

Sketch of the life of John W. Seaman

Pioneer of 1867

Given by Ada Biglaw for the

Coal Creek Camp, Cedar City, Utah

\*\*\*\*\*

John W. Seaman, son of Stephen and Susan Whitehead Seaman, was born September 1, 1842 at Salton Spa, Saratoga County, New York, here he lived on a farm until he was about eighteen years of age. At the time the Civil war was on Mr. Seaman volunteered his services to the Union cause. He was accepted and was in the Navy making numerous trips between the Gulf of Mexico and New York.

During the first year he served as an expert in building and testing the iron-clad vessels. In 1864 he sailed with the fleet to the Gulf of Mexico and was in the fight of August 5, 1864, the Captain of Mobile Bay. He served throughout the war and was mustered out June 5, 1865.

In 1866 he decided to go West, he met a few Mormons in New York. They learned that he was going west and Thomas Taylor asked him if he would take eight hundred Saints as far as St. Joseph, Missouri, and transact all business for the company. He consented and did the work satisfactory, delivering the Saints, or rather the company, over to Captain Andrew Hunter Scott at St. Joseph, without loss of a person. It was a company of foreigners who were unable to speak the English language but they made the journey pleasant with their splendid singing.

At St. Joseph, Mr. Seaman purchased mules and teams and wagons, loaded them with goods and traveled west in an independent company. On reaching Salt Lake he met C. R. Savage who introduced him to President Young and other leading men. He enjoyed the friendship of these people and decided to abandon his trip to California and remain in Utah. He was baptized a member of the Latter Day Saints Church in 1868. He worked a great deal for Christopher Layton of Kayward, now Kayville. Brother Layton owned a grist mill run by water power but the water being low, Mr. Seaman put in a steam engine, he also placed and operated a steamship

Kate Corner) on the lake for the purpose of freighting sheep to Church Island.

In July 1870, Mr. Seaman married Alice Wright. They Young couple made their home in Salt Lake City, in Kaysville, until 1875 when they were called by President Young to go south and help settle Arizona. Christopher Hayton sent a saw mill down to Arizona for Mr. Seaman to operate. The young couple with their child and other colonizers started south going as far as Rock House valley when they were informed that the trip would have to be abandoned on account of drought and Indian depredations. Mr. and Mrs. Seaman stopped to rest in Johnsons Kane County where a son <sup>Stephen</sup> Frederick was born. President John Taylor came down and instructed Brother Seaman to remain south and make lumber for the people that they might build homes and he was to take any kind of pay they had to give and if they had no pay, make the lumber for them anyway. He helped make the lumber used in the St. George Temple and a great deal of the lumber used in the buildings in Kane and Washington counties. Bro Seaman has served as postmaster both at Ranch and Johnson. He was presiding Elder at Ranch until the organization of the ward, when he was chosen counselor to Bishop Graham McDonald of the Graham ward, Kanab Stake.

He is a G. A. R. Veteran and a member of the Maxwell McKean post of Salt Lake City, Utah. His life has been filled with activity, he was successful not only in lumbering but in farming and stock raising.

Now at the age of eighty-two years he lives peacefully at his home in Cedar City. He still drives his own car taking long trips throughout the state.

Copied June 21, 1925 from the sketch written by Mrs. J. B. Hayward in 1922. Information given by John W. Seaman.