

SAMUEL JACKSON, SR.

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 Grishaw 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.

The father, Benjamin Jackson, came to America about three years before his family and was not heard of for many years. 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. They left 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 sailing vessel 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. Eager to continue their journey the Jackson family went from Boston to Iowa by railroad arriving there on the 8 July, 1856. Here the group was held up on account of making handcarts and preparing for the trip. So, on 25 August, 1856 they left Florence, Nebraska with seven wagons and 146 handcarts headed for Salt Lake City, Utah.

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 took the responsibility of caring for the youngest child, Nephi, who was 9 years old. Ann with her son Nephi started ahead of the carts every morning of their journey, and often with nothing but a dried biscuit for food to be divided between them. Usually the little boy would get so hungry and fretful that Ann would give him her part of the biscuit. Part of the time she carried him on her back to rest him.

After several days of hardships the hand carts were abandoned due to heavy snows. Samuel related that in their travels they 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 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 November 13, Joseph Young and Able Snow arrived in Salt Lake City and reported that the Martin Company was stranded in the mountains on account of heavy snows. President Brigham Young immediately sent men, teams supplies, and everything necessary for the saints. By the time the rescue party reached the saints, many of them had died of starvation and had fallen by the wayside. Those who remained were so hungry and weak they were warned not to eat too much for fear they would kill themselves.

On Sunday, November 30, 1856 the Martin Company, what remained of them, arrived in Salt Lake City, Utah. Brigham Young and the authorities of the church were very careful to place the emigrants



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in the settlements where they spoke their language. The Jackson family was sent to Nephi, Jaub County, Utah.

In just a few days after the family arrived in Nephi, Joseph died. It was the morning of December 6, 1856 that Samuel called to 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 souls desire, as he made the remark when 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 his brother John who was living there as he was afraid John would persuade them to make their home in Boston.

As soon as his family could, they built 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 adobe 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 the authorities of the church asked him to do. Upon one occasion the authorities from Salt Lake City were in the southern settlements and wished to go on south to other settlements so they asked if some of the saints would take a team and wagon and take them on. Samuel volunteered to do this right at the time his land was ready to plant in molasses cane. His neighbors ridiculed him and told him he was too liberal, but he told them his faith was great enough and he would plant his cane and would still be just as far ahead. After he left the others had their crops planted and a severe rain came and packed and crusted the ground until most of the seeds never came up. When Samuel returned from his trip he found his land damp and in good condition. He prepared, planted it, and raised a good crop.

In 1863 Samuel had the privilege of going back over the same trail that he and his family had come over in 1856. This time to bring emigrants from England. He was called by the church to go as an ox driver. He and others took two yoke of oxen and wagons. He told of many hardships on this trip. He said they would cross streams of water of any size and he would have to wade and steer the oxen on the lower side of the 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. He also would go as far north as Malad, Idaho, around the lake and back south by Brigham City, Ogden, and Salt Lake City. His freight coming back would be ore for the smelters near Salt Lake.

On these trips he would never use a wallet to carry his money in but would put his money in an old gunny sack or put it in the nose bags and cover it up with oats. He never was robbed. Sometimes a man would crawl into the wagon and lie down and cover up. When Samuel asked him why he did it, he would say that he had killed a man back there and they might be looking for him.



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On December 21, 1867 Samuel Jackson, age 23 and Hannah Maria Jaques age 17 were married in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City, Utah by Heber C Kimball. To this marriage were born five children, namely: Samuel, Jr., William, Bernecia, Lafayette, and Mary Hannah.

While still freighting on September 17, 1881 he was called on a mission to the Southern States. He leased his freighting interests to some of his 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 wrote Samuel telling him about this and he wrote back and told them to let them alone.

In 1883 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. They were able to surround the horses and mules, rope them, and return them to Nephi.

About this time the church advised him to take a plural wife. So on November 22, 1883 he married Martha Ann Jackson, (her maiden name but no relation). They were married in the Salt Lake Temple. To this marriage were born three daughters, Vida, Fannie and Jessie. There seemed to be harmony and love in that polygamous family. The wives were always loyal to each other. There was even a time when Martha was taken into court because she was a polygamous wife and Hannah Maria went right along to try to protect or testify on her behalf.

Samuel Jackson Sr. took his second wife Martha and moved to the San Luis Valley in Colorado in the early part of 1888. Because of the underground life they lived because of polygamy, they were forced to go. Samuel was interested in obtaining more land for himself and his sons anyway. So, he felt this was a great opportunity. He spent a year taking up and clearing land and preparing for his family who came later. Samuel Jr. and Will took the horses and cattle, household articles and equipment. They had about two carloads of stuff. It was so cold that the cattle almost crowded into the fire. Hannah, Lefe, and the girls traveled by train.

Samuel, 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 the brick for.

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



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downcast and disheartened. He was bishop from 16 Feb, 1896 to 6 May 1917. (21 yr. 2 months 20 days)

He was always interested in improving the communities in which he lived. He helped pull blue clay from the flats to make adobes to build houses in Nephi. He and his son Sam, Jr. hauled the clay and made the adobes 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.

In his later years he was rather a short round man with snow white hair (he was not bald), and a heavy white mustache. He died 3 May 1919 at St. George, Utah, where he had gone hoping to benefit his health.

This history was written by Lois Jackson Howell with additional information from notes of Don Haynie.