

## David H. Garner

Prepared by David H. Garner For Sons of the Utah Pioneers

David was born to Henry A. Garner and Ruth Mace Waddell, in the small community of Alta, Teton County, Wyoming. There in the western shadows of the Grand Teton Peaks he learned the value of hard work on the farm that was homesteaded by his maternal great-grandmother, Leonora Cannon Lambert Waddell, and her son David L. Waddell in Alta. David L. Waddell's father, Isaac M. Waddell served as legal counsel to Brigham Young.



David attended the Alta Elementary School, where he graduated from the eighth grade. He attended high school in Driggs, Idaho. After his graduation from high school, young David attended Brigham Young University for one year before filling a mission to the Northern California Mission (1955-1957).

After his mission he continued his studies at BYU, graduating with a degree in Physics and a minor emphasis in mathematic. By the time of his graduation, David had married Marcia Jean Evans, and they had two sons, Brian and Dean.

Post graduation saw this little family employed in Church Education, with David teaching seminary in St. George, Utah, for three years (1961-64). He was transferred to Logan, Utah for a year, and then to Star Valley, Wyoming for three years. His seminary teaching was rewarding, and during that time they added two daughters to their family, Jan and Joan. While teaching seminary in Afton, Wyoming, David completed his Masters Degree in Educational Administration, with a minor emphasis in counseling (1968)..

In the fall of 1968 David was assigned to teach institute at Chaffey College in Alta Loma, California. This seven-year period of time was highlighted by his building a new institute building, serving as a bishop in the Upland II Ward, and then in the Alta Loma Ward. While there he also did doctoral studies at USC in Los Angeles in Higher Education. David and Marcia's family was blessed with a foster child that would remain with them for the next twenty years and more. They also had an Indian Placement Student from the Apache Reservation live with them for two years. So there was much growth and learning in the Garner family.

In 1975 David was transferred to Billings, Montana to serve as the Institute Director, and as the Seminary coordinator for some thirty early morning seminary classes, and also about thirty-five seminary classes on two Indian Reservations: the Northern Cheyenne and the Crow. The two years in Billings were cut short when David was asked to move to the Salt Lake area where he would serve on the curriculum writing committee for Institute, at the Church Office Building, which assignment lasted for the next nine years.

During that time, 1977-1986, David also served in the Stake Presidency in Kaysville. He was the

Stake Executive Secretary for about one year, then was called as the first counselor to Newell J. Law. In 1979-80 David and his family were sent to Israel where he served as the director of a six-month study abroad program for college age students. While in Israel he continued as the First Counselor in his stake presidency at home, but was now called to be in the Jerusalem Branch Presidency, with Daniel Ronna as the Branch President. It was a choice time for the Garners, but was also filled with challenges, some of which were very trying. The major difficulty was with sickness among the ninety or so students while they lived on a Kibbutz during the six months. (For the next nineteen years he led BYU Study Tours to the Holy Land nearly every year with adult guests who wanted that special experience.)

After coming home, David continued working in the Church Office Building on the curriculum staff, and was soon called as the Stake President in his Kaysville community. In 1986 David was transferred to the Ogden Institute of Religion adjacent to Weber State College, where he taught for nine years, making it some eighteen years that they lived in their Kaysville, Utah home. During that time all of their children grew up, married, and moved to various places for their education and vocation. Both sons followed the footsteps of their father as teachers in Church Education.

In 1995 David and Marcia were transferred to Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada where he served as the coordinator of church education in lower B.C. This proved to be David's last professional assignment, for he retired and moved back to Kaysville in the fall of 1996.

In Jan 1997 he was called as a sealer in the Bountiful Temple, and continues as such in the St. George temple at the present time. He and Marcia moved to Ivins in 1999 and have enjoyed their lovely home in Padre Lakes PUD since then.

In 2004-2005 David and Marcia served a full-time mission for the Church in the Carlsbad Mission in Southern California. Their son, Brian, was their mission president. David has been a member of the SUP for the past four years.