

## James Kearl

I was too young when Father died to remember much about him. His history is in detail in the Kearl history book.

He was born in Brockenhurst, Hampshire, England, October 12, 1832 or 1833, son of John Kearl and Betsy Gates. He was converted and baptized into the Mormon Church in 1853.

He emigrated to Utah in 1854. His work in England had been in agriculture, so he was more prepared than some of the emigrants to make a living from the soil.

He settled at first in Granstville. There were three wives, Ann Burton, Fanny Martin, and Merlin Eastham. He was called by Pres. Brigham Young to help settle the Bear Lake Valley.

He was a very shrewd, hard worker, a believer in branching out. Therefore he acquired some sheep and cattle. If the crops froze, and they often did in those early days, he had some other source of income.

He was a leader in the south end of the Bear Lake Valley.

I remember when I was quite young, about 16, an old gentleman came into GH Robinson's store, where I worked, and I was introduced to him as James Kearl's daughter. He stood looking at me as he held my hand, and then he told me the following:

"The people in Meadowville were depending almost entirely on their wheat crop, with hay to feed milk cows and horses. When the wheat froze they had nothing to sell. He was always the one to go to James Kearl for help, which he always received. In good wheat years James looked ahead and had a good deal of flour stored." So, according to this man's story, James would give them flour and more often than not, reach in his pocket and hand out a \$20 gold piece. The man who told me this was John McClain.

Uncle Joseph Weston said once, at a Weston reunion, that James Kearl had been the backbone of the village in the early days. He always helped with his old mules to dig a ditch or build a bridge or move a building.

Father also set all the broken bones and extracted aching teeth.

He passed away very suddenly October 4, 1902 in Laketown. Funeral and burial were in Laketown.

By Grace Kearl Lamborn