


John Howarth Haslam

Personal Data	
Born: 31 July 1885	
Died: 25 August 1961	
Wife: Mary Elizabeth Reed	
Father: Robert Howarth Haslam	
Mother: Esther Catherine Williams	
Siblings: Robert, Evan, Sarah, William, Hettie, Margaret, Clarissa, Byron, Leone, David	

John Howarth Haslam was born 31st July 1885, in Salt Lake City, Utah, at 244 North 5th Nest, the third child and third son of Robert Howarth Haslam and Esther Catherine Williams, parents of eleven children.

As Aunt Hettie wrote "Our family home life was very happy and secure. We worked together as a family in all chores that had to be done at home and at the store."

John told his children that in his young school days he was a whiz in math. The principal would enter the room and then say, "add" and name off a list of numbers. John would always be the first to raise his hand and come up with the right answer.

John just up and left home one day with a boy by the name of Emertson, It was two years before he came home again. We can imagine the worry of his parents until they heard from him. He first stayed in Nevada and then went on to California where he learned the carpentry trade; a trade he used the rest of his life.

He met Mary Elizabeth Reed who lived in the Sixteenth Ward. He would come courting on his bicycle as would the other fellows who courted Mary's other four sisters. They would sing songs while one of the sisters played the piano. One of the sisters said John always liked second helpings of chocolate cake.

He married Maime, as Mary was called, on June 5, 1907. A few months later, the marriage was solemnized in the Salt Lake Temple. They resided in the Sixteenth Ward during the early years of their marriage. When their daughter, Gladys, was about one year old in 1912, they moved to an area called Holladay. John had purchased five acres of land and built a small home, which he improved and added on to over the years. Mary said she cried when she moved to her new home because it was so far out in the country.

They had seven children but were only permitted to raise three -- Gladys, LeGrand and Evelyn. Their first children were twins, a boy and a girl.

They named them, after themselves. John died the same day. Mary died after two weeks. A son Clifford, died at age 5 months from pneumonia, and an unnamed son was stillborn.

When their children were small, John and Mary built a "drive-in" next to their home. It was expanded into a bigger building later on and used as a dance hall, and later a roller skating rink. At the beginning of World War II, John converted it into six apartments, which were owned by LeGrand's family until 1990.

John's profession was a builder and a general contractor. He built homes, schools and churches. During World War II he did construction of some of the buildings at Hill Air Force base near Ogden, Utah. Some of his jobs took him as far away as Pocatello, Idaho, and Logan, Utah.

In his younger years, John was a heavy smoker, but while in his middle years he suffered a heart attack and the doctor warned him to quit or expect more. He was successful in putting his habit aside and enjoyed good health from then on. He became active in the Latter Day Saint Church and served as high priest group leader in the Winder Ward.

He really enjoyed his membership in the Lions Club and was very active in it. He served as President of the Holladay Chapter. He and Mary attended many of their National Conventions. He loved traveling and this gave him a good reason to travel. They traveled all over the United States, visiting every state Capitol. They also traveled to Canada, Cuba, Mexico and Hawaii. They also attended the dedication of the New Zealand Temple. His children and grandchildren always looked forward to their return from these trips as they always brought home lovely gifts for them.

In January 1947 he John left his wife home alone and went on a six-month mission for the LDS Church. His call was to the same mission his daughter, Evelyn, was serving in, Northern California. The mission president, German E. Ellsworth, grew to love John, and after learning he was a builder, persuaded the church authorities to call him and his wife on a building mission after the six months of proselyting was over. He helped supervise the building of chapels in Santa Rosa, Ukiah and Eureka., California, while Mary did some proselyting with the lady missionaries.

After this mission to California, they were called on a mission to Texas and Louisiana.

While there he helped construct a chapel in Waco Texas. The building was built with Waco white stone. John was so impressed with it that he had enough shipped from Waco to cover their frame house on Highland Drive. It was a very nice improvement.

After Evelyn had been married a couple of years, they were able to purchase property on Highland Drive just four houses north from her parent's home.

Once again John's building ability came into use as he helped them build their home. He also helped build LeGrand's home a few years later.

Memories of John are good. He was a "happy-go-lucky" man. Although he had a very quick temper, he'd spout off, get it off his chest and forget about whatever bothered him. He loved children -- especially his grandchildren. Whenever he came to visit and the babies were asleep, he could not resist the temptation to go in and kiss them and wake them up to play with them. Even on the streets he would stop a young mother (who was a stranger to him) and goo and smile and talk with her baby. This often embarrassed Maime. His grandchildren remember him taking them to the baseball games at Dirks Field. Another grandson, although just six, remembers him meeting him at the school bus stop and taking him bowling. While John would practice his bowling, which he was very fond of, he taught his grandson how to bowl.

John was also fond of gardening. We remember when his garden was a bloom with snapdragons, Canterbury bells, tulips and iris. He was especially fond of iris and found joy in pollinating them to see what new varieties he could come up with. It was John who started his children's interest in iris and today their yards are full of the lovely blooms in the spring. He also had vegetables, strawberries, raspberries, and many fruit trees. After his retirement, he spent most of his hours in his garden.

Another love of John's was new cars. It seems at times that every year he would change a car for a new one -- a Lincoln Continental or a Chrysler Imperial, etc.

John and Mary celebrated their Golden Anniversary at Memory Grove. All the children and their spouses stood in line with them and a family picture was taken with their children and all their grandchildren. Many friends and relatives called to congratulate them.

In his 74th year, John developed a blood clot in his leg and had an operation, which helped him considerably. In his 76th year he was also bothered with circulation problems and blood clots in his leg. After the second operation, his foot became gangrenous and he had to have his leg amputated. The shock of so many operations and his weakened condition, the thinning of his blood, didn't stop another blood clot from forming and touching his heart. He died from the coronary occlusion in the LDS hospital and was called home to his maker on August 25, 1961.

After his death, it seemed as though Mary lost her will to live and she passed away approximately seven months after John died on April 13, 1962.