



Type: Magazine Article

---

## Looking Back at Ancient America

Author(s): William Farnsworth and Dewey Farnsworth

Source: *Improvement Era*, Vol. 44, No. 9 (September 1941), p. 537

Published by: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

---

**Abstract:** No abstract available.

## MORMONISM IN THE BUSHMAN FAMILY

By J. Virgil Bushman

A Grandson of Martin and Elizabeth Bushman

**A** MISSIONARY STORY THAT BEGAN A HUNDRED YEARS AGO—AND THE END IS NOT YET.

**O**NE hundred years ago, in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, two Mormon missionaries called at the home of Martin and Elizabeth Dagen Bushman and taught the restored Gospel of Jesus Christ, which they believed and accepted. A few months later they were baptized and joined the Church, the only ones of their people to do so.

Two years later in June, 1842, this thrifty couple with their four living children bade their relatives goodbye and started on their first long journey, crossing four states, that they might gather with the Saints in Nauvoo, Illinois.

Here they lived for four years, helping to build up the city and the temple, in which they received their endowments, December 25, 1845. Two more children were born to them at Nauvoo.

Owing to severe persecutions, they were obliged to leave their new home in this beautiful city, to find a place where they could worship in peace and live their religion. In September of 1846, they left all their possessions and accompanied the Saints westward into Iowa, tarrying at Garden Grove to raise crops for the Saints who came later.

After enduring many hardships and burying two of their children in this frontier country, they made preparations for the long trek to the Rocky Mountains. The family gathered enough provisions, clothing, two yoke of oxen, two yoke of cows and one wagon, starting the early part of June, 1851, with a company of the Saints for the great Salt Lake, where they arrived that fall. A few days later they settled with thirty other families in Lehi, twenty-eight miles south of Salt Lake City.

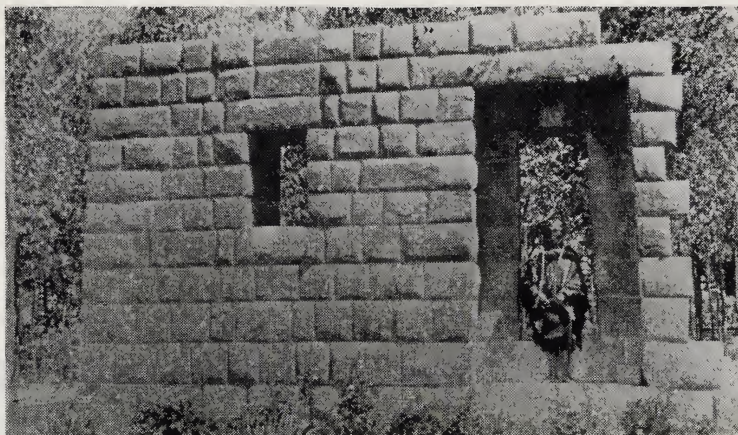
Here again they built homes, tilled the soil, and prospered, living their religion in peace. From this town the family grew and spread over the land until now they are living in ten western states, three eastern states, and Canada. The posterity of Martin and Elizabeth Bushman to date number 1,010 living and 116 dead, making a total of 1,126, including in-laws. Seventy-six per cent of them own their own homes.

This family is active in civic and Church affairs, holding offices in the Church in quorums of the Priesthood, in bishoprics, and the auxiliaries. In addition, they have performed ordinances in the temples for over 18,000 of their kindred dead.

(Concluded on page 564)

## LOOKING BACK AT

## Ancient America



RUINS OF AN INCA PALACE, CUZCO, PERU

The walls at Cuzco are built of stones of great magnitude, having seldom less than from six to nine angles; yet they are so closely and firmly joined that the interstices almost escape detection. Some of the walls are constructed with two casings of stone and the interval is filled up with pebbles and a mortar of clay, the whole forming a mass almost equal to stone in hardness. Note the double doorway of different size in this particular picture, with the extra long stone forming the top of the outer entrance.



SILLUSTANE, PERU. "CHULPAS" OR BURIAL TOMBS

In the country once governed by the Incas, tumuli are of frequent occurrence. They are sepulchres, called "Chulpas" by the natives, the depositories of much of the riches and treasures of the deceased. These burial tombs consist of a stone casing usually from fifty to sixty feet high. About a mile and a half south of Lima is one nearly two hundred feet high. It appears most probable that the bodies of deceased chieftains and other persons of consequence were buried in the "Chulpas" and that those of ordinary individuals were deposited in common graves. Note the perfection and strength with which the masonry is constructed by the seams not coming together. The crack in the stone work near the top seems to be due to earthquakes, which are prevalent in this region.



PRE-INCA WALL; ROADWAY IN CUZCO, PERU

This causeway, which compares favorably with the finest Roman roads, is lined with freestone and is perfectly straight, keeping the same direction for six or eight thousand metres. The wall at the side of the roadway, built of huge irregular stones, is of pre-Inca construction and denotes the higher degree of excellence to which this early civilization rose. The edifice superimposed upon it is of Spanish origin. These magnificent highways are confined not merely to Peru, but are found in various sections of South America.