JOHN ARROWSMITH
1841-1910

John Arrowsmith was born 25 Dec. 1841 at Millersburg, Mercer, Illinois, the eldest son of William Arrowsmith and Elizabeth Taylor. He emigrated with his mother in the Edward Hunter’s Co., which left Winter Quarters 21 June 1847 and arrived in Salt Lake Valley 7 Oct. 1847.

His mother, Elizabeth Taylor, was born in Milnthorpe, Westmoreland, England, the daughter of James and Agnes (Taylor) Taylor. In 1830 the James Taylor family migrated to Canada, leaving their son, John (who later became the 3rd president of our church) to sell the property and settle the affairs of the estate. 2 years later he joined the family at Toronto, Canada where he became a Methodist minister. He joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1836 and converted great numbers of his congregation into the church, including his family. They moved to Kirkland, Ohio in 1837, to be with the saints and later to Illinois. After William Arrowsmith’s death, Elizabeth Taylor married George Boyes 14 Jan. 1853 in Salt Lake City.

When John Arrowsmith was 17 years of age, he drove a herd of cattle from Salt Lake to the mining camps of Virginia City, Montana where he worked for a while. After he returned to Utah, Pres. Brigham Young made him a member of the “Lot Smith Co.” of 1862. He helped protect the United States Mail and Telegraph Lines against Indian uprisings. Under the leadership of Major Lot Smith, John Arrowsmith learned Indian warfare. He engaged in one of his most exciting skirmishes against the Indians at Bridger, Wyo. He also served in the Black Hawk War in Utah and fought the Indians in Thistle Valley located in Sanpete County.

On 25 Dec. 1866 John Arrowsmith married Lucretia Howard, the daughter of William Howard and Elizabeth Anderson. She was born at Belfast, Ireland 27 May 1845 and immigrated with her family to Utah in 1852.

To support his bride, John worked in the timber and logging operations in Parley’s and Little Cottonwood Canyons. He also hauled granite rock and timber from canyons to the Salt Lake Temple which was under construction at that time.

In 1875 or ’76 Pres. Young called the Arrowsmith family to help settle Randolph, Utah. They lived there for about 4 years before returning to their Big Cottonwood home. John contracted work up the canyon at a paper mill.

In August 1884 John Arrowsmith came to Idaho and took up land in the community that later became Lewisville. He traveled in company with his half-sister Ann T. Boyes Walker, wife of Don Carlos Walker, William A. Walker, Welby Holmes Walker and others who arrived in Lewisville 10 Aug 1884.

In May 1885 he brought his wife and family of 7 to Lewisville and began the arduous task of clearing the land. He engaged in contract work on the side to support his family. His first contract job was for the railroad. The line had been laid with the narrow gauge rail and he secured good employment for a year or so changing the line over to the wide gauge rail. The railroad extended from Cache Valley to Butte, Montana. He also worked on the Market Lake Bridge in the winter of 1893.

When the Great Feeder dam went under construction in 1903, he contracted cooking for the crew. His 2 daughters, Mary and Lenora, stayed with him and performed the cooking duties.
while he worked with the men on the dam. He was among the early stockholders of the Parks and Lewisville Canal Co. As well as the Burgess Canal system, as he helped build both. For 8 years he was road overseer for Fremont County.

He died 3 Feb. 1910 in Rexburg, Idaho and is buried in the Lewisville Cemetery beside his wife, who preceded him in death 28 Feb. 1909.

His greatest sorrow for them was to outlive their own children. They were: William Hl born 9 Sep 1867 at Big Cottonwood, married 13 Sep. 1890 Lola Ann Chase and died 25 July 1897; #2 Elizabeth H. Born 22 Jan. 1869 at Big Cottonwood who married Reuben Casper and died 3 April 1903; #3 Lucretia H. Born 21 Nov. 1870 Big Cottonwood who married James Ricks and died April 1917; #4 Katherine Alice born 5 Oct. 1872 Big Cottonwood and died 3 Oct. 1873; #5 John H. Born 5 Aug. 1874 Big Cottonwood married 30 June 1899 Julia Hansen and died 12 April 1906; #6 Mary H. Born 9 Sep. 1876 at Randolph, Utah married Edmund LeRoy Jardine 18 April 1951; #7 Joseph H. Born 9 April 1879 at Randolph, Utah and died the same day; #8 Agnes H. Born 19 Jan. 1881 at Big Cottonwood and died 7 Oct. 1893 at Lewisville; #9 Erin H. Born 9 June 1882 at Big Cottonwood and died 29 Jan 1885; #10 Lenora H. Born 10 Sep. 1884 married 26 April 1905 William Nibley; #11 Rachel Ann H. Born 30 Dec. 1886 at Lewisville and died 1 Feb. 1904.

John Arrowsmith’s life had been one of pioneering from the beginning to the end. As a young lad he walked behind the oxen prodding them onward as the plow broke the virgin soil. He helped clear the sagebrush plains that are fertile farms and gardens in this valley. He stands along with others as an integral part in the settlement of Lewisville, Idaho.

Information taken from the Lewisville Centennial Book 1882-1982 by Joyce Lindstrum page 75 She did a tremendous job getting so many histories for the book.