

Chester

Source: History of Sanpete County, FHL 979.25 H2h, selections from pp. 555-7, 563
Transcription by: Chad G. Nichols, 16 Jan 2005

KUMP, ZACHARIAH, farmer, son of David and Barbara, was born in York county, Pa., July 3, 1830. In '31 the family removed to Ohio and later to Wisconsin. When Zachariah was 21 he went to California and engaged in mining and farming. In '67 he came to Moroni, bringing a threshing machine, and the next year he went back and hauled out another. He came to Chester in the spring of '81 and now has a nice, well-improved forty-acre farm. Is a stockholder in the Moroni Co-op store, and a prominent man of Chester. Was married in Moroni January 1, 1870, to Elizabeth Cloward, who had three children: David, Edward and George, and died in Moroni. He was married again to Catherine Cloward, by whom he has ten living children: Ellen, Susan, Eliza, Louesa, Zachariah, Lewis, Willis, Jacob, Loren, Edna and Katie, and one, Addie M., deceased.

[NOTE by Chad G. Nichols: He actually had 5 children with Elizabeth Ann Cloward (Mary Barbara and Elizabeth Ann are missing from the list) and 15 children with Mary Catherine Cloward (Parley, Carlyle, and Dean Emerson are missing from the list)]

Chester is the most centrally located village in Sanpete County, and occupies a fertile spot, the superior of which is not found in central Utah. The place is fragrant with flower gardens, delicious fruit orchards and productive fields of waving grain and succulent grasses. In the early days of colonial history in this county the present site of this prosperous community was one vast hay meadow, used by the citizens of Moroni, Mt. Pleasant and Spring City. The people would camp at different points on Canal creek bottoms, cut and stack their hay, and while seated round the harvest dinner, would predict that some day the land would be owned and occupied by thrifty and industrious farmers.

May 1, 1870, Hon. David Candland located his present homestead, and in '75 removed to his farm. He was followed soon by Hans Beck and family and later by R. W. Allred, I. N. Allred, James A. Allred, George Farnsworth, Joseph Bagnall and others, who have made of Chester its present magnificent colony of contented and peaceful people, surrounded by the necessities and comforts of life. But these surroundings were not obtained without many hard and trying days, months and years of privation. The Indian troubles had not ceased when the pioneers first located their claims and a lone settler never knew when his life or property was safe from the savages' bullets and firebrands. The men and women who colonized Chester were old pioneers who cared not for obstacles and therefore entered upon their farms with a determination to succeed and their purposes have been accomplished.

The mail was carried from Spring City by the voluntary services of David Candland until '77, when a special postoffice [sic] was established, with Mrs. A. W. Candland as postmistress. The name of Chesterfield, as suggested by David Candland, was changed by the postal department to Chester and the very appropriate title remains. The first important step of colonization began with co-operative efforts of Hans Beck four large bodies of water have been impounded at a cost of \$15,000 and a good supply obtained. This with the canals from the Sanpitch river and individual ditches insures the maturing of the best crops of cereals and grasses and makes possible the extended cultivation of smaller farms, orchards, vineyards and gardens.

The Chester Sanpitch Canal company, is an incorporated irrigation enterprise. This company was incorporated April 16, 1891, with a capital stock of \$2,220, fully paid up by the farmers owning land along the two-mile canal. The Chester Reservoir company is incorporated for \$15,000. Stock in the reservoir used to irrigate the principal agricultural lands sells at \$30 per acre. The village has a population of about 400 people engaged in farming, stockraising and woolgrowing. The agricultural output aggregates 50,000 bushels of grain, 25,000 tons of hay and other crops in proportion every year. The Meadow View and Moroni creameries pay Chester residents about \$500 per month for milk, thus insuring a cash income of \$6,000 yearly from that one source. Two good schools are maintained during the school year and able teachers are employed. The teachers for '98 are: Olivia Larsen, E. C. Anderson and Fannie Candland. The trustees are: Joseph Beck, David Candland and Peter Rasmussen in one, and William Daniels, Phillip Marx and E. J. Conrad in the other.

Allred Bros. own and operate the only mercantile house in Chester and do a business of about \$5,000 annually. They also have the postoffice [sic] and distribute mail twice every day. Chester citizens are veterans in Indian wars and peaceably inclined people, but when the country demanded assistance in the war with Spain to free the Cubans from bondage two patriotic young men responded. Theo C. Candland was accepted and Andrew Nelson rejected on account of defect in eyesight. Others were anxious to enlist and would have entered the service of the Government if another call had been made for troops. Chester has a well organized ward of Latter-day Saints under the able control of Bishop Christian Christensen and counsellors [sic]. The several church societies are kept up and the people are contented and happy, with so demoralizing influences in the community or in close proximity. Chester is an excellent illustration of the happiness of a pastoral life in the mountain vales.