

A BIOGRAPHY OF THE LIFE OF SAMUEL SINFIELD

So many times I have wondered if anyone had written a sketch of the life of my grandfather, Samuel Sinfield. I finally decided to write one myself. Knowing so little about him, I wrote letters to some of his grandchildren and with their help, a few incidents my mother told me, and some genealogical research, I pieced it all together and have written this story.

Samuel Sinfield was born in Eversholt, Bedfordshire, England on March 8, 1820, son of William Sinfield and Elizabeth Pepper, both of Eversholt, Bedfordshire, England

Samuel was the oldest child in a family of four, two boys and two girls. Their names were Samuel, Mary, Rebecca, and George.

Samuel married Phebe Cross of Condicotte, Gloucestershire, England on November 1, 1841 at the Parish in Eversholt, Bedfordshire, England. Phebe was born May 13, 1816. Samuel owned a small farm at one end of the town called Hillsend. To this marriage two children born, Eliza, born January 24, 1842, and Emma born January 6, 1844.

About the time of Samuel's marriage a stranger call at their door. This stranger was a Mormon Missionary, and he brought them the message of the restored Gospel of Jesus Christ. As they listened to this Elder explain the gospel, they became interested and invited him to come again and again. After much study and prayer, Samuel and his good wife accepted the gospel. They were baptized May 20, 1842. From that time on, their greatest desire was to get enough money to take them to America. Finally, they sold all they owned and made preparations to leave. Samuel's mother being old and having no one to care for her was placed in a home for old people before he left. Phebe was not very well but she insisted they must go. Just one week before they were to leave she died, August 20, 1852. This did not change Samuel's plans; one week later he with his two children, Eliza age 10, and Emma age 8, sailed for America.

The only ships in those days were sailing vessels so he took passage on one. They were six weeks crossing the ocean. They landed at New Orleans and came up the Mississippi River to Council Bluffs.

Samuel being able to handle horses and cattle, got a job driving a church team, a span of mules, across the plains. In that way he and his children reached Utah. They walked most of the way. When the children became tired, Samuel set them on the wagon to ride but the captain would order them put down. Their shoes wore out; their feet became so sore they sometimes had to crawl. They often took turns riding their father's back. The children would walk in the ruts made by the wagon wheels because they were full of dust. Often the wagon trains would have to stop while herds of buffalo went by.

Things did not go so well with this family after arriving in Utah; they suffered much with cold and hunger. Samuel went to Ogden to live. Their first home was a hole dug in the side of a hill with slabs for the front. They went without bread for six weeks. Samuel often went to work with only a few grains of parched corn for his lunch and boiled greens for his supper. In the fall he gleaned wheat, took it home, thrashed it out, ground it in a coffee mill, and then made hot cakes for himself and his children. Emma said it was the sweetest bread she had ever eaten.

Samuel was a very devout, serious, Englishman set in his ideas and very religious. He disliked a person that drank or was unkind to his loved ones. He was very strict with his children. They had certain privileges and they knew better than disobey them. He did not believe in sparing the rod and spoiling the child.

Samuel was a very honest man with his family, God, and man. He kept the Word of Wisdom strictly. He would always give more than his tenth when paying tithing; he insisted that they pay one dozen eggs for every 100 the hens laid. One day his daughter told her mother what they were doing. He looked up from his paper and said, "You talk too much; I would rather pay too much than too little." He was very careful with everything. He did not like to see anything wasted; his motto was, "Waste not, want not."

Every morning in the summer, Samuel arose at 4 o'clock and he arose at 5 o'clock in the winter. When asked why he did so, he would say, "No one ever got anywhere wasting their time in bed."

He was very neat and orderly in everything he did. He believed in having a place for everything and everything in its place, also everything must be done at a certain time. He expected his meals to be served at a regular time each day. He would often sit with his milk bucket on his arm waiting for the time to come to milk the cow. At one time he and his neighbor owned a cow together. This was not very satisfactory so ever after he refused to be partners with anyone.

Sometime between 1856 and 1857, Samuel married a widow woman named Hannah Middleton Hawkey. She had two girls, Margaret Ann and Hannah. They were endowed on October 1, 1865 in the Endowment house in Salt Lake City.

Hannah was born in Sunderland, England, October 25, 1832. She crossed the plains in the Martin Handcart Company. Her son was buried on the plains.

This marriage was a very happy one. There were three children born of this marriage. George, born August 18, 1858, Jane born April 6, 1860, and Henrietta born March 2, 1862. All of the children were born in Ogden. These good people wished to give their children names that meant something worthwhile, so each name was chosen with care: Eliza—worshipper of God, Emma—energetic and industrious, George—land owner and husband, Jane—noble spirit, Henrietta—homemaker and a mother in Israel.

Samuel and Hannah pooled everything they had and built a very pretty little two room adobe house. It stood on what is now known as 24th Street near Wall Avenue, Ogden, close to the Railroad yards. South of the viaduct was Samuel's hay land. The children tell how their father hooked his cattle on the freighter's wagon to pull them out of the swamp.

When the Railroad was nearing Ogden, Brigham Young went to Ogden to purchase land for the building of a railroad station. Samuel believed that the coming of the railroad would bring into the country many questionable characters so he decided to sell out and move away. He traded his home and land to Barnard White of Cache Valley and moved to what is now Paradise, Cache County. This was in February 1869. They traveled in a wagon drawn with horses. Samuel had a good sized farm for those days and a two room log house. It was one of the first houses built in Paradise. Paradise is a very pretty little farming community still about 5 or 6 miles from a railroad. After moving to Cache Valley their crops were destroyed several times by grasshoppers.

Samuel was considered a very good farmer. He and his good wife lived all their lives in their log house. Although they were poor, their home was very comfortable and they had enough that they never wanted for anything. Samuel received his Citizenship Papers November 23, 1873.

I have tried to find out what Samuel's activities were in the Church but I found very little information. He was a High Priest at the time of his death and he always sat in same place every Sunday on the left hand side of the stand. His wife died April 28, 1903. After her death, he

lived alone for a while. Then he was stricken with a paralytic stroke and went to live with his youngest daughter Henrietta. His grandchildren wheeled him around in a wheel chair, but this was very trying for him as he had always been so active. Samuel suffered and sacrificed much for the Gospel, but his faith never wavered; he was always thankful that he left his native land and came to Utah, the land of Zion which was the promised land to him as long as he kept the Commandments of God.

He died February 18, 1904 at the age of 84.

Written by Alvira S. Olpin, Pleasant Grove, Utah