

SAMUEL JACKSON

Samuel Jackson was born 13 July 1844 at Manchester Lancashire England. He was the eighth child in a family of nine children, born to Benjamin Jackson and Ann Grimshaw Hedges, who with most of their children were converted to the Gospel by the early missionaries of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. The father came to America about two years before his family came, then the Mother and some of the children, including Samuel came over to America from Liverpool England, on the sailing vessel Horizon, leaving Liverpool on May 25, 1856, with 856 other people aboard; the voyage across the ocean was under the direction of Captain Edward Martin. The sailing vessel Horizon reached Boston Massachusetts about the first of July, and the Jackson family went from there to Florence, Nebraska--the terminal of the railroad--arriving there July 8, 1856. Here the party was held up on account of making handcarts. After several days the party started on and after a few weeks a count was made which showed seven wagons and 146 carts, but on account of heavy snows the handcarts had to be abandoned. On November 13, Joseph Young and Abel Carr arrived in Salt Lake City and reported that the Martin Company were stranded in the mountains on account of heavy snow. President Brigham Young immediately sent men, teams, supplies, and everything necessary to the saints. The party finally arrived in Salt Lake City, after losing many of their number through different kinds of hardships, and being encountered by the Indians.

The Jackson family had two carts, one managed by Samuel's two sisters, Elizabeth and Martha, and one managed by Samuel and his brother Joseph. The mother, Ann, who was a very small fragile woman, afflicted with a heart ailment took the responsibility of caring for the youngest child Nephi, who was nine years old. She with her son Nephi would start ahead of the carts every morning on their journey, and often with nothing but a dry biscuit for food to be divided between her and her son, usually the little boy would get so hungry and fretful that the mother would give him her part of the biscuit, and part of the time she carried him on her back to rest him. By the time the party from Salt Lake met the Saints, many of them had died of starvation and other causes by the wayside. Those who remained were so hungry and weak that they were warned to be very careful and not eat too much for fear they would kill themselves.

Samuel related to the rescue party from Salt Lake that in their travels they had found carcasses of fallen animals beside the road, they would break the sun parched bones and suck the marrow out, and would singe the hair from the skins and roast them, and eat them. He also told them they would feed the horses a little corn, and that he would crawl around on the ground and pick up the corn that would slobber from the horses mouths and would eat it himself, and it tasted so sweet and good.

On Sunday November 30, 1856, the Martin hand cart Company, what remained, arrived in Salt Lake. Brigham Young and the authorities of the Church were careful to place the emigrants in the settlements where they spoke their own language. The Jackson family was sent to Nephi, Utah.

In just a few days after the Jackson family arrived in Nephi, Joseph died. He was 14 years of age. It was the morning of December 6, 1856, that Samuel called his Mother and told her that his brother Joseph, who was sleeping,

with him, was dead. The hardships he had endured while crossing the plains had been too much for him. After settling in Nephi, Utah, Samuel realized his soul's desire, as he made the remark before the family left England, that he wanted to go to the valley of the mountains. When the boat reached Boston, as the family was coming to America, Samuel refused to visit a brother John who was living there because he was afraid that he would persuade them to make their home in Boston.

As soon as the Jackson family could they built them a home in Nephi. Samuel being the oldest son at home took the place of a father as much as possible. He worked from early to late, hauling blue clay from the flats to make adobes to build houses in Nephi. Some of these houses, including the old Jackson home are still standing today.

Samuel was always willing to do anything that the authorities of the Church asked him to do. Upon one occasion the authorities from Salt Lake were in Southern settlements and wished to go on to the settlements further south so they asked if some of the saints there would take team and wagons and take them on. Samuel volunteered to do this right at the time his land was prepared and ready to be planted in molasses cane. His neighbors ridiculed him and told him he was too liberal, but he told them that his faith was great enough that he would go, and that when he got back he would plant his, and would still be just as far ahead as they were, and after he left and the others had their crops planted, a severe rain came and packed and crusted the ground until the seed never came up. When Samuel returned from his trip he found his land damp and in good shape. He prepared it and planted and raised a good crop.

In 1863 Samuel had the privilege of going back over the same trail he and the family had come over in 1856. This time to bring emigrants from England. He was then called by the church to go as an ox driver. He and others took two yoke of oxen and wagons and he told of many hardships on this trip. He said when they would cross streams of water of any size that he would wade beside the oxen on the other side and steer the leaders up stream because if they had gone down stream all would have been lost. On this trip he was away from home six months.

A little later Samuel and others from Nephi, began to go on freighting trips to mining camps in Nevada. Some of the places he mentioned were Tuana, Oancada, Pieoch, Cherry Creek, Eureka, Ely, Wells, and Elko. Some times he would go as far north as Malad Idaho, around the lake and back south by Brigham City, Ogden, and Salt Lake. His freight coming back would be ore for the smelters near Salt Lake. On these freighting trips he never used a wallet to carry his money. He would put his money in an old gunny sack and throw it down in the bottom of the wagon with other sacks or put it in the nose bags and cover it with oats. He never was robbed. Some times a man would crawl into the wagon with him and when they would meet a stage, the man would lay down and cover up. When he asked the man why he hid, he said he killed a man back ther and they may be after me.

On December 31, 1867, Samuel Jackson and Hannah Jacques were married in the endowment house in Salt Lake City Utah, by Hester C. Kimball. To this marriage was born five children, Samuel Jr., William, Bernecia, Lafayette, and Mary Hannah. While still freighting, 17 September 1881, he was called on a mission to the Southern States. He leased his freighting interests to friends to take care of ^{them} while he was gone. A while after he left his mules and horses got into a band of wild horses in Nevada, so the parties responsible for them wrote Samuel telling his about this, and he wrote back and told them to let them alone and when he got back he would go and get them. In 1883 when he returned home from his mission he hired a few indians and they set out to hunt the horses and mules. One of the Indians shot the leader which scattered the band, and they were able to surround and rope the mules and horses and returned them to Nephi.

About this time he was advised by the authority of the church to take a plural wife, so on November 22, 1883 he married Martha Ann Jackson (her maiden name) They were married in the Salt Lake Temple. To this union was were born three daughters, Vida, Fannie, and Jessie.

In December 1885, he was chosen and set apart as Bishop of the Manassa Ward, San Luis Stake. He chose as his counselors Hugh I. Sellers and George J. Koch. He held this position until May 6, 1917. He was released on account of failing health.

In February 1919 he went to California for his health and while there it got to raining so much that he went to St. George Utah but on May 3, 1919 he passed away. He was buried in the Manassa, Cemetery.