

History of the song, *Remember Me*  
Jolene S. Allphin

The composer and performing artist of the song *Remember Me*, is Charles Benson of Idaho Falls, Idaho. I met Charles for the first time in April 2010 at a women's conference in Rexburg, Idaho. Charles was the only man in attendance, his technical services being offered to the presenters who were using Powerpoint presentations. I was one of the presenters at the conference, but Charles did not know that until it was my turn to make my presentation.

Just prior to my presentation, I had set up many of Julie Rogers' paintings of the handcart people around the room. Julie was supposed to be there to present with me but she had some last minute conflicts and could not make it. I was the only person on the program speaking about the handcart people. The theme of the conference was centered around the subject of "Hope."

Shortly before my presentation, I was sitting in the back row next to Charles Benson. It was the first time I had seen him in the audience rather than at the station where the electronics were operated.

Perhaps because of the paintings on display, Charles had the handcart people on his mind. He started talking to me, kind of out of the blue. He wanted to tell me that he had written a song about a family in a handcart company. He told me of the vivid dream he had that caused him to write this song.

In his dream, Charles saw a handcart family in the snow. The family consisted of a father with black hair, a mother and two small daughters. Charles said he sensed the father had been giving his meager rations to his wife and children for some time and was now collapsed, unable to pull his handcart any longer. Charles said he could clearly see their faces, feel the cold, and witness the pleading eyes of the father that he not be forgotten. He wondered who this family was. He felt impressed to write this song from the father of the family.

Charles got very emotional in telling me this story. I was quite emotional as well, but couldn't talk to him any more about it as the break was over and it was my turn to speak.

After hearing my presentation about the handcart pioneers, Charles asked me if I had any idea who this family was in his dream. I anxiously looked through my list of names in *Tell My Story, Too*. I found only one family that fit the description of the people Charles saw in his dream—the John Peel family in the Martin handcart company. John Peel died on November 12, 1856, near the Three Crossings of the Sweetwater, only three days after leaving Martin's Cove, and 2 1/2 weeks short of reaching the Salt Lake Valley. According to the diary of James G. Bleak, fifteen people were buried side by side in one long grave here.

As I returned home from the conference and did a little more research on this family, I found John Peel on the British Mission Record as signing up in April 1856 to sail on the ship *Horizon*. This record indicates John was a 58-year-old labourer, traveling by a loan from the Perpetual Emigrating Fund, with his wife Anna [Hannah], age 41; daughter, [Annie] Naomi, age 8; and daughter Marintha [Althere], age 5. The Peel family is shown as part of the Bradford Conference Allotment for this emigration. The ticket for his family was sent to 18 Dock Street in Leeds.

From Daughters of Utah Pioneers records, I found that John Peel's daughter, Marintha Althere, had married Joseph Smith Morris and later moved to Rexburg, Idaho, where she died in 1924. I also learned that Marintha and her husband had been prominent pioneers in Rexburg, the very place where we had met for the conference. (Charles Benson is a convert to the Church from Alabama, but his wife is from Rexburg. After checking her genealogy, she found no relation to the Peel family.)

John Peel's other daughter, Annie Naomi, married Hogan Crockett. They are also found in family histories as being prominent pioneers—in Cache County, Utah. John's wife, Hannah Rhoades Peel, was living with Annie and Hogan at the time of her death.

I am confident it was the John Peel family that Charles Benson dreamed of and for whom he wrote this song. (See lyrics on following page.)

A lovely headstone honoring John and Hannah Peel has been placed by the family in the Logan, Utah, cemetery. See picture on [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org) or [tellyourstory.com](http://tellyourstory.com).

Charles approved my record of meeting him, learning about this dream and the music that came from it, and posting this music on my website [www.tellyourstory.com](http://www.tellyourstory.com). If you would like a copy of Charles Benson's CD, please call him at (208) 681-8708.

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REMEMBER ME  
Lyrics and music by Charles Benson

I know that there'll be dreams I'll never see  
Before the ones who will continue after me  
And I hope there'll be a place for me in the gardens of their  
hearts Remembering me, remembering me,  
Remember me.

Oh, they told us of a place where freedom rings  
Where we could worship God the Father, our Holy King  
And although I may not see it in this mortal life  
We've been sealed for eternity  
So I know there'll be a place for me in the gardens of their  
hearts Remembering me, remembering me,  
Remembering me, remembering me,  
Remembering me.

Beyond the veil they cannot see my face  
But a glorious work continues in this place  
And until we meet each other  
In that garden up on high  
Remember me, remember me,  
Remember me.

This dream of mine descending on this trail  
Will carry on up in heaven without fail  
As you look into these failing eyes  
Of this fallen pioneer  
Remember me, remember me  
Remember me, remember me,  
Remember me

