

SAMUEL LINEAM EVANS LIFE SKETCH, apparently written about 1950 by Alice E. Evans Asper.

Samuel L. Evans born 23 August 1823 in Bristol, England, son of William and Susannah (Manning) Evans. His parents took him for christening three weeks later. Samuel was the second child; the first boy. He had eight brothers and sisters. His father was a mason, and Samuel being the first son, was taught the trade by his father.

When he was 23, Samuel married his "Aunt Eliza" - his mother's sister. That was in September of 1846. Due to hard feelings in the family stemming from his choice of Eliza, in 1847 Samuel moved from Bristol to Cardiff. Before their first anniversary, Eliza gave birth to a baby boy, William. Almost two years after, Eliza had another boy, Samuel. Things were going well. But at about 15 months of age, Samuel the son, caught a fever and died (end of 1850). That devastated the young couple. Through the winter they began to wonder about the purpose of life. When spring was in full force, they happened to hear two men preach on the street. It was strange doctrine. But it seemed to answer their questions. The couple studied the tracts they got from the men. Samuel took this slow. He let Eliza go at her own pace. By the spring of 1853, after two years of study, Samuel said he was ready to join the strange church. June 1st was his baptismal day. Eliza felt no pressure to follow, but she got baptized in September. In the meantime, to broaden their knowledge of life, baby Ann Eliza was born (spring of 1852). And the Lord never stops the lessons of life: Samuel's mother, Susannah, got bronchitis, and died in 1854. She was 61. Samuel's father and family were deeply saddened, but none of his brothers and sisters joined the church. In June of that same year, Samuel and Eliza welcomed a new baby boy - Hyrum Henry.

Samuel was president of the Cardiff Branch until he was released to emigrate to Zion. The family traveled to the seaport in Liverpool in June of 1863, crossed the ocean in the ship "Amazon", and arrived in New York. Edward L. S. Sloan and William Branial presided over the company of about 895 in the company. And a few days later, they arrived at Florence, Nebraska and found eight companies almost ready to leave for the west.

There were 400 saints, so Father, his wife Liza, and three children joined the company and crossed the plains under Captain Ricks, arriving October 4, 1863. On his arrival here, he found work as a stone-cutter on the temple block. Samuel had been sick during the entire emigration. But finding work was beneficial to his system, and he was well after that. In fact, church work was good for him also; Early the next year (1865), he was put in as superintendent of his Sixth Ward Sunday School. Three months later, he and Eliza went

to the Endowment House and were sealed. Fifteen months later, Samuel became second counselor to Bishop Hickenlooper.

About five years after his arrival, he formed a partnership with Elias Morris, as the firm of Morris and Evans, and they had the distinction of establishing the first marble monument business in Salt Lake City.

Elder Morris and Evans formed a building company which was operated much after the pattern of the United Order, in which families would draw from the earnings just sufficient for their needs, and the balance would be absorbed by the company, to build up the business. It is said that few men ever worked together in such perfect harmony. Samuel was the bookkeeper of the firm. Elias was superintendent and manager. Their office and stone yard was at 20 South Main.

This firm was forward-looking, and was responsible for the introduction of a new building material in the community. It was an artificial stone, and did become one of the most useful discoveries. Its constituents were Portland Cement, lime, and gravel. It could be manufactured into any desired shape and possesses the hardness and durability of marble and is much cheaper.

I do remember the folks telling about an old white mare that he drove to do all his work, and it seems he was loved by all that knew him. He surely was good to the emigrants. When mother's two half-sisters came over from England, he took them into his home and treated them as one of the family. And when Grandma and the rest of the family came, he made a home for them -- one brother and two sisters -- Polly Mary Bazzant Buttle and Sarah Bazzant Freckelton were the half-sisters. Charles was the other part of the family.

On March 9, 1874, the Deseret News reported that Brother Elias Morris and Samuel L. Evans were obtaining funds for emigrants, by private subscription and concerts. All proceeds were to go to aid the poor Saints in Wales to emigrate to Zion. Some of them were suffering from famine. President John Taylor wrote a letter of commendation March 9, 1875, endorsing their project. (In 1878 another greater campaign helped many more come to Zion from Wales.)

Father built the first crematorium. It was built back of the old Salt Lake Theater, for some doctor who wanted to be cremated.

Now, we will go back to February 9, 1865, to the organization of the Sixth Ward Sunday School, with Samuel L. Evans as the first superintendent, James Poulton, First Assistant, and James Anderson, Second Assistant. That was from 1863 to 1876.

During that time, he was called as Second Counselor to Bishop

Hickenlooper on Sept. 6, 1866. Ralph Thompson was First Counselor. As second counselor, he got put in charge of various activities. At a dance in 1868, one fellow introduced whiskey, and the dance had to be broken up (ended). In an 1870 bishops meeting with the presiding bishop (Edward Hunter), Elias Morris suggested that supporting the price of grain was bad in that it would stall the (hoped-for) increase in labor wages. Counselor Evans agreed.

While still acting in the bishopric in 1877, on August 12, 1876, he was appointed Second Counselor to President George Goddard, with William Willis as First Counselor and Brother Thomas Griggs as Treasurer of the General Sunday School of the Church. While in this position, he and Brother Willis went to Willard County on business, when they ran across a young boy herding sheep and singing like a lark. And who should it be, but Evan Stephens. Father asked him to come down to Salt Lake and sing in a Sunday School concert in the Sixth Ward. He came -- his first time in Salt Lake City, and one of his songs was "I Wish I Was Single Again." [story not verified]

The Sunday Schools of the 16th and 19th Wards held a Jubilee. Between 700 and 800 children were there and father had written a song called "Jubilee", page 25 in the Sunday School songbook. At that same gathering, there were 300 spectators. The hall was crowded. William Asper was superintendent of the 19th Ward, and J. W. Phippin, of the 16th Ward.

**No. 25. O Lord, Accept Our Jubilee.**

SAMUEL L. EVANS. (Jubilee Song.) CHARLES J. THOMAS.  
*Moderato.*

1. O Lord, ac-cept our ju - bi - lee, And from all care let us be free;  
2. Let Thy good Spir - it on us rest, That one and all may thus be blest;  
3. Our Sun - day-schools, may they become The crowning pride of old and young!

While we are here, wilt Thou im - part Thy love and grace to fill each heart!  
U - nite our hearts with one ac - cord To com - pre - hend Thy will, O Lord.  
And all find out the bet - ter way;—For this, and more, we all will pray.

Deseret Sunday School Songs, 1909

The song was part of the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Pioneers' entrance into the Valley.

Earlier that month, on July 2 (1877), President George Goddard and Samuel L. Evans went to Ogden and after some interesting remarks to the parents and children, S. L. Evans told of the labor of Richard Ballantyne in the pioneer Sunday School. They presented him with a testimonial expressive of the Union's appreciation of his good work and signed by the Superintendent of the Sunday School and all his assistants and others. This testimonial contained good portraits of them. All were handsomely framed and no doubt is treasured as an heirloom by his family. (In 1900 the Sunday School children gave Samuel L. Evans a [posthumous] testimonial for the love and work he had done for the Sunday School.)

As related above, Father crossed the plains with his first wife, Eliza, and three children. In early 1872, he happened to have business in the ward north of his. He noticed a nice lady about his age. He learned that she had long ago been widowed, so he broached the subject of her marrying him; it would improve her support. Amazingly, the lady refused, and said, "I'm okay the way I am; you ought to marry my daughter, instead." The daughter was Adah Jane Powell, and the marriage was done in March of 1872. In 1874, Samuel increased his families by yet one more; he married Lizzie Abbot. Samuel was very kind and thoughtful. He had his three families all live close. Their addresses were:

Eliza 458 So. 4th West  
Adah J. 476 So. 4th West  
Lizzie 477 So. 4th West  
(all in the Sixth Ward)

and his son, Hyrum Henry Evans, who also was a mason and had a family of his own, lived at 557 West 5th South, just around the corner.

Samuel had a very hard time to breath in the months before his death. It helped him breathe if two men held his arms and waved them. An article in the Deseret News of March 11, 1881 said:

"We much regret to learn of the serious illness of Bro. Samuel L. Evans of the well-known firm of Morris & Evans of this city. he has been suffering for the last 8 or 10 days with an affection of the throat and lungs that almost renders it impossible for him to breathe. For almost all of the time since he was taken sick, he has been forced to occupy a standing position, not being able to lie down or even sit, his breathing organs are in so serious a condition. It is said the doctors have given him up, but we earnestly trust that the report is exaggerated. Bro. Evans is a very useful man in this community especially as a faithful laborer in the Sunday School cause and his demise would be deeply deplored by thousands."

While working on a vault in Mt. Olivet Cemetery, he contracted pneumonia, and was sick only five days, and on March 9, 1881, passed away. His funeral was held in the 15th Ward chapel, at the corner of First South and Third West. The speakers were Elias Morris, George Goddard, Bishop Leonard W. Hardy, Joseph E. Taylor, George B. Byewater, President John Taylor, Joseph F. Smith. The Sixth Ward Sunday School band led the cortege to the cemetery. There were 49 vehicles following the hearse.

Raymond C. Young copied this from a copy of the Deseret News of Monday, 11 March 1881:

Samuel Lineam Evans was the son of William and Susannah Evans. He was born August 23, 1823 in Bristol, England. Samuel L. Evans was baptized by John Lewis in Cardiff, Wales, June 1853. He was president of Carthage Branch until released to emigrate to Zion.

He crossed the ocean in the ship, "Emerson" in 1863. Edward L. Sloan was president over the company with which he came. The same season, he crossed the plains under Captain Richs. Five years after arriving here he formed a partnership with Elias Morris.

He died March 9, 1881. His funeral was held in the Fifteenth Ward Chapel. Bishop W. H. Hickenlooper officiated. The speakers were as follows: (1) Elias Morris, (2) George Goddard, (3) Bishop Leonard W. Hardy, (4) Joseph E. Taylor, (5) George Byewater, (6) William Jennings, (7) Bishop Tobert T. Burton, (8) William Willis, (9) President John Taylor and (10) Joseph F. Smith.

The Sixth Ward Sunday School band led the cortege. There were 49 vehicles following the hearse.

He was the man who introduced cement to the state of Utah. He was First Counselor to George Goddard, General Superintendent of the Sunday Schools. In this capacity, he visited Willard, Utah, heard a boy, Evan Stephens, play the mouth organ and sing. Evan Stephens had no family and was living with a family and working for his keep. Samuel thought his talent was too great to be left there and brought him to Salt Lake City and helped him start on his great career.

(This information is from Alfred W. Asper.)