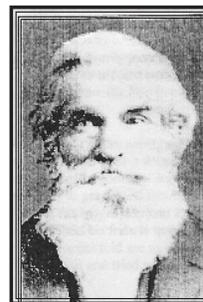


MARSHALL FRANKLIN ALLEN

Born: 12 Oct 1833 Mansfield, New York

Age: 23

Rescue Company



Marshall Franklin Allen, known simply as “Frank,” turned 23 years old just one week after the Prophet, Brigham Young, called for the rescue of the late companies of 1856. Frank had also known the Prophet, Joseph Smith, as Frank was a young boy when his family was expelled from Nauvoo. The Allen family came to the Salt Lake Valley in 1848.

Frank made six trips back along the pioneer trail during his lifetime. But the one destined to change his life was when he answered the call to be a rescuer in 1856. Frank’s first reaction upon hearing the call was that it was very foolish to go out at that time of year. It was dangerous and risky at best to be out in the high mountains in winter, particularly when it was not known how far he would be going or how long he would be gone. Frank determined initially that he would decline to go, but decided to make it a matter of prayer. Before his prayer was finished, he received his answer. He knew he must go.

It was noon when Frank arrived with other rescuers and found the Martin handcart company. As he rode into their camp, he felt a pressing desire to go further beyond to search for any stragglers. Frank recounted: “As I was riding, I saw a little speck up on the side of the hill that somehow caught my attention. As I rode on, the object appeared a little larger and I felt the urge to ride up and see what it was. Imagine my feeling when I found there a little boy. He was so cold and hungry that he had slipped away from the others in his company. He had hid himself there on the hill and was praying to die and that the wolves would come and eat his body. I wrapped that young man in a blanket and put him on my horse.” Frank’s willingness to listen to the promptings of the Spirit saved that young man’s life, though Frank was risking his own.

Frank married Emma Holmes after he returned from the rescue and settled in the beautiful Cache Valley of Northern Utah. When he was older, he was sharing this story with some of his grandchildren and their other grandfather, George Frederick Housley. Upon hearing this tale, George stated excitedly, “Your horse was bay with one white foot, a white star on his forehead, and your blanket was red and black plaid!” Frank was surprised and asked, “How did you know that?” George replied, “Because I was that young man! I am sure it was because of the prayers of my mother that I lived until you found me.”

George emigrated from England with his mother, Harriett Agnes Cook Housley. She was 44 years old at the time. George turned 20 years old the day before reaching the Salt Lake Valley. Frank may have first referred to George as a “little boy” because he appeared as such in his starving condition, hiding in the snow. Family records indicate that he was a very small man. (See George Housley story in Martin Company section of *Tell My Story, Too*.)

Sources: “Narration of Mr. Geo. Housley (written on Northern States Mission, German E. Ellsworth, President, Chicago, Illinois stationery),” original document in Special Collections, HBL, BYU, Provo, Utah; “The Story of Two Grandfathers” by Clarissa Housley Talbot; Interview by Jolene Allphin with Elder Clair Layton when he was serving at MHHS. Elder Layton’s mother was present at the Housley/Allen meeting; “George Housley’s History” by Emma Housley Auger, granddaughter of George Frederick Housley, available at http://sites.google.com/site/jensenfa003/gfh_history, (This history cites Charles Cook Housley’s Diary, among other primary sources.); family histories in files of Jolene Allphin; George Housley autobiography also available online at Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel website.



George F. Housley