

BIOGRAPHY OF JOHN EARNEST THOMPSON

Written By Karen Seely

John Earnest Thompson was born 10 March 1869 at Harrogate, England. His father was one of the founders of the United Free Methodists Church, so John Earnest was brought up as a staunch Methodist.

One day two Mormon missionaries called at the home. Their teaching sounded right to him. He arranged to have the missionaries speak at the church he attended. The church was on the same lot as his house and the buildings were so close you couldn't walk between them.

The missionaries gladly accepted his invitation and spoke the following week. After the services were over they came out on the church steps. A lady came up behind Elder Davis and stuck him with a hat pin. He let out a yell and jumped over the five foot hedge into my grandfather's yard. Finally after all sore feelings were taken care of grandma Thompson invited the missionaries to dinner. After this incident the missionaries were better accepted.

Soon the family was studying the church and it's teachings. When they read the Book of Mormon, they could not deny it. They were also greatly impressed with the teaching that children who die in infancy are not under condemnation. This greatly relieved my grandparents because they had a daughter who died as an infant. Soon after this the family asked for baptism. They were baptised in 1908.

Grandfather wanted to live in Zion, so in 1910 he set sail to America with his wife, my mother, and the rest of the family. He came to the Salt Lake Valley where he bought a farm in Murry and remained for about 4 or 5 years.

One day a friend told him of the good farming lands out West. This so interested him that he sold his farm in Murry and bought one in Almo, Idaho. He stayed here for a while and then was called by the church to settle in Malta, Idaho to help build up the new stake headquarters there. He lived at Malta until his wife died. After that he moved to Logan, Utah where he spent many years doing temple work in the Logan Temple.

He died 20 June 1954 at the age of 85 after a brief illness in a nursing home in Burley, Idaho.