

CHARLES ALBERT CALLIS and GRACE ELIZABETH PACK
(Parents of Josephine Callis Spilsbury)

Born: 4 May 1865
Dublin, Dublin, Ireland
Died: 21 Jan 1947 (81 years)
Jacksonville, Duvall, Florida

11 Oct 1873
Salt Lake City, SL, Utah
12 Oct 1946 (73 years)
Salt Lake City, SL, Utah

Married: 3 September 1902
Parents: John Callis and Susanna
Cravath
Charlotte Quilliam

Ward Eaton Pack and Laura

Charles was born in Dublin of English parents. His father died when he was 21 months old. His mother took her little family back to England to live near relatives. The family was destitute and Charles remembers attending Raikes Ragged School, a Bible school established to help poor children. When he was ten years old, he was baptized into the LDS Church. The missionary who baptized him complained after his mission that all he had done was baptize one little ragged Irish boy. Later when he was an Apostle, Elder Callis looked up the missionary and told him he was that ragged Irish boy.



He immigrated with his mother and two little sisters to Utah through the Perpetual Emigration Fund, settling first in Bountiful and later moving to Coalville where he worked in the mines. During his hours as a lift operator, he studied the law, enabling him to pass the Bar Exam in Utah and later in Florida and South Carolina. He served in the state legislature, where he did much to alleviate the bad conditions of the miners, and as County Attorney in Summit County. He served a mission to England when he was 27.

He met Grace Elizabeth Pack when they served together in the stake MIA. Grace was a school teacher in Kamas. She had a good education and attended the Brigham Young Academy in Provo. She was only persuaded to marry Charles when he suggested on a buggy ride that they kneel in the nearby cornfield and pray about it. His pleading with the Lord convinced her. They were married when he was 37 and she was nearly 29. Those who knew them throughout their life often talked of the loving

relationship between them. They were entirely devoted to each other through all their married years. They settled in Coalville but were soon called as missionaries to the Southern States. They went to Chattanooga, Tennessee, with their two daughters. Two years later, Elder Callis was called as Southern States Mission President. They resided, first in Chattanooga and then in Atlanta. Six more children were born to them--two boys, twins, died in infancy.

Elder Callis served 25 years as Mission President, travelling by train, buggy and motor car over the large area that encompassed all the Southern States. Grace served as mission Relief Society President, raised six children, boarded the missionaries, and saw to the placement of many orphan children. During their time there, over 4000 missionaries passed under their care. In those days, members had little contact with Salt Lake City, and to them Elder Callis represented the Church. He was loved and revered by all the members in the South. Many named their children after him. He was able to dispel much hostility and prejudice against the Mormons with government officials and church leaders. He passed the bar in South Carolina in order to defend two missionaries against trumped-up charges of murder.

In General Conference, October, 1933, Charles was named as the new Apostle to take the place of Elder Talmage, a dear friend. He heard his name read from the pulpit by President Grant and that was the first he knew of it. He and Grace moved from their beloved South to the Belvedere Apartments in Salt Lake City. He traveled each weekend to a stake conference, gave radio addresses over KSL, and published a book *Fundamentals of Religion*. He was a favorite speaker, an old-style orator, often punctuating his talks by pounding the pulpit. In 1947, a few months after Grace had died of cancer, he fulfilled the wish of his heart, returning to his beloved South to dedicate the first stake in the Southern States at Jacksonville, Florida. The day after the dedication, he passed away quickly in mid-sentence as he was riding in the car with his dear friend Brother Jenkins.

Papa and Grandmother, as we grandchildren called them, were the most wonderful grandparents. I loved them both, and Papa was to me like Santa Claus and the Lord combined. How they doted on the grandchildren and what an ever-abiding influence they were in all our lives. They gave their lives whole-heartedly to their family and to the Church. This short sketch cannot begin to do them justice. Their daughter Kathleen has written a biography which should be read in each family. They left a heritage which we could do no better in life than to honor and emulate.