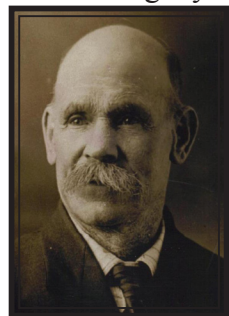


SAMUEL JACKSON

Age: 11
 Born: 13 July 1844 England
 Martin Handcart Company



Samuel was the eighth of nine children born to Benjamin and Ann Grimshaw Jackson, early converts to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in England. Benjamin emigrated to America about three years before the rest of the family with the intention of earning money to send for them to follow. He did this for awhile and was then lured to California seeking gold. His family was then left to “shift for themselves” and they did not hear anything more of Benjamin for seven or eight years after they came to Utah. He did move to Utah at that time, but brought no gold.



Nephi Jackson

The Jackson family with the Martin company included Ann Grimshaw Jackson (50), daughters Elizabeth (23), Martha (22), and sons Joseph (16), Samuel (turned 12 in Iowa), and Nephi (9).

Samuel’s family sailed on the ship *Horizon* from Liverpool to Boston. Samuel had a strong desire to immigrate and “had always dreamed of coming to the valleys of the mountains.” When the family passed through Boston, Samuel refused to go and visit his older brother, John, who was living there. Samuel was fearful that his brother might persuade him to stay there instead of continuing to Utah. Samuel did not want that influence.

The Jackson family had two handcarts, one pulled by Elizabeth and Martha and one by Joseph and Samuel. Ann was afflicted with a heart ailment and walked with Nephi. Those two would start ahead of the handcarts every morning and when rations were low, they often had only one dry biscuit between them. Often Nephi would become so tired and fretful that his mother would give him her share of the bread and then carry him on her back.

Samuel related how they would find carcasses of animals along the route, break the sun parched bones and suck the marrow out of them. They also singed the hair from the animal hides and roasted them for food. One time Samuel cut the high tops off his shoes and boiled them for soup. He also told how he would crawl under the rescuers’ horses and as the horses ate corn it would drop from their mouths and freeze as soon as it hit the ground, and he would grab the kernels to eat. He told how good and sweet it seemed to his taste. After more rescue supply wagons arrived to help, he was warned to be very careful not to eat too much.

The Martin company had been stranded near the last crossing of the North Platte River for several days when the first rescuers found them. They had been through much suffering because of this river crossing of October 19. Samuel’s sister, Elizabeth, had been carrying her younger brother, Nephi, across on her back, when she slipped. They both fell into the river and were carried downstream some distance before being rescued by a man on horseback.

Upon reaching the Salt Lake Valley on November 30, 1856, the Jacksons went to Nephi, Utah, to live. Six days later, Samuel woke to find Joseph’s lifeless body next to his. He had finally succumbed to the hardships. Boys the age of Joseph in the Martin company had regularly been assigned to take turns guarding the cattle at night and other taxing chores, which would have also fallen on Joseph in great measure as the oldest male in his family. His mother, Ann, was reportedly grateful that Joseph’s life had been spared until they reached Utah. It was a great consolation to know that she could visit his grave and that it would not be disturbed by wolves. One week after Joseph’s death, on what would have been his 17th birthday, his sister, Elizabeth, married John

(Samuel Jackson - page 2)

Kirkman. John had emigrated only one month previous to the Jacksons, traveling with the John Banks St. Louis wagon company. That company had also camped at Devil's Gate (near Martin's Cove), during September. While there "it snowed and the ground froze into thick ice" and "Some cattle died." John had experienced a taste of what his new bride had been through. Samuel also had a heartfelt sympathy for other immigrants. He answered the call in 1863 to go back on the trail to the Missouri River help to transport a group of Saints to Utah. He encountered many hardships on that six-month trip.

Samuel had much responsibility in helping his family and worked hard to help his mother make a start in their new home. He helped haul blue clay from the flats near Nephi to make adobes to build houses, including their own. Many of his boyhood days were spent helping to guard the home from Indian attacks. At one time Samuel was in the mountains trailing some Indians and he slipped and fell from a cliff, but managed to grab hold of a tree limb. He was able to hang on for quite some time before he was rescued.

Samuel was always willing to do what was asked by Church leaders. One time some General Authorities were in Nephi holding a conference and wanted to go further south before returning to Salt Lake. They requested volunteers to take them on which Samuel readily accepted. Samuel's neighbors ridiculed him as the ground was just ready to plant molasses cane. They said Samuel was too liberal with his time, but he replied that he had faith enough to know that he could go and still have time to plant and harvest a good crop. After Samuel and the authorities left, his neighbors planted their crops which was followed by a severe rain storm and the ground crusted so hard that the cane could not come up. Samuel returned home just as the land was ready to work, planted his crop and had a very successful harvest.

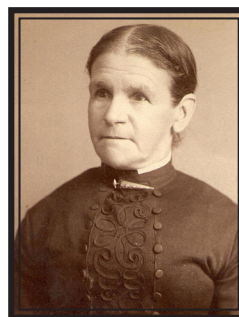
Samuel married Hannah Maria Jaques in 1867 and they became the parents of five children. Samuel started a successful freighting business and also continued farming. In 1881 he was called on a mission to the Southern States where he labored in Alabama and Tennessee. After his mission he married Martha Ann Jackson who bore him three daughters. He served in the Nephi Second Ward Bishopric before moving to a Mormon settlement in Manassa, Colorado. He burned the first kiln of brick there and later built a fine large home. Samuel entered into the sheep business where his sheep became widely known for their superior quality. He also started the Jackson Investment Company which was very successful and he served as vice-president of the Colonial State Bank.

In 1896 Samuel was ordained Bishop of the Manassa Ward, which position he held for the next 21 years. He was especially known for his kindness to the poor and needy. He was also noted as being a hard worker, putting in many long hours, yet being seen playing tag and having fun with his boys as they were growing up. Samuel died in 1919 at the age of 75 in St. George where he had gone to seek improvement in his health. He was taken back to Manassa for burial.

Sources: Daughters of Utah Pioneers history files; "History of Samuel Jackson," by Mary Rasmussen, courtesy Linda Paulson; Linda Paulson interview with her mother, Athalia Sowards Lewis, 2006; family history information courtesy Kristy Hodgson and Madelyn Newman.



Ann Grimshaw Jackson



Martha Ann Jackson
(Jones)



Elizabeth Jackson
(Kirkman)