

## Heber Coleman Boden...Written by Charlotte Winifred Boden, his daughter

Heber Coleman Boden, son of James Boden and Annora Coleman was born on October 20, 1855 in Aberdare, Glamorganshire, Wales. His parents were active members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the Aberdare Branch.

The father was a broker and also Town Crier at Aberdare. He was of English descent; his ancestors for three generations being master potters in Staffordshire, England. His mother was of English-Irish descent. Heber was the 5<sup>th</sup> child and 2<sup>nd</sup> son of a family of 11 children.

He was baptized in October 1863 and confirmed a member of the church the same month. The family immigrated to Utah in 1868. One year prior to the operating of the railroad.

They entered the hardships incidental to travel in those early days. They had a slow voyage across the ocean, followed by the long dreary march across the wild plains by ox teams.

Another child was born to Annora at the Sweet Waters, Wyoming but it lived only a few days and was buried in a lone grave by the roadside at the head of Echo Canyon.

The father contracted the Mountain Fever as they neared the journey's end and on September 4, 1868, only two days after they arrived at Salt Lake City, he passed away: thus leaving a widow and large family.

The family was moved to Brigham City, then a small struggling settlement. Annora managed to get a one room log house built. The roof was like the floor...the natural soil. She worked hard at anything she could find to do and the children who were old enough helped at whatever they could do. Heber, though a lad of 13 years, obtained employment driving a pair of mules grading on the new railroad project. This was the beginning of his career as a railroad man which extended until 1890.

Shortly after getting to Brigham City, and while working on the railroad, Heber lived with John Welch at Perry, about 3 miles south of Brigham City. He assisted with the chores and farm work as his time permit.

He married Charlotte Welch, daughter of John and Eliza Billington on October 9, 1876 at the Endowment House, Salt Lake City. The ceremony being performed by President Daniel H. Wells. They located in Brigham City in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward on 3<sup>rd</sup> West between Forest and 1<sup>st</sup> North.

He was employed as section foreman, road master, and foreman of construction of the Utah and Northern Railway. At the completion of the construction work installing the standard gauge of the Oregon Short Line Railway, he resigned to assume the duties of City Marshall of Brigham City. He had been unanimously elected to this office.

He was appointed the first chief of the Brigham City Fire Dept. which was organized on June 21, 1892.

From April 14, 1893 to May 20, 1895 he was a missionary in Great Britain. The first year he labored in the Birmingham conference. The remaining time he presided over the Liverpool conference.

Before father left on his mission to England, the Salt Lake Temple was dedicated and we went to that. I was just 12 years old. John Miles lived with us while father was away for two years. He did the chores and took care of the garden. He and his sister were orphans and had been taken in by Grandma Welch.

After returning from England, father followed the pursuit of farming and fruit raising. He was also in the meat and grocery business.

He was always active in church affairs. For a number of years, he was president of his Seventies quorum. Later he was ordained a High Priest.

From January 1, 1900 to January 1, 1904, he was Mayor of Brigham City. During his administration the electric light system was installed. A porch light was permitted to burn on every porch all night, free of cost.

There were seven children born to them.

He died at Brigham City on February 17, 1916 and his faithful companion followed on January 22, 1922. Both were buried in the Brigham City cemetery.