

JOSEPH PARRY

Joseph Parry was the son of Edward and Mary Foulks Parry and was born April 4, 1825 in the Parish of New Market, Flintshire, North Wales. He was the youngest of thirteen children, nine sons and four daughters.

His mother died when he was thirteen years old and his father died four years later. In his early youth his parents had taught him the necessity of being truthful, virtuous and just before all men. They were not however, a religious people.

Shortly after his fathers death he left Wales and went to Liverpool, England. Arriving about noon without money with which to buy food and a nights lodging, a stranger in a large city, fascinated by the strange sights and not knowing where to go, when miraculously he met an old friend and school mate William Jones. William took him to his lodging house and shared his bed and board with him until he was able to obtain employment, which was only a few days.

Soon after this an uncle, John Parry came to England to live at Birkenhead. They had become acquainted with the Latter Day Saint Missionaries and after investigating it's principles they were converted and were baptized. On October 3, 1846 one of John Parry's sons named, William came to Liverpool and he took Joseph with him to hear Missionaries preach in the Liverpool Branch at the Music Hall. Up to this time no religious sect had impressed him favorably. There were about five hundred people present and while the meeting was being conducted two plainly dressed men came in and walked directly to the stand. They were introduced as Apostles of The Church Of Jesus Christ Of Latter Day Saints who had just arrived from America. They were John Taylor and Orson Hyde. John Taylor preached a powerful sermon on the First Principles of the Gospel as restored to our Prophet Joseph Smith. He testified before God and the congregation that he knew that Joseph Smith was a Prophet of God and that the Gospel that he restored to the earth was true. Joseph was much impressed and investigated further this strange, but beautiful religion and became convinced of its divinity and Dec. 31, 1846 he was baptized by Elder Thomas Thomas in the river Mercy.

He remained in England at Liverpool until he emigrated to America, with the exception of a short Mission in Wales to preach the Gospel to his brothers and sisters, as well

as a large circle of relatives and friends. He was not received kindly however and he made no converts. They were under the impression that he was deluded and felt sorry for him. One sister, Elizabeth told him that she would rather see him in his grave than see him connected with such a church. He informed her that some day she would change her views and that she also would become a member and would follow him to Zion. He left his blessing with them and went back to Liverpool. This sister and her husband were converted to the Gospel and they emigrated to Utah with a handcart company. She was married to a John Parry and when they came to Utah they settled in Cedar City. Their family group sheet is also in this book.

In the spring of 1847 he was ordained a "Priest" and on September 1, 1848 he married a young lady named Jane Payne in Liverpool and six days later he emigrated to America. They had only sufficient money for one Steamship Passage so they agreed that she would remain in England until he could send for her.

There were 232 Saints on board the ship "Erins Queen" and they arrived at New Orleans October 29, 1848. He remained there and worked until he had saved sufficient money to send for his wife. She sailed January 29, 1849 on the ship "Setland" with 358 Saints on board. They arrived April 2nd and on the 7th she was stricken with the Cholera and died April 19th. They had been able to be together for only about three weeks. There was a severe epidemic of Cholera at this time and many thousands died.

A few days after this sad event he sailed on a steamship to Saint Louis. The trip occupied seven days and there were 37 deaths on board from the Cholera. The boat would stop on the bank of the river and the crew would dig a trench and place the bodies side by side in the trench and hurriedly cover them over. No markers were left to show their resting place. He lived in St. Louis and in Kaneshville, Iowa until the fall of 1851. In January 1850, he made the acquaintance of Elisa Tunks for Hereford Shire, England and on the 1st of April we were married by Elder John Burnside. After arriving in Kansville, Ohio he bought a lot and built a log house. They lived there for two years. At that time President Young instructed the Saints to move in mass to Utah the following year. They were advised to sell their property to buy teams, wagons and provisions for the journey. He sold his for far less its value and left July 13, 1852 in the last Company of the Season. Cholera broke out and

there were some deaths and the Indians stole some of their cattle and horses, but they reached the valley three months later. He tells us that it was no pleasure trip. They didn't have a cent of money with them on the long journey.

Immediately after the Conference of "1853" when the corner stone of the Temple was laid, he went to Ogden to live. He bought a corner lot on Main Street and 3rd and built a new adobe house. Which was the first adobe house in Ogden City. At about this time he and 26 other brothers of the Priesthood were called to organize a Mission in the Salmon River Country in Idaho among the Indians. He was set apart by Apostle Lorenzo Snow. Their instructions were to settle among the Flathead, Bannock and Shoshone Indians wherever they would receive them, and teach them the rudiments of civilization, persuade them to cease their savage customs and try to induce them to live at peace with each other and the white people. They were also to try to prevail upon them to cease their roving habits and build homes, and of course they taught them the principles of the Gospel. Upon their arrival, through their interpreter, Brother Hill, they told them that they had come as friends to help them. The Indians gave them permission to occupy their land but they could not kill their game or catch their fish, of which there was an abundance, however they were willing to exchange their foods with them. They built a fort in which to live and corral their horse and cattle because the Indians could not be trusted. Some of the Missionaries stood guard every night. They were always well armed and never traveled or worked alone. Having told the Indians that they were their friends they presumed they had come to feed them and they imposed upon the Missionaries so much that their rations got very low, and that fall he was chosen along with eight other Missionaries to return home for more provisions and return with them as early as possible in the spring. They left December 4, 1855. There was much snow and ice which made the journey a hard and dangerous one.

They arrived in Ogden December 26th in good health, but hungry and frost bitten. He found his family in better health and circumstances than when he left them in May. They were left in a deplorable condition. Five months prior to his departure, his wife had been confined to her bed perfectly helpless, and this was how she was the day he left for his mission. She had three children and an infant. The eldest was five years old, and her only help was a girl age 13. What made it more distressing, he was compelled to take all the flour

in the house with him in order to make up his year's supply. At that time, flour was scarce and sold for \$25.00 a barrel. He left the brave woman without flour, money, and with little clothing, yet it was her wish that he answer the call to help his fellow men. He found them living on bran bread and very poor meat. He hauled his firewood on a hand sled that winter.

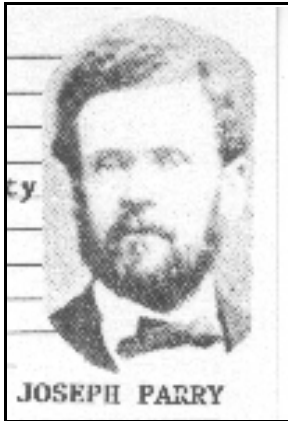
During this winter that he remained in the valley, he met and married Ann Malin who had arrived in one of the Handcart Pioneer Companies. Polygamy was then being practiced by many in the Church. [I found in the IGI records that they were married by President Brigham Young in his Office. The record stated that they were sealed by him. However, Ann Malin didn't receive her endowments until she was married to Charles Sharp. So it is questionable as to whether Ann Henrietta was born in the Covenant. She was later sealed to both her father and mother.] The following spring he returned to the Salmon River Mission.

On March 28th, he left home in charge of the company of returning missionaries, also some new ones, and arrived at the mission the latter part of April finding all well and the mission in good condition. During the year, 200 Indians were baptized. They, however, didn't sense the nature nor the seriousness of the covenants they had entered into. Considerable wheat and other grains and vegetables were planted. All came up beautifully, but as the year before, the grasshoppers devoured all with the exception of a few straggling hills of wheat. These matured and proved the fact that wheat could be raised in that altitude and latitude. For three weeks they lived on fish, wild meat, butter, and milk. A grist mill was built here during the summer. They made much improvement in enlarging the fort, building new cabins, and corrals, and clearing more land. The brethren had made great progress in learning the language. A better feeling existed between the whites and red skins.

About this time, President Brigham Young, some apostles, and other leading men visited them for three days. He admonished them to be patient, kind, and do all they could to instruct the Indians. Abundant crops, even potatoes, were harvested that fall. The irrigation ditches had been a great benefit. The desert was now fruitful.

In September, Gilbert Belnap and Joseph were sent home on business and they found the Saints very excited over the approach of Johnston's Army. Two days after their arrival they were called to join the 1st Company of Infantry to go to Echo Canyon and were later

transferred to the Cavalry and ordered to the front to meet the army and delay their advance in every way possible. However, no blood was shed. It was found that the army had camped for the winter at Fort Bridger, so all men were ordered home for the present.



On February 25, 1858, the Indians made a raid and captured most of the stock of the Salmon River Mission and also killed three Missionaries (James Miller, George McBride, and Bailey Lake). President Young sent 100 cavalry and teams (Joseph was among them) to return the Missionaries home. Thus ended the Mission. These men who had so humbly, faithfully, and bravely labored, and suffered untold hardships of hunger, cold, and the forsaking of their wives and children, lost everything they had worked for. They came home destitute. The raid was instigated by Indian Agent, Dr. Garland Hurt, who was a bitter enemy of the Mormon people. It

was the only raid by the Indians.

Joseph found his family in the most destitute condition. His wife, Ann gave birth to a daughter, Ann Henrietta, September 16, 1857. Early in 1858, he worked for Apostle John Taylor on his flour mill on the Weber. In April Johnson's Army again advanced and the Saints were ordered by President Young to move south and leave their homes. The women and children went to Provo and remained there until the difficulties were settled through diplomatic and military negotiations and agreements, then the men who had remained in the valley to protect their homes were able to bring their families home from Provo. Difficulties were settled, and they returned to their homes in July. Since all the crops had been destroyed, Joseph bought butter, eggs, and cheese, and sold these to the soldiers at Bridger. He made several trips before winter and did exceedingly well, having made enough to pay all his indebtedness and lay in a supply of food and clothing.

On one of these trips, after the "Mountain Meadow Massacre", Joseph Parry was traveling through Echo Canyon when he met a group of bitter apostates and discharged teamsters. They engaged him in conversation and asked him if he was a "Mormon" and when they heard that he was a member of the Church they planned to hang him. While they were making preparations to hang him a party of U.S. Soldiers came along and Joseph

appealed to them. Reluctantly they took him forcibly from the mob and he left immediately and hurried on his way. As soon as the soldiers left however, the mob followed him, apparently they were determined to carry out their interrupted plans. Joseph heard them coming in pursuit and drove his team and wagon into some thick willows and underbrush until they were gone. Darkness came and when he was satisfied that all danger was past he was delivered out of their hands.

During 1859, he remained at home doing carpenter work, and buying, selling, and trading produce at Fort Bridger. He brought back oxen, wagons, groceries, clothing, etc. Wagons which had cost the contractors \$200, he bought for \$70. The same with the other things. He made enough to purchase 16 acres of land. The Army proved a blessing for it brought money and merchandise into the Territory of which there was a great need.

During 1860, he worked on his farm grubbing and fencing and planting some, also. He worked all he could at carpenter work. The springs of 1861-62 were very wet, and the farm was under water. No crop was raised. He did carpenter work and worked for the city, being in charge of a force of men who were protecting the river bridge and county road. The river could only be crossed at the bridge, so it was very important to save it, as many people lived on both sides of it. Also, in the spring of 1863, he worked for the city again on the river, making dams and levies. He raised good crops that year.

In October, he, with Samuel Glasgo, were made counselors to William Hill, who had been appointed President of the 3rd Ward District. He spent the greater part of the next year assisting in gathering teams, men, and supplies to send east for the immigrants. He raised a good crop, also five acres of sugar cane. He did well as he sold many barrels of molasses in Montana at a dollar a gallon for cash. President Hill died December 4, 1864, and he was chosen to fill his place. This position he held for a number of years. He also labored as a missionary in the various wards in the county. He built his rock house on the corner of Main and 23rd Street in Ogden.

The 3rd of July his wife, Eliza, died leaving him the care of five children and babe two hours old. This was hard for him as he had no female relative to help him. He found it very difficult to get a suitable housekeeper. He married Olive Ann Stone November 20, 1866, in

the Endowment House. She was a great comfort to him, being a devoted, loving, faithful, and kind wife and mother.

On February 11, 1867, he was elected alderman from the 3rd Municipal Ward. Lorin Farr was mayor, He was made chairman of water and sanitary committees.

In September 1868, in connection with William N. Fife, he secured a grading contract on the Central Pacific Railroad. They had five teams and financially did well. They secured the second contract and lost all they made on the first, and that too, due to misleading wording of the contract. February 22, he married widow Susan A. Wright Brown in the Endowment House, February 24, he and Olive Ann received their second anointing by President Daniel H. Wells and Elder John T. D. MacAllister.

In 1870 Joseph was called to fill a Mission in Wales and he mortgaged a corner lot of his Ogden property for five hundred dollars so that he could have money to purchase necessary clothing, have money for transportation and leave some money for his family. When the note came due upon his return he was unable to redeem it so he lost it. While on this mission, after an absence of 23 years, he visited the remaining members of his father's family, two brothers and a sister. They were most happy to see him once again, but they didn't want his religion. He labored in the Swanee Branch in Wales a year when he received a release. He wrote back to the Mission President he wished to remain another year. However, President Eldredge informed him that President Brigham Young had sent his release, and that his services were needed at home. He returned in May with three small emigrant families. They were 10 weeks on the ocean.

Upon arriving home, he found the families well, but destitute indeed. He soon obtained work at the Central and Union Railroad Companies. Also, he acted as Depot Policeman. He rented his farm.

In 1873, he was again elected as counselor in the 3rd Ward. This year he planted an acre of orchard on the farm, and the remainder in market garden vegetables. He had wood contracts that fall and winter for the Central Pacific, using six teams and 15 men.

In February 1877, he was re-elected for the fifth time to represent the 3rd Ward. This year he, with Samuel Fowler in charge, went into the nursery business, plus the marketing-

gardening. Up to this time, he had received no funds for his city services, but this time, he received \$150 for the two years.

In the spring of 1880, he was elected by the school board, with Job Pingree and Richard Ballantyne, to finish the Central School Building. On August 28th, it was finished, and was the first grade school in the Territory of Utah. In October 1880, he was selected an alternate in the High Council. David H. Peery was President of the Stake. The year 1881 was a very sorrowful one for him, as well as for many others. Black diphtheria broke out in plague form. It claimed three of his children.

In 1884 the Courts began to enforce the Edmunds Law in regard to Plural Marriage. Most of the brethren went into exile. He traveled in Utah, California, and Arizona. Most of his time, for two years, was spent with William N. Fife and family in Arizona. He received word that his wife, Susan, had been arrested, so he immediately came home to give himself up to the courts. On his way to court, he met several of the deputy marshals, as well as old friends, who did not recognize him because of his disguise. This he did so they wouldn't have the pleasure of arresting him. Joseph had two wives at this time and he gave himself up and was sentenced to six months in jail and a three hundred dollar fine. This was the highest fine given to anyone that day. He was taken to the penitentiary the same day, with seven others. He was put in Cell No. 2. He and forty eight other men were kept in a cell twenty by twenty feet. It was very dirty and there were not sufficient bunks and he and several others had to sleep on the tobacco spotted floor. In one corner was a privy. Imagine the stench from so many breathing and the use of this. The Church leaders, Lorenzo Snow and Rudger Clawson and many others were imprisoned at the same time and were forced to live under the same terrible conditions. They had to live with the worst criminals who used tobacco, foul language and taunted the brothers shamefully. The guards were very spiteful with the Mormon prisoners and persecuted them at every opportunity, putting them in the sweat box at the least provocation. The "Sweat Box" was a room 5 x 5 x 3 feet. A man could neither stand nor lie down, but had to sit on the floor the entire time and eat bread and water. There were 10 guards at the penitentiary. They all had short lives, after the men were released to come home, and had terrible deaths. It looked like God's judgement was upon them. All kinds of indignities were practiced upon the brethren. One he mentions in

particular: Brother John Stoddard of Ogden was handcuffed to a murderer and paraded up South Temple and along Main Street. This so humiliated him that it broke his spirit. He gave way to despondency so badly that he was not able to throw it off. Combined with the unsanitary conditions, it shortened his life, for he died shortly after his release. There were four other brothers from Weber who went in, hail and hearty, who died shortly after their release, in the prime of life. The food was exceedingly plain. The table was very dirty. The tin plates were black and coated with filth. There were no knives nor forks nor spoons. They had to use their fingers and thumbs to carry the food to their mouths.

For breakfast, they had a slice of bread, some beef, and a cup of coffee with no sugar, no milk, cream, no butter. The dinner was the same with a potato, cooked with the skin on, laid on their plate, and minus the coffee. The supper was mush and no trimmings. However, they were permitted to buy milk every morning, and friends were allowed to bring them butter and sugar. Mary Morris, his niece, carried him these things every week, also other dainties which he never received.

From 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., the prisoners were given their liberty in the prison yard to do as they pleased. The brethren were all urged to read and study, Brother Clawson taught them bookkeeping. One rough man taught a mixed school. There were fifteen hundred polygamist brethren imprisoned at this time which caused much suffering to them and their families.

Upon Joseph's release, Mary Morris was at the penitentiary with a buggy to take him to her home for dinner and a night's rest. He returned to Ogden on a pass given him by his old friend, George Bywater. He found his families well, but destitute. His expenses while in exile and confinement were: \$400 traveling etc., \$300 fine, \$300 lawyer fee, and \$150 cost of court suits. Subsequently, he paid it all up. His business had suffered a \$2,000 loss. At that time, he was engaged in surfacing tar sidewalks. In all, there were 1,500 polygamists imprisoned. [Joseph had 5 wives, Jane Payne, Eliza Tunks, Ann Malin (Later divorced), Olive Ann Stone, Susan Wright Brown. He provided well for his large family and left a very large posterity.]

In 1890 there was a boom in real estate and building in Ogden and Joseph sold a corner lot for \$22,000 cash. That same year he opened up 18th street and gave the city a deed for the same. He built his wife, Susan, a six-room modern house on 18th Street, also, an eight-room house for Olive Ann. This he rented for a time at \$35 per month. He sold several lots on 18th Street. He laid many sidewalks. He handled more money that year than any previous time. From his rentals, he received \$140 per month. Among other things he built and rented a block of buildings which is still known as “Parry Block”, it is located at 23rd



Joseph Parry

Street and Washington Ave. The business enterprises he began are still incorporated and some of his descendants owned Stock in the Company he established. As a building contractor he helped much to build up and develop Ogden City.

In 1892, he donated \$500 toward finishing the Salt Lake Temple that it might be dedicated April 6, 1893. He and his wives attended the ceremony the first day. The children went three or four days later.

A great depression swept the country in 1893, and his rental decreased materially. Through stock investments (upon the advise of friends), he lost considerable: \$13,033 in the Consolidated Implement Co., \$8,000 in State Bank of Utah, \$500 in the Pressed Brick Co., and \$300 in the Equitable Cooperation. A considerable amount of money in those days.

In 1895, he was elected a director of the Consolidated Company. On July 26, 1896, he was chosen first counselor to Lorin Farr of the High Priest Quorum of Weber Stake. In 1898, he was elected for the sixth time a member of the City Council. His finances turned for the better. He made some real estate sales, and rentals increased. He leased his corner on 23rd Street and Washington Avenue for 10 years providing he put a building upon it. He oversaw the entire erection of the Parry Block, which was finished at a cost of \$20,000.

Joseph Parry was a tall noble looking man. He wore a beard and he had the bearing of a gentleman, which he was, in every sense of the word. He was always kind and gentle and was a man who could demand respect in any company. He was deeply religious and devoted much of his time and efforts to Church activities. He was the Mayor of Ogden and

was an Alderman and City Councilman, serving in the last mentioned office until the time of his death. His was a noble and well balanced life, he labored untiringly for the betterment of his community and throughout his entire life he served his Church. He was a firm believer in tithing and up to the last hour of his life he demonstrated his faith and desire to serve the Lord. It was on the Sabbath Day after he had attended his meetings and bore his testimony, blessed several babies and returned home from evening meeting. He said that he was a little tired and thought that he would retire. He sat down and wrote out a check for his Fast Donation. Suddenly he gave a deep sigh and was gone. Death was instantaneous. He was eighty six years old two months before his death.

[My mother, Hazel Greenwood Nelson always told me that on many occasions he would take the trolley to Sandy and walk up the tracks to their home to visit his family. He never forgot them even though he and Ann Malin were divorced. He would hold his grandchildren on his lap and play with them, having a good visit.]

REMINISCENCES OF GRANDDAUGHTER LUCILLE PARRY PETERSON OF HER GRANDFATHER JOSEPH PARRY

Joseph was an adventurer as he left his home in Newmarket, Wales, at age 17, to seek his fortune.

He was an obedient convert to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as he followed its Prophet and leaders.

He was a loving husband as he and his new wife planned their trip to America.

He was an early pioneer as he arrived in Utah in 1852 with the 13th Company of Welch immigrants.

He was a successful business man as he cleared the land, sold building lots, built homes, and business areas in Ogden. The two story 75 x 125 foot brick building he built at the northwest corner of 23rd and Washington Ave. in Ogden was so well built it has now been incorporated in Ogden City Mall. It was in 1899 Joseph built this building and it was in this building that he and his sons conducted a business selling monuments and headstones and

specialized in investments. In 1952 the family sold the building to the Northgate Co. Real Estate, subsidiary of Allied Stores.

He was a compassionate man as he harnessed his best teams to his strongest wagons, and loaded them with food and clothing and traveled back into the vast prairies to meet the starving weary pioneers as they ended their three months journey to Utah.

He was a tireless missionary as he taught the Indians in the northern country, taught his relatives and friends in far away Wales and England, and taught the immigrants in Utah as they arrived from the European countries.

He was a brave soldier as he served as Captain and Chaplain of the Infantry that fought the federal army in Echo Canyon, sent by President Johnson, whose mission was to annihilate the saints.

He was a polygamist, who had five wives, strong courageous women who gave birth to 23 children. Many of these children and grandchildren have become outstanding Utah citizens.

He was an enthusiastic politician as he was elected and re-elected as alderman of the 3rd District of Ogden.

He was a leader and socially accepted as he helped plan the welcoming reception for the Railroad officials as the railroad arrived in Ogden.

He was a progressive educator, as he served on the Ogden School Board.

He was an active Church member, as he served in a Bishopric and for 27 years as a High Councilman of the Weber Stake.

He was a loving father and grandfather, I felt the love Grandfather had for little children when, at age 4, I sat on his lap. He hugged me and called me “his little Mary.”

Grandfather endured to the end, for on the day of his death he named and blessed three tiny new born infants in the Fast and Sacrament meeting in the 3rd Ward.

Indeed, Joseph Parry of Ogden was a great man.