

# Fifth Mormon To Circumnavigate The Globe

By Frank J. Earl  
(Grandson of Elder Leonard)

Truman Leonard, Jr., was the fifth Mormon Elder to circumnavigate the globe. He was born Sept. 17, 1820 at Middlesex, Ortario County, New York, the son of Truman and Roxanne Ellis Leonard. He was baptized Mar. 25, 1843 by Noah Packard in Medina County, Ohio. He moved to Nauvoo in 1844 arriving July 11. For two years he labored on the Nauvoo Temple and as a reward for his services he and Ortentia White were "the first couple married in that temple. Feb. 1, 1846

During his labors on the temple he was knocked to the ground by a hoist rope from one of the higher levels. Those who came to his rescue concluded he would die from the injury. However, he asked to be administered to, and the next day he was back on the job. He was active in the "Battle of Nauvoo" in Sept. 1846, and brought in the bodies of the two Andersons who were killed in the battle.

Shortly after this battle he traveled through Iowa to Winter Quarters. Here he buried his first two children. Later, five other children died in consequence of the hardships and sufferings endured by their mother.

He crossed the plains in 1850, in charge of 27 wagons, arriving in Great Salt Lake City, Sept. 23 of that year. He moved on to Farmington and acquired one of the better farms just north of town.

In August, 1852, at a special conference, two very unusual announcements were made. One was the first public announcement of the practice of plural marriage; the other the calling of 106 missionaries to foreign missions. Nine of these men were called to the Hindu or Indian mission. Truman Leonard was one of these.



Truman Leonard, Jr.  
... 'round the world missionary

\$1800.00

F. Carter and William Fotheringham used \$1800 to pay their fees to Calcutta, India. On Jan. 28, 1853 they sailed on the clipper ship "Monsoon—as slender and graceful as a gull . . . with a large spread of canvas on her timbers, she was obviously built for speed." Feb. 9, they passed the Sandwich Islands; Mar. 9, passed the Philippine Islands and May 1, arrived in Calcutta, India, after 11,000 miles and 88 days on the water. Three months and three days from the date of sailing and six months and 11 days from the time they left Salt Lake City.

They were met by a scion of the McCune family, who were already members of the Church. McCune was an officer in the British Army and this family gave much support to the missionaries while they were in the Calcutta area.

Truman Leonard's mission in India had lasted two years, four months and 21 days. He had been without funds, traveling without "parse or script," eating what he could get, wearing what was available, and sleeping where and when he could. Many friends came to his rescue.

### Many Hardships

Those were rugged days, months and years. The mission headquarters was in England, and these missionaries were mainly "on their own." They regularly sent in their reports, some of which were published in the Millennial Star. Sickness involving cholera, and malaria were rampant. Once while traveling alone, Truman was seized with the cholera and for sometime was without assistance, scarcely able to move. He called upon the Lord and administered to himself. He was sinking rapidly, when a friend arrived, a wealthy Englishman living in India, who had traveled three hun-

arriving in time to give assistance in saving his life.

The Indian mission was not very fertile, few real saints have come from this area. Many joined but did not remain long, for the physical help they thought would be theirs did not come. Their time in the church was brief. Thus the mission to Hindustan-India, was begun and closed in the 1850's. No other attempt has been made there since that time.

Truman and a "few others" arrived in Liverpool at a date not recorded. On Mar. 22, 1856 they left Liverpool on the ship "Enock Trair" for the U.S.A. On May 1 they arrived in Boston and went by rail to Iowa City where the Handcart journey began. June 11 Captain McArthur with Truman Leonard as one of his assistants started west in Company 2, with 221 members bound for Florence Neb. and arrived there July 8, 1856. After being outfitted they began their journey across the plains. August 28 they arrived at Laramie, Sept. 20 at Fort Bridger and Sept. 26 in Salt Lake City. At this time Truman was the fifth Mormon elder who had circumnavigated the globe.

Since leaving Salt Lake City, Oct. 26, 1852, Truman arrived home just one month short of four years. He returned to Farmington, to his wife Ortentia, his 4½ year old daughter Helen Mar and to a new rock home, which had been constructed primarily by his Seventy's quorum.

### Two More Wives

On Jan. 6 Truman married Margaret Bourne and Mary Ann Meadows, each in their early twenties. These girls had accompanied him from Liverpool, and across the plains. He took them to the new home where they lived until he was able to provide other homes which were built on his farm. He took up his farm responsibilities soon after his arrival

home. With the coming of Johnston's Army he was made forage master of the "Echo Canyon" operation and served in the military band which was used to rally recruits.

In 1871-72 he filled a mission to the "United States." In 1874-75 did missionary work in the "Eastern States." In 1886, partly to escape the penalties of polygamy, he rode horseback to Cardston, Canada. He arrived there with 14 head of cattle and on entering that country paid an "entrance fee" of \$5.00. Later, his wife Margaret, who bore no children, joined him there. She went to Salt Lake City to attend the dedication of the Temple.

On Dec. 4, 1894 Truman left Fort Salt Lake City by train, his fare to Great Falls, Montana, was \$5.00, to Butte \$5.50, to Ogden \$19.45. He arrived in Farmington Dec. 7.

May 21, 1895 the "Dummy Railroad" was finished from Ogden to Farmington. An entry in his diary of June 19, 1895 refers to "several trips across the plains." He and his wife Ortentia celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary Jan. 1, 1896.

Nov. 20, 1897, at the age of 77 years he died in Farmington. The Deseret News refers to his passing as follows: "Truman Leonard, one of the historical characters of Davis County . . . one of the hardest of men . . . spent all of his life in pioneering the way for those who followed, he had a big heart, he was generous to a fault. Those who knew him best loved him most; and in that time when he shall stand before the Great Judge to receive his reward the multitudes will rise and say, "He was a friend."

## Saga of Truman Leonard,

### Pioneer Missionary