

SAMUEL JACKSON

Samuel Jackson, Bishop of Manassa Ward, of the San Luis Stake, Conejos County, Colorado, was born July 13, 1844, in Manchester, Lancashire, England. He was the son of Benjamin Jackson and Ann Grimshaw. At an early age he embraced the truth of the everlasting Gospel, together with his family and other members in the family. He migrated to the United States with his parents and a large company of Latter Day Saints, crossing the Atlantic in the old vessel "Horizon", landing at Boston, and safely reaching Iowa City by rail July 8, 1856.

The company with which young Samuel crossed the plains was under the direction of Captain Edward Martin. This company was outfitted with handcarts at Florence near Omaha, and this company probably suffered as many hardships and privations during their journey to Salt Lake as any of the many companies which made the hazardous trip in early pioneer days. Samuel's older brother, Joseph, died as a result of the hardships of the journey shortly after the company arrived in Utah.

After reaching Utah, the Jackson family soon decided to locate at Nephi where Samuel spent many of his boyhood days helping to guard the Saints' homes against the Indian attacks, which were not uncommon in those days.

In the Spring and Summer of 1864 he made another trip to the Missouri River with ox-team to assist in the transporting of other emigrants.

On December 31, 1867, he married Hannah Jaques, by whom he had five children: Samuel, Jr., William, Lafayette, Bernecia, and Mary Hannah. By a plural marriage (Mary Ann Jackson) he had three other children, namely: Vida, Fannie, and Jessie.

He built a home at Nephi and was engaged in freighting and agriculture pursuits. On September 17, 1881, he entered the missionary field, laboring in Tennessee and Alabama where he made many friends and converts, being released honorably in November, 1883. He was ordained a High Priest by Joel Grover, December 2, 1885, and was set apart as second counselor to Bishop David Udall of the Nephi 2nd Ward, which position he held with honor until he decided to make his home in another state.

Being a great lover of the Western wilds and one who appreciated wide open country, he moved to the San Luis Valley in Colorado in the spring of 1888, and spent a year taking up land and preparing a house for his family who followed him a year later.

He burned the first Kiln of brick made in the vicinity of Manassa, Colorado. He built a house on his ranch on the San Antonio River, east of Manassa, Colorado, and later a fine residence in town. His first venture in the sheep business was very discouraging, but with the assistance of his sons he persevered until the Jackson flocks became 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 president of the Colonial State Bank of Manassa, Colorado, which position he held for many years.

He was ordained the Bishop of Manassa Ward, February 16, 1896, and held this position until May 6, 1917, when he was honorably released because of failing health.

As a Bishop he was known for his conscientious, hard work and self-sacrifice. He was especially kind to the poor and always encouraged the downcast and disheartened, always seeking the development and rebuilding of the community.

Honored and beloved by all, he died at St. George, Utah, where he had gone hoping to benefit his health, May 3, 1919.