



James William Huntsman (1806-1867)
&
Hannah Davis (1816-1902)



Eliza Ann

Sarah Jane ▶

Mary

Joseph Smith

Mariah

Hyrum Ralston

James Daniel

Orson Welcome

David Orrin

Louisa Margaret

Aaron Davis



Sarah Jane Huntsman
married



Samuel Lewis

Stories:

From Huntsman Annals

About James William Huntsman

About Hannah Davis

James William Huntsman

James William Huntsman was making lumber in Michigan when he met Hannah Davis, then about 15 years old. They married 28 Jan 1831 in White Pigeon, Mich. where there was a clergyman who could give them a proper marriage.

About this time James William aquired a Book of Mormon. They left LaGrange County Indiana in 1834. He was baptised April 15, 1838 and she was baptised on July 15, 1838. See Hannah Davis' record of births of their children to see where they were living at different times. In Nauvoo they had lot 3, block 64. They received their endowments in the new temple January 1, 1846, but were not sealed until 18 July 1853. He had labored as a carpenter on the temple and was also a guard there. He also worked to build wagons when the people were so desperate to leave Nauvoo.

After many of the church members were forced to sell their property in Nauvoo for very little, James William hired out to one of the newcomers. This was in order to earn money to outfit his family and leave Nauvoo. First he shelled a great amount of corn, then he and other hired hands went to the fields 12 miles east of the city to cut wheat. On their way to the field one day, seven Mormons and a Gentile fellow worker were surrounded by a mob of about seventy men who gave each one twenty lashes with a hickory whip. For more details see "Harvest Party" Comprehensive History of the Church Vol.3 page 6. Also "Battle of Nauvoo" pages 14-15 same volume.

The Huntsman family had only a two-wheel cart and an old horse to move their things from Nauvoo. The good team, wagon and other possessions had been stolen. The whipping occurred July 11, 1846 and they left in late September to spend the winter in Montrose, Iowa. They reached Council Bluffs in October, 1847 and spent some time building two good wagons and gathering provisions.

David Orin was born here while James William and Sarah (at 17) were in Salt Lake Valley looking for a place to settle. James William decided to settle on ranch land in Tooele County. He worked around the city the winter of 1851-52, then he traveled east to meet his family at Fort Bridger. They arrived in Salt Lake City on September 11, 1852.

The older boys, 13 and 8, helped the Elders on the church farms on land borrowed from Indians, to earn supplies to journey west. Their ox drawn wagon left June 2, 1852 with 100 others. On reaching Tooele County they leased some cattle, sheep and horses to raise on shares. After about seven years these were returned as they had enough of their own.

There was great demand for produce and dairy from their ranch from travelers to California. Hannah made pie from prickly pear cactus. "Many a character came by on the way to California. A lone man on foot claiming to be an evangelist stopped by for several days. He prayed on his knees for hours, all for the redemption of this poor sinner Huntsman and family. This finally got beyond Huntsman's endurance. One morning after being delayed for breakfast, the father opened the back door, picked this "religionist" up by the pants and collar and slammed him 20 feet into the dooryard. When Hannah remonstrated, "James William, you could have let him finish praying," James William replied, "He can do that as he goes down the road." Quote from "Huntsman Annals"

In the summer of 1853 the Huntsman family was called to head a colony in Beaver Valley, but when the Indians began hostilities, the project was canceled.

They boiled lake water to extract salt to sell. When Jacob Bastian, a shipbuilder from Denmark, was rescued from the ??? handcart company he stayed with the Huntsman family. He spoke only Danish and James William only English but they became fast friends. Soon they had a big sailboat on the lake.

The family was called to settle in southern Utah, at Shoal Creek with their sawmill. This they did although the trees were hard to get to and not good quality. James William was called upon to divide the land in the little valley into one and one-quarter acre plots. In doing this wintery project he soaked his feet in the marshy land and stayed up late at night until he caught pneumonia. After about twenty-five days he died on February 26, 1867.

Later the Huntsman boys all spent much time and labor on the St. George Temple.

Quoting Huntsman Annals: "Brother Huntsman, as he (Jacob Bastian) referred to James William, was by nature the most tolerant, affable, good-natured, most thoughtful and considerate, kind gentleman he had ever known. He was intellectually quick to perceive, completely reliable, without guile, frank and fearless. He had a complete faith in God and his authorized servants."

Sources: 'Huntsman Annals' by Lamond Welcome Huntsman 1971 who uses information from the diary of Orson Huntsman, son of James William.

Hebron, where James Willam died, is now Enterprise, UT, near St. George, UT.

Hannah Davis

Hannah was teaching school at fifteen when she met and was courted by James William Huntsman. They were both living in LaGrange County, Indiana, a sparsely settled wilderness, and decided to go to White Pigeon, Michigan to find a preacher to marry them in the proper way.

The school was one room, built of tamarack poles at a cost of \$50.00. She taught the three "R's" and boarded around with the families and received \$8.00 per month salary.

Hannah possessed all the homemaking skills necessary to make a good home. When they lived in Tooele County, Utah they had a ranch that sold produce and dairy to travelers going to California. She carded, cleaned and spun the wool from their little flock of sheep. "She won a wide reputation for her "tastewell" pies, bisquits and the good ranch butter, as well as her homemade cheese."

In Huntsman Annals the story is told: "The local Indians or Paiutes were not openly hostile around Shoal Creek, but had to be watched when people started out on the roads alone or in small numbers. In other words they were a bit treacherous.

"Desiring to visit her daughter Sarah Jane at Minersville, Hannah, along with Aaron, had traveled to Sulpher Springs and was about to camp when they spied fleeting shadows back down the road. They knew they were being stalked by a small band of Indians. They watched carefully while the team was watered and grained. Putting the horses back to the wagon, they moved on slowly all through the night, keeping up a steady, lively conversation to deceive the red fellows they were sure were not far back. Upon arriving about daylight at Minersville, they were feeling freer." If they had camped and gone to sleep, their horses would have been stolen in the night.

She spent her last years in comfort with son Aaron in Shoal Creek (near St. George, UT) where he had twenty acres. Here she was Relief Society president. When the little community decided they needed a building for church meetings and school she was taxed along with everyone else, \$23.00. This was the only brick building considered safe to stand in after the great earthquake of November, 1901.

Source: all information is from Huntsman Annals by Lamond Huntsman 1971. Page 109 of the Huntsman Annals states that a complete genealogy record was microfilmed by Lamond Huntsman in 1966 and put in the Salt Lake Genealogy Library.

James William Huntsman Hannah Davis

Church histories are replete with Missouri persecutions by mobs. All of this came to the Huntsman's with their baptism. Hardly had they settled in Caldwell County when they were ejected from their house and home with all other Mormons. With them, they moved to the City of Nauvoo, Illinois, Lot 3, Block 64, where their Nauvoo home was built.

On January 1, 1846, James William and his wife, Hannah, were admitted into the new Temple where they received all the blessings of the endowment and were sealed as man and wife for time and all eternity.

James William Huntsman labored as a carpenter on the Nauvoo Temple and was also called to guard this building from the destroying hands of the vandals and riffraff surrounding the City of Nauvoo. Fortunately, the Church and the members had supplied themselves with the best hand tools and implements.

About this time or before, the Illinois State Officials backed and aided the mobbers to plunder, rob, and drive out the Mormons. Wagons and teams were the prime booty to be taken, so as to leave as many on foot as possible. There were also many converts coming from Europe who had never had any means of transportation. The great need was to make wagons.

Such skilled workers as Brother Huntsman were all to work in relays around the clock, either in wagon shops; improvised shops, or with some in former stores.

Much valuable and indispensable machinery and other Church property, such as a printing press, had to be guarded while being moved. Brother Huntsman helped to stand off the rabble mob while all this property and the weak, poor, and infirm Saints could be evacuated.

Now so much time had been used in shop and guard duty that James William hired out to one of those Gentile newcomers, who had bought, at great bargains, farms and crops. He and others first shelled a great amount of corn. Then they went to the wheat field, 12 miles east of the city, harvest the wheat. While going to the wheat field, one day, seven Mormons and a Gentile fellow worker were soon surrounded by a mob of about seventy men who forced them to lean over a rail across a ditch where they proceeded to give them 20 lashes with a hickory whip. Because he was found in such bad company, the non-Mormon received the same punishment.

The three Church leaders left in charge at Nauvoo signed a treaty with mob leaders and State-Aids-in-Charge, but the mob, disregarding the treaty, walked in and took over. Those who were too feeble and weak to resist they abused as well as robbed. The Huntsman family was allowed to load into a two-wheel cart drawn by an old horse what they could get away with. His good team, wagon, and all valuables were stolen.

They crossed to Montrose, Iowa, where they remained over the winter. The whipping occurred July 11, 1846, and the move was in late September. With them were the six children, but somehow they all survived to reach Council Bluffs on the Potawatomi Indian lands in October, 1847. Here they had to start from scratch not only to survive, but also to gain a new outfit and provisions for the journey west.

Mention has been made of the salvaging of tools and other things necessary for making equipment. Diligently, patiently, and steadily, the father and family all labored without stopping to complain about their losses. Two good wagons were built by James William by hand labor and some good work cattle and cows were acquired.

Regardless of the hardships, robbing and expulsions, not even childbearing was postponed. While living among these Potawatomi Indians, two more sons were born to Hannah and James William. The last one was David Orrin who arrived July 24, 1851, while Hannah's husband was away across the plains. He and their daughter, Sarah, then 17, had left May 10, 1851, to go ahead to find and locate a new home base beyond the Rockies

James William Huntsman decided to locate near a spring at the southern point of the Great Salt Lake where there were ranching possibilities.

Reports say that the father worked around the city that winter of 1851-52, then he climbed over the mountains and

met the family at Fort Bridger, where he saw for the first time his littlest Potawatomi boy. To this new ranch to be made, the family came, soon after their arrival in the City of Salt Lake on September 1, 1852.

Now while the father of this family was on this preliminary trip, we can be sure that Hannah and the girls were not just sitting idle. Mother and the girls were busily carding wool, spinning, weaving, and sewing by hand a goodly supply of clothing. The lads were helping out the Elders on the Church farms on land borrowed from Indians, so they earned their supplies to take themselves over the plains. They were prepared on June 2, 1852, to enter the caravan of 100 wagons in the company of fifty wagons.

Source: all information is from *Huntsman Annals* by Lamond Huntsman 1971. Page 109 of the *Huntsman Annals* states that a complete genealogy record was microfilmed by Lamond Huntsman in 1966 and put in the Salt Lake Genealogy Library.