

JAMES H. GARDNER

Thoroughness in all that he has undertaken has led to the consecutive progress of James H. Gardner in the business world until he now occupies the responsible position of general superintendent of the Utah-Idaho Sugar Company at Lehi. He is a representative of one of the old pioneer families of Utah, his parents being Archibald and Jane (Hamilton) Gardner. The father was a son of Robert Gardner and a grandson of William Gardner, also natives of Scotland. The father and the grandfather came to America and made their way to Utah in the Edward Hunter Company, travelling across the plains with ox teams and arriving at Salt Lake City on the 1st of October, 1847. Archibald Gardner was born in Kilsyth, Scotland, September 2, 1814. His father was a carpenter by trade and worked along that line in Scotland until because of uprisings in that country he made his way to Canada and was there residing when he joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1837. He afterward removed to Nauvoo, Illinois, where he was residing during the troublesome times when the people of his faith suffered many hardships and persecutions. In 1847 he came to Utah and through the intervening period, covering seventy two years, the family name has figured prominently upon the pages of the history of this state. Archibald Gardner learned the milling trade in Canada and in the winter of 1847-8 he built and set up a sawmill within the fort wall at Warm Springs, Salt Lake City, where St. Mark's Hospital now stands. In the spring of the latter year he was the first man released from the fort and took the mill to Millcreek. Where he set it up, operating the first sawmill in Utah and sawing the first lumber manufactured in the state. This constituted the starting point of his business career, which in its development placed him among the most prominent residents of Utah. He built altogether thirty six different mills in the state, including sawmills, flour mills and woollen mills. It was Archibald Gardner who erected the first woollen mill in Utah, with Brigham Young as his partner, in the year 1856. He also built shingle mills and was engaged in the construction of its roads, dams, irrigation ditches and canals. In fact his entire work was of a character that contributed in substantial measure to the development and improvement of the state. He built the first dam on the Jordan River in the early '60s at Jordan Narrows,

the dam being constructed of rock and oak brush. Its durability is indicated in the fact that it was torn out only in 1918. It was regarded by the best engineers of the country as a great work. As time passed Mr. Gardner made extensive investments in land until he became the owner of large property holdings. He lived at West Jordan, where for thirty-five years he filled the office of bishop in the church. He was also a member of the territorial convention on two different occasions. At the time of his death, which occurred in 1902, he was one of the patriarchs of the church. He had at one time eleven living wives and his children numbered forty seven.

James H. Gardner was the only child of his father's ninth wife and was born at Millcreek, July 27, 1859. His school advantages came to him through winter's attendance in the graded schools of Salt Lake County and he was reared upon his father's farm and in young manhood worked in the lumber camps. He went to Hawaii on a mission, remaining in that island country for three and a half years, during which time he was assigned to work in the sugar mills there and became a thorough master of the art of boiling sugar. A portion of his time was also spent in travelling and teaching among the natives. In 1884 he returned to Utah, where he resumed farm work. Soon afterward he was married and removed to Idaho, where the town of Ucon now stands, the district then being known as Willow Creek. He took up government land and remained in that state for four years, on the expiration of which period he became a resident of Lehi, being called to that place to become a sugar boiler at the factory during its initial operations. He was soon made night foreman and a few years later was advanced to the position of general foreman, while subsequently he became general superintendent of the Lehi factory, which is the largest sugar factory in Utah. At the present writing he is the general superintendent of all the Utah-Idaho sugar factories and is chairman of the technical board. This brief outline of his career in connection with the sugar industry indicates plainly his ability, which has led to consecutive promotions until his position in connection with sugar manufacturing is a most enviable one, his reputation making him known not only throughout Utah but in many other states. Nor has he confined his attention to but a single line, for he is a large landowner, holding twelve hundred acres which are operated by his sons. He has upon his

place full farm equipment, including tractors, threshing outfits and all the latest improved machinery and accessories. In addition to the development of the soil cattle raising is carried on extensively and successfully and considerable attention is given to fruit raising, for he has excellent orchards. Mr. Gardner is also the vice president of the State Bank of Lehi and a director of the Bank of American Fork. He, too, has been connected with irrigation projects. Before his father died he had planned to pump water out of Lake Utah to irrigate Salt Lake County and James H. Gardner put through this project in partnership with M. W. Ingalls, of Salt Lake, in the year following his father's death, at a cost of forty thousand dollars. This Mr. Gardner regards as his greatest undertaking for the benefit of the people of Salt Lake County. The pumping plant is now owned by the city of Salt Lake and Canal Company and since it has been in operation it has supplied water to the irrigation companies and to Salt Lake City.

On the 15th of October, 1886, Mr. Gardner was married to Miss Rhoda P. Huffaker, a daughter of Simpson D. Huffaker, one of the Utah pioneers of 1847. They have become the parents of nine children. Hamilton, an attorney of Salt Lake, was graduated from the University of Utah and from the law School of Harvard University, which conferred upon him the LL. B. degree. While a student at Harvard he wrote an article on the cooperation of the Mormons in Utah for the Scientific Journal of Harvard and this has been widely published throughout the world and is regarded as a masterpiece. Hamilton Gardner served as a missionary to Germany for three years and during the recent World war he was a captain of the Three Hundred and Forty sixth Field Artillery, on active duty in France. Archibald, the second son, who is on his father's ranch, is a graduate of the University of Utah, in which he completed the Civil Engineering course. His missionary service covered two years in the Hawaiian Islands. Viola is the wife of Virgil Goates, of Lehi. Vera is the wife of Robert Pixton. Of Provo, who is associated with Virgil Goates as proprietors of the Lehi Mercantile Company. Reid is interested with his father in farming. Roy, Marion, Fern and Lois are the younger members of the family. The daughters, Viola and Vera, are also graduates of the University of Utah, Mr. Gardner ever according his children most liberal educational opportunities. His son Reid became a member of the Field Artillery at Camp Jackson and was second

lieutenant. The elder son, Hamilton, in 1913 edited a history of Lehi which was published by the Deseret News of Salt Lake.

In the work of the church James H. Gardner has continued active and for thirteen and a half years served as bishop of the second ward of Lehi. He is a high priest and a member of the High Council of the Alpine Stake. In community affairs, too, he has always taken a deep and helpful interest and served as county commissioner of Utah for a two years' term and again for a four years' term. He has likewise been a member of the city council of Lehi and president of the Commercial Club of that city. In November, 1919, he was elected mayor of Lehi. He spends most of the business hours in his Salt Lake office but makes his home in Lehi, occupying an attractive brick residence which was built in 1896. His career is a notable one as a successful achievement, but there have been no esoteric chapters in his life history, his progress being the direct result of close application, thorough study, undaunted energy and persistency of purpose. He has qualified for the responsibilities which are now his as the general superintendent of one of the most important productive industries of the west and he is regarded throughout the country as an expert on the subject of sugar manufacturing.

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Contributed and transcribed by Wayne Cheeseman