

JOSEPH H. RIDGES

Joseph Harris Ridges, the builder of the Tabernacle organ in Salt Lake City, was born 25 April 1827 in Hampshire, England. He was trained in organ building as a youth in Southampton, England, and built his first organ in Australia, where he was converted to the restored gospel. Having come to the attention of Brigham Young, he moved to Salt Lake City, where he was asked to design an organ suitable for the tabernacle. When the tabernacle was opened for use in 1867, Ridges' organ was one-third complete. It was finished in 1877 with 2,638 pipes. Through the years, the organ has been rebuilt, electrified, and enlarged to 10,814 pipes. Joseph Ridges died 7 March 1914 in Salt Lake City.

Source:

Encyclopedia of Latter-day Saint History

Edited By Arnold K. Garr, Donald Q. Cannon, Richard O. Cowan

US/CAN Book 289.309 G191e

Page 1030

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In the early sixties (eighteen sixties), Joseph H. Ridges was selected by President Brigham Young and other leading citizens of Salt Lake City, to design and build an organ for the Tabernacle. Joseph H. Ridges was born in England but joined the Church in Australia. He was employed in Sydney, Australia, in an organ factory and by careful observation learned the details of organ building. The Tabernacle organ, which has been improved and enlarged since the days of Joseph H. Ridges, stands as a monument to his skill and untiring efforts.

Source:

Heart Throbs of the West

Compiled by Kate B. Carter, Daughters of the Utah Pioneers

FHL Book

US/CAN 979.2 H2cah

Vol. 3, page 79

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Source:

Our Pioneer Heritage

Compiled by Kate B. Carter, Daughters of the Utah Pioneers

FHL Book

US/CAN 979.2 H2c

Vol. 11, pages 102-117

See copies from Chapter *The Great Mormon Tabernacle* (page 69)

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Source:

Pioneers and Prominent Men of Utah

Frank Esshom

FHL Book

US/CAN 979.2 D3e

Part 1, page 1133 - Biography

Part 2, page 474 – Photograph

See copy