

Personal History of Syrenus Wood

My name is Syrenus Wood, my Father was Wellington Wood Jr. and my Mother was Elizabeth LaVina Ferris. I was born March 19, 1904 in Spanish Fork, Utah and was blessed 5 June 1904 by Neil L. Gardner. I was Baptized 2 June 1912 in the Spanish Fork First Ward Church Font by William H. Johnson. I was confirmed on 2 June 1912 by Robert W. McKell. I was ordained to the office of Deacon, Teacher and Priest but do not recall the dates. I was Ordained and Elder on 28 February 1927 by Samuel H. Cornaby. I was ordained a High Priest on 6 February 1972 by Don S. Robertson. I married Ethel Olena Hansen on March 16, 1927 in the Salt Lake Temple and we were sealed by Joseph Fielding Smith. My endowments were taken out in the Salt Lake Temple on March 16, 1927.

I had the following special appointments: Counselor in Ward Genealogy Class. As a High Priest I have special assignment to help people get their genealogy done.

I lived in the River Bottoms southeast of Spanish Fork most of the time before I was married. While Dad was on his mission, Mother moved her young family to Spanish Fork to live so she could be near neighbors.

I went to school in Spanish Fork. The Snell, Dally, Central, Thruber, and High School for one year (ninth grade). From the time I was in fourth grade through the seventh, I drove the school bus. At that time it was a covered wagon pulled by a team of horses. It was necessary to get up early then, take care of the horses and put on the harness and hitch them to the covered wagon and go around the head of the bottoms to gather up children all the way from first grade to high school ages. Then unhitch the horses and get to school myself. At night take them all home again, take care of the horses and help Dad with the other chores. It was a good experience and we had many good times and some bad. I used to go to dances about every week, there I met my wife. We were married March 16, 1927. We lived in a number of homes the first part of our married life. First in Ben Koyles in the River Bottoms. We lived there less than a year then moved to Palmyra in my wife's old home. There our first child was born. Our son John, April 29, 1928. Our son Mark, was born in Palmyra also in 1930. Shortly after that we moved back to the River Bottoms in a house across the fields north of the Power House. Evelyn was born in this home, in 1932. Later we moved to a log cabin west of where we were. John started school from that place. We ran a big farm and cattle and raised turkeys there. From there we moved back to Palmyra and John went to second grade from there. Allen was born in this home, 1936. It was Tom Roaches old home. Last of all we bought us a home in Spanish Fork, 584 E. 3rd South. About 6 months after we moved here, La Rene was born November 10, 1937. And all the rest of our children were born there except Oliver, he was born in the Hughes Memorial Hospital at Spanish Fork, the day before Christmas 1945.

We bought our house for \$1,200.00. We all worked hard to improve the home and got it to look nice.

I liked music and can play by ear. My brother Merrill gave me a Mandolin before I was married. I played it for many years; and the mouth organ. Then the Mandolin got broke and my son let me borrow a guitar. I got music books and studied music and notes and soon could play the guitar pretty good by notes. Mark and Paul had the Mandolin fixed but it never did sound as good. My wife bought me an electric guitar for Christmas in 1970, and I've spent many an hour playing on it. Also Oliver, bought me a Mandolin home when he came from Viet Nam and I enjoy playing that too.

While I was in Genealogy class, we had some special experiences. One time we took a bus load of people to the Manti Temple and did sealings for 50 couples. My brother, Ferrin and his wife, stood proxies for 23 couples and Ethel and I for 22 and the people in the bus were proxies for the children. We went through the session first and had the privilege of being the leading couple through. After the session we went on a tour of the Temple. We were told about all the paintings. We saw the Spiral Staircase. The next to the largest of its kind in the world. We saw the Solemn Assembly Room and was told about that. It was a wonderful day. Another time I took a group of boys to do baptisms and later went to see some of the historical places one of them was the governor's room.

We took a trip to the Logan Temple with the Stake and had a good time there also and went to a Temple Session. We took quite a few trips to the Temple most to the Manti.

I farmed most of my younger years and did odd jobs. I planted beets and peas for farmers. I rented farms at different places. We started to buy two of them but couldn't make the payments so sold them again.

Shortly after we moved to our present home, I got a job for Spanish Fork City. I worked there a few years, about six, then went for the Steel Co. at Ironton Plant near Springville. It was torn down in 1969 or 1970.

Then I had trouble with my nerves and was in the hospital for a short time. I farmed for a while again, rented some ground and bought some. We bought machinery and was in debt so bad we decided to sell the farm and pay our bills off. Then I went to work for Spanish Fork City and ran the road grader. I started in 1956 or 57 and worked until I retired in 1969.

Now I take care of the garden, play music, go fishing and on trips. And do some carpenter jobs. Ethel and I helped Mark build on his house. We built three bedrooms, a bath, utility room store room and cupboards in them and four new clothes closets with sliding doors. He has it real nice and has the room he needed for his family.

We took a few nice trips to California. For one trip we built a sleeper on our truck. We took LaRene and her family with us this time. The children will never forget the good trip they had. Allen took them to the ocean and they gathered clams. He had picnics for them and did many fun things. They love Allen and Marty and want to go back.

We took other trips down there alone. One of them was a sad one. Karen had her third child, we said we would go down if she needed us, but she had such good neighbors they all helped. They took care of the house and the children in the day time and John at night. Even after we went down they took turns bringing in a cooked meal every night. She didn't need us then so we were going when we got our check. But on the third day John called and said come down Karen needs you. John said they just found out their little baby Billy had Leukemia. That was 7:00 p.m. At 8:00 p.m. we were all ready to go. We had about \$20.00 and a credit card we got in the mail we hadn't thrown away. So we planned on using that. Just as we were leaving, one of our children came and brought money to us, all of them had given to help us to go.

We got to Burkley, California ok and Karen was almost in shock and took her a few days to get over it. We stayed and helped her until she got better.

In six months she came up. Billy was worse by then. They stayed with us for three months. In that time Billy was in and out of the hospital in Salt Lake. John and Karen spent a lot of their time with him there. We took care of the two girls. On 6 August 1970 Billy died. He was such a sweet good natured boy up to the last. Last year we went to Karen's again to Fresno, California. They took us to see Jean and Allen and our grandchildren there, and to Disneyland. On the way there we saw where the earthquake broke the freeway. They were just rebuilding it when we saw it. We went back to Karen's and picked up English walnuts. We got a gunny sack full. One of their friends gave them to us. We have enough shelled walnuts for two years.

While I was working, we built a boat. We go fishing and take some of our children or grandchildren when they can go. We have many good times together and we love our family.

I am now 68 years old. In February 1972 I was ordained a High Priest. My wife and I had the privilege of going to the Prove Temple Dedicatory Services February 9, 1972. In March, I went to the Manti Temple again. It was good after so long not going for a space of almost 20 years.

I'm a home teacher and work in Genealogy again. We are supposed to help people that need help, make out their family group sheets and etc. That is the High Priest assignment for Ethel and I. We hope we can do them some good. I know it will help us anyway.