

Laurence Leroy Andersen 1888

Have you ever heard of trapping? That's what my Great-Grandpa Laurence Leroy Andersen did for over thirty years! Laurence was born July 25, 1888 in Bear River City, Utah. He was born in a nice house where his mother, Sofia Petranella Jorgensen, gave birth to him, with a lot of pain involved.

There were fourteen children in his family, eight brothers and five sisters! He was the sixth child out of that long line!

When he was a child he enjoyed horseback riding and baseball. Laurence played fair in any game he played. He gained a lot of trust because of those simple acts in his games. As a young boy, Laurence also had a job on a farm where he gathered hay into piles. He woke up at five and worked until nightfall. Laurence was only paid a couple dollars for his hard work.

Laurence was married to Elizabeth Ann Barnett on March 18, 1909. They enjoyed their peaceful marriage and had seven children, two girls and five boys. They all got along very well with one another.

My great-grandpa earned an eight grade education at the age of fourteen and later on worked for the federal government as a trapper. My grandpa often watched his dad and said that Laurence was one of the best trappers around.

My dad has one of the traps that Laurence used to capture coyotes, mountain lions, and bears. On a piece of wood he mounted the trap and wrote out some personal history about his grandpa. This trap has a chain on it to stake it to the ground so the predators can't get away. My dad remembers going to Laurence's shed and seeing the rusty old traps the great-grandpa used. On one of the side walls was the fur skin of the coyotes that Laurence had trapped.

He hiked through valleys and climbed the mountains in northern Utah helping sheepherders by getting rid of the coyotes that preyed on their sheep. Once my great-grandpa helped a man set traps for grizzly bears. The traps that they used for the grizzly bears were much bigger and had large teeth so that it would have a better grip on the huge foot of the monstrous beast. Laurence was a great trapper. He set thousands of traps. Once he rode his horse 60 miles from Evanston, Wyoming to Ogden, Utah for trapping purposes.

He got paid for his trapping and used the money to provide for his large family. Laurence was a great big strong outdoorsman with many talents. He retired from trapping at age 65 because he was too old to carry on. I'm sure he needed the rest!

Everyone thought of Laurence as a kind, generous and honest man. When he went in to get a loan, he didn't have to sign anything. The banker just shook hands with him because he knew that Laurence would be honest with the money and pay it back. My great-grandpa died February 2, 1975 at the age of 87. He lived a long and honest life. His death was hard for many

people. Laurence Leroy Andersen was an amazing man loved by everyone.

I wish I had known him. From what I have learned, I imagine his life may have been difficult, but also very interesting and adventurous. I feel proud to be the great-granddaughter of Laurence Leroy Andersen.

By Hannah Andersen
February 23, 2006