

Red

Henry Lunt

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This essay is about my third great grandfather (my grandfather's great-grandfather), Henry Lunt. He was an intriguing person. Henry Lunt was the founder of Cedar City, Utah. But I will get into that later. After all, that happened in his later years. I will start from birth. Then I will go on to his later life.

Henry Lunt was born on July 20, 1824 in England. He had six siblings. His father died when Henry was twelve. As a child, he was very interested in religion and went to the English Church. Although, around the age of twenty-five, Henry was converted to The Church of Jesus Christ Later-Day Saints. He was baptized soon after. He was baptized on October 6, 1849.

Henry Lunt had four wives. One of them was Ellen Whittaker Lunt. Ellen married Henry on March 25, 1852. Then, about five years later, Henry married Mary Ann Wilson Lunt. Mary Ann married Henry on October 7, 1857. His third wife, Ann Gower Lunt, is my great-great-great grandmother. Henry Lunt married her on April 11, 1863. His last wife, Sarah Ann Lunt Lunt was Henry's fourth and final wife. Sarah Ann Lunt Lunt and Henry were married January 16, 1878. She has two Lunts on her name because her maiden name was Lunt.

Henry founded Cedar City Utah November 10, 1851. He helped organize the Cedar City Cooperative Mercantile. He was not once, but twice Bishop of Cedar Ward. Henry Lunt was also the representative

to the territorial legislature. He was the Patriarch, too. And, Henry was the mayor of Cedar City.

He and his wives lived in a very nice home. But he had to leave his nice, posh home when the anti-polygamy law was passed. Henry either had to divorce with all but one of his wives, go to jail, or go into hiding. Knowing the first two were impossible for him, Henry decided to go into hiding with his wives. He decided to go to Mexico. He left in the summer of 1888. He left his posh lifestyle to be with loved ones. The area in Mexico they went was Colonia Juarez, and, ten years later, Henry Lunt died.

I learned a lot of interesting things about Henry Lunt. There are some very interesting things that happened to him on his trip to Cedar City. First off, on January 13, 1851 some of his oxen for his wagon got killed by wolves. There were also some things about the weather in Cedar City. On May 1, 1852, Henry's journal states, "The day is fine but extremely windy... Could scarcely see for the dust made one's eyes quite sore." This has not changed a bit! There were Indians in the area. So, on July 27, 1852 Henry Lunt traded a butcher knife and a piece of bread with some of them for a buckskin.

On May 19, 1853 around half past four p.m., there was an immense thunder storm, and lightning struck the chimney down from Henry Lunt's house. The lightning tore the house apart, blew his mantle to pieces, and even took a piece out of the floor. But

that's not all, the lightning also knocked the bottom off of the Keeler tub that was full of water, and tore one of the shoes to pieces on his wife's foot!

Lastly, in November of 1858, Henry bought a little Paiute Indian Boy around four to five years old. He bought him from an old Parvan Chief. For the little boy, Henry traded a rifle, a sack of flour, a shirt, and a pair of old pants. The boy was a slave, but Henry bought the boy to free him. He didn't use the boy as a slave. Instead, it was sort of like he adopted the Paiute Indian boy. Henry gave the child the name Ammon.

In conclusion, I think Henry Lunt was a nice person by what I've read. I like the story of Ammon because it showed Henry was against slavery and had a kind heart. The text also shows that he was easily adaptable, as he moved from England, to Cedar City, to Colonia Juarez, Mexico. Even if it was hard to move and to live in that place, as it was to live in Cedar City in the 1800's. When the anti-polygamy law was passed, Henry showed he cared about his family more than his belongings, because he moved to Mexico instead of divorcing or going to jail.

Reference: Vernon Lunt and Rachel Petty Lunt, *The Life of Henry Lunt* (1944).