JOSIAH AUSTIN HAMMER, one of Cardston's most prominent pioneers and his wife ELIZABETH (Thompson) were with the first families who arrived in Cardston in 1887. Josiah was the youngest of the adults being 32 years of age, and his wife 28 years. They left Smithfield Utah on the 29th of March 1887, and arrived in Cardston June 3rd, having travelled with a four horse team - an extra horse and saddle pony and their personal belongings.

Josiah was a farmer. The grain was cut with a scythe, tied with straw binding and stacked. When it was dry, the heads of wheat were flailed with sticks. The grain had been spread on a big canvas which was then tossed up and down, letting the wind blow away the chaff and leaving the wheat.

In October 1894 the irrigation ditch on the south side of Lee's Creek was started with Josiah holding the plow for the first furrow.

Josiah was a comparatively wealthy stock raiser, and a shrewd business man. He was a stockholder and director in the Cardston Co. Ltd.

Josiah Hammer was the first Overseer of the Village of Cardston, being unanimously elected to that position in 1898. Under his regime the town rapidly improved, and this was an era of notable development.

He was Mayor of Cardston in 1906, 1907 and 1911. He was a member of the Town Council for many years from the date of its incorporation in 1902. During times of the Town's financial stress, Mr. Hammer raised money personally to pay the town's bills.

Through his efforts and others, there has never been a licenced saloon in Cardston.

He was Director of the local and district Agricultural Societies. He was President of the Liberal Association, and President of the Old Timer's Association.

In 1895 Josiah was made a Bishop in the L.D.S. Church. This position he held for fourteen years. Later he was made a Stake High Councilman.

His whole thought and attention was for the moral and temporal welfare of the people of Cardston. He had the faculty of making all those around him pleasant and happy. He was an advisor in business and spiritual matters to those who lived in Cardston during his existence there. He had integrity and was always cheerful and optimistic. He was a part of all that happened there. He was a real friend!
Elizabeth Hammer was a leader, an energetic and charitable woman. With turkey feathers as knitting needles, she knit many pairs of mittens to give to children who had none.

In 1887 Elizabeth (age 29) was called by Pres. Card to go to Logan and enrol in an eight month course in Obstetrics. This she did, and became a noted Mid-wife in the settlement. She was Cardston’s chief mid-wife and obstetrician. She delivered 400 babies in the following ten years and never lost a mother or a baby. She was tireless in travelling long distances in all kinds of weather, and staying in the homes as long as she was needed. She worked in the Relief Society for forty years.

In later years she said that with all the materialist things she had in life, nothing gave her as much joy as her first floor that she could scrub.

In 1916 the Hammers went on a church mission to San Diego, California. They were untiring in their efforts in the upbuilding of the church and the community of Cardston. They were an example of devotion, consideration and kindness. Josiah kept journals of his life, and the public events of Cardston. To day these are valuable references.

Elizabeth died 9 July, 1919.

Josiah died in 3 June, 1922.

Their children were:

Amy (Harris) Tanner - died 1961 in Idaho

Alta Thompson - died 1950 in Washington.

William - died 1886 in Cardston.