
Autobiography of Jesse Jensen Olsen

I, Jesse J. Olsen was born at Paradise, Utah, April 13, 1883. My parents were both born in Copenhagen Denmark and joined the church in their native land when they were very young and came to this country in the early sixties, each walking across the plains.

I was baptized when I was eight years of age by Elder George S. Obray. I was ordained a Deacon at the age of 14 years and made president of the quorum when I was 15 years old. I was ordained a Teacher and a Priest in the Aaronic Priesthood.

I married Jennie J. Obray on July 26, 1909 at Ogden, Utah and made our home at Salt Lake City, Utah. IN 1912, we went to the Salt Lake Temple and were sealed with four children. I was ordained an Elder before going to the temple.

In 1914, we moved to Yost, Utah and later the same year, we moved to Almo, Idaho. My first calling to preside was at Almo when I was made Superintendent of the Sunday School, May 15, 1915. This position I held until November 1918, when I was released and sustained as President of the YMMIA. I worked in the Mutual until 1920 when we moved to Murtaugh.

In April, I was called to help in the organization of the Sunday School at Eden, Idaho. The Sunday School was organized April 15, 1921 with Byron Averett as the Superintendent and I was the 1st Assistant. I was ordained a Seventy in 1921.

In June of the same year I was chosen as 2nd Counselor to Frank Simmons in the Hazelton Branch of which Eden was a part at that time. In 1922 at the Ward Conference, I was released and sustained as the Ward Clerk of the Hazelton Branch.

On February 13, 1923, Eden was made an independent branch I was chosen as the First Presiding Elder until April 1, 1926. Eden was made a ward and I was made the first Bishop. I was ordained and set apart by Apostle George Albert Smith, June 6, 1926. I was ordained a High Priest by Joseph P. Payne, June 11, 1926.

In October 1927, we moved to Hazelton on account of my work and in 1928, I was chosen as the Superintendent of the Sunday School. Then in September 1929, I was chosen to succeed Chase L. Smith as the bishop of the Hazelton Ward with counselors as Jim L. White and Ellis Boden.

In the spring of 1932, I and my sons started in the farming business, buying from CF Johnson of Twin Falls 120 acres, 1 mile east of Hazelton. The panic was so severe that we could not sell our crops for enough to meet the payments. 20¢ a bushel for wheat, \$3.50 for a ton of hay, rede beans \$11.40, Great Northern Beans for 90¢, and sugar beets for \$4.40 per ton. I worked for Chas W. Barlow warehouse, where I had been working for 5 years. Daris and Orval did the farm work so we got along pretty well.

On February 20, 1933, we move to the Chas W. Barlow farm 2 miles east of Hazelton working on a 50/50 deal.

We did very well on this place, for the fist yeas we paid over debts and bough a good car and paid our tithing and also means to help build up the work of the Lord.

The next year we had the same deal with Mr. Barlow and the Lord blessed us so we were able to reap a splendid crop. Jennie was sick all summer and suffered beside an invalid mother to care for.

After our harvest were all over, we had to move to Greenwood District on the JB Barlow place and we were moved and settled before Thanksgiving Day, when we had all of our family at Thanksgiving Dinner and we all enjoyed ourselves very much. One was added to the list since last year, Orville married Kerma Petterson, on their honeymoon trip, they visited the Worlds Fair at Chicago and brought us a new 1934 Chevrolet car from the factory.