

WINTERTON FAMILY

I, William Winterton, was born May 6, 1846, at Carlton, Nottinghamshire, England. My father was William H. and my mother Sarah Marriott Winterton. My father joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in January of 1850, and my mother joined in June the same year. I was four years old then. My seventeenth birthday was celebrated on board the ship *John J. Boyd*. . . . We

landed at Castle Gardens, New York, about May 20, 1863. . . . Coming to Utah, John R. Murdock was captain of the company with Abram Hatch as first assistant. We traveled with this train almost to the Black Hills on the Sweetwater. There Captain Creighton's train drivers had left him to go to California where there was a gold rush, so Captain Creighton came to Captain Murdock for help. John and I with others stayed with Captain Creighton's train, but Father continued with the Murdock group to Salt Lake City. . . .

In the spring of 1864 I went to work for Isaac Higbee for a year for \$100.00, where I worked for one year and a half. . . . Brother John was living at the home of Isaac Decker near Heber, where I stopped on my way to Provo. Mr. Decker offered me my board and room if I would stay with him that winter, so I accepted his offer. John and I fed a herd of sheep, cattle and milk cows. . . . In the spring, after working the four winter months for my board, we made a bargain that we would work one year for \$200.00 in land, so I received twenty acres. This was the year of 1866. There were Indian troubles and everyone was ordered to "fort up", so Mr. Decker moved to Heber and sent me herding sheep northeast of Heber. After being up there about a week, the people complained that the sheep were eating up the cow range, so I had to move them back to the ranch. . . . Mr. Decker paid his debt to us in sheep. . . . (End of quote.)

William purchased sheep and cattle which he ran on his ranch. He died on September 14, 1929.

Hyrum S. Winterton, born August 16, 1876, in Charleston, Wasatch County, was the son of William H. Winterton. As a youth he helped his brothers herd his father's sheep, but he hated the lonely life and planned some day to own a cattle ranch. He worked hard to help his father and brothers buy some grade cattle, as he desired to own better stock.

In June 1909 he and his brothers purchased about 60 head of Herefords from John E. Dooley, the owner of Antelope Island. Hyrum stayed on the Island about a week helping to gather and select the cattle. When the selection was completed, the cattle were loaded onto a barge which was pulled by a tugboat as near as possible to the shore of the Farmington side. The stock was then turned out of the barge and made to swim. Men in small canoe-type craft herded the cattle onto the shore. After a three-day drive, the Wintertons arrived in Charleston with the stock. 1910 was the first year for white-faced cattle on their range. Cattle rustlers killed the young calves that first year and sold them as veal in Park City. As the stock was brought in from the range for the winter that fall, the Winterton brothers decided the cattle bought on Antelope Island were the best they had ever owned. Hyrum S. was very desirous of buying better bulls to improve the increase.

In February of 1913 Hyrum and John M. Ritchie, who owned Herefords purchased from Antelope Island stock at the same time the Wintertons purchased their cattle, boarded a train for Missouri

to buy bulls. Hyrum had planned to buy a few good heifers for himself, but his brothers had told him not to buy them any at this time. The two men visited many ranches and finally decided to buy at the Overton Harris Ranch, Harris, Missouri, where Hyrum selected four bulls and looked over the heifers. Mr. Ritchie picked four bulls also. Mr. Harris said, "It would be foolish to pay freight on eight bulls, when they could fill a car and get the freight just as cheap." The problem as always was money. Mr. Harris then said, "If you will take the four you have picked out, you may have them for \$150.00 each and as many more as you wish for \$125.00." He also told them he would wait for his money. Hyrum picked ten head and Mr. Ritchie took eight, but when they arrived home Mr. Ritchie thought they should be divided equally, each taking nine. They also bought heifers which were so fine that Henry's two brothers wanted them divided also. Thus they each took three heifers and Mr. Ritchie took nine. This was the beginning of the Winterton Brothers pure-bred cattle business. They bought the Grand Champion bull at the Utah State Fair of 1914, bred by Green of Genoa, Nebraska.

In 1914 Hyrum S. Winterton traveled to Nebraska where he bought twenty head of yearling heifers from Thomas Mortimer of Madison, Nebraska. Mr. Mortimer had the heifers ready for the Denver Show and wanted to keep them until that show was over. They were the champion load of twenty yearling heifers shown that year. Moroni, the youngest Winterton, was sent to Denver to pick up the ribbons, prize money and heifers. While there he paid \$1,000 for a bull from the Herbert Chandler herd from Oregon, the grand champion of the show. Later the Winterton Brothers purchased more heifers from Thomas Mortimer until they had seventy-five head.

In the year of 1916 the sheep and cattle men of Wasatch County leased the Strawberry Valley from the Government Reclamation Service. At this time J. M. Ritchie and the Wintertons were allotted the area west of the reservoir and south of Mud Creek, where the Wintertons grazed 100 head and Ritchie sixty-five. Later Winterton Brothers and John C. Whiting transferred all of their range in Wallsburg for range permits in Strawberry Valley adjoining their present acquired pasture. (John C. Whiting had purchased some of the Winterton heifers and bulls, and had started a herd for himself.)

By 1922 both Moroni Winterton and John C. Whiting had sold their interests to Hyrum, and since it was almost impossible to buy land in Wasatch County, Hyrum had located a couple of good ranches in Woodland, Summit County. Then a severe drouth occurred, and although prices on cattle were dropping, Hyrum paid the original high price, thinking the prices would surely come back. After they moved to Woodland, two fires occurred which caused the loss of all their personal possessions and homes.

As Hyrum's family grew, and as he had taken over his ill brother Fred's cattle, he knew more land must be acquired if his sons were

to remain in the business. Regardless of troubles and hardships, Hyrum was determined to build a herd of cattle of superior quality. He purchased the best bulls obtainable and occasionally bought heifers with new bloodlines, often as a result winning honors at the big shows in the west. In 1931 the oldest son, Harold, was killed in a truck-train accident as he and his father were on their way to the Spanish Fork Stock Show, thus saddening the family. Hyrum lost his beloved wife in 1951 and married his childhood sweetheart the next year. He lived in Salt Lake City until her death in 1964, when he moved to Roosevelt to be near the family. He is now eighty-seven years of age (1965) and in good health. He rides horses and remains active by keeping books and records for the sons. His boys now own the business, but Hyrum enjoys discussing with them his ideas for continued success in stockraising.

—Mrs. Ralph D. Winterton