

LOUIS PHILLIP BEUS *n f*

Born: July 5, 1849 in Pramal Piedmont, Italy

Died: August 12, 1927 in Soda Springs, Idaho

Arrived in Utah: September 26, 1856

Arrived with: Edmund Ellsworth Co.

Married: Mary Terry, November 8, 1876

Written by: Charlotte Gunnell a grand daughter

Written in: 1958

Submitted by: Charlotte Gunnell

Submitted: September 8, 1961

Camp: Mead

Caribou County, Idaho

## HISTORY OF LOUIS PHILLIP BEUS

Louis Phillip Beus was born on the 5th of July 1849, in Pramol, Piedmont, Italy, a son of Michael Beus and Marianne Combe. He was the eighth child born to the family.

When Louis was one year old Elders Lorenzo Snow, Joseph Toronto, and T.B. H. Stenhouse arrived in Piedmont, Italy, in the latter part of July 1850 to open the Italian mission and preach the Gospel. A number of splendid families later embraced the gospel, among them were the Malans, Gaudins, Cardons, Beuses, Chatelains and others. The Beus family joined the Church in either November or December of 1850.

In November of 1855, President Franklin D. Richards and two other elders who were visiting the Branch in Piedmont, had to take refuge from a mob in the Stalle home. The Stalle family fed them on goat's milk and bread and butter and cheese. As they left, President Richards told Sister Stalle to prepare to leave for Zion. That same year she sailed for Zion with her husband and their children and a group of neighbor converts. It appears that the Michael Beus family was one of the neighbor converts who joined the Stalle family as they left for Zion. Many of them left their farms and homes without receiving anything for them.

The Piedmont Saints were very poor people but were good and faithful and obedient people. They had great faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, they knew that what ever was ask of them by the Lord was for their own good.

During the five years after they joined the Church, three more children

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were born to the Beus family. Two girls and a boy, making eleven children, nine of which were living. They had lost a baby boy, John, in 1842 and their oldest child, Mary, in 1844. Later they named another boy John and another girl Mary. The living children were: Anne, James, John, Michael, Paul, Louis P., Mary, Magdaline and Joseph Samuel.

After the Saints received word that they could come to Utah, many of them, including the Beus family left in the latter part of November 1855, from Pearustin in Piedmont and traveled in carriages to Pignerol (Pinerelo), and from there to Turin, the capitol of Piedmont, thence to the town of Suza by rail; up Mt. Cenis by coach on sleds drawn by sixteen government mules, much of the way being covered by perpetual ice and snow. Then on to Loundsburg on the Savoy side where the coaches were taken from the sleds and then on to Lyons, France. From Lyons, they traveled to Paris and then to Glasis, by railway. From here they took the steamer to London, where their youngest son, Joesph Samuel died on the 19th of November 1855 and was buried in England. Again they went by rail to Liverpool, here they stayed a short while waiting for the boat to sail. They continued on thier journey leaving Liverpool on the 12th of December, 1855 in the ship "John J. Boyd." They were under the direction of Knud Peterson on this journey and there were 512 saints in the company.

The following is taken from the Millennial Star Vol. 18, page 209:

We left Liverpool on Wednesday, December 12, at 7:00 A.M. and had fine run down the channel, sighted Cape Clear on Friday morning following,

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and had leisure to devise plans for the maintenance of order and cleanliness during the voyage. The saints were called to prayer night and morning, by sound of the trumpet; meetings were also held in Danish, Italian, and English languages during the trip. On the whole, we enjoyed ourselves first rate, notwithstanding the gales and hurricanes we experienced from the breaking up of fine weather in longitude 15 degrees: to our anchoring off Sandy Hook. About midway on our passage, we fell in with the clipper ship, "Louis Napoleon," from Baltimore to London, laden with flour, with all her mast and spars carried away, and leeward bulwarks stove in. Upon nearing the ship we found her in sinking condition. The captain and crew desired to be taken off, which was done. This acquisition was of great advantage to us, as bad weather and sickness, exhaustion from over work, had made quite a gap in our complement of sailors. We had much sickness on board from the breaking out of measles, which caused many deaths among the Danish, chiefly among the children.

In the English and Italian companies, we lost three children. The weather got worse after crossing the Banks, so much so that we were driven into the gulf stream three times, and many of our sailors were frost bitten.

Our captain got superstitious on account of the long passage, and ordered that there should be no singing on board; the mate said that all

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ships that had preachers on board were always sure of a bad passage, however, the Lord heard our prayers, and in His own due time we arrived at our destination.

On the evening of the 15th of February, we were safely anchored, having been 66 days out of Liverpool.

Our supply of water was almost exhausted--we had on arrival only about one days water supply on board. The provisions were very good and proved abundant to the last. Mrs. Michael Beus and her son James were sick most of the way over. The Contributor, Vol. 15, page 554, related that:

On the 16th of February, 1856, the emigrants landed in New York, the winter was very cold and after tarrying in castle Garden, the journey was continued on the <sup>21</sup>12st and 22nd, by rail by way of Dunkirk and Cleveland to Chicago, where the company, according to previous arrangements, was divided into three parts. One part consisting of about 150 souls, went to Burlington, Iowa; another to Alton, Illinois, and a third to St. Louis, Missouri.

The Beus family was in the third company. They stayed in Missouri for one or two months, then traveled up the Missouri River to Florence, Nebraska, where they stayed two or three months more. Money had been given missionaries to arrange for their outfits for them in crossing the plains, but when they arrived there, no arrangements had been made and there was no money.

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Louis's father Michael and his brother James, worked but being under church direction, they took most of the pay to replace the emigration fund.

It was in Florence, Nebraska they joined the Edmund Ellsworth handcart Company and left for Utah, a distance of about one thousand miles, with just sufficient food to keep body and soul together. This company left Iowa City on the 9th of June, 1856 with 275 souls ( the second company led by Daniel McArthur left Iowa City on the 11th of June, 1856 with 222 souls.) These were the first handcart. companies to cross the plains. They had to walk the entire distance from the frontier to the Salt Lake Valley, and pull their few possessions in the handcart.

They had very little to eat. Prickly pears and buffalo; beef and horse hides were often used as food, in fact, anything they could get to eat even snakes, which were quite good. They arrived in Salt Lake Valley the 26th of September, 1856.

At the commencement of this hard journey across the plains Louis was not quite seven years of age, but he and his brothers and sisters walked along by the handcarts barefooted. Their shoes were removed for two reasons: Traveling became easier as they could go along light footed and their feet became toughened. They averaged around eleven miles per day. On some days they travelled as many as thirty-five miles.

No more dramatic history will ever be written than the story of the people who wended their way over one thousand miles of plains and mountains in order that

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they might arrive in Utah to share with the rest of the immigrants, the blessing of the new home of the pioneers. The lives of these pioneers were full of stories of long suffering, heroism, devotion and loyalty to the ideal that had become a part of their lives.

These two handcart companies numbered in all about five hundred people and together they had fifty handcarts. The journey was a hard one, but they were able to reach the valley on the same day the 26th of September, 1856.

Upon their arrival in the valley they were met by President Young, Heber C. Kimball and a party of people, who had come to welcome them to the valley. These people were accompanied by Captain Pitt's Brass Band and a company of lancers under the direction of Colonel Clawson. The two companies were escorted to the city and the people turned out enmasse to greet them. (Taken from "Heart Throbs of the West Vol. 1, page 72-73.)

Michael Beus, not knowing the English language, was under a great handicap in finding work to earn enough to keep his family, so after staying a few days, the family (with the exception of John, who went with a certain party in Cottonwood, South of Salt Lake), came to Ogden.

In selecting a location for their home their love for the mountains is shown. They chose a beautiful location at the foot hills of Ogden. Their first home was at Five Points, later they moved to 27th St. where they built a house of logs on the rolling hills. The logs were brought from Ogden Canyon and Mount Ogden. Some little distance to the east they built a pond which was surrounded

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by trees and willows. Sufficient land was taken up so they were soon doing very well. They began to manufacture charcoal which they found ready for sale.

Their third home was build of rock at about 38th and Harrison Avenue and was later replaced by a brick home.

The land on which they settled was wild and had to be cleared before farming could be carried on. Wheat was cut with a case knife. For awhile the family gleaned wheat from the fields to live on. They made their own furniture from wood by hand. They gathered wool from fences to make stockings, gloves and underwear. They purchased buckskin from the Indians and made pants, coats, and robes. The family was the first to raise and spin silk. They sent to Italy for a start of the silk worm.

Louis and the other children had very little schooling. There was a little one room school with logs to sit on for benches. Louis attended this for about two years then he was too busy helping the family make a living to continue. He never attended school again. The girls and women had to spin and make their own clothes for the family. The boys were kept busy in the fields.

The family was also among the first to raise flax and make linen. ✓

Louis and Mary Terry, daughter of Joel and Roemma Garner Terry, were married the 8th of November, 1876. They built a log home on the property now incorporated in the Campus of Weber College. They lived there for a little over eight years. The fall of 1884 they had a very good crop of grain ready to harvest.



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New machinery was coming on the market at this time for harvesting so Louis decided to mortgage his crop and home to buy one of these new machines. He brought it home and was to start harvesting the next morning, but ~~that~~ evening there was a terrific wind and hailstorm that destroyed his entire crop. The mortgage co. came and took everything they owned; they were even going to come in and take their furniture but Mary stood at the door with an axe and dared them to.

While Louis and Mary were in Ogden there were four children born to them: Louis Learnon on the 17th of November, 1878, Clarence Paul on the 4th of April, 1880, Michael Edmund on the 17th of October, 1881, Mary Venoa on the 1st of September, 1883.

In the late fall of 1884 or early 1885 they came to Soda Springs, Idaho where Albert was born on the 9th of February, 1885. Louis hauled freight from Soda to Caribou for about one year then the family went back to Uintah, Utah and stayed with Mary's mother. Here Iona was born on the 9th of October, 1886. When Iona was six weeks old, Louis moved his family back to Soda Springs. The first year and a half was spent at "Lower Town" while Louis worked for Herbert Horsley Sr. getting out logs, for this labor he received enough logs to build a three room house, and he moved his family into it.

On the 2nd of October, 1888 another son, Orlen Odell, was born. He died the following June.

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During the winter of 1890-91 there was a terrible epidemic of diphtheria in Soda and all the Beus family were stricken. This disease caused the air passages to become coated with a membrane formed by a fibrous inflammatory exudation. When Mary Venoa, their oldest daughter, lay very ill with the disease she began to vomit and her mother raised her up in her arms and seeing that she was choking on this membrane Mary reached down in Venoa's throat and took hold of the membrane and tried to pull it from her throat, but in doing so it broke and the poison from it went back into her throat and she laid back in her mothers arms dead. This was on February 12, 1891. Two days before on the 10th of February Clarence Paul also died. Because the family was quarantined and the people were so afraid of the disease, no one dared come near the home. Mary had to wash and lay both of her children out and make all their clothes while Louis built the two boxes for them. Mary lined the boxes and the children were put in them. Then Louis nailed the lids down. After this was completed Mr. Thomas Horsley and William Clifford waited outside to take them and bury them. Since no one could come in the house and those inside could not go out, they had to push the boxes out through the window. Mr. Horsley and Mr. Clifford took them up to the Cedars east of town and buried them. Then on February 18, just one week later their oldest child, Louis Learnon, died. Louis and Mary again had to tend to all the preparations for burial.

Michael Edmund, the third son, was the next to have the disease. Dr. Kirkwood being the family doctor at that time had given Mary medicine for the

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children, but when Louis went in to give some to Edmund, the boy looked up at his father and said, "daddy do I have to take it and go where the rest of them have gone?" Louis began to cry and said "no son, you nor any of the rest of you have to take," so he went over to the stove and dropped the bottle of medicine in. Then he was beside himself with grief and worry not knowing what to do about the sick children. So he went out to the barn and knelt down and prayed to his Heavenly Father and ask Him to direct him in what to do for the children. He said he heard a voice say, "go and give him a little tobacco." Louis didn't use tobacco so he didn't have any in the house, but he called to Tom Horsley, who lived across the street and ask him if he had some tobacco. Tom came to the gate and laid some on the gate post and then when he had retreated to a safe distance, Louis went out and got it. Hurring into the house he gave Edmund just a small amount. Edmund no more than swallowed it than he began to vomit. This caused the coated membrane to come up. Because of this he was saved from the fate of the other three. But he had such a bad throat after, that it was not until a month later that he could eat solids. Throughout his life Edmund had a lot of trouble with his throat. Louis doctored the rest of the children himself and they didn't loose any more children from this terrible disease.

The next summer some one reported to Louis that the badgers had dug a hole near the head of one of the boxes where the children were buried. In fact, it was so deep that the box was showing. Louis was so worried because he didn't have enough money at that time to buy material to fence the lot where they were

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buried to keep the animals out. But he did take a shovel and threw it over his shoulder and walk to the cedars to try to repair the graves. On his way home he was still very despondent and worried, but he said he heard the voices of his three children telling him not to worry that everything was all right.

In 1895 Louis took a desert claim on some land in Wood Canyon and moved his family again to homestead the place. Later he added to this by purchasing more land adjoining. Besides farming, Louis operated a sheepsheering and dipping corral. He also operated a lime kiln on his place where he burned lime and sold it for building purposes. During this period of about fourteen years, Mary, with the help of her daughters and a couple of hired girls, cooked for the men employed at the corral and also for the men employed at a sulphur mine near their home. Sometimes there were as many as 75 to 100 men at the meals.

During this period six more children were born: Rudeth on the 8th of July, 1889, Wilburn on the 14th of October, 1891, Mohleta on the 17th of July, 1894, Emma Matilda on the 26 of December, 1900. Wanda Anetta on the 13 of October, 1902, Leslie Ernest on the 30th of July, 1904, making thirteen in all.

The winters were spent in town in order to send the children to school.

As Louis' sons grew up, they filed on homesteads around the Beus farm until eventually, the family owned and farmed all of the Wood Canyon Country.

About 1902 Louis sold the log home <sup>in town</sup> and bought a house from Charles Terry and moved it to the present location 251 East 1st North, now occupied by Mrs.

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Edmund (Grace) Beus a daughter in-law.

About 1913 Louis and Mary started a public laundry in town. Mary and her girls worked in this for three years. Here Mohleta got her hand in the ringer which resulted in her having a crippled hand the rest of her life.

The day after Thanksgiving in 1916 Mary had a stroke. She lived for three years after this and died on the 29th of July, 1919. After Mary died Wanda and Louis stayed in the home in town while Wanda finished her schooling. The first and second year after Mary's death Wanda and Louis gave board and room to a high school teacher, Miss Elsie Hewlett. Wanda finished her high school in 1923. Soon after she went to California to stay with her sister Emma and go to business school. Louis lived with his son Rudith on the farm during the summer. In November he went to California arriving there in time to spend Thanksgiving with his family. He and Wanda and Leslie got a place by themselves in Wilmington and Louis stayed until spring. He then returned to Soda and lived again with Rudith on the farm until fall. Returning once again, this time to Long Beach where he lived with Wanda and Stirley her husband. When Spring came he went to return to Soda. That fall, 1925, he went back to California again and stayed with Wanda. She had a son Stirley Jr. now. That winter the baby came down with the measles and was taking convultions. Louis came in where the boy was and layed his hands upon him and administered to him. Louis had great faith in prayer and manifested it many times in his life. The baby got better at once.

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Then in January 1926, his son-in-law, Jack Densley, was seriously ill with spinal meningitis. So Louis left California and went to Bingham, Utah to be with him. Here he manifested his great faith in prayer and the power of healing. They had isolated Jack in a hospital room away to one end of the hospital because of the dreaded disease. But Louis went to Jack's room and found him in a very serious condition. He then administered to him. Louis felt the power of death so strongly that he refused to leave Jack's room all night saying that if he did Jack would die, but after remaining all night with him in prayer he began to improve and was finally healed. Later Louis came on to Soda Springs again spending the summer on the farm with his son Rudith.

Wanda and her baby also came back to Salt Lake that spring and stayed in Salt Lake that summer. That fall Louis, Wanda and Stirley Jr. left the latter part of October for Long Beach, Cal., this time Louis stayed until July of 1927. He was very sick at this time and he wanted to come home for he knew his time was short. So Fay, Emma and Beatrice Beus brought him home. The Doctor had advised them not to bring him. He said he would never live to make the trip, but Louis wanted to come so badly and he told them that if they would bring him he would not die on the way. When they reached St. George he was very low, so they stopped and had him administered to and he improved at once. He raised up and recognized the mountains and knew he was near home. When they reached Soda, they took him to his son Edmund's home where he stayed for a week. Then he was brought to his daughter Iona's home where he lived for just

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two days. He died the 12th of August, 1927 in Soda Springs.

All his life Louis loved to walk when he was tired or weary. He said it relaxed him. While he was in California he use to walk to the Ocean nearly every day and watch the waves and think of his voyage on the ocean when he was a boy. He could never figure out why it would cloud up so much in California and then never rain. This always puzzled him. He loved to watch the clouds and then try to predict the rain. He use to get up very early in the mornings and walk to the beach before breakfast. He happened to be on the beach the morning that Charles A. Lindbergh landed in Paris from his non stop flight, across the ocean. They had stations set up at the beach to receive the reports of his landing. Louis was at the beach this morning and he marvelled at this accomplishment that a plane could fly across the ocean. Especially when he reflected on his own long voyage across the ocean as a boy.

All his life he had a great love for the Gospel. And he had a strong testimony. At the present time, 1959, he has 13 children, 6 still living. Fifty-two grandchildren, thirty-eight living and 116 great grandchildren., 109 living and fifty-three great great grandchildren, all living. Making a grand total of 234 decendants, of which 206 are living at this time.