

BIOGRAPHY OF WILLIAM & SARAH SYPHERS EARL  
By Their Great Grandson, Frank J. Earl, 1975.

William Earl, the third child and third son of Henry and Jerusha Lamoreaux Earl was born April 19, 1794, at St. John, Queens County, New Brunswick, Canada.

Sarah Syphers, Wm.'s wife, was the daughter of Wm and Rachel Cross. She was born Feb. 16, 1796 in St. John, Queens County, N. B. Canada.

Wm's father, Henry, was born in Hackensack Bergen County, New Jersey in 1758. Indications are that he moved to New York State where he met the Lamoreaux family, whose daughter, Jerusha, he married prior to or after they moved to St. John, Canada, in 1783. All of their seven children were born in St. John, N. B. They were, Henry in 1789; John, reported to have drowned, no date; William, our line April 19, 1794; Mary Ann, no information; Lettie, no information; Margaret, no information; and Elizabeth (Betsey) April 24, 1800, she married Fredrick Potter Perley.

William Earl married Sarah Syphers at St. John, N.B. Oct. 27, 1814, age 20. They lived in N. B. until 1823 at which time they moved to Scarborough, Ontario (Upper ) Canada. Their first four children went with them. They were Charlotte Elizabeth born 1816; Eleanor, 1817, Wm Henry 1820; Jacob Syphers, 1821

Their last five children were born in Scarborough, Mary 1824; John 1827 Michael 1829; Justus (Jesse) 1831 and Sarah 1835.

William and Sarah were converted and baptized into the L.D.S. Church, probably by Parley P. Pratt or John Taylor in 1836, age 42 and 30 years. They moved to Kirtland, Ohio in the same year. Purchased a lot from Anna Wilson, for \$110.00 on Oct. 18, 1837. On June 1, 1837, they purchased one acre from Catherine Webb. Oliver Cowdrey signed this contract as Justice of the Peace. July 8, 1837, they purchased from Rufus and Betsey Park 60 acres of land in Geauga County, Ohio, no price quoted.

Feb. 28, 1838 they sold the 60 acre farm to Azuba Hollister, no price listed. March 6, 1838 William and Sarah and nine children became a part of "Kirtland Camp" and Oct 4, 1838 they arrived in Adam-on-di-Ohman, Mo., Wm. was 44 years old. The Church History vol. 3, page 92, lists the Wm. Earl family as consisting of eleven souls. Nov. 11, 1838, William was listed on page 210 of vol. 3 as eligible "to pass and repass through Daviess County, Mo."

Jan. 29, 1839, Church History vol. 3, page 252, Wm. Earl is listed as one who signed the "mutual assistance" agreement. At this time they migrated to Far West, Mo.

Jacob Earl, son of Wm and Sarah age 82 says, "When the Mormons were driven from Missouri we went to Quincy, Ill., later to Springfield, Ill. and finally to Nauvoo in 1840."

During 1840 to 1846 the Wm. Earl family lived in Nauvoo. They had a "substantial" home, assessed \$55.00 for personal property value and \$43.00 for the lot. The property was located 4 blocks North of Main St. and 6 blocks South of the Mississippi River, lot 3 in block 28. Lot 3 is the Southwest corner of the block bounded by Durphy St., on the West, Carlos St. on the South and Wells St. on the East.

On May 18, 1845 Wm Earl was Pres. of the Coopers Association. Their office was on Hyrum St. between Partridge and Hyde. Brigham Young may well have been a member of this group for he was a cooper by trade.

From 1840 to 1846 Wm worked at his trade and his sons worked with him. Jacob says, "he , and probably other brothers, worked in the Galena nickel mines for two years. They worked on the Temple as they could. Jacob "went to school in a room of the Temple."

In the Spring and Winter Jacob helped "to open a road, West across Iowa building bridges, selecting fording places on the streams and rivers. Later he returned to Nauvoo for two or four weeks, helping to ferry the Mormons across the Mississippi River."

In 1846 Jacob and his young brother Justus (Jesse) age 15 years joined the Mormon Battalion July 16, 1846. Sarah Earl Harris writing for the "Young Womens Journal" Dec. 1917 says, "The Earl Family were among the first to leave Nauvoo. They did not go immediately to Winter Quarters, but stopped at various places along the way to work. When they reached Winter Quarters, the sons of the family built a house of sod. The Father who was an excellent cooper, went down into Missouri to pursue his trade and earn enough money to bring his family on the western pilgrimage. While he was gone, the call came for the battalion to march to Mexico. Brigham Young requested that two of the Earl boys, Jacob and Jesse, go. The Mother was reluctant about allowing Jesse to leave her because he was only sixteen years old and a sickly, delicate boy. Brigham Young said, "Sister Earl, I promise that if you will let your boy Jesse go with the battalion he will be restored to you safely, a strong, robust man." This promise was entirely fulfilled. The terrible hardships and struggles which he went through, caused this weak slip of a lad to develop into an unusually vigorous man.

After the boys left with the battalion, the Earl family joined their father in Missouri where they all found employment. They prospered here so well that when they came to Utah in 1850, they brought enough flour, hams, and bacon to last them for over a year. They had several wagons, a number of horses, four ox teams, and four milk cows. Mr. Earl made a little churn into which they used to put the cream from the night's milk and the strippings from the morning's milking. Then the churn was set in one of the wagons and the jolting movement as they traveled along, churned the cream into butter. In the evening, the mother would put a nice fresh pat of butter before the family for their supper. The whole company used to stop on Saturdays to bake bread, dry buffalo meat, and wash. Sunday they rested and held religious services.

The story of the Mormon Battalion March is well documented in other writings. I will write no more about it save to say that the two boys completed their enlistment. They then enlisted for another year in the "Mormon Volunteers", under General Kearney, with an option to be released at the end of 8 months, went to San Diego to assist the United States to take control of that area. They exercised their option and were discharged in March, 1848.

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Capt. Davis hired Jacob to drive his team and wagon back to Utah. Their route was via the Cajon Pass "and this was the first wagon ever driven through that pass." "They arrived in Salt Lake City June 1, 1848, when garden vegetables, the first crop raised in Utah, was growing nicely." Within a few months the boys were back in Missouri with their parents preparing to come to the Valley in 1850, as told above by Sarah Earl Harris.

With all of the family in Utah, they first settled at "Mound Fort, Goodyear Claim" or Ogden. When a Stake was organized in Ogden Wm. Earl became a member of the High Council. The census of 1851 of Weber County lists Wm. Earl as 57 years old, his wife 55 and a daughter Sarah as 15 years. At that time Weber County is described as "a vast Territory extending to California on the West and Dakota on the East."

Wm. Earl moved to Logan in 1859. Leo Earl told F. J. Earl that Wm. traded an ox for the North half of the block, where he later lived. When Spring came and he learned that it was rocky soil he ask for the ox to be returned to him instead of a deed to the lot.

It was on this plot where his home was built and where he and Sarah lived during the remainder of their lives. Leo also told me that, "In the early settlement of Logan, the west part of the town was used for community gardening. Bears took to raiding the gardens. A group was appointed to 'stake out' and shoot the bears. No one was to shoot until the signal was given for all to shoot at the same time. An old bear came in view with two cubs. One of the men became 'trigger happy' he shot and the bear retreated. Next morning they found the old bear dead on the banks of Bear River. And according to Wm. Earl the town people ate bear meat."

The following was told to me by Charles Harris; "In 1860 Jesse Earl was shot to death in Salt Lake City by someone who was jealous of him. He was married to Adaline Woodward who was a sister of Emiline B. Wells. Her family--Insz, married Samuel Godby, Adaline did not marry, and Charles did not marry, he died in 1936. They lived in Los Angeles! He also said that Michael Earl left home and nothing more was known of him.

From other sources I have heard that Jesse Earl was a fine musician and Brigham Young rated him as "his favorite violinist," Charles Harris also said that he learned to play his violin, while his mother, Sarah Earl Harris sang. He said that Wm. Earl's favorite song was, The Flowers of Edinburgh." Harris also said "that he had an old musket (gun) that had belonged to Wm. Earl which he had kept polished for guarding against the Indians."

In the "History of a Valley, Cache Valley Centennial" on page 276 it is recorded Brigham Young, speaking in Logan in 1873 announced that Patriarchs would be ordained in every large settlement and six were ordained in Logan, namely: Wm. Earl, William Ballard, Joel Ricks, Lemuel Mallory, Hans Anderson and Solomon Lundberg. I have verified this as correct, Signed Leo Earl, Feb. 22, 1965.

August 30, 1941, J. Frank Earl of Logan gave the following information to Frank J. Earl of Provo, Utah: "Wm. Earl was over six feet tall, somewhat stately in his bearing. He had a long grey beard of which he was proud and he took good care of it. He was a good cooper (maker of barrals and wagon wheels). He made his early living this way". The logs of his original home in Logan, which stood where the Gem Theatre now stands on 1st North Street, are now in possession of J. Frank Earl and are stored at his home on South Main Street. Wm. Earl was always religious, at times he took J. Frank Earl along when he went teaching with Brother Ricks. At one time he sold his property and gave the money to help the Church. He came very early to Logan after living for a short period in Salt Lake City Ogden (Goodyear Claim) and Farmington. Wm. Earl's family lived in the Rock Fort in Ogden for several years. Sarah Syphers Earl, his wife, was blind for many years; she never got down in the dumps always cheerful. J. Frank also said, "He was frequently given the assignment to lead his blind Grandmother to and from 'the privy' which was located in the yard behind the house."

Wm. and Sarah S. Earl held strong ties with their families. When they moved from St. John to Scarbrough, his father, Henry, with all of his family followed and they later followed to Kirtland and Nauvoo. Whether any others of Henry's family joined the Church and came to Utah I have no record. All of Wm's family came to Utah. A number of them were married when they arrived here.

The story of Wm. Earl as told by Hubert Bowen should become part of this history. I hope you noted earlier in this record that J. Frank Earl, a grandson of Wm. verified the statement made by Hubert that Grandfather Wm. "gave the proceeds of his property sale to Joseph Smith to assist the Church."

Wm. and Sarah made all of their many moves by use of oxen, horses, wagons, on foot or horse back; no roads, or trails. None of the modern modes of travel known so well to us were ever used by them. They were hardy pioneers. Basically they lived happy lives for the Gospel meant life to them. They sang with "gusto" Wm. Clayton's song "Come, Come, Ye Saints" the lines of the last two verses truly was their challenge.

"We'll find the place which God for us prepared, Far away in the West, Where none shall come to hurt or make afraid; There the Saints will be blessed ... And should we die before our journey's through Happy Day! All is well. We then are free from toil and sorrow too; With the just we shall dwell! But if our lives are spared again to see the Saints their rest obtain, O how we'll make this chorus swell, All is well, All is well.

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The following information will be helpful to locate their graves in the Logan City Cemetery. Burial is in Lot 49, Block 5, Plat A. Modest individual monuments mark their graves.

WILLIAM EARL Born Apr. 19, 1794  
" " Died Jan. 18, 1879.  
Age 85 years.

SARAH SYPHERS EARL Born Feb. 16, 1796.  
" " Died Apr. 20, 1884.  
Age 88 years.

And here is an item about the death of "Mother Earl" which occurred on April 19, 1884." At about 11 o'clock last Sunday night, Mother Earl, wife of the late William Earl of Logan, died at the residence of her son, Jacob Earl, where she had lived since her husband's death five years ago. The deceased's maiden name was Sarah Syphers. She was born in St. John, New Brunswick, February 16, 1796 and consequently was in her 89th year. She embraced the gospel in Toronto, Canada, in 1836 and moved soon after to Kirtland, Ohio, her husband being baptized the same day she was. They went from Kirtland to Missouri and from Missouri to Nauvoo. From Nauvoo she was expelled with the Saints and proceeded to Winter Quarters. She came to Utah in 1850. The family first settled at Ogden but they came to Logan in 1859.

For more than 20 years Mrs. Earl had been blind, and for several years she kept her room constantly. She was a faithful and earnest Latter-day Saint, and the chief delights of her life were derived from her religion.

She raised a family of five sons and four daughters, who grew to maturity, and she left a large number of descendants. Two of her sons and three of her daughters reside in Utah. Mother Earl was loved by all who knew her."

The above obituary was printed in the Logan paper. It is the only one published about these two stalwart pioneers.

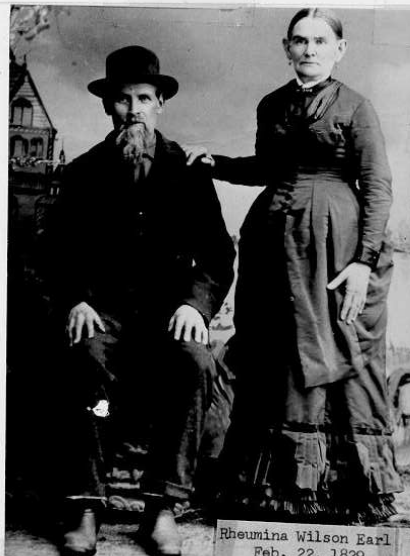
(This biography has been proof read and typed by my wife, Naoma Rich Earl) F. J. E.



Sarah Syphers Earl, born 16 Feb. 1796, St. John New Brunswick, Canada. Died 20 April, 1884, Logan, Utah.



William Earl, born 19 April, 1794, St. John, News Brunswick, Canada. Died 15 Jan. 1879, Logan, Utah.



John Earl, Sept. 8, 1827  
July, 13, 1928

Rheumina Wilson Earl  
Feb. 22, 1829  
Dec. 16, 1904



Justus (Jesse) Earl, born Nov. 17, 1831  
Scarborough, Canada. Died July 21, 1860  
Salt Lake City, Utah.