

FUNERAL SERVICE FOR WADE HAMPTON PICKETT 11 March 1980

Written and delivered by his son-in-law David R. Roberts

I have been asked to relate a little of the history of Wade Pickett to you. Part of the material has been taken from the history and journals written by him, and a few of the things I shall relate are taken from my personal experiences with him.

Wade Hampton Pickett, name after the confederate general Lieutenant General Wade Hampton, Commander of the well known Hampton's Legion, Confederate States Army, was born in Salt Lake City on 25 August 1893. He was born in an adobe house on what is now known as Quince Street, and that house remains standing today. He died peacefully early in the morning of 8 March 1980 in Bountiful, Utah.

His father was John Pickett who was born in Chieveley, Berkshire, England on 2 August 1846. His mother was Charlotte Rebecca White who was born at Pacific Springs, Wyoming, on 7 October 1849. He was the youngest of 11 children in the family. He had five brothers and five sisters. He was the last survivor of those brothers and sisters.

When he was one year old the Pickett family moved to Providence, Utah and he spent the next 17 years at that location. In 1910 the family moved to Clawson, Idaho. In 1913 they returned to Providence. During these years and at the different residences the Pickett family was engaged in farming.

In June 1916 Wade Pickett joined the Utah National Guard, and except for a short period in 1917, he served on active duty until March 1919. His military service included duty in California, in Arizona patrolling the Mexican-US border and in France during WWI. He enlisted as a private and in a very short time he was appointed to the rank and position of First Sergeant. At that time the rank of First Sergeant was the highest enlisted rank in the Army. He was subsequently appointed a Second Lieutenant of Artillery and held that rank during his service in France. He was discharged as a Second Lieutenant in March 1919.

Before leaving for France, he married Pearl Chugg on 23 July 1918 at San Diego, California. Their marriage was solemnized in the Logan Temple soon after his discharge from the Army.

The first home of Wade and Pearl was in Blackfoot, Idaho where he was employed by the Union Pacific Railroad. He remained in the employ of the UP RR except for about two years, until his retirement in 1958. During the two years that he was not employed by the railroad he ranched in Idaho. However, these were not successful years

financially, and when he and a partner left the ranching operation they were seriously in debt to a bank. The bank wrote off the debt due to economic conditions, but Wade, over a period of years and at considerable sacrifice, repaid the bank not only his share of the debt, but the share of his partner. That says something about the character and honesty of this man.

Bonnie, a daughter, and Rex, a son, were born to Wade and Pearl while they were living in Blackfoot. Rex died at about the age of 26 months.

In 1924 railroad employment took Wade, Pearl and Bonnie to Lima, Montana, where they stayed until July 1925.

In July 1925 the family made the move to Salt Lake City, and enroute they stopped long enough in Providence for the arrival of a son Jack. Later, while still in Salt Lake City, a daughter, Patricia was born.

In January 1932 the family left Salt Lake City and moved to Provo. In the spring of 1937 the family returned to Salt Lake City for a short stay and in August of that same year moved to Pocatello, Idaho. In my view that was the best move the family ever made as Bonnie was in my high school class.

Early in November 1941, one week before Bonnie and I were married, the Pickett family moved to Bountiful. For the next 33 years and 4 months Wade Pickett was a resident of this community.

After he retired from the Union Pacific Railroad he devoted the rest of his life serving his family, his Church, and his community. In August 1973 his beloved companion, Pearl, passed away. He was the father of two sons and two daughters. He was the grandfather of two granddaughters and seven grandsons, and he was the great grandfather of six grandsons.

He served the Church in numerous callings. Of particular note are his callings as a Stake Missionary, September 1943 to March 1946; as Bishop of Bountiful 1st Ward 22 October 1950 to 8 February 1953; worker in the Salt Lake Temple 1960-65; Sealer in the Salt Lake Temple 1964-67. He was ordained a Stake Patriarch on 15 August 1954, and he served in two different Bountiful Stakes as the Stake Patriarch.

Throughout all of his autobiographical writings there are a number interwoven main thoughts. First, there are his expressions of his strong and continuing love for his family, particularly his mother. Second, is the feeling of love and support that he received from his family, again, particularly from his mother. Third, his love for, and

the pleasure he received from attend and working in the Church. He had a strong and constant testimony of the truthfulness of the Gospel. Fourth, his deep and abiding love for Pearl, his companion of 55 years on this earth. He attributed to Pearl most of his success in this world. Fifth, his love for his children and his concern for their well being.

Wade did not speak directly in his writing of his great humility, his love of country, his honesty and his belief in earning everything that he received in this life. However, these attributes stand out in stark reality in the things that he wrote. His children, his grandchildren, and his great grandchildren have an incomparable example after which they can pattern their lives.

I first met Wade and Pearl and Jack and Pat when I met and started to court Bonnie in 1937. At that time Wade was working 12 hours a day, seven days a week and I suppose he was always tired. At least at that time, I thought he was a very gruff and tough person. When I would knock on the Pickett front door to call on Bonnie I was always apprehensive that her Dad would open the door with the greeting of, "Well, what do you want?" I thought that what I wanted was obvious, but I was ever fearful that he might chase me away. It was some time before I became smart enough to realize that under that gruff exterior was a warm, softhearted, compassionate and generous person who had a really great sense of humor. On many occasions I have said that if I had been looking for a Father-in-law and Mother-in-law instead of a wife I count not have done better than having Wade and Pearl Pickett.

I recall that in about 1954 while my family and I were living in Augusta, Georgia, Wade and Pearl came to visit us. One of the places we took them was to the State Capitol building and grounds at Columbia, South Carolina. The purpose of that trip was to show them the large statue of LTG Wade Hampton, the man for whom he was named. The statue shows the general on horseback and was of great interest to Wade.

One time when we were living in San Antonio, Texas, Wade and Pearl visited us, and I was somewhat surprised that one of the places he wanted to see was the Buckhorn Saloon. He had heard of this unique place from his brother, Harlow, who had been stationed in San Antonio during WW I, and he wanted to see it. Actually, it is a very good place to have lunch and it was decorated with hundreds of deer, elk, and moose antlers and the huge horns of the Texas Longhorn cattle.

I had many very pleasant and valuable experiences with Wade Pickett. I have a great love for him and I shall miss him, but I know that he is happier today than he has been for 6 or 7 years. When I contemplate the joyous reunion that is taking place between

Wade, Pearl, Rex, John and Charlotte and all of his brothers and sisters, I find it difficult to feel anything except happiness in knowing that he is now reunited with those whom he loved best and who returned that love to him.

By the kind of life he lived, I know that when the judgement is made, Wade and Pearl Pickett will dwell in the Celestial Kingdom with our Father in Heaven. I know that this is true, and so testify to you in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.