

Short History of Dee Lora Hays



The following is from a typed sheet, unsigned..

He was born to John Jesse Hays on the 7th of March 1877, at Riverton, Colbert County, Alabama. He never spoke much of his childhood. He only attended school about three months in his life, but being anxious to learn he studied at home. He wanted to be a Methodist Preacher, but he was not satisfied with that so he turned to the Baptists and decided they lacked authority also. He went to work at the wagon factory in Florence, Alabama, at the age of fourteen. He also worked at cutting ties for the railroad. He also did work on the Pickwick Dam (locks) at Muscle Shoals. The river was backed up, flooding all his father's farm land. His father's land was on both sides of the river, including an island in the middle of the Tennessee River. How he hated to see that

island covered as it was such a fine orchard, and had some of the best pears in the country. It was a great loss to his folks. All they had left was a few acres on the hill with their home.

When he was eighteen years old he met two Mormon Elders, who were traveling without purse or script and sleeping in the woods. He invited them home to his father's place for the night. He liked what they told him about the Gospel being restored. John Wesley claimed the true Gospel had been taken from the earth and was to be restored. He was teaching the people the Bible and to live the teachings of Christ as near as possible. He was a wonderful man. Roger Williams, head of the Baptist Church, baptized himself. Not having the authority, he turned away from that. He felt Williams was right in not believing in infant baptism and people should be immersed instead of sprinkled.

Dee Lora Hays believed what the Elders were teaching. From that time on, the Elders made the Hays home their headquarters in that part of the South. He was baptized in May of 188? or 189?

A Sunday school was organized and he was made the Superintendent. I think that was the first office he held in the Church.

He saved what money he could. The most he was paid was by the government, which was sixty four cents a day. In March 1900, he came to Utah. He stopped at the home of

George Reynolds. For a time, he worked a few days on the LDS Hospital, as they were just beginning on the first wing of the building. He then got work at Grantsville, Utah; He knew nothing about farming and did not like it. When he got enough money, he went to Montpelier, Bear Lake Co. Idaho to visit John Perkins. John was one of the missionaries that visited him in the south. He then left for Paris Idaho where he visited the Humphrey boys. Three of them had stayed at the Hays home in Alabama while they were on their missions. Their names were: Thomas, Charles and Ray.

While there he got a job at the Creamery and was looking for a place to stay. James Davis heard of him. At that time the only boarding house there was full and there were no hotels . It was June Conference time, and the homes were well filled also. So he was invited to stay over conference time until he could find a place. He went and got his suit case and stayed at the James Davis Home...

Note: James Davis had a beautiful Daughter named Stella who became Dee Lora's wife on September 18, 1901

