

Title: Joseph COSSlett

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This is a brief history of Joseph Cosslett, my sixth Great uncle. Joseph Cosslett was born to Joseph and Mary Cosslett at Cardiff South Wales on July 29, 1850. He had a brother William and two sisters Ann and Jeanette. A brother Gomer who was born in 1852. The family was of Spanish descent. Their forefathers moved to the British Isles and settled in Wales.

His father taught music and had groups that performed in Festivals. Children in Wales were required to go to work at the age of seven. He went to work in a Kiln and foundry. He carried mud and mortar in a Hod against his chest with a strap around his neck. He wasn't big enough to carry it on his shoulders. He worked in dampness and steam in his bare feet from six in the morning until six at night. When Gomer turned seven he went to work also. They learned the Masonry Trade. Children were also required to attend school at night and on Sunday.

When Joseph was in his teens he got very ill. The family doctor said it was consumption and couldn't be cured and he would not live past his teens unless he moved from Wales and his work. Missionaries from America and different churches were preaching their Gospels and of a better life in America where you could worship and live as you wanted. His father wasn't interested, but let them in his home. His mother was really interested and her and the children converted to the LDS church and got ready to move to America.

In the spring of 1867 they sailed from Liverpool on the steam ship Minnesota for New York. A doctor was contacted about Joseph's consumption and was told to continue to the West. While in New York Joseph purchased instructions and books to study and learn more about harmony and music so he could teach.

They went to Omaha, Nebraska and on to Laramie, Wyoming with Captain Loveland's wagon Train to cross the plains to Salt Lake City. Joseph's health improved and they arrived in Salt Lake in August of 1867. Joseph and Gomer went to work in their trade in Masonry and building houses. In 1876 the Church sent Joseph and Gomer to Cedar City to help settle and build homes. Also in 1867 they became naturalized citizens of the United States.

Cedar City had a choir and asked Joseph to help and he became the chorister. He started an orchestra and a band where he wrote and revised music. Some of his songs are published in the LDS hymn book. In 1877 Joseph and Gomer got married in a double wedding in the St. George temple. Joseph bought property on Cedar City main street and built a music store. In 1880 Joseph received a license from the Board of Education to be an instructor in any city school. The leaders of the LDS church wanted Joseph to move to Salt Lake City to lead the choir but he loved Cedar city and his choir.

Joseph and his wife Emeline had one daughter Jeanette (named for his sister). Gomer and his wife Sara had ten children (four passed away in infancy). One of Gomer's sons was named Joseph Raymond for his uncle. He had a wonderful tenor voice and sang as a soloist in duets and quartets in over 1,500 funerals and community functions in Cedar City. Joseph Raymond was my Great \great \great Grandfather. My Great\great Grandfather Gomer was named for his Grandfather and his uncle.

On January 10, 1910 Joseph passed away. He would have been 60 in July of that year. The people of Cedar City and his choir were sad about his death. They held a beautiful service for him and erected a lovely granite headstone in his memory. It was made to honor his wife Emeline as well. She passed away fourteen years later in 1924. The headstone still remains in the Cedar City cemetery.

Life
of
Joseph Coslett

Chorister
of
The L. D. S. Church
of
Cedar City
Utah

81

