

Biography of Charles Wilson & Hattie Leonard Earl
By Their Son Frank J. Earl, 1975.

Charles Wilson Earl was born Mzy 28, 1865 in Farmington, Davis Co., Utah, the eighth of ten children born to John Earl and Rheumina Wilson Earl. At that time his father was 38 years old and his mother 36.

Hattie Leonard was born Oct. 31, 1867 in Farmington, Utah, the 10th and last child born to Truman and Ortentia White Leonard. At that time Truman was 47 and Ortentia was 42. Of the ten children born to the Leonards, seven of them died in infancy. Helen, the 4th child, married raised a large family and died at the age of 79 years. Clara, their 9th child, never married, she died when she was 32 years old in 1897.

Charles and Hattie were born and raised about three blocks from each other in homes with few of the comforts of modern living. These homes built basically of native rock, standing today, 1975, as monuments to their pioneer builders. Both have been well maintained, modernized and lived in through the years. The Leonard home has been designated as one of the historic rock homes in Utah.

Very little record is available of the childhood period of the lives of Charles and Hattie. Gertrude Earl Hansen West, the oldest child of this union says, "My Mother, as a child was anemic. When she was two years old her parents went to visit relatives in Ohio, by train, and stayed three months." For Grandfather Truman, this was one of his many missions.

As a girl, Hattie was taught, by her mother, who was a professional seamstress, to sew and in this way she helped to earn the family living. She also helped with house work of others, including scrubbing floors, using sand instead of soap as a cleaning agent.

Their schooling was very limited. Mother's sister Clara qualified for and became one of the "best" teachers in Farmington. Mother, Clara and their Mother earned and saved enough money, \$110.00 to buy an Estey organ which both girls learned to play. They also learned to sing duets, Clara soprano and Mother alto. This organ later became a central part of our own family living in Fielding.

Children, as they grew up in those pioneer families, had to accept much responsibility to help obtain the family necessities. They did have time to play, Charles and Hattie crossed trails quite early in life in play programs. Croquet was popular at that time. Charles played this game with Hattie and "fell in love with her because she was such a good good player and liked the out-of-doors."

It was during their youth that the Primary Organization had its beginning under Sister Areulla Spencer Rogers in Farmington. Both Charles and Hattie became members. Aunt Clara was the treasurer and Margaret Bourne, second wife of Truman Leonard, was the organist. A mural, on the front wall in the Farmington chapel depicts the scene of the new organization group.

Having lost seven of her ten children by death, Grandma Leonard guarded the courtship of these last two daughters with all of her motherly instinct because they were very dear to her.

After several years of courtship grandmother finally gave her consent to let Hattie marry Charles Earl, but not until they agreed to be re-baptized and marry in the Temple. The baptism was done in late December by cutting a hole in the ice on "Big Creek." They were taken in a sleigh to the creek and baptized in the ice cold water. Promptly they were wrapped in blankets, put in the sleigh and taken to the Earl home only a short distance away.

They went by train from Farmington to Logan where they stayed at the home of Jacob and Fanny Earl on the corner of 1st North and 1st West about five blocks west of the Temple. Jacob was an older brother of Grandpa John Earl and he had been a member of the Mormon Battalion.

On the morning of Jan. 3, 1889 Charles and Hattie were due at the Temple at 8:00 a.m. They walked the full distance in sub-zero weather. Mother was so cold on arriving that she fainted and father thought he might not get a bride after all. However, they eventually got through the long ceremony.

Gertie writes the following about their marriage: "They returned to Farmington where they were feted to a wedding reception which was a big affair. I wish we had a picture of Mother in that dress. Apparently none was ever taken. Grandma made it, an exquisite thing of fine wool, a beautiful shade of light blue trimmed with folds of the same shade of blue and a sort of salmon pink silk shirred silk front and puffed silk sleeves. She later ripped it up, dyed it dark purple and made a more practical dress for herself. From the scraps she made a dress for my doll. Mother regretted having done this many times but hard times forced them to be practical 'to keep the wolf from the door!'"

As spring approached they prepared their wagon, loaded it with bedding, some pieces of furniture as available, a stove, etc. The day came for their departure. With the cow, given to them by Grandfather Leonard, on leash behind the wagon, and with 2 silver ^{dollars} father had in his pocket-- they began their journey to their new home. As they were leaving Aunt Clara and Grandma Leonard stood in the doorway of their home wiping their eyes with their aprons. Aunt Clara called to mother to come back. She took a ring from her finger, put on Mother's hand and they were again on their way. This ring later was given to Gertie and I hope it is still in the family.

Their new home was about 90 miles away and they arrived there late on the third day. There were a few of their friends and relatives in the area but the closest ones were about a mile away. Their new location was a lonely one as compared to their homes in Farmington.

They were able to draw water from their well with the use of a rope, and bucket. A wind mill was later installed which made water available for family and animals, including a small pond for the ducks. Father proved to be a good farmer and he made his work pay. They had to haul all of their produce and supplies from Corrine about 35 miles away. Dad often started for Corrine by four o'clock in the morning where they sold their eggs and other farm products. He arrived home late at night. Mother would be waiting and listening for the sounds of his wagon.

Before they could retire for the night they would examine their "botten" supplies. Those days when Dad was away were lonesome and fearfull for Mother. The coyotes with their mournful howls brought fear to those scattered pioneers.

Gertrude Adelle, their first child, was born Feb. 16, 1890 and Charles Leo was born Jan. 25, 1893, both in Farmington at Grandma Leonard's home with the aid of Granny Stenneforth as mid-wife. Mother returned to her home a few weeks after the birth of each child. Dad, of course, made these trips with Mother in their wagon. At the time of Leo's birth Dad bought a new stove to improve their home life. Leo became very ill with pneumonia on the way home. They had no doctor and had to depend on the Priesthood. Bishop Hess was called to administer to him. As he put his hands on him, Leo's life seemed to be slipping away. Mother has said often that as he was blessed the windows shook like an earthquake had struck. When he finished the blessing you would never have known that Leo had been sick.

Jesse Wilson Earl was born at the farm Sept. 1, 1894 without creating serious problems. Rhoda Rheumina was also born at the farm, premature, March 23, 1896. She lived only about "an hour and fifteen minutes." Following her birth my mother nearly lost her life from the complications. Aug. 12, 1897, Frank J. was born in Fielding, where our parents had built a new brick home. With the aid of Dr. Friday, who came from Collinston with horse and buggy, I caused no great distress. Mother learned from Farmington that her dearest sister, Clara, had died three days after my arrival. Mother was unable to go to the funeral. Grandfather Truman Leonard died Dec. 20, 1897 in Farmington and on Aug. 14, 1898 Grandmother Ortentia White Leonard died in Farmington.

Ernest G. was born in Fielding Oct. 10, 1900. Clara named for Mother's dearest sister was born April 10, 1902. At this time mother nearly lost her life. Hattie, named after our mother was born on her birthday Oct. 31, 1904 and Mae born May 1, 1906 became the ninth child. Aunt Bell Farnsworth was mid-wife for Hattie and Mae.

Now that the children are all born and surviving I shall try to pick up the lives of Charles and Hattie in their other activities. Dad and Mother had their work cut out for them, to provide a living for ten members of their family. Work they must and did during those sixteen years. The production from their "dry farm" hardly took care of feeding, clothing and housing their brood. Illness was frequent and sometimes severe. Most of the children contracted the "childhood diseases" but all survived. In 1906 Gertie was sixteen and Mae was a new born infant.

Before the year 1900 Dad acquired a second "dry farm" about half way between the "hill farm" and Fielding. For information concerning this period I quote from the writings of James Bocutt, who peddled fresh meat to the settlers as early as 1885. I remember him as still active at this work during my childhood.

Bocutt states, "that he could see no evidence to indicate dire poverty on what was known as "Poverty Flat," but could suggest a more fitting name of Industry Flat for all were very industrious. The young house wives, truly pioneers, were fully able to cope with the situation. As I look back I marvel at the courage and determination displayed when we realize that these, new pioneers, had broken away from fairly comfortable surroundings. They had a desire to better their conditions in this wide open sagebrush flat, the habitat of the coyote, badger, jack rabbit and the hissing serpent. These people were among the heroes and heroines of Box Elder County. They had come principally from Davis county, among them were the Hesses, Stayners, Coombs and Earls."

"The headers made its appearance about the time of the settlement of the Flat. The horse power was the threshing device of the time--"Dobbin" pulled a no. 40 Oliver Chilled plow, a man walked behind guiding it as it turned over the soil to the amount of probably one to two acres a day."

"About the year 1888, John R. Bothwell and other financiers became aware of the possibilities of bringing water from the Bear River. Actual work on the canal started in the fall of 1889, by William Garland. Fielding in Box Elder County, Utah is the outgrowth of Poverty Flat. It is located near where Bear River Canal, the great feeder for the entire Bear River Valley, emerges from the Bear River banks."

The Earls bought lot #4 of one and a half acres on 2nd South and Main Street. They built their new home there in 1896, the year of Utah Statehood. There, I was the first born, Aug. 12, 1897. The original deed to this property is in volume one of my scrap books. It is dated, Jan. 9, 1899 and is signed by Micah and Fanny Garn.

A large one room school house was built in 1890-91 by Frank J. Walker assisted by Milton W. Earl. It was painted red but in later years it was known as the "pink school house." In that building all of the older children in our family had their earliest training. A store "Farmers Cooperative Mercantile Institution" began operation with T. F. Coombs as manager. He was paid \$50.00 per month.

I have in my possession a small account book of "Charles W. Earl, Treas. of School District No. 11" with the first entry dated Sept. 1, 1900, showing a balance of \$194.70 owed to the Davis County Bank in Farmington. On Nov. 7, 1900 Iola Thompson received the first teacher payment from the Treasurer, Soren Larson received \$55.00. Other payments made Oct. 26, 1901, Iola T. \$45.00, Bertha Jensen, \$35.00 and M. Welling \$60.00 and Feb. 3, 1902 Ella S. Capener \$50.00, M. H. Welling \$60.00, Iola Thompson \$45.00, and Bertha Jensen \$35.00.

From the above information I assume that the two room brick school building was in use by this time. C. W. Earl served as Board member and Pres. of the School Board for a number of years. The brick building served also as Church and Community Center for other programs including dances. Gertie states, "Our dear Dad was indeed a civic leader in our little community. Our mother furnished much delicious food for all of the celebrations. Her cream pies were surely indispensible, that old bread board of hers carried them out by the dozen. Neither of my parents

acquired much book education but they were blessed with wisdom." A sample of this wisdom is demonstrated in Dad's way of settling quarrels between us children. J. W. and I well remember having to cut willows with which we were urged to hit each other "harder and harder" but the worst was when Dad made us kiss each other while he held the switch.

Dad was a community builder in providing "modern conveniences" for our family use. These included several generations of hand and power operated washing machines, open wells and various kinds of pumps, including a power pump with a large steel tank in the "cellar" into which water was pumped under pressure. From there it flowed in pipes from the cellar to up stairs area and even to the corral to water the livestock. Very early we had a "De Laval" cream separator to separate the cream instead of setting the milk pans in that same cellar. Our kitchen stoves were first equipped with a reservoir and later water jackets in the fire box. A large tank near the stove stored the hot water. Metal pipes carried hot water to the sink and wash basin. Before the days of electric lights we had gas lights. A pressure gasoline tank was kept on the north porch. A hollow wire led from there to mantle lamps in the kitchen and living rooms. A beautiful bright white light came from these lamps. The empty five gallon gas can taught my brother Ernest the hazards of modern gasoline.

Our barn had hay stored in the loft above the animals, with "feed holes" where we pushed the hay down to the mangers. There was also an outside ramp to a feedrack in the rear corral where the animals could be fed hay from the barn loft.

Our old log barn was used for years to store tons of ice cut from the canal or ponds and insulated from the summer heat by sawdust. We had ice most of the summer for our ice cream and refrigeration and we sold considerable amounts to our neighbors.

We raised most of the fresh and smoked meats we ate; had our own smoke house, from which we were supplied smoked ham and bacon. Our granary was filled each fall with wheat, barley, oats and other supplies and the cellar underneath preserved various vegetables for winter use and spring planting. We had our own chickens, for eggs and meat and some eggs to trade at the store for supplies. Our lot provided us with apples, pears, raspberries, red and black currants, gooseberries, corn, potatoes, squash and the smaller vegetables.

Our farm planters and harvesters were kept modern. We had wagons, buggies, double and single hitch. Our first car, one of the first in town was a 1913 Ford Touring model, cranked from the front by hand, a windshield that folded down so one could get direct "air conditioning." There was also a leather top that "let down" when the weather was dry and even had side curtains to close the sides in case of rain. There were two or more "carbide" light fixtures for night driving.

With aid of brother J. W. we later had Saxon and Elgin cars--he was a car salesman. By 1918 we had a big seven passenger Hudson. In this car

I had my first trip outside of Utah to visit relatives in Idaho. We came back boasting that we had "traveled 150 miles and never had a flat tire."

While brother Leo was on his mission in Australia, 1913-1915, the family home was completely rebuilt and we "added on" three bedrooms upstairs, a kitchen, parlor, a modern bath with toilet and wash basin, in separate rooms, which made multiple use areas to serve the large family. A "Heaterola" stove was installed in the "living room". A fire place with ornamental detachable cover was installed in the parlor. At this time we obtained our first phonograph a "Pathe." Such music!

Since the "dry farms" and home property were acquired the family had purchased a sizeable property in the "river bottoms" area which was mainly used, first as pasture land but later, with the alkali washed away and the land leveled, it became good farm land. On a large round hill area in the Northeast portion of this farm we planted an orchard. Much of this planting was done on the slope of the hill. Dad, with help of the "boys", engineered an irrigation system where the water ran by gravity, in a ditch around the hill and was returned at a lower level. This was repeated seven or eight times. On the ditch banks we planted our cherry, plum, apricot, peach and apple trees.

On horse back, I was chief "cowboy", to drive our cows and the neighbors cows, which we "pastured", to the Hampton Bridge, then up the river to the pasture. I well remember the band of Washakee Indians who camped on the north side of the river by the bridge during the summer time. They fished and dried their fish and other available meet on ropes in the sun. They were always friendly but I never had full confidence in them.

While I was still a boy we bought the "ten acres" just south of town. Here we grew sugar beets, potatoes and hay. Another 160 acre "dry farm" was purchased two or three miles west of Fielding. Grains were grown there. On this farm I spent my last days as a farmer before leaving to teach school in Brigham City.

Sometime during these years Dad served on the town board and was president for a few years. It was during this time that electric power became available to Fielding and culinary water was piped from the Collinston-Beaver Dam area to Fielding--progress.

A little "back tracking" reminds me that the Oregon Short Line R. R. was completed through the east side of the Bear River Valley and Bear River Canyon, about 1890. Collinston was established as a town and shipping point and helped to ring the "death knell" of Corinne. Uncle Jed Earl gave up his farm and established a store in Collinston. The railroad made a great change in the living conditions of all people in North Box Elder County. At about this time our parents were becoming settled in their new home less than ten miles from a major railroad.

Myron J. Richards became the first bishop of Plymouth in 1884. Later a new settlement was given the name of South Plymouth and Bishop Richards became its bishop. Soon after this area was given the name of Fielding, honoring the Joseph Fielding Smith family. In 1894 Ep.

Richards became the bishop of Riverside and James H. Hess, his counselor, was named bishop of Fielding. He served in that capacity for twenty-four years.

In May of 1919 I left for my mission to the New England States. When I returned in 1921 my folks were living at 355 South Main Street in Logan. Ernest, Clara, Hattie and Mae moved with them. In this home they had their first central heating plant and other modern conveniences. J. W. and Wanda and later Gertie and Ariel occupied the family home. I spent the next three summers helping with the farm work. During the winters I attended school at the Agricultural College in Logan. Dad made frequent trips to Fielding to help Leo and J. W. with the farm work. During the next few years the boys acquired the farms and Gertie acquired the home. Thus Dad and Mother could now enjoy more fully their "retirement."

Dad planted a garden and kept some chickens in his back yard. He enjoyed his children and grandchildren as they came along. Dad and Mother frequently visited with relatives in Idaho and Farmington area. They enjoyed life. I made my home with them during my teaching years and on week-ends during the summer. I operated the Texaco Service Station across the street from their home. During that summer Dad and I went to Provo, at least once in his Pontiac Coupe. He encouraged me in my venture to live and operate a Station in Provo. He and Mother visited with me and my family, on occasions, from 1928 to 1937 in our homes in Provo. One of their great desires was to visit us in our new home. This visit, like Dad's desire to drive over the new hard surfaced road from Logan to Fielding was never realized, because of Mother's illness and Dad's untimely and sudden death on Oct. 11, 1937, age 72 years.

Mother lived until June 10, 1938 when she joined Dad in their home beyond the grave, age 71 years.

Our parents were "native born pioneers", having been born before the coming of the railroad to Utah in 1869. They were pioneers in every sense of the word as they pioneered in Northern Utah. Their span of life took them from days of ox teams to modern automobiles and airplanes; candle lights to electric lights, tents and shacks to modern homes.

At the time of death this couple had eight surviving children. All had living mates except Gertie. They had twenty living grandchildren. Due to their wisdom their affairs were in such condition at the time of their death that none of their children found any fault in the distribution of their properties. We all loved them then and we continue to love them.

They made many new friends during the years they lived in Logan. Their funerals were well attended, with friends and relatives coming from far and near.

Leo Earl quotes a request made by our Dad, of him, and it applies to all of us, "Son, I am passing on to you a good name, free from tarnish of any kind and I expect you to pass it on to the next generation in the same condition."

The following poem was written by J. R. Telford about his neighbor, Charles W. Earl, prior to his death.

I have known a great many men,
Lived neighbors to quite a few
As yet, I never met a better friend,
Than you.
You're always on hand to do all you can,
To help anyone in need.

Who is not afraid to do a kindly
deed.

I deal I found you fair and square,
I'd not be afraid to trust you
anywhere.

Mr. Earl, you have helped me a lot,
The time I asked for help you were,
'Johnny on the spot'.

Men of your type, indeed are few
You always do to others, as you
would have them do to you.
All who know you, hold you in
esteem,
You never did anything little,
Low or mean.

'Tis not I alone your praises
sing,
Others do the self same thing.
In conclusion I have this much
more to say,
I'll not wait until your gone
To hand you your bouquet.

I, Frank J. Earl, have taken most of the credit for this biography. However I must, at this time say, that it never would have been written without the encouragement, the proofreading and typing of my wife, Naoma Rich Earl.

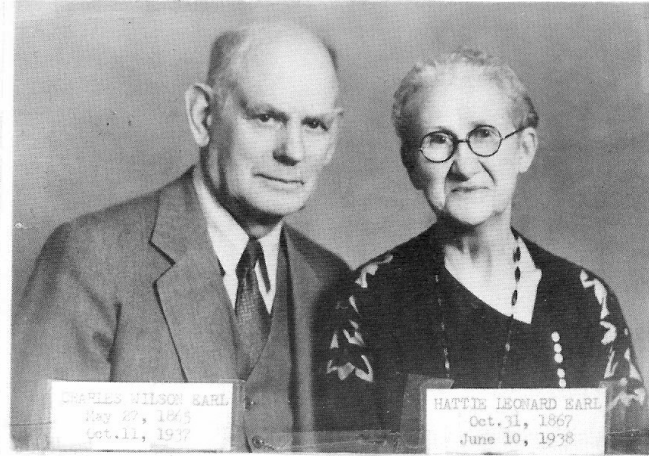
Charles W. Earl;
Grandma, Mary (Sheehan)
Wilson; Riley Chaffin
about 1869-70



Charles Wilson Earl,
Fielding, Utah, 1913.



Four oldest children of Charles W. and
Hattie Leonard Earl; Charles Leo, Frank J.,
Jesse W., and Gertrude, 1898.



CHARLES WILSON EARL
May 27, 1865
Oct. 11, 1937

HATTIE LEONARD EARL
Oct. 31, 1867
June 10, 1938

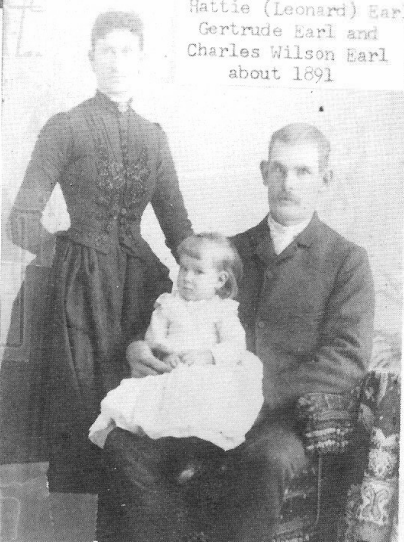
EARL. Ernest G., Charles W. (Father) Frank J.
Gertrude, Hattie (Mother) C. Leo, Jesse W.



EARL. Ernest, Frank, Jesse, Leo & Father.



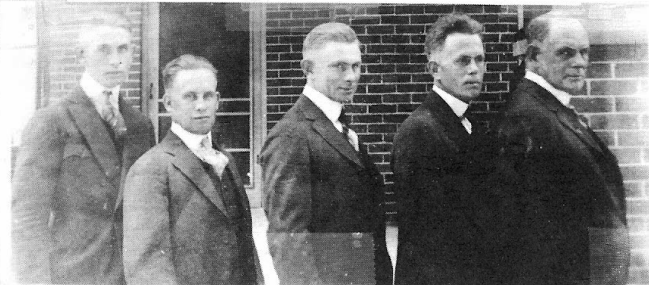
Hattie, Mae, Clara, Mother, Gertrude,
Frank J., J.W., Father, C. Leo, Ernest G.



Hattie (Leonard) Earl
Gertrude Earl and
Charles Wilson Earl
about 1891

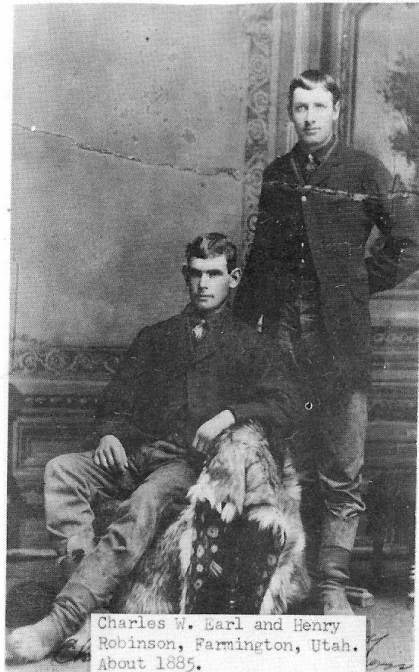


Clara Earl (Taylor), Ernest G.,
Hattie Leonard Earl, Hattie
Earl (Brown), 1905.





Gertrude (Earl) Hansen West
about 1-2 years old, 1891



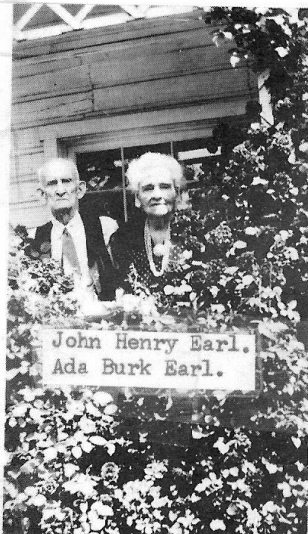
Charles W. Earl and Henry
Robinson, Farmington, Utah.
About 1885.



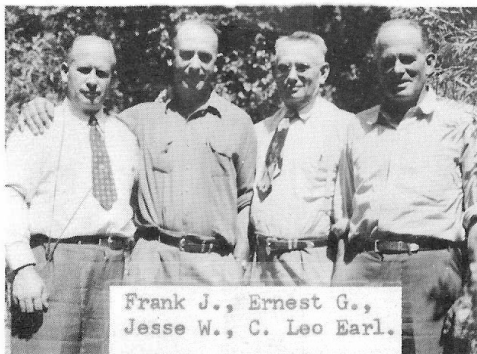
Frank J., C. Leo, Ernest G., Jesse W., Clara (Taylor)
Mae (Jenkins) Hattie Leonard, Charles Wilson Earl,
Hattie (Brown) Gertrude (Hansen-West).
C. W. Earl, his parents, brothers & sisters.

Frank J. Earl
about 1900.
Born Fielding,
Utah, 8-12-1897.
Son of Charles W.
& Hattie Leonard
Earl.

"Life gives us many memories--of home, of mothers, of fathers and family."--R.L. Evans. "For their wisdom in rearing us we praise our own parents."--F. J. E.



John Henry Earl.
Ada Burk Earl.



Frank J., Ernest G.,
Jesse W., C. Leo Earl.

