

SAMUEL JACKSON SR. (1844-1919)

(By Lois Jackson Howell, daughter of Samuel Jackson Jr.)

My grandfather, Samuel Jackson Sr., was born 13 July, 1844, in Manchester, Lancaster County, England. He was the eighth child in a family of nine children, born to Benjamin Jackson and Ann Grimshaw Jackson, 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. Samuel Jackson Sr. worked in cotton mills at Manchester, Lancaster County, England. Ann Grimshaw Jackson was a short woman with coal black hair. Sam Sr. was in the Black Hawk War. (Chief Black Hawk: 1767-1838). Benjamin Jackson was in the Crimean War (1854-1856).

The mother, Ann Grimshaw Jackson and five of her nine children, including Samuel, came over to America from Liverpool, England, on the sailing vessel Horizon, leaving Liverpool on Sunday 25 May, 1856, with 856 other people aboard. The voyage across the ocean was under the direction of Captain Edward Martin. It had taken six long weeks for the old sailer (boat), tossed about by the wind, to make the trip from England to America.

The sailing vessel, Horizon, reached Boston, Massachusetts, about the first of July. (One account I have says that after landing at Boston the family went to what is now Council Bluffs, Iowa, on 25 August, 1856). The Jackson family went from Boston to Florence, Nebraska, the terminal of the railroad, arriving there 8 July, 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 handcarts, but because of heavy snows the hand carts had to be abandoned. On 13 November Joseph Young and Abel Garr arrived in Salt Lake City and reported that the Martin Company (famous, yet ill-fated) were stranded in the mountains because 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 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 Grimshaw Jackson, who was a very small, fragile woman, afflicted with a heart ailment, took the responsibility of caring for the youngest child, Nephi, who was 9 years old. There were four other children: James, Ann, William, and John. John had come to America ahead of the rest of the family.

Ann, the oldest daughter, stayed in England. She lived and died there.

William came to America ahead of the family and lived here for a time. Later he returned to England where he finally died. He was a bread baker by trade. John also came to America ahead of the family and settled in Boston where he lived and died. He was a blacksmith in those early years.

Benjamin, my (Lois Jackson Howell) great grandfather, came alone to America about 1849 or 1850. He was lured to California by the gold rush of 1849. For many (about 21) years he was never heard from so it was thought that he had died in California. Ben came back to Nephi riding a mule about 1870 so he was away from his family for 21 years (said Samuel Jackson, Jr. - Lois Jackson Howell's father). He had been in Grass Valley, California.

(From Lamone Jackson Schaedler, daughter of Samuel, Jr.): Benjamin Jackson went to Grass Valley, California. He left his saddle on his mule all the year long.

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Some felt sorry for Benjamin Jackson and built a lean-to or shack or hut on the back of the Samuel Jackson Sr. home in Nephi, Utah (or Parowan, Utah, where Lamone's mother lived).

(Lois J. Howell): Elizabeth, Martha, Samuel, Joseph, & Nephi came to America and crossed the plains with their mother, Ann Grimshaw Jackson.

Ann Grimshaw Jackson 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, and usually the little boy would get so hungry and fretful that the mother would give her part of the biscuit to him, and part of the time she carried him on her back to rest him. Ann Grimshaw Jackson walked every step of the way to Salt Lake City.

By the time the party from Salt Lake City met the saints, many of them had died of starvation and other causes and had fallen 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 City that in their travels they had found carcasses of fallen animals beside the road and 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 probably cleaned them and parched them before eating them. He also told about when they were met by the wagons. He said they fed 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, 30 November, 1856, the Martin Handcart Company consisting of 576 out of the original 856 arrived in Salt Lake City, Utah. Brigham Young and the authorities of the Church were very careful to place the immigrants in settlements where they spoke their own language. The Jackson family was sent to Nephi, Juab County, Utah. There were a lot of Danish, Swedish, etc., settlements.

In just a few days after the Jackson family arrived in Nephi, Joseph died. He was 14 years of age (if born in 1839 he was 17, not 14). It was the morning of 6 December, 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, Samuel realized his soul's desire, as he made the remark before the family left England that he wanted to the valley of the mountains where he had started for.

When the boat reached Boston, as the family was coming to America, Samuel refused to visit a brother, John, who was living there, as he was afraid that John would persuade them to make their home in Boston.

As soon as the Jackson family could arrange to do it, they built them a home in Nephi. Samuel, being the oldest son at home, took the place of a father as much as possible and worked from early to late, hauling blue clay from the flats to make adobes to build houses in Nephi. Some of these old landmarks, including the old Jackson home, are standing today. (The house has since been remodeled).

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 City went to southern settlements, and wished to go on to the settlements further south. So they asked if

some of the saints there would take a team and wagon 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 crop and would still be just as far ahead as they were. After he left and the others had their crops planted, a severe rain came and packed and crusted the ground until most of the seed never came up. When Samuel returned from the trip he found his land damp and in good shape. He prepared it and planted it 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 immigrants from England. He was 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 lower 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 the mining camps in Nevada. Some of the places he mentioned were Tuanna, Panaca, Pioche, Cherry Creek, Tonopah, Eureka, Ely, Wells, and Elko. Sometimes he would go as far north as Malad, Idaho, around the lake and back south by Bingham City, Ogden, and Salt Lake. His freight coming back would be ore for the smelters near Salt Lake City.

On these freighting trips he never used a wallet to carry his money in. 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 was never robbed.

One time a man crawled onto the wagon with him and when they would meet a stage the man would lie down and cover up and when he would ask him what he did it for, he said, "I killed a man back there and they may be on the stage looking for me."

On 21 (21 says End. House Sealing record) December, 1867, Samuel Jackson and Hannah M. Jacques were married in the endowment house in Salt Lake City by Heber C. Kimball. To this marriage were born five children - Samuel, Jr., William, Bernicia, 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 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 Brother Jackson telling him about this and he wrote back and told them to let them alone and when he got back he would go and get them.

(Note: Ben Jackson baptized 15 April 1843, address 4 E. Wesley St., Manchester, Lancaster. Rebaptized 7 June, 1852. Confirmed June, 1852. Viewed in film at Salt Lake City, Utah Genealogical Library by Lois Jackson Howell. Emigrated 16 February, 1854 - a little more than two years before his wife and five children did. Perhaps this is correct. I failed to record the address he was living at when rebaptized but this was probably in England, so 1854 may be a more correct date than 1849 or 1850.)

I believe that Samuel Jackson, Sr., moved to the San Luis Valley in Colorado in the early part of 1888 and spent a year taking up and clearing land and preparing for his family who came later. But he must have gone back to Nephi to help move the family as

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my father (Sam, Jr.) said his father (Sam, Sr.) and his mother (Hannah Maria Jaques Jackson) landed at the brick house ranch on 1 March, 1889. No, now I remember papa told me that Grandmother Jackson (Hannah Maria Jaques Jackson) and children went by train and landed in Alamosa, Colorado. Papa came with the cattle, household articles, and equipment. Had about two carloads of stuff. It was very cold. Cattle almost crowded into the fire.

Grandfather Jackson (Samuel, Sr.) was already in the San Luis Valley, Colorado, and he met Papa (Samuel, Jr.) at Villa Grove, and as grandmother and family went by on little Narrow Gauge they saw Papa camped with cattle, and they waved to him as the train went by.

After arriving in Colorado the only place available for them to live was a barn. This was much different from the homes Hannah had had in Nephi, and for a time she was very dissatisfied and became very ill. The barn was cleaned and white sheets put up to partition the rooms off. Hannah recovered, however, as plans for her new home were made - as told by S. Glenn Jackson 23 July, 1960.

Sam, Sr., burned the first kiln of brick made in the vicinity of Manassa, Conejos County, Colorado, built a house on his ranch on the San Antonio River east of Manassa. Later he built a fine home in Manassa of red brick which he also burned.

He and his three sons, Samuel, William, and Lafayette, had the first electricity in Manassa. They had their own generator located in Sam Sr.'s garage.

Samuel Sr.'s first venture in the sheep business was very discouraging but with the assistance of his three sons he persevered until the Jackson flocks became widely known for their superiority. He organized the Jackson Investment Company of which corporation he was President, and at the time of his death he was Vice-President of the Colonial State Bank of Manassa.

As a Bishop of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints he was noted for his conscientious, hard work and self sacrifice. He was especially kind, thoughtful, and helpful to the poor, the downcast, and the disheartened. Lois said he was Bishop 16 February, 1896 - 6 May 1917, 21 years, 2 months, 20 days).

He was always interested in improving the communities in which he lived. He helped haul blue clay from the flats to make adobies to build houses in Nephi. He and his son Sam Jr. hauled the clay and made the adobies for his home in Nephi. They also hauled timber from Mt. Nebo for this purpose. He took great pride in doing things properly and in beautifying his surroundings.

I remember my grandfather, Samuel Sr., as a rather short, rotund man with snow white hair (he was not bald), and a heavy white mustache.

In a letter dated 8 August, 1975 from Lois Jackson Howell she stated as follows: "I remember my father, Samuel Jr., telling me that your great grandmother (Lynn L. Weight), Martha Jackson and my grandmother, Hannah Maria Jaques Jackson, were polygamous wives but were always loyal to each other. There seemed to be harmony and love in that polygamous family. My father said at one time my grandmother was taken into court because she was a polygamous wife and your great grandmother went right along to try to protect her or testify on her behalf. Because of the underground life they were forced to go to Colorado and I think Martha Ann Jackson went ahead with her husband Sam Sr. and and Hannah and children came after."

Ela Jackson Wycherly said, "We ate a lot of meals over there (Samuel Jackson Sr's

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home) and Grandpa Jackson was the one that showed us how to take molasses and put bacon grease on it and then put it on our bread. That was a treat in those days.

The following notes are from Lois Howell (30 August 1975):

Ann Grimshaw sealed herself to James Jenkins. Said she didn't want to be sealed to Benjamin, but the children wanted their own father sealed to their own mother. So they sealed Benjamin to Ann Grimshaw.

On their conversion: Benjamin would be baptized, then he would start drinking and have to repent and be rebaptized. They were converted in England. Ann was really the one converted. He worked in a silk factory and earned enough money to come to America. Ann was a house maid or keeper, and her children worked in the silk factory to raise money to come to America. But some missionaries stole their money so Ann and the children had to start over. Benjamin came over to America first.

Sam, Sr.: Private in Black Hawk War

Benjamin: Private, maybe, in Crimean War

Sam's mission: Southern States

How many sheep Sam had: A couple of thousand--- Sam, Jr., always bought sheep from Seeley's in Mount Pleasant, Utah

(Kathleen Sowards Weight and her son Lynn put my notes together and typed up this copy -- if they hadn't done this, the history would still be just in notes, bits & pieces. (LJH)

The following is additional information from an apparent condensation of the above history, which came to me from somewhere! (Me is Alice Partridge Jackson, historian with husband Ivin M. Jackson, for the William Jackson Genealogical Society).

As stated previously, Samuel's horses and mules had gotten into a band of wild horses in Nevada. 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 return them to Nephi.

About this time Samuel was advised by the authorities 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 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. (Lois' account says 16 February, 1896). He chose as his counselors Hugh L. 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. On May 3, 1919 he passed away. He was buried in the Manassa Cemetery.