

**BIOGRAPHY OF GEORGE LEONARD GOODRICH  
AND HIS WIFE  
MARION VILATE REMINGTON**

George Leonard Goodrich of Naples, Utah was born 30 October 1863 at Salt Lake City, son of George Albert and Eliza Ann Taggart Goodrich. He died 20 September 1930 in Naples.

He was married 28 October 1886 in the Logan Temple to Marion Vilate Remington (born 8 April 1863 in Paradise, Utah, daughter of Jerome N. and Lydia R. B. Remington.) She died 21 February 1925 at the LDS Hospital in Salt Lake City.

George spent his infancy in Salt Lake City. His father had been a Utah pioneer of 1850. When a young child, in 1868, his parents were called by the Mormon prophet to help colonize the Muddy Mission in southern Nevada, between St. George and Las Vegas. This was one of the least desirable of all Mormon colonies, being situated in one of the West's dreariest, most desolate wastelands.

However, a controversy with Nevada over payment of taxes soon caused the Church leaders to recommend abandonment of the Muddy settlements in 1871, and many of the colonists including the Goodrich family moved to Long Valley, east of the Zion region in Southern Utah. There they may have participated briefly in the Mormon United Order, but not for long, if at all, for they soon returned to Salt Lake City.

About 1872 George's father settled in Morgan County, and there George spent his teen years. He served as counselor in his deacon's quorum and as counselor to the superintendent of the Richville Sunday School. His father was sheriff of Morgan County for two terms, and for 16 years was miller at Morgan.

Shortly before his parents moved to Ashley Valley in 1885 George went to the Sugar City area in the Snake River Valley of Idaho and filed on 160 acres of land. When his family moved to Naples, however, George followed them and relinquished his claim in Idaho. He was well educated for those days and hoped to become a school teacher in Ashley Valley, but someone else had more influence and got the job he wanted. George was especially good in arithmetic.

George soon fell in love with a local girl, Marion Vilate Remington, and they traveled in a covered wagon to Logan, where they were married 28 October 1886 in the LDS Temple. Roxana, Marion's sister, was their chaperone.

The young couple made their home first in Joseph (Jode) Remington's granary at Naples, which was a brand-new settlement in a wild country. Their first child Laura was born there in 1887. The following year they moved into a part of Harriet Merrell's house, while George built a home on his farm. (Harriet was Marion's sister.) From 1889 until 1920 they lived in this farm home, then in the latter part of that year they moved

into another home up the street where Birchell now lives. George moved back to the old farm house after Marion's death in 1925 and stayed there the remaining few years of his life.

George had 69 acres of land which his boys later helped him farm. He also worked at odd jobs for a while. During the late 1880s and into the 1890s, under a government contract, he cut and hauled cedar cordwood, as well as hay and grain, to the military post at Fort Duchesne, subcontracting part of his orders to other suppliers. Also, during the early 1890s he started buying and raising cattle, and this was one of his main enterprises for the next ten years or so, until he sold them to buy the store in Naples.

Laura recalls that times were often hard during those early days; roads were poor, and sometimes there was little food. She also recalls her mother singing to the children at night to calm their fears while the coyotes howled outside. After they were finally settled, her father had a good garden and orchard and Laura recalls that he was most generous with his produce, delighting in supplying his neighbors and relatives. He would also hunt deer in the fall, bringing back a wagonload or two which would be salted and made into jerky for the winter.

George's father was a polygamist who was forced to leave his families for long periods during the years of federal prosecution. Being the oldest son in the family, George helped support his mother and his father's two other wives during these absences and at other times.

His children remember George as being very kind, generous, mild, pleasant and considerate--but firm. Over the years he helped many people in their time of need. For example, when the Ute Indian Reservation was opened to homesteading in the early 1900s he sometimes kept destitute families for weeks at a time, providing food and hay and never charging a cent. At other times he would let men work for him to earn a little, though he didn't need their help.

This incident related by Carlie Goodrich Duke is interesting:

One day Steven Atwood was telling me how he missed George L. Then he said, "Do you know your dad gave me the worst whipping I ever had?" I said, "Steve Atwood, my dad never in his life whipped anyone!" "Oh, yes he did. We were coming from the mountain one day and we were hungry; so I went into his orchard and picked a hatful of apples. As I went to climb the fence again, George L. said, 'Steven, come back here!' I went back. He said, 'Dump those apples down here,' and went on sorting apples. When his bucket was full he handed it to me and said, 'Here, take these home. They are much nicer.' And he made me take it."

Father's orchard, melons and so on were never molested like some of his neighbors were, who took a different attitude toward boys.

George had a partnership in the Naples store for a short period during the 1890s or around the turn of the century, but sold it. About 1904 he and Marion went into Vernal and asked Billy Gibson if he would lend them the amount they needed to buy entire interest in the store. Mr. Gibson was willing to do this, but George had to insist that he take his note, as Billy didn't believe he needed more than George's promise to repay. George then sold his cattle to help pay for the store. The family kept this store for many years until 1918, with various members helping in its operation.

George and his father ranged their cattle in the rugged area east of Naples near Split Mountain Gorge of the Green River. They knew the country well but were unaware of the fabulous deposits of huge dinosaur bones that were later to make the area famous. George's father drove the scientist, Earl Douglas all over that area and down into the Book Cliffs country searching for promising sites for excavation. Mr. Douglas later did more to develop the Split Mountain quarry than any other man, and it was eventually afforded federal protection within Dinosaur National Monument. More dinosaur fossils have been removed from this quarry than any other place in the world.

George became an active citizen of Naples. He was president of the Ashley Central Irrigation Company for some years, being responsible in large degree for development of the local irrigation system. There was considerable litigation over Ashley Creek water at one time, and his efforts were instrumental in protecting local water rights.

During the 1890s he was County Road Supervisor, and his service as a state road foreman until 1930 totaled 25 years. He was also marshal or constable of Naples during the 1880s and 1890s and had some interesting experiences in connection with this law enforcement job. Incidentally, many people called him "Judge" or "Jud", not because of any position, but because his little sister couldn't pronounce George and made it sound like Judge.

George was also active in local Mormon Church affairs. He was a counselor in the Naples Ward YMMIA and a counselor to Bishop Thomas J. Caldwell of the Naples Ward, about 1886 to 1889. He was also a Sunday School teacher for many years, as well as being a ward teacher.

Marion had grown up in Paradise, where she was born, and at the age of 16 moved with her mother, family and relatives to White River. She was 23 at the time of her marriage to George L. Goodrich and bore eight children during the next 16 1/2 years. At the time of Laura's birth, Marion developed milk leg and she suffered with it until her death. Most people did not know just how bad her health was and how much she suffered until after she passed away.

Like George, Marion was active in LDS affairs. Before her marriage she was secretary of YWMIA. She was a Relief Society teacher for years and was president of the Primary for as long as her health permitted. For many years she sang in the ward choir, at entertainments, funerals, conferences, and even political rallies. She had a full,

strong soprano which was outstanding for obbligato parts, and she could sing solos, duets, quartets etc.

None of Marion's writings are available to us except a letter written to Evelyn Iverson in 1910 in which she said, "I get so homesick to see you that sometimes I hardly know how to stand it. It seems like you are the main link between your mother, grandma and me, and I get so lonesome and homesick to see them."

Marion suffered much during her last years. She was operated on for non-malignant tumors in January 1925 and was recuperating nicely when a blood clot formed in her left ankle. The clot moved to her right ankle and she was taken back to the hospital where it was found necessary to amputate her leg. Three days later she passed away, on the 21st of February 1925.

References: Laura G. Teeples, George R. Goodrich, Carlie G. Duke, Naples Ward Records, Pioneers and Prominent Men of Utah, DUP Treasures of Pioneer History, Sep. 1955, p 216.

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### **INCIDENTS IN THE LIFE OF GEORGE LEONARD GOODRICH As Told by Laura Goodrich Teeples to Marguerite Thomas Kidd**

George L. was about five years old when the family left for the Muddy Mission. While living in this southern settlement my father said the ground was so hot that when he had to go on errands he would carry all the alfalfa he could manage under his arm to toss on the hot ground to step on when his bare feet could stand it no longer. He would stand a while until his feet cooled somewhat, then he would pick up the hay and continue in that manner until the errand was completed.

His mother made pants for the boys out of two-bushel seamless wheat sacks. She would make the boys' pants so the stripes would run lengthwise on the outside of the legs and the boys felt very well-dressed in them.

When George Albert Goodrich was called by the General Authorities of the Church to operate the flour mill in Morgan, my father's main job was to see that there was plenty of wood for each of the three families. He hauled it from the surrounding mountains and cut or chopped it for use.

After George Albert and Eliza moved to Ashley Valley, now known as Vernal, Utah, George Leonard was sent by team to bring Harriet Goodrich and her family to Vernal. He said it was a long, hard trip. On the return trip it was snowing through

Strawberry Valley, but they arrived safely. Later Rhoda Goodrich moved to Vernal. They all settled in Merrell Ward, later known as Naples.

My father said there was a fort or stockade that stood where the Ashley Co-op and Colthorp Building were later built. The J. C. Penney Store and Bank of Vernal now stand there.

My father met Marion Vilate Remington, with whom he fell in love. They were married 28 October 1886 in the Logan Temple. The sister of my mother, Roxey Remington, went with them. They traveled by team and wagon.

Marion Vilate Remington was born 8 April 1863. She was the daughter of Jerome Napoleon Remington and Lydia Ripley Badger of Paradise, Utah.

Father made a home out of Uncle Joseph Remington's big granary where I, Laura Violet, was born 28 August 1887. Later my father traded his team of horses, Sailor and Nett to Uncle Rodney Remington for 69 acres of land. He, my father, went up into the mountains northwest of Vernal, near Dry Fork, cut the trees into logs, and hauled them to his land. He took an adz, flattened the logs on two sides and built a one-room house. George R. was born there 1 August 1889. Then Carlie was born 31 December 1890. We children slept on a big straw tick on the floor. Later, Father added another room, so we had a kitchen. Five more children were born in this home. They were: Jerome, born 5 June 1893; Birchell, born 21 Oct 1895; Helen, born 6 Feb 1897; Joseph Afton, born 23 Aug 1901; and Esther, born 5 May 1903.

Porter Merrell, who married Mother's sister, Harriet Remington, saw the need for a school house and a chapel, so he went to the mountains and got the logs. He brought them down and with other men helping him, a large building of one room was erected. This building was used for a chapel and a school house. Because of his work and planning, the ward was first named Merrell Ward in his honor. They held stake conference in this chapel for a long time because it was the largest chapel in the Valley.

Soon after Esther was born, Father bought a store. It was called the George L. Goodrich Store, sometimes called The Naples Store. This store was first built by the Roberts brothers for a dance hall. One night they were having a dance and some men who had come from Vernal were drinking and fighting. My father, who was Constable at that time, went to arrest them. When he got there, one of the men hit him over the head with a club. Another fellow tried to stab him while he was stunned, and he was slit across his head from front to back. His heavy coat was slashed and he had deep cuts on his back and arms. Father managed to get control and turned them over to another officer to hold until he could get his head bandaged. When he returned, the men had escaped.

The stabber left town for nearly a year, then returned to his wife and children. Soon after the man returned he was driving to town with his wife and her parents. Just as they passed our home, Father shot a pig he was butchering. The man in the wagon thought he was being shot at and in total fear whipped his team into a high run. When

Father was told what had happened he laughed and said that the man's own punishment of himself, because of guilt, was punishment enough, so the matter was dropped.

Later the old Roberts Dance Hall was sold and converted into a store. This building had a dirt roof that caved in. A new building was erected in its place and had been used as store for a few years when Father bought it. He also bought the big home just south of the store where my brother Birchell now resides.

Father finally sold the store and was put in charge of the highway from the Colorado state line to the Duchesne county line about one mile east of Roosevelt. His title was County Road Commissioner. He stayed with that job until he became too ill to work.

After Rhoda Goodrich Roberts died, my parents took care of her infant son, Stanley Dee, until he was six years old.

Editor's note: Stanley became a successful businessman in American Fork. "He has served in the Church as a stake president, a high counselor in two stakes, and as Stake Sunday School President. He also served as a Stake Mission President and as a counselor in the Mission presidency." (Deseret News, Church Section May 11, 1974.) Stanley has recently been called as Mission President. He and his wife, the former Madge Munk, will serve in the New Mexico-Arizona Mission.