

Sisson Jacob Hatch

Sisson Hatch was born 2 April 1879 in a cabin built of round logs and a dirt roof in Grass Valley in Greenwich, Piute, Utah, located on what came to be known as “the ranch”. His parents were George Andrew Hatch and Sabra Jane Beckstead. He was the fourth of twelve children, but the first born on the homestead in Grass Valley. In fact, it was always said that he was the first white baby born in the valley. He was baptized a member of the LDS church when eight years old in the Otter Creek that ran a little west of the house by his father. His four or five years of school, he attended a one room log school house that was built for the five or six families that lived in the valley. It was also the church building for Sunday. Later they went to Koosharem, which was five miles north. For his last year of school he went to Snow Academy in Ephraim, where he studied the trade of blacksmithing and other school work.

Besides homesteading, Sisson’s father and a neighbor, Alma Bagley, owned a dairy up on a mountain west of Koosharem. During the summer they lived at the dairy where they milked the cows and made cheese. They had many experiences with the Indians that were very friendly and helpful, although as children they were afraid of them.

During Sisson’s teenage years, he enjoyed breaking wild horses, sleigh riding, playing baseball, and dancing. He learned to call for dances and did so for many years.

On 31 October 1900 Sisson married Castina Rosina Peterson in the Manti temple. They traveled three days with a covered wagon pulled by horses, one day at the temple and three more days to get home. On 15 December 1901, their first baby, Hugh was born, but his mother passed away a few days later. “Tiny” as she was called, was buried in the Koosharem cemetery.

On 14 October 1903, Sisson married Emma Rosetta DeLange, also at the Manti temple. Rose was born 27 February 1882 in Koosharem, eleventh of fourteen children born to Lennert Gabriel DeLange and Gurine Torgersen. Rose had a twin sister named Clara Violetta, who passed away with diphtheria when she was fourteen years old. Her parents had joined the LDS church in Norway, and after about twenty years made their way to Koosharem. Rose’s father died about a year after Violetta, and her mother a year after that. Sisson and Rose had eleven children, Leaus dying at birth. They raised eleven, including Hugh, all eleven married in the Manti temple. During the summers Sisson and Rose lived in the same log cabin at the ranch that Sisson was raised in, and during the winters in Koosharem, in an adobe house that was built by Rose’s grandfather, Even Torgersen. They built a new red brick home in Koosharem about 1930. Sisson also spent about 25 summers at Fish Lake where he was a guide to the tourists. Because of the sun shining from the water, he developed skin cancer on his face and suffered with it the rest of his life.

Sisson and Rose were faithful in the gospel. Sisson was called on a mission to the Western States Mission about 1910, leaving his wife and four small children, but got appendicitis, and had to come home. He was first counselor in the Bishopric in Koosharem for about 25 years, and held many other positions. Both Sisson and Rose were temple workers in the Manti temple for several years and spent their later life living in Manti where they could do temple work. They each completed about 3000 endowments for their ancestors.

They enjoyed visiting their family, spending the last several Thanksgivings at Hugh’s home in Alpine. After one such gathering, they stopped at Violet’s home in Payson, where Rose passed away on 1 December 1959. Sisson continued to live in Koosharem until 4 Jul 1963 when he passed away. They are both buried in the Koosharem cemetery. They left a great legacy and strong testimonies of the gospel for all of their descendants.