

Events Surrounding the Life of Wallace F. Toronto

September 20, 1848	Guiseppe Taranto arrives in the Salt Lake Valley.
June 14, 1905	Albert Toronto and Etta F. Toronto are married.
December 9, 1907	Wally is born in Salt Lake City, Utah.
October 1928	Begins service as missionary in the German Mission.
June 1929	One of the first elders is transferred to open the Czechoslovak Mission.
September 15, 1933	Wally marries Martha Sharp in the Salt Lake City Temple.
1936–39	Wally serves as president of the Czechoslovak Mission of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.
September 1938	Evacuates Czechoslovakia with family and missionaries to Switzerland.
November 1938	Calls local leaders to take charge of branches until the missionaries can return.
December 1938	Returns to Czechoslovakia with family and missionaries.
March 15, 1939	Nazis occupy Czechoslovakia.
July 1939	Four missionaries arrested by the Gestapo, held in prison for forty-four days.
August 1939	Wally evacuates again with family and missionaries before outbreak of World War II.
September 1, 1939	World War II begins; Wally calls Josef Roubíček to preside as mission president in his absence.
June 1940	Wally graduates with an MA in sociology from the University of Utah.
1942–45	Works as director of Red Cross for Utah.
1946–68	Reopens the Czechoslovak Mission, serving as president.
February 1948	Communist coup in Czechoslovakia; government begins controlling all businesses, industries, churches, and schools.
March 1, 1950	Martha and children leave Czechoslovakia.

March 1950	Last of LDS missionaries are expelled by Communists.
March 30, 1950	Wally leaves Czechoslovakia and heads to Basel, Switzerland.
April 6, 1950	Governmental decree terminates the legal entity of the Church in Czechoslovakia.
May 1950	Wally returns home to Salt Lake City.
1950–64	Serves on the general board of the Young Men’s Mutual Improvement Association.
1951–68	Heads the Anti-Cancer Society in Utah.
1963	Travels to Northern Europe and Germany with the general board of the Mutual Improvement Association to hold a series of conventions.
December 1964	President McKay assigns Torontos to visit the Czech Saints as tourists.
January 1965	Wally returns with Martha to Czechoslovakia to aid and counsel Church members.
July 1965	Wally returns for the last time to Czechoslovakia to visit government authorities and attempt to reestablish the mission.
1966–67	Serves as president of the Utah School Boards Association.
January 10, 1968	Dies in Salt Lake City at age sixty.
November 14, 1985	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints begins formally requesting official recognition in Czechoslovakia.
October–December 1989	“Velvet Revolution” of 1989; Vaclav Havel becomes president of free Czechoslovakia.
February 21, 1990	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is officially recognized by the Czech government.
January 1, 1993	“Velvet Divorce” of clashing governments; Slovakia declares independence from the Czech Republic.