

BIOGRAPHY OF ARTA MCLAIN SEELY

Arta Mc Lain Seely was born in a small red house on Brigham Street, Salt Lake City, Utah, on November 3, 1874. He was the son of Isaac Joseph Seely and Elizebeth Jane Fisher. His father and mother were married in the old Endowment House at Salt Lake City.

Mc Lain's grandparents, William and Lucy Seely, heard of the gospel in Chicago Ill. Lucy excepted it but William did not. She left William, took their two children, Isaac and Harriet, and was married and sealed to Brigham Young by the Prophet Joseph Smith in the Nauvoo temple. His father and sister came west with their mother, Lucy, in 1843. Mc Lain's father then lived with his mother and step- father, President Brigham Young, from the age of five years to manhood.

When Isaac Seely was married and had a family of his own he moved to East Mill Creek, where he lived on a farm. Arta Mc Lain was by this time seven years old. At this time Arta McLain found a seer's stone. I quote from his own autobiography, "At the age of seven years, while gathering stones near the house to flip in an elastic flipper, I came across a very pretty and peculiar stone about an inch and one half thick thick at one end, and tapering for about two and one half inches to almost a point. It was of dark crystal or on two sides with a sort of limestone formation on the other sides. This stone proved to be a seer stone with which I was permitted to see many things, including articles that had been lost or stolen articles for people from all over the nation.

For five years this wonderful gift was allowed me. I was taken out of school many times to my home to look into the stone for some lost article, or for information on various subjects and things. This was detrimental to my school work, as I was taken out as many as three times a day by different anxious persons. My mother would never allow any charge to be made for my information, as she said my gift was not for the purpose of making money, and the Lord would withhold it if a charge were made. Many came back with gifts, after finding their lost property.

This stone was placed in the hands of Apostle James E. Talmage by Patriarch John Smith, for analysis. Brogher Talmage 'sreport showed that it was neither rock nor glass, but he could notdetermine exactly its composition.

My mother took charge of the stone at all times until her death, which occurred when I was eleven years of age. About one year after mother's death, the stone was lost."

After his schooling, McLain was called on a mission to the Southern States, June 15, 1897, along with sixteen other elders. He baptized five people, and was then honorably released because of illness.

He married Alfartta Neff in the Salt Lake Temple on May 1899. Five children were born to them, Arta Elwyn, Francis Leland, Verna Kay, Leola, and Grant McLain.

For eight years he was clerk of the 122^{ad} quorum of Seventy in East Mill Creek. His occupation was the fruit bussiness until 1905, when he was appointed RFD mail carrier on the first rural route out of Salt Lake City, and the first in Utah. He held this position until 1910, when he resigned to return to the fruitbusiness. In 1912 he moved to a 480-acre cattle ranch in Rosette, near Park Valley in Western Box Elder County.

He was made ward clerk soon after arriving. Later he was ordained a High Priest and Bishop of the Rosette Ward by Francis M. Lyman on August 31, 1913. He held this office for fourteen years. During this time they built a new metting house.

He was elected a member of the Board of Education of the Box Elder County school district in 1913, and kept the office for twelve years.

He served as secretary-treasurer of the Park Valley National Farm Loan Association for fourteen years. After the first five years an auditor Came from New York to audit his books. They balenced to the cent after loaning nearly \$100,000.

He was secretary and treasurer of the Park Valley Telephone Company and for the Rosen Valley Irrigation Company, as well as the Park Valley Live Stock Company while living in the Park Valley District.

In 1928 Anta McLain Seely moved to Brigham City where he operated a fruit

and produce store in Black foot , Idaho, and at Cold Springs. He also managed the Utah Hatchery Company of Brigham City.

He was called as a member of the Box Elder Stake High Council. This office he held until until his deathon May 17, 1945.