to the buffetings of Saton.

Joseph and Hyrum returnd from Missouri. The church came together. Joseph then spake as never man spoke before. Show'd forth the love of God, portraided the gathering together of Saints and Siners. Drew a figer of the gospel net in which the good would be with the bad, and of the tares growing with the wheat, and of the Saints so living that the tares seeing their good works might be led to glorify God.

The duty of the saints was to bind together humanity. To throw round all the arms of love. Not to be to zelous for "there is a way that seameth right unto man but the end thereof is death." "Many take the influence of zeal to be the spirit of God, but is not." "The evol spirit may often decieve and lead man astray, they are trying to divide the saints, but we are cald to hunt for the one that is misig from the fold whether saint or sinner". "And now bretherin I wish to say something about the Bruster and Noris Brothers and Sisters. I met with them before going to Missouri. The spirit of love, joy and peace rested on us and the Holy Ghost bore witness of their faith in God. And now I learn they are cut off from the church. I want some one to make a motion that all of them be restord to full fellowship, without Baptism as though no action had been taken against them. Motion put, and carryed unanimously, then Joseph said "That little boy (as I have ben told) that tiptoed, whirld round and quivered his hands in your midst had the Spirit of the Lord God of Isriel upon him". "Zeal without knowledge is that way which seameth right unto man, the end of which is death".

Here I had the same testimony (not only of the prophets word of confirmation) but the Spirit of love for all mankind and the light by which man is guided in the ways of love, was given to me by and thru the rule which had previously ben given.

Weeks, months and years rold on, and I went out and returned as the sun rises and sets, rejouceing in the belief of some day being able to testify of that love and light which was given to me in the woods, fields, metings and in all places



where there was a test wanted. May God be praised. He showed me the throldom and clamoring of the vain. The alloy mixture from which there came no gain. Each produced no love for God! No love for man! No love for that lasting love that turns the hopes of man from earth to Heaven and gives of the bread of life! But they give to man chaff from the whirlwind of confusion and leave the world in doubt and with a fearful forebodeing of things to come, and without hope. The light and love which was given to me served as a great leverage power to help me to seek for more of which God alone had a supply.

I asked not in vain, when I would pray for His Spirit to guide me. And as at the first when I felt that I had received of His Spirit to the forgiveness of my sins, and therefore desired to follow Christ in Baptism, when I prayed unto God that I might know my duty. Then there came a voice unto me saying, "All ceremonies, ritual and ordinances availeth nothing unto Me, sayeth the Lord God without the seal of My Spirit which is My priesthood and is the key to My kingdom, and to whomsoever I will, the same shall be given. Remember, Oh My son, that many are deceived, thinking that because of ceremony and ordinances which they have entered into, that they have the right and the key to go in and out at will. And that they can confirm the same rights on whom they will. Oh fools and slow of heart to know the ways of God. Know Ye not that the key to the dore of heaven is light and love! Was not your Lord and Savior "in and of the Kingdom" before He came to John for baptism? Yea verily! Now, My son, blessed art thou, for thou hast the key to God's abundant store of blessings. Follow Me in the regeneration and renewal in God's love, born of the spirit and of water, water being the similitude of cleansing and purifying, and of my buryal and reserection. Be patient, for many are cald while thou art chosen. Therefore receive ye the comforter which will manifest many things to thee in time, because thou art chosen of God for to be a witness to a darkened people, for He has cald you to feed the flock when hunger shal come upon them. Therefore be humble my son". Then the good Spirit of love was so great towards all mankind that I felt all would come to the knowledge of the truth.

At the solemn assembly in Kirtland, when the Angels appeared, there the Spirit of truth was given to me to know the marvelous power of God's love. In the woods, fields, and baptism, confirmation, and in all and every place, the self same Spirit of love continued in my very soul, and with a great desire to partake of life more abundantly, remembering the key of light and love, and that "He that loveth not, knoweth not God, for God is love".

Nauvoo, June 22nd, 1844 7:00 p.m.

Words of Joseph and Hyrum Smith

"The right to appoint is the Lord's, and man is His agent to carry out God's will and purpose. But when men seek to counsel God, or set bounds for the Holy Spirit, then blindness happens to Israel. As the Apostle said, Blindness in part had happened unto Israel, then delusion is great. Surely they may know the mind of God as far as they have received it, but no farther. The mind cannot comprehend without the spirit. But many, having known the truth, and having been blessed in Spirit, feel that all is known that is necessary to set them free, wise, unto salvation. All such are mistaken. The fulness of the gospel is in having the Holy Spirit in you springing up into everlasting life. This will make you free, free indeed. Many are being led away by their own vain concept, referring to the Bible, and know not the Spirit they are of. But thou shalt render a righteous judgement to the troubled ones in the dark and cloudy day. And by the light of God's Spirit, you will be able to know the truth, which truth hath made you free, and by your light, many will be brought to know the truth." Joseph further exhorted me to keep humble before the Lord. "Beware not of thine own strength, but beware of Satan's attempts to make you feel your own nothingness." "Your mission which was given to you in 1840 is not at an end, as I told you then that I would speak to you again on that subject. The Lord has seen thy works, thy faith and thy humility. He remembereth His covenants with His children, even all. And now dear brother, I will prophecy unto you that thy days shall be many, thou wilt see the wicked flourish, and the Israel of God become faint and broken up, the great falling from the true

faith in God, and the time when darkness will come upon the church and many will be brought to mourning because of the blindness of their hearts. Yet the Lord will remember His Covenants and from the loines of Joseph, and through His chosen ones, He will feel after them. God will move by His Spirit upon you, dear brother, and upon the fruit of my loines, and upon His fishers and His hunters, calling upon them to go forth among His people, to redeem them from the darkness into which they had fallen. Then cometh the redemption of Zion, and the glorying of her children. And in the dark and cloudy day, shalt thou stand forth among the people and from house to house testify of the things of God, and of the sins of covetousness and pride.

Thou art clothed with the power of the priesthood from on high, which has been sealed on thy head by the will of God as it was on the head of His servant, for the establishing of His work and Kingdom on the earth. Therefore, when God shall move by His Spirit upon you, arise and pour forth from the fountain, such thing as God shall give. Confirm the Church, build up the cast down, redeem the castaway, and hunt for the lost." He then said (putting forth his right hand on my head, and his left raised towards Heaven, and Hyrum's hands on my head) "Thou hast the light, keep it trimmed and burning. God will thwart the devices of men and devils, and give victory to His cause and to His chosen ones, His servants that will live right and authority to preach, teach, expound, and be to all the world, and to the Church, a mouth-piece for God and His cause and Kingdom. The Lord has looked upon thee, because of thine own humility and willingness to give the glory to your father in Heaven, and to the giver of all good. Therefore as the one holding the right to appoint by the Spirit, such as God may choose, I now appoint and confirm again all the blessings of the priesthood on your head. And we seal upon thee the blessings of Heaven, and the authority to build up the Church in all its parts and branches, which we now seal anew with all the blessings, ordinations and promises, and Apostleship, with every gift that is spiritual, in the name of Jesus Christ, even so, Amen.

Hyrum Smith then said that "The Lord will select a few chosen ones to do a great and marvillous work. Many of us will be taken away, and maney will be lifted up in the pride of their hearts and forget God. While a few will hold on to the rod of iron. But after the tribulation has ben upon the church and the world long enough then, the Lord will move upon His chosen ones, to stand forth in the day of His power. Then, your mouth will be opened and the fishers and hunters will go forth to redeem Zion and her people becaus of a famin which will come for the word of God. Abide thy time and God will make known His will unto thee, and give thee the comforter, preserv thy life throw dangers from without, and very great, and many within. Yet you will live to enjoy the spirit that shal turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, in that dark and cloudy day, and many shall call you the Blest of God, which may He grant in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen".

After being ordained by Joseph Smith, he said "You are now on a mission from this time hence forth, now when are you going". My answer was, when I got an education sufficient. "Cant you bleat like a calf". I answered that I thought the people would think my talk very much like a calf bleating. "Then you can teach this generation". Joseph then prophecyed on my head and acts of future life much in the line of my ordination, and the great work of restitution of Isriel after the faling away, and when God would set His hadn "again" the second time to recover His people.

Hyrum also prophecyed, fore-telling of what should come to pass with me, all of which has so far ben varified. On my leaving for Wisconson, Hyrum went with me to the upar steamboat landing, gave much valuable council. Gave me his hand when I was on boat and he was on the shore, and then again reaffermd the truth of all that had been previously said or don pertaining to my appointment, and God's work with me as prophecyed of.