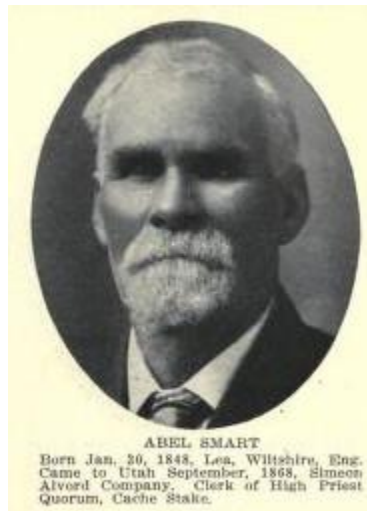




## Utah Pioneer - Abel Smart, 1848-1935



### Pioneers and Prominent Men of Utah photographs, page 639

Abel Smart was the son of William Smart and Jane Smart (nee Stockham), he was born January 30, 1848 in Lea, Wiltshire. He emigrated to Utah in September, 1868, arriving with the Simeon Alvord company.

The 1851 Census at Lea records:-

William Smart, 32, blacksmith, born Minety, his wife Jane, 39, born in Lea, Jane, 4 and Able, 3 both born in Lea.

The 1861 Census at The Ridge, Lea records:-

William Smart, 40, farmer of 40 acres of land, born Minety, Wilts, Jane, 45, Jane, 14, Abel 13, and Richard 9, all born in Lea.

1st Aug 1870 United States Census at Smithfield, Utah records:-

Abel Smart, 22, farm labourer, born England, and Sarah Smart, 20, keeping house, born England. Married in September, within the year.

Abel Smart was born 30 January 1848 in Lea, England, the son of William and Jane Smart (nee Stockham). When Abel was about 19 he wanted to take a trip around the world, so he came to America in the spring of 1867, landing in New Jersey. While still on board he had all his belongings stolen. All he had when he landed besides the clothes he was wearing, was some underwear and a shirt he had washed. After landing he was hungry and seeing some lovely apples and for a nickel he was able to purchase quite a number. But when he took his first bite, what a disappointment! It was his first taste of ripe tomatoes and he never cared for them the rest of his life.

He left New Jersey and went to Chicago and Omaha where he worked in the meat packing houses, and later the timber and lumber mills in Michigan. While in Omaha he heard of Brigham Young and the Mormons and decided to look them up on his way to California. He arrived in Salt Lake in September 1868. Upon arrival in the city, he placed his bundle of clothes at the side of the street while he toured the city. When he returned hours later, it was still there. He was so impressed with the honesty of the people, he decided to remain. He spent his first winter at Promontory Point, then went to Wellsville where he met his first wife, Sarah Gittins. He was baptised 8 August 1869 by Robert Leatham and on 20 September 1869 he and Sarah were married in the Salt Lake Endowment House.

They eventually moved to Bear Lake where he was among the first successful dry farm wheat raisers in Idaho. He was called as one of the first officiators in the Logan Temple. On 11 February 1885 he married Emma Irene Staley in the Logan Temple and then Annie Christine Jensen, daughter of Peter Jensen and Bodelia Jacobsen, 14 November 1888 in the Logan Temple. At this time it became necessary for him to go into retirement because of the government raids of the officers of the Temple. The raids became so persistent that he had a hard time of it, living chiefly in the mountains and rarely sleeping in a house for two years. At one time, he got snowed in between Bear Lake and Cache counties and for three days and nights had no food or shelter. One of his feet was frozen and he contracted pneumonia, from which he never fully recovered.

Early in 1900, he became associated with the Montpelier Electric Company which supplied the business district of Montpelier with more or less intermittent service. In 1917 he was caretaker of the Georgetown plant until his death.

Able died 16 November 1935 at 87. His three wives preceded him in death. Annie died 13 April 1901 in Georgetown and both are buried in the Georgetown cemetery.

**Information comes from the Jensen family files of Shirlene Jensen and the History of Bear Lake Pioneers**

Abel Smart had a total of 31 children with his three wives.