

MINI-BIOGRAPHY No. 78 (Autobiography of Henry Charles Squire)

I was born 31 October 1911 in London, England, the youngest of five children born to William Squire and Theresa Florence Black. My oldest brother, John (Jack) died in 1945 at the age of 40. My sister, Hilda, still lives at Aldershot, England, where we grew up. My brother, Ernest, is spending his retirement near Midhurst in Sussex, Eng. My other brother, Harold, emigrated to Australia in 1947, where he still lives as far as we know. My parents are both deceased. Father died in 1936, and mother in 1967.

My childhood was uneventful. I enjoyed games common in England, especially cricket and soccer. Highlights were the summer holidays spent with my paternal grandparents in their thatched cottage in a pleasant village in Somersetshire, two miles from the sea in south-west England.

In my late teens I became acquainted with the LDS Church, and was particularly impressed by the story related by the Prophet Joseph Smith. I was baptized 5 Jan. 1932.

On the outbreak of World War II I was found to be medically unfit for active service, and I worked as a civilian for the War Department in Aldershot, an important military centre.

In 1942, while acting as Branch President of a small branch of the church which had been organized mainly for the benefit of L.D.S. service personnel stationed in Aldershot and vicinity, I met a "Home Missionary", Sister Henrietta Martin, who had been assigned to visit the Aldershot Branch. Sister Martin's home was in Southampton. We found that we had many things in common, and our friendship culminated in our marriage at Mission Headquarters, "Ravenslea", in London on the 14th of June the same year.

After our marriage, we lived in Aldershot, and church meetings were held in our home. During that time we met many L.D.S. service men, British, American, and, mainly Canadian, some of whom were from the Cardston area, including Glen Thomas, Austin Bennett and his brother, Lynn, Mark Schow, Myron Berry, Rex Miller, also Dick Smith and Ivan Workman from Hill Spring. Also during this period, three children were born to us: Janet Ruth, born 6 April 1943; Marion Jean, 30 May 1944; and our only son, John William, 19 June 1946.

In 1947, after much thought and some encouragement from Canadian friends, we decided to emigrate to Canada. After some delay due to the shortage of ships, we finally sailed from England 8 Feb. 1948, arriving in Magrath some two weeks later via New York and Niagara Falls, Ontario.

Because of the lack of employment in Magrath, we moved to Cardston the following April, where I obtained employment in the Cahoon Hotel. We remained in Cardston 4½ yrs., then moved to Red Deer, where we lived for the next 4½ years. Our fourth child and third daughter, Penelope Heather (Penny) was born in Red Deer, 8 July 1954.

We returned to Cardston early in January, 1957, as I had obtained employment at the Blood Indian Hospital, with the Department of National Health and Welfare. After an illness of several years, our eldest child, Janet, passed away 23 March 1957, two weeks before her 14th birthday.

In 1965 I was transferred to the Inuvik

General Hospital, and we left Cardston, 15 May 1965. Marion was attending Ricks College, and John was preparing to go on a mission. He was called to serve in the French Mission, and left for the Mission Home in Salt Lake City in October the same year.

We stayed in Inuvik for almost two years, and it proved to be an interesting experience. At that time there was a branch of the church there, consisting of approximately 40 members, including the children. Branch President Bide Clark met us at the Inuvik airport.

At the end of March, 1967, I was transferred to Regional Headquarters in Edmonton. There we spent 9½ years as members of the Edmonton First Ward. Our stay in the capital city was very enjoyable. Penny completed Grade XII at Strathcona High School, and obtained employment with the Department of National Revenue, where she has worked for almost four years.

Marion married Ken Mitchell, a son of William and Edna Hancock Mitchell, formerly of Raymond. They have six children--four sons and two daughters--and expect a seventh child by the time the MESSENGER is printed.

John served 2½ years in the mission field, returning from France in April 1968. He enrolled in the University of Alberta faculty of Education the same year, and completed the four years B. Ed. program, majoring in the French language. Also in 1968 he met Myrna Hillyer, daughter of Fred and Louise Hillyer of the Cardston Fourth Ward, and they were married in the Alberta Temple in December that year. (Marion and Ken were also married in the temple.) John and Myrna have two sons, and have adopted a Lamanite daughter, who was sealed to them in February of this year.

In October, 1976, I retired from the Public Service after almost 20 years with the Department of National Health and Welfare, and we were happy to return to Cardston after an absence of 11½ years.

I am now employed as "Temple Recorder" at the Alberta Temple, as of the middle of last October. One could not hope for a pleasanter job in a more serene and peaceful atmosphere than this.

Church positions which I have held include assistant stake clerk, ward clerk, ward financial clerk, stake missionary, branch clerk, Sunday School teacher, Sunday school president, ward music chairman, ward organist, and choir member. I was ordained a Seventy 14 May 1949 by Joseph Fielding Smith; and a High Priest by President LeRoy Rollins of the Edmonton Stake on 16 August 1970.

Sister Squire has worked faithfully in auxiliaries wherever we have lived--the Relief Society in Edmonton First Ward, the Sunday School and Primary in the Cardston Third Ward, and the Relief Society in Inuvik.

Our children are active in the wards and branches where they live--John in the Elders' Quorum at Pincher Creek, where he is a teacher in the Lundbrick High School; Marion in the Relief Society at Fort St. John where they live; and Penny in the Junior Sunday School at Edmonton.

Sister Squire and I enjoy quite good health, and hope to continue to enjoy living at our present home at 363 2A Ave., West, for many years to come.