

SAMUEL ROSE PARKINSON
(GREAT-GREAT-GREAT GRANDPA)

By
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RIVERSIDE ELEMENTARY
MARCH 2008

SAMUEL ROSE PARKINSON

I am going to tell you about my awesome great-great-great grandfather, Samuel Rose Parkinson. He was born in Barrowford, Lancashire, England, on April 12th, 1831. As a young boy, he would travel to many countries with his family, due to economic hardships. He worked hard even in his early years to help out. He lived in Sydney, Australia, Valparaiso, Chile, returned to England, then the family immigrated to America on the ship, Europia, in the Spring of 1848.

They arrived in St. Louis, Missouri in October of that same year. His father, William Parkinson and his mother, Charlotte Rose were met by a mormon family, they would rent a home and Samuel would be baptized a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, in December of 1848. Samuel was about seventeen then. He and his father worked together at a pork house and then at Park Flour Mill. In July of 1849, Cholera broke out and his mother died on the 18th.

Samuel left home in 1850, worked for himself, (\$18/mth and board), bought his own team on credit and 6 weeks later, it was paid in full. He would have enough to support his father's family by 1851. He married his first wife, Arabella Ann Chandler on January 1, 1852. They left with the St. Louis Co. on July 10th, 1854, and arrived in Salt Lake City, Utah, September 23rd, 1854. They settled in Kaysville, Davis County, bought land and built a home of logs. It had a dirt roof, which was a big mess when it rained.

Samuel left in the Spring of 1860, with his family, to Franklin, Idaho. It was on April 14th, and there were 13 families called by Brigham Young to settle the area.

Samuel was not the only relative of mine chosen, another prominent man, Nathan William Packer, was the other among the 13 men to go to Franklin. He also had made the trek into the Salt Lake Valley. He was one of the last to be endowed in the Navoo Temple before leaving.

Samuel Rose Parkinson, would prove to become one of the staunch and stalwart founders of the community of Franklin, Idaho. His experience in farming, ranching, merchandising, trading, travel and his ability to make money would be crucial in bringing forth the success of the church's financial survival. He also was one to lose his crops to the famous "grasshopper attack". He gave his co-op business to the church and would become the director of Franklin Co-operative Mercantile Institution. He built the first Saw Mill and started the North Star Woolen Mill. His goods were delivered and sold to ZCMI, in Salt Lake City, and many other surrounding areas.

My great-great-great grandfather was very brave and compassionate. He was chosen to be the one to scare-off a bear and her cub, with the bear running at the heels of his mule. He made it safe through a line of men with pitchforks in their hands. The bear and cub, reared off in another direction, later to be caught by the Indians. Another time, was just after the completion of the Battle Creek War, January 29th, 1863, in which he was a part of the "minute men" during this time.

The problems with the Indians and the settlers had increased, despite those on both sides struggling to get along. The massacre would be the saddest, yet the most successful battles of the west. The bodies of those who died, would be hauled-off in horse and mule drawn wagons. In May, of 1863 two men, Andrew Morrison and William Howell were returning with firewood loaded in their wagon. They were approached by an indian. Morrison, knowing the Indian language tried to speak to him. Howell wanted to run while there was only one around. Well, the plan to distract or make kind conversation only led them further into trouble.

Morrison was wounded. He was shot twice with two arrows, one wedged very close to his heart. Howell ran for help. Samuel went to his rescue, and after getting Morrison safely home, he got his team together and traveled over 220 miles in only 48hrs, to Salt Lake and back. He wanted the best doctor to take care of Morrison's wounds. The arrows remained in his body, an incision was made and left open. The risk of taking the arrow out was too high. Andrew Morrison would live 27 more years.

There are so many stories such as this one. I will share that Samuel would later marry Charlotte Elizabeth Smart, in 1866, she would have 11 children. Then in 1867 he married his third wife, Maria H. Smart, who had 13 children; they were sisters. Samuel served 6 mths for polygamy and had to pay a \$300 fine. There was not enough to hold him, and he was released. The trial took place in Blackfoot, Idaho, November 18, 1886.

Samuel and Charlotte's daughter, Ann Smart Parkinson, (Annie), would marry into the Packer family. She had 12 children, one of which was Clyde P. Packer, who is my great-grandfather. He was the coach at the late Ricks College (BYU-Idaho)! He took his team to the National Championships and won! Clyde, married Dora Merrill, and they had 5 children. My grandpa is Dr. P. Merrill Packer, who is still alive today. He would carry on the tradition of hard-work, loyalty, compassion, devotion, determination, respect, and lots of love, not only for his wife and family, but to all those around him.

Samuel Rose Parkinson was the father of 32 children, 13 sons and 19 daughters. He visited his family and would catch influenza, after returning from October Conference, in Salt Lake City, he never missed. He would remain in his bed from that time, until his death. He died May 23, 1919, in Preston, Idaho.