

DUP AF Book 2

Biographical Sketch

of

William Parker

Written May 20, 1937 by Mary Ann Chipman Hansen,
his granddaughter

Pioneer in 1852

Abraham O. Smoot Company

Born 30 May 1821 at Burnley, Lancashire, England

Married Mary Ann Child Parker on 17 May 1862

in Endowment House, SLC, Utah

She died 28 Jan 1892

He died 27 Nov 1905 in Salt Lake City, Utah

William Parker was born May 30, 1821 at Burnley, Lancashire, England, a son of Thomas Parker and Martha Pollard. He was the second child in a family of four, namely Robert, William, Alice and Martha.

He heard the gospel when but a young man, and believed its teachings. He was baptized into this church November 30, 1840 at Burnley, Lancashire, England by Roger Dewhurst and confirmed the same day by Robert Pate. He emigrated to America September 16, 1844 and located with the Saints at Iowa. He was very interested in the teachings of this Gospel and obeyed the principles that were taught and attended the meetings regularly.

He married Mary Ann Child, a daughter of William Child and Elizabeth Battersby about [25 December] 1847.

They came to Salt Lake City [3 September in the Abraham O. Smoot Company] about 1852 and about two years later settled in American Fork, Utah. Their first home was a log room with a dirt roof, located where the Rulon Nicholes' home now stands. They cleared off the land and planted trees, mostly apples and peaches. They irrigated their land; taking turns much the same as we do today. Other land farther out of the city was assigned to different people to clear and take care of. William Parker was assigned about fifty acres one mile east of town. Here they raised corn, potatoes and some grain, the grain was cut by hand and bound in sheaves. The children would shell the corn and then it was taken to the mill to be ground. This they used mostly for bread, white bread (made from flour) was a rare treat in those days.

He was a clean appearing man, always neat in his dress.

He was a member of the 36th Quorum of Seventy and went back to his homeland on a short mission October 25, 1872 returning June 26, 1873.

He and his wife were endowed in the Old Endowment House May 17, 1862, and after that he did considerable temple work.

He was given a patriarchal blessing February 16, 1858 at Salt Lake City by John Young, Patriarch. Many wonderful blessings were

promised him, many have been fulfilled and some yet remain to be fulfilled.

His wife Mary Ann Child Parker, died January 28, 1892, after that he was cared for by his children.

He died in Salt Lake City 27 November 1905, age eight-four years and six months.

His posterity included eight children, namely William Henry, Martha Alice (Mrs. Ebenezer Hunter), Thomas Battersby, Franklin Maximillian, Mary Ann (Mrs. T.S. Boley), Lafayette, James (who died at the age of two), and Sarah Elizabeth (Mrs. W.H. Chipman), seventy grandchildren, one hundred thirty-five great grand-children, and twenty one great great grand-children.

The pioneer people never forgot to be kind and considerate of their friends and neighbors, and believed in giving bouquets while they were still living, as evidenced by the following verses that were written by William R. Webb and given to William Parker on his eighty-fourth birthday. He brought it to him already framed. It is treasured by the family and is now in the possession of his only living daughter, Mary Ann Boley.

As a token of respect,
These lines I write and say,
May peace and joy your bosom swell
On this your Natal Day.

The years that've passed since you were born
Count eight-four to-day,
And may that number still increase
So that you with us can stay.

Away off in your fatherland
You heard the gospel sound,
Then gathered to this promised land,
Where light and truth abound.

Blessed with offspring not a few,

Now swarming in the land,
Who in the future will become
As numerous as the sand.

Then onward brother in God's cause,
Never falter by the way,
That you in the Celestial World
May spend eternal day.

Then lengthen out his days on earth
O God, I humbly pray;
And when his mortal life shall end,
Take him with thee to stay.