

## Marriner Wood Merrill 1832

By Madison Merrill

My great, great, great, great, grandfather Marriner Wood Merrill was born on September 25, 1835 in Sackville, New Brunswick, Canada. He was the 10th of 13 kids in his family. He grew up on a beautiful farm in Canada and learned to work very hard. When he was just nine years old his mother sent him to the hayfield to get his brothers and father for dinner. On the way to get them he became unconscious and had a vision. In the vision he found himself in a log cabin with Joseph Smith and Brigham Young. They told him about the church and he began to understand what he heard was true. Marriner was surprised because he didn't know much about the church at this time. Ten years later, when he was nineteen years old he was baptized in New Brunswick. After he was baptized many of his friends called him a fool for joining the church. But he didn't care, because he knew it was true.

One year after he was baptized, Marriner decided to move west to Salt Lake City. Along the way he almost drowned in the Platte River. His friend Brother Welsh, who only had one eye, helped to save his life. Luckily Brother Welsh was a good swimmer and Marriner was very grateful. Another time when he was travelling west they were stopped by 500 Sioux Indians. The Indians demanded that the pioneers give them, sugar, flour, coffee, and tobacco. So they did and the Indians let them pass. Marriner and the pioneers were almost stampeded by herds of wild buffalo too. They were very glad to get to Salt Lake City on September 11th 1853. When Marriner got to Salt Lake City he went right to work making shingles for roofs. On November 10th 1853 he married Sarah Atkinson who had crossed the plains with him. Ezra Taft Benson married them. In 1853 Marriner was given 100 acres of land from Brigham Young. He did not want to feel selfish so he divided the land up with his father in law and his poor neighbor. Brigham Young was very pleased with Marriner when he had heard about the land. Marriner Wood Merrill was a great man, he worked very hard and made good choices.

