

Joseph Smith Hall

From *Stories of Theron Smith Hall, His Parents and Grandparents*
Written by Dorothy Lufkin Davenport Hall
For her grandchildren in 1977

Once upon a time there was a little boy named Joseph. He lived with his father and mother and brothers and sisters in a little pioneer town in Utah. It was a pretty little town between Utah Lake and Hobble Creek Canyon, and was called Springville.

Joseph's first home was made of logs and lumber, but later he lived in a house made of sun-dried clay bricks called "dobies."

A high wall made of dirt and clay and rocks surrounded the little town to protect it from Indians who roamed back and forth through the valley. Joseph and his friends played near the wall and even climbed to the top to run and play on its wide surface.

The boys liked to gather at the mill pond north of town to swim and play. A favorite game was to choose sides and make clay balls which they threw at each other from the ends of pointed sticks.

It wasn't all play for Joseph and his friends, though. It was their task to herd the cows and see that they didn't stray and get lost.

Although Joseph was only eleven years old at the time of the Black Hawk Indian War, he took his turn herding the stock and acting as a "minute man" watching for Indians.

Then, too, Joseph often went with his father to the canyon for tan bark. This was the inner bark of the red pine tree and was used in making leather.

It was Joseph's job to gather up the bark as it was ready and pile it in the wagon. One time he was busily gathering up the bark, when he turned to see why their little dog was barking so furiously, and he saw a BEAR! He ran to where his father was working and excitedly told him about the bear he had seen. But his father went on peeling tan bark and said, "Nonsense, Joseph, nonsense. Go on back and pile up the tan bark."

Joseph did as he was told, but the bear was still there, so he hurriedly scrambled into the wagon. The bear would start toward the wagon, and the little dog would bark, and the bear would stop. They did this several times, and finally, the bear tired, and bothered by the little dog's antics ambled off, just as Joseph's father came to see what all the commotion was about. He saw the bear and cried, "You're right Joseph! It is a bear! Big as an ox! Big as the hind wheel of a wagon! Get the oxen, so we can hitch up and go home."

And so they did.

Joseph's full name was Joseph Smith Hall. He had eleven children, like his father, Edward and his grandfather, Jacob.

Two of his children were Owen and Theron.

Joseph Smith Hall (born 1854, died 1916).