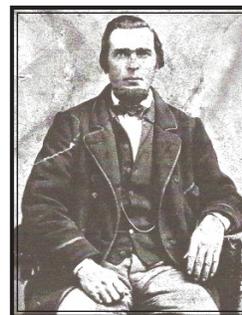
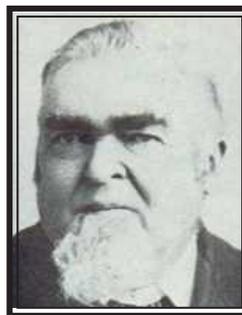


## JOEL PARRISH

Born: November 6, 1827 in Canada

Age: 28

Rescuer



As a boy, Joel moved with his family from Canada to Stark County, Illinois, where farming was easier and it was not so cold. Joel's sister, Jane, recorded:

It was in the little school house which Father had built that he and others first heard the message of the restored Gospel as taught by the Latter-day Saints. [Father and Mother said], "From the first time we heard the message, it made a profound impression on our minds." ... Further investigations caused my father, with his family, to move to Nauvoo, where we first had the pleasure of meeting the Prophet Joseph Smith. ... We made our home not far from the Temple, for father and my brother Joel worked on the Temple. ... Joseph Smith and Joel [were] together so much. ... I have seen Joseph and Joel play ball together, ... saw them go out back of the barn and throw the ball against the wall and catch it for practice.

Joel and his family were driven from Nauvoo after the martyrdom of their friend and Prophet, Joseph Smith. They crossed the plains to the Salt Lake Valley in 1847 and settled in Centerville. Joel was present when Brigham Young issued the rescue call to find the handcart people still out on the plains in October of 1856. Joel was on his way the next day, leaving behind his wife of two years and a young baby. He was wearing "buckskin [trousers and] shirt and moccasins, but no overcoat." His team and wagons were loaded to capacity. Joel served as a cook for the rescue party.

Joel was one of the rescuers who continued on to search for the Martin Handcart Company and the two wagon companies. When he found them, he reported that they were in 18 inches of snow and out of provisions. His children later wrote:

Father's description of these conditions was most heartrending indeed. ... The reception they [the rescuers] received was truly a pathetic one. They could hardly care for their teams because of the rescued throwing themselves about their necks and weeping with joy. It was with difficulty that he [Joel] could relate the story, his eyes were filled with tears for their sad plight. The fact that now the rescued could have all the flour they wished after a starvation ration ... gave them even under these terrible conditions so much to be thankful for.

John Jaques of the Martin Company, recorded:

We arrived at Devil's Gate that night to camp in the snow which was deep and freezing. When we got to camp we found several big fires there and several log huts and several brethren from the valley were camping there. Brother Joel Parrish was cooking supper for the rest of the brethren. We were all so hungry and cold, many ran to get to the fire to warm but the brethren asked for all to be as patient as possible and we should have some wood to make us fires. Brother George Grant ... told us all to stand back for he was going to knock down one of those log huts to make fires for us. He said, "You are not going to freeze tonight."

Josiah Rogerson, a teenage boy in the Martin Company wrote: "The wagon in which we had been brought ... was owned and [had] been driven by the brave and generous-hearted Joel Parrish of Centerville, Davis Co., Utah."

Joel later owned a store in Centerville and did much to build and serve that community in both elected and appointed positions. For many years he acted as the village doctor. He pulled teeth, sewed up wounds and administered to many needs and ailments of his neighbors and friends, all of which service he freely gave. Joel returned to Illinois and Iowa as a missionary about 20 years after his rescue efforts. He also served as a Stake Patriarch later in life.

Joel's enjoyment of sports has been handed down through his posterity. His descendant, Norm Parrish, has coached winning basketball teams at the University of Utah and Salt Lake Community College.

Sources: *Ancestors and Descendants: Samuel Parrish 1847*, compiled by Ruth Parrish Tippetts with Wallace Alonzo Parrish, n.d.; "Joel Parrish" by his son, John Ford Parrish; "Testimony of the Prophet Joseph Smith," by Jane Parish Lindsay; *Life History and Writings of John Jaques, Including a Diary of the Martin Handcart Company*, by Stella Jaques Bell, 1978; Rogerson, Josiah, "Martin's Handcart Company, 1856 [No. 10]," *Salt Lake Herald*, 8 Dec. 1907; Interview with Kay Parrish, wife of Norm Parrish.