

## History of Andrew & Hannah Hull Lytle

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Andrew Lytle was born December 25, 1812, in Melton, Union County, Pennsylvania. He was the son of Andrew Lytle and Sarah Davidson. His wife Hannah was born June 9, 1816, in Waterford, Erie, Pennsylvania, the daughter of Anyer and Martha Hull. The Lytle family had moved to Waterford, near the southern shore of Lake Erie, by 1830.<sup>i</sup> Andrew and Hannah were married about 1836. This marriage probably occurred in neighboring Ohio, as Andrew's father died in 1834 in Springfield, Summit County, Ohio.

Andrew and Hannah were baptized members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Ohio about 1837 and 1839 respectively. Andrew's brother John had been baptized in May 1836. Andrew and John's mother also joined the Church, although the date of her baptism is unknown. The Church was headquartered at that time in Kirtland, Lake County, Ohio, north of Summit County.

Andrew and Hannah moved from Ohio to Caldwell County, Missouri about early 1837. Caldwell County was created in December 1836 as a refuge for the Mormons who were driven out of other parts of Missouri and Ohio by their enemies. Andrew and Hannah's first child, Olive, was born in Hancock, Caldwell County on July 18, 1837.

The Lytle family's time in Missouri did not last long. Andrew and his brother John attended a meeting at Far West, Caldwell County, Missouri, on January 29, 1839, to discuss the governor's order that the Saints leave the state immediately or be exterminated. The members of the meeting covenanted to help the poor and destitute Saints leave the state.<sup>ii</sup> On May 11, as part of the Mormon Missouri Redress Petitions, Andrew wrote that his bill of damages against the State of Missouri included the following: \$50 for moving into the state, \$175 for loss of property and lost time by the mob, and \$25 for moving out of the state.<sup>iii</sup>

The Saints were forced to leave Missouri in February 1839, and were scattered around Quincy, Adams County, Illinois and eastern Iowa until land was purchased by church President Joseph Smith for the city of Nauvoo on April 30 in neighboring Hancock County. Andrew and Hannah's second child, Cyrena Martha was born in Nauvoo on September 6, 1839. The Lytle's were members of the Nauvoo 4<sup>th</sup> Ward.

Twins Harriet and Andrew, Jr. were born in Nauvoo on November 5, 1841. Both died as children. This must have been a great loss for Andrew and Hannah.

On December 29, 1843, Mayor Joseph Smith selected Andrew Lytle, his brother John Lytle and 38 other men, including Abraham Close Hodge, as policemen of Nauvoo. Jonathan Dunham was made Captain of the police. The men met with the city council and were sworn into office by

Mayor Smith to “support the Constitution of the United States and the State of Illinois, and obey the ordinances of [Nauvoo] and the instructions of the Mayor.”

They were then addressed by Mayor Smith and given their instructions. He then stated that his life was more in danger by traitors among themselves than by enemies from without. He blessed the police and added, “It shall be said in time to come, where are our old policemen? Let us have one of the old policemen to stand at our window, guard our interest, and protect our families, and we shall be safe.

“If you will magnify your office, the full confidence of Israel shall be the blessing that shall be conferred on you in time to come.”<sup>iv</sup> This prophecy was later fulfilled in Andrew’s life.

Marshal John P. Greene and policemen Andrew and John Lytle were arrested on April 2, 1844, by a warrant issued by apostates Robert D. Foster and Chauncey Higbee, who were charging them with false imprisonment. They were taken before the municipal court and a trial was set for the next day. At the end of the trial, the accused were dismissed and the court ruled that Mr. Higbee was malicious and disorderly.<sup>v</sup>

On February 25, 1845, Hosea Stout chose Andrew Lytle and six other men to go with him from Nauvoo to Macedonia, Illinois to help Brigham Young and other leaders of the Church return safely, due to threats from anti-Mormon mobs.<sup>vi</sup>

Construction of the Nauvoo Temple had begun on April 6, 1841, and the Saints were asked to donate one-tenth of their time, income and assets toward the construction of the temple. Endowments were given in the Nauvoo Temple from December 10, 1845, to February 7, 1846. Andrew and Hannah were endowed in the Nauvoo Temple on December 13. They were later sealed on January 22. Andrew’s mother, Sarah, received her temple endowment on January 29.

Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum were murdered in Carthage jail on June 27, 1844, before the temple was completed. Their deaths did not stop the persecution of the Saints from the anti-Mormons, and the Saints were again forced to leave their homes and head west. They began leaving Nauvoo in February 1846 to make their trek across Iowa. The camp had reached Locust Creek, about half-way across Iowa, and established a camp in mid-April. It was here that the hymn “Come, Come Ye Saints” was composed on April 15 and Heber John Lytle was born on April 16. The Saints continued west and reached the Missouri River in July. Settlements were established on both banks of the river in Iowa and Nebraska. Brigham Young established Winter Quarters, Nebraska in September.

The United States declared war against Mexico in May 1846, in order to gain Texas, New Mexico and California into the Union. As a result, the army formed the Mormon Battalion in Iowa to help fight the war. The battalion consisted of five companies of 100 men each. Church President Brigham Young selected the officers for each company and Andrew Lytle was selected as a Lieutenant in Company E.

The battalion left Kanessville, Iowa on July 21, 1846. Some family members left behind were concerned about the safety of the battalion members and feared that they might never see them again. Brigham Young promised the battalion that their lives would be spared if they were faithful. The battalion arrived at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas on August 1, where they were outfitted. They reached Santa Fe, New Mexico on October 9. About 200 sick members of the battalion were sent north to Pueblo, and the rest of the battalion arrived unharmed in San Diego, California on January 29, 1847, after enduring many hardships.

The battalion was honorably discharged on July 16, 1847. Most of the men left for northern

California to travel east to join the Saints in the Salt Lake Valley. Levi Hancock, who was the presiding Church leader in the battalion, nominated Lieutenants James Pace and Andrew Lytle to lead the company back. Both men were elected and made Captains.<sup>vii</sup> One member of the battalion wrote in his journal, "Brothers A. Lytle and J. Pace are appointed to lead back the Company to the Church, being the only two who have respect unto the Priesthood of the Son of God, and acted as fathers to the brethren who were placed under them for twelve months."<sup>viii</sup>

The company traveled north to Sacramento, then turned northeast, crossing the Sierra-Nevada Mountains, the Truckee River, the Humboldt River, and the Goose Creek Mountains to Fort Hall on the Snake River. They then went southeast, by Soda Springs to the Salt Lake Valley, arriving on October 16. Most of the men stayed there, but some continued east after a two-day rest. Captain Lytle and 32 other men who were in good health and who still had their families at Winter Quarters, Nebraska continued traveling east. They went northeast up Bear River to Fort Bridger and then on east to Fort Laramie, Wyoming. They encountered Sioux Indians after leaving Fort Laramie. An Indian took one of the men, Reddick Allred, on horseback as a prisoner, but Captain Lytle was able to peacefully trade a mule to the Indian in exchange for the prisoner and his horse.<sup>ix</sup>

The company also encountered heavy snow storms along the way and had only buffalo chips to burn for warmth, having no tents. The day before they got to the Loup Fork, they found the head of a mule that was left by a party that had crossed that way a week before. They were so hungry, that they cut out the brain and ate it. They were unable to cross the river for five days due to floating ice, and had to survive by eating rawhide. Later, one of Captain Lytle's mules became weak, so it was killed and butchered for food. They arrived in Winter Quarters on December 17, 1847. It was then that Andrew learned that his mother had passed away at Winter Quarters on July 6, 1847.

On March 27, 1847, President Brigham Young asked John D. Lee to care for Hannah Lytle and her children while Andrew was away, until they could be sent to the Salt Lake Valley the next year.<sup>x</sup> In the summer of 1848, Andrew and his family joined the Willard Richards Company heading to the Salt Lake Valley. They left Winter Quarters on July 3, 1848, and arrived in the Salt Lake Valley between September 10-19, 1848. Another set of twins, Joseph and Josephine, were born in Utah on December 6, 1848. Joseph did not survive.

In the winter of 1849, Andrew was appointed a Major in the Utah Indian War which occurred at Fort Utah in Utah County. The companies of Major Lytle and Captain George D. Grant joined forces in Cottonwood, Salt Lake County, to fight the Indians on the Provo River. The Indians had been killing the settlers and their cattle, entering the settlers homes, stealing from them, and frightening the women and children.<sup>xi</sup>

In the spring of 1849, Brigham Young sent his brother Lorenzo back east to get supplies for the Saints. A group of people, including Andrew Lytle, went to the upper crossing of the Platte River in Wyoming to help repair the ferry boat that was left there the year before. On May 25, near Independence Rock, Wyoming, Lorenzo and Andrew started to head back to Devil's Gate to locate some iron that was left there, which they would need in order to repair the ferry. When they were near Devil's Gate, they saw an Indian standing in the middle of the road next to a pony. They thought this was a type of signal, as there were about twenty Crow Indian warriors on horseback further on down the road. Lorenzo said to Andrew, "We had better go back." Andrew replied, "I never go back. I am good for one of the Indians with my rifle, and you have a revolver and are good for two or three." They decided to try to outrun the Indians and head back to their company, realizing that the Indians had more firepower. They had gone about two or three miles when

Andrew's horse began to tire and the Indians began to gain on them. Andrew's rifle was heavy and Lorenzo took it to lighten up his horse, and said, "Do the best you can and I will not leave you." At that time, Lorenzo turned in his saddle and aimed the rifle at one of the Indians. The Indians immediately slowed down their pace. Lorenzo and Andrew continued to travel as fast as their tired horses would go with the Indians still in pursuit in the distance. They crossed the Sweetwater River near Independence Rock and found the rest of the company. The Indians, who turned out to be friendly, spent the night near the camp and killed a buffalo which they shared with the group for supper and breakfast the next morning. The following day, the Indians continued to travel with the group and again killed another buffalo for them to share. They left later that day after trading buffalo robes for shirts.<sup>xii</sup>

Andrew and Hannah's next child, Francis Lafayette, was born in Utah on June 11, 1850.

In the spring of 1851, Brigham Young sent a party of five hundred Saints to colonize the San Bernardino Valley near Los Angeles, California. The group was divided into three sections. The first section was led by Charles C. Rich, the second by Amasa Lyman, and the third by Andrew Lytle.<sup>xiii</sup> Upon arriving at Cajon pass in California in June, the groups led by Charles Rich and Amasa Lyman stopped, while Andrew's group went on over the pass and camped near a fast moving mountain stream. Andrew knew about the location of the stream already from his march with the Mormon Battalion in 1847. Hannah wrote many years later that Andrew had become interested in mining and in that creek when he was there in 1847. The 1851 group was so excited to find water that they named the stream Lytle Creek. The creek still bears his name today and is located in Lytle Creek Canyon, 14 miles northwest of San Bernardino. A small, unincorporated village also named Lytle Creek is near the head.<sup>xiv</sup>

Reddick N. Allred, who had been a member of the Mormon Battalion, also went with the group to colonize San Bernardino. He recorded in his journal on December 10, 1852, "I went to see Bro. Lytle and talk over our days of soldiering, and my present mission. He gave me five dollars to help me on my way, and for old acquaintance sake."<sup>xv</sup>

Three children were born to Andrew and Hannah in San Bernardino. They were Maryette, born July 31, 1852; Charles, born November 11, 1855; and Lyman, born January 7, 1857.

A company of rangers was formed in San Bernardino in August 1854, after two mail carriers were attacked by Indians with arrows while delivering mail from San Bernardino to Salt Lake City. Andrew Lytle was appointed Captain, with 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant M. L. Shepherd, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenants W. J. Cox and N. Swarthout. They were armed with sabers, carbine rifles and revolvers. While serving in this position, Andrew was able to help prevent a war with local Indians in November 1855 through negotiations and a show of force.<sup>xvi</sup>

In 1857, Brigham Young recalled the colonists to Utah when General Johnston's army threatened to invade Utah. Most of the Saints in San Bernardino returned to Utah during 1858, but about 35-40% of them refused to leave their farms and stayed behind. Andrew and Hannah were faithful and returned to Utah. Their daughter Cyrena married William Lacy Stilson on May 8, 1859, in Salt Lake City. William was the son of William Bostick Stilson and Susannah Young, a sister of Church President Brigham Young. Andrew and Hannah's youngest child, Hannah Orissa, was born in Salt Lake City on May 12, 1860.

Andrew and Hannah returned to San Bernardino later in 1860. The Lytle home was located on Third Street near the Santa Fe depot. Coincidentally, gold was also discovered in Lytle Creek that same year. Andrew held offices of public trust in the city during the next ten years and also remained interested in Lytle Creek Canyon.<sup>xvii</sup>

Andrew died in San Bernardino on December 27, 1870. Hannah joined the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in San Bernardino. It is not known if she joined before or after Andrew's death. Hannah passed away on September 17, 1893. Her obituary read, "Died at San Bernardino, California, September 17, 1893, Sister Hannah Lytle. She was born in Wetford, Erie county, Pennsylvania, June 4, 1816: united with the church in an early day: passed through much of the troubles that befell the church during the Seer's lifetime, and afterwards, and came to California in 1851. She united with the Reorganized Church and was faithful till death, being respected by all who knew her. She leaves four sons and four daughters; her companion, two sons, and two daughters having gone before. Funeral services by D. L. Harris; text Job 14:14 [If a man die, shall he live again? All the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.]"<sup>xviii</sup>

President Brigham Young said, "The Mormon Battalion will be held in honorable remembrance to the latest generation; and I will prophesy that the children of those who have been in the army, in defense of their country, will grow up and bless their fathers for what they did at that time. And men and nations will rise up and bless the men who went in that Battalion."

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