

Harrison Perry Fugate



According to family tradition, Harrison Perry's family came to America from Ireland with the William Penn Company. A son, Thomas Fugate was born in Pennsylvania and married twice. Thomas never came West. In the 1830, 1840 and 1850 Chester Township, Clinton County, Ohio Census we find a Thomas Fugate and family listed. Harrison Perry is suggested to be one of six children born to Thomas Fugate. Harrison Perry was born 10 June 1821 in Clinton County, Ohio to Thomas Fugate and Mary Wilkersham. James Monroe was President of the United States. The 1830 Census return lists Thomas Fugate's family as follows: Males 1 5-10 years; 2 15-20 years; 1 40-50 years; Females 1 under 5; 1 10-15 years; 1 20-30 years; 1 40-50 years. In 1840 they appeared: Males 1 15-20 years; 1 50-60 years; Females 1 10-15 years; 1 50-60 years. In 1850 Thomas is 67 years old with his birthplace listed as Pennsylvania; Henetta, his wife, is 46 years old with birthplace in Maryland. Thomas was recorded as a farmer.

When Harrison Perry was 22 years old he heard the message of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints which was in its 13th year since restoration. The Saints had left New York and moved to Ohio in 1831. Joseph Smith was the Prophet of the Church when Harrison Perry was baptised by F. S. Ball in 1843. He was rebaptised in 1848.

Harrison Perry moved with the Saints and at the age of 25 in Nauvoo, Illinois he received a blessing under the hands of Patriarch John Smith, uncle to the Prophet Joseph Smith, on 29 October 1845. His lineage is of the House of Jacob. He wanted very much to go to the Nauvoo Temple when it was built.

Harrison Perry became a Pioneer of 1848, coming out west to Utah with the Lorenzo Snow Company. This company consisted of 99 wagons, 321 souls, 20 horses, 3 mules, 308 oxen, 182 cows, 38 loose cattle, 139 sheep, 25 pigs, 158 chickens, 10 cats, 26 dogs and 2 doves. Brigham Young had entered the Great Salt Lake Valley and proclaimed that "This is the Place" on 24 July 1847. After the Lorenzo Snow Company had reached the valley the following year, he was put in charge of the celebration of the Second Anniversary of Entrance into the Salt Lake Valley. Harrison Perry along with the other pioneers had much to celebrate and be thankful for. It was an exciting day with the inhabitants of the valley being awoken by the firing of a cannon, accompanied by music. The brass band played martial airs were carried through the city in two carriages. A bowery had been built 100 feet long by 60 feet wide with 104 posts and covered with boards. For the special activities of this day a canopy was extended about 100 feet from each side to accomodate all the Saints who would attend the dinner. The large national flag was flown, the Nauvoo bell rung, a procession of leaders followed by speeches then to dine at feast-laden tables. The day from sunrise to sunset was a success filled with harmony and good will.

In 1849 Harrison Perry, age 28, married Sarah (Sallie) Shoemaker, age 19, in Salt Lake City, Utah. Sallie was the daughter of Jezreel and Nancy Golden Shoemaker. Soon after their marriage they along with the Shoemaker family were called to go to Sanpete County with the Isaac Morley Company and settle. They arrived at Salt Creek, later named Manti, on 19 November 1849. They set up camp on the south side at the foot of Quarry Hill, where the Manti Temple now stands. The first winter was extremely severe. In the spring of 1850 the season was so late and the animals were weak from lack of food. Jezreel Shoemaker's team was the only team able to do the plowing for the people. It was June before any planting could be done. As spring broke the company found they were camped over dens of rattlesnakes. In one day they killed five hundred and no one was bitten.

In 1851, Harrison Perry and Sallie were listed in the Davis County, Utah Census as a family of three: Harrison Fugate, age 29, birthplace Ohio; Salley, age 20, birthplace Kentucky; Artemesia age 1/12, birthplace Deseret. Their first child, a daughter named Syntha, was born 12 May 1850 and died 6 October 1850. The second daughter, Artemicia, was born 30 March 1851. Their third child Sarah was born 5 March 1852 and only lived seven months. She died 14 October 1852. These three girls were all born in Manti.

When Harrison Perry was 32 years old he received his Patriarchal Blessing on 15 March 1854 under the hands of Isaac Morley in Manti. Sallie received her blessing this day also.

On 4 April 1855, their fourth child and first son, Harrison Moroni, was born in Manti. When Harrison Moroni was just barely two years old, Artemicia died on 24 April 1857.

On 17 May 1857, Harrison Perry was ordained a Seventy by Joseph Young. He was 35 years old. His second son, Theophilus, was born 2 February 1860 in Manti. However, their small family was not located in the 1860 Sanpete County Census. Harrison Perry was sent all over the country because he could calm the Indians when they started to go on the war path. He seemed to have a gift to talk to them. They called him Old Quont or Grizzly Bear because of his grey hair and beard. Because of this fact, the census taker could have missed the family. Theophilus died 26 December 1861.

1861 was an eventful year in the history of the United States. This is when the Overland Telegraph was completed which united the country. Its success was marred with the beginning of the Civil War which lasted for four years. The country was in the capable hands of President Abraham Lincoln.

On 1 November 1862 Jezreel was born to Harrison Perry and Sallie in Manti. Harrison Moroni was seven when his little brother was born. Fifteen months later Harrison Perry took his small family consisting of Sallie, Harrison Moroni and Jezreel into the wilderness to settle Richfield (first called Big Springs), Sevier County. On 13 March 1864 they arrived with the family of Joseph S. Doxford. On the following day Niels Mortensen (Peterson) arrived with his family. These first three families were followed by others soon afterwards. While they were in Richfield, Thomas was born 4 October 1866. However, in the spring of 1867 they were forced to return to Manti because of Indian uprisings. The Harrison Perry Fugate family was not listed in the 1870 Census for Sanpete or Millard Counties. In 1869 the Trans-Continental Railroad was completed linking the East with the West. The people would now be able to come out west by train.

At the age of 49, Harrison Perry became a father again to his eighth and last child, a daughter they named Mary. She was born in Manti in the spring on 12 April 1871. She lived for four months and died on 3 August. Harrison Perry and Sallie shared much grief at the loss of five of their eight children, and delighted in their grandchildren.

In the Manti, Sanpete County, Utah 1880 Federal Census we find the following: Dwelling #194 Harrison P. age 58, Laborer; Sallie 49, Keeping House; Jezreel 17, Laborer and Thomas 13, attending school. Next door in Dwelling #193, lived Harrison age 25, Laborer and Jerusha 24, Keeping House. Harrison Moroni and Jerusha were sealed in the Manti Temple 16 October 1889. Shortly after the census was taken Harrison Perry and Sallie ventured into the unknown again when they took their family into Castle Valley, eastward over the Wasatch Mountains. There in Emery County they built their new home in Paradise on Ferron Creek two miles east of Molon and six miles from Ferron. It was situated several miles above the junction of Huntington, Cottonwood and Ferron Creek to make the San Rafael River. It was not many miles from where the old Spanish Trail crossed southwest from Green River to Salina Canyon and to California.

During the first years on Ferron Creek the settlers would gather at the home of William Taylor, whose log house had the first board floors made with lumber brought from American Fork, to have social gatherings and dances. Harrison Perry loved to play his fiddle as the dancers kicked up their heels. He was called on to play at all the local dances and program. He was said to have fiddled his old heart out. Harrison was a farmer, but spent his leisure hours fiddling and fishing. He would fish all day for just a little minnow in the Ferron Creek. He spent many hours on Funk's Lake, many times provoking his wife by his lack of responsibility. Among his papers was found this notation: "April 9, 1873 she got up jawing me because I spit on the floor and would not milk the cows." He was a jolly and kindly man. Sallie hung a curtain all around their bed so that he could take refuge when the flies got too bad and play his fiddle. He opened up the first coal mine in Ferron Canyon in the early 1880's. The vein was thin and the coal of poor quality so it was soon abandoned. Later the family moved into Ferron and built a two room log house down under the hill in the southwest part of town.

In 1888 Lorenzo Snow dedicated the Manti Temple. Harrison Perry did not go to the temple during his lifetime because he said he would wait and go to the Nauvoo Temple when it was completed. Jezreel married Mary Ellen Wrigley in Ferron on 16 December 1888. Thomas was 23 when he married Margaret Elizabeth Crookston in Ferron on Christmas Day, 25 December 1889.

As the new frontier grew, Harrison Perry was 74 when the Territory of Deseret became the State of Utah. In 1898 he sustained Lorenzo Snow as President of the Church. Their paths had crossed many times during his lifetime. At the age of 80, Harrison Perry Fugate died on Saturday morning, 4 January 1902, in Ferron, Emery, Utah. He had been sick for nine months. Sallie ministered what comfort she could during his long illness. His suffering was borne with great fortitude. Sallie was ever at his side. He was survived by his aged wife and three sons who were all with him during his last hours. He was a kind genial person whose presence always was like a ray of sunshine, having a kind word for all he met. The funeral services were held in the Social Hall and was largely attended. The speakers were Bishop H. A. Nelson, Councilors J. L. Allred and G. W. Perry, Elders Lynn S. Beach of Molen, William Taylor Sr. of Ferron and John C. Duncan. All of whom spoke very highly of Brother Fugate and paid a glowing tribute of his memory. He was laid to rest in the Ferron City Cemetery. Theodore Roosevelt was the 21st President of the United States when he died. Four months after the death of Harrison Perry, his son, Harrison Moroni, migrated to Arizona from Utah.

In the summer of July, 1918 Ferron residents prepared for a three day journey to Manti. Among the families preparing a covered wagon to go along were his sons, Jezreel and Thomas. The wagon train was organized and they left going up through "Straight Canyon" (which was nothing but curves) where they camped on the summit the first night. One of Harrison Perry's granddaughters, Naomi who was 9 years old, remembers how the wagon train was pulled into a large circle at the end of the day and after the big bon fire was made the people gathered to sing songs and tell stories around the camp fire. When the wagon train reached Manti, Jezreel and Thomas took their families and stayed with their Uncle Ezra Shoemaker. On 18 July 1918 they took their families into a Manti Temple Sealing Room and knelt at the altar to perform the sealing of Harrison Perry and Sallie. J. Orson Barney was proxy for Harrison Perry and Margaret E. Fugate for Sallie. Mary Ellen W. Fugate for Syntha; Mary Behunin for Artemicia; Llewelles Killpack for Sarah; Jezreel Fugate for himself and for his brother Harrison Moroni; Thomas Fugate for himself and for his brother Theophilus; and Naomi Fugate for Mary. It was a beautiful summer day and a spiritual experience for those who participated knowing that this close family of Harrison Perry and Sallie would now all be together eternally.

Mary Jane Watkins Bracken-July 26, 1978

Sources of Information: Ferron Death Register 1898-1905; Obituary Card Index #321, 149, #6507 Pt 53; Deseret News #026, 951; TIB; Ferron, Emery Marriages #483, 518; Church Record File; Manti Ward Records #6381 Pt 1; Manti Temple Records #23052; 1851 Davis County, Utah Census #924, 039; 1880 Sanpete County, Utah Census #3083 Pt 4; Morley's First Patriarchal Book Page 174 #298; "History of Sanpete County"; "Comprehensive History of the Church"; "Our Pioneer Heritage"; "Pioneers and Prominent Men of Utah"; "Encyclopedia of the Church of Jesus Christ of LDS"; Margaret Crookston Temple Record Book and History in possession of Zetta Fugate Devey; History compiled by Zetta F. Devey; Memories of Llewelles Fugate Killpack, granddaughter.