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Biographical Sketch

of

David Grant

by Maggie Mae Marshall Steele, granddaughter

Pioneer Year 1847

Orson Pratt Advanced Company

Born 21 Jul 1816 at Arbroath, Scotland

Married Mary Ann Hyde 18 Sep 1843 in Nauvoo, Illinois

Died at Mill Creek, Utah, 23 Dec 1868

Buried at Salt Lake City Cemetery.

David Grant, Pioneer of 1847, son of Robert and Belle Mills Grant, was born at Arbroath, Scotland, July 21st, 1816. At the age of eight years his father moved his family to West Collinston Mills, a country place left by his grandfather on his mother's side. His father had two wives, the first having eight children; and the second, the mother of David Grant, having nine children, all of whom lived to maturity, David Grant being the oldest of the second family.

At the age of fifteen he entered a tailoring establishment as an apprentice, which trade he took up as his life vocation, he finishing his apprenticeship at the age of nineteen, and at that time moved to Edinsburgh.

In the year 1839, at the age of twenty-two, he left Scotland for America, landing at New Orleans on the 12th day of July, 1839. He immediately travelled to Louisville, Kentucky, where his brother Robert, who had preceded him to America, was doing business. He remained in Louisville three or four months, from there going West with his brother William, and wintering in Monroe, Illinois, and in Payson, Adams County, Illinois.

It was in Payson, Illinois, in the fall of 1840 that David Grant heard and accepted the Gospel, Elder David Evans baptizing him into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. He joined the Saints in Nauvoo shortly after his baptism, and for the next five or six years he lived a life parallel to that of other Saints of the time, working earnestly at his trade, suffering the trials and hardship typical of Nauvoo Days, and spending time in helping in the defense against frequent attacks of rioting mobs.

The first entry in his day book, which has been preserved by his family, is dated Nauvoo, June 9, 1842, and is an itemized statement of tailoring work done for many of the Saints, including the names of Chancy Higbee, William Higby, William Clayton and Angus Cahoon. These first entries aggregate \$88.27 with the notation below the balance, "Rec'd for Tithing."

David Grant was married at Nauvoo, Sept. 18th, 1843, to Mary Ann Hyde, who was born Sept. 18th, 1820, at Yark, Livingston

County, N.Y. Two children, David William and Mary Ann, were born them in Nauvoo; and shortly after the birth of Mary Ann, in the winter of 1846, David Grant with his family was among the Saints driven from Nauvoo.

The weather was rainy and cold, the rain descending in torrents upon them all the first night, and the Saints were not prepared to meet the hardships they encountered on their journey to Winter Quarters, the suffering and material loss they sustained being great; and it cost many of them their health and even some lives. One of the resulting sorrows from this winter of sacrifice was the death of Mary Ann Hyde Grant, Feb. 1, 1847, her death resulting from sickness from exposure.

In 1847 David Grant started West as a member of Elder Orson Pratt's advance company, arriving in Salt Lake Valley on his thirty-first birthday, July 21, 1847. The caravan consisted of twenty-three wagons and forty three men, including Wilford Woodruff and Geo. Brown. A little later he made the return trip East with Brigham Young and brought his two motherless children back to Salt Lake in the Spring of 1848.

On Sept. 24, 1848, he was married to Beulah Chipman who was born Feb. 28, 1827, in Upper Canada. Two children, William Henry and Beulah, being born of this Union. But on Sept. 26, 1851, death visited his home again, claiming his wife six days after the birth of her daughter, the baby living only four months after the mother's death.

On March 8, 1850 David was ordained a Seventy.

On March 8, 1852 he was married to Mary Hunsaker, who was born Dec. 3, 1835 at Payson, Adams County, Illinois.

In Sept. 1852, David Grant was called on a mission to Great Britain, he responding to the call and laboring in the Liverpool Conference under Elder A. F. McDonald for four year. During that period he called upon his father, who objected strongly to the religion, but who, however, promised him if he would return later, he would furnish him family genealogy. At that time he was appointed a mission branch President, which took him a considerable

distance from his father's home and he never had the opportunity to make a return call. His father died shortly after.

He also later lost track of his brother Robert, who after starting for Calif. Was never heard of after he entered the desert lands.

David Grant returned to America as Counselor on the S.S. Curling and arrived home Oct 2, 1856.

The Millennial Star of Dec. 8, 1856 contains the following:

The ship "Samuel Curling" cleared from Liverpool the 18th of April and sailed for Boston on the following day, Apr. 19th, with 707 souls of the Saints on board, under the Presidency of Elders Don Jones, John Oakley and David Grant.

Shortly after returning from his mission, David Grant was rebaptized and also rebaptized his wife, Hunsaker Grant, in the Font at Salt Lake City. There were born to Mary Hunsaker Grant seven children, Abraham, Eliza Belle, Jacob, Lewis, Robert Bower, and Alexander.

On Dec. 21, 1856, in President Young's Office, he was sealed, but not endowed, to Elizabeth Williams who was born May 9, 1838, at Flintshire, North Wales. Elizabeth Williams had been among the Saints emigrating on the S.S. Curling in David Grant's Company. She having joined the Church in her native country three years previous in 1853. She crossed the plains in the second hand cart company with Captain Bunker, Grant and Parry, arriving in Salt Lake the Oct. 2, also. Being the oldest one in the family, she helped wheel her infant sister across the plains. Upon her arrival she was employed by David Grant as assistant in his little tailoring establishment, working for him less than three months when she became his wife, as before mentioned. Of this Union there were eight children, James, Peter M., Elizabeth Ann, Sarah Jane, Mary, John W., Margaret W., and Rosetta, the last named having been born several months after the death of the father, David Grant.

From the day book and Journal left by David Grant, we find recorded in detail business transactions with the Church people

which reflect a life of thrift, hard work, and harmony with the teachings of the Church.

Many interesting habits of the Saints are manifest through the columns of this time-worn journal, which at a glance appears to be simply a book of figures and ruled accounts. We find Dec. 1846, Brigham Young charged for the Cutting of a Buffalo Coat. Fifty Cents, to making coat \$3.60 and on the same page Credit to Brigham Young of \$2.00 for four bushel of Corn.

There appears, repeatedly, a charge for cutting pants, twenty-five cents, or cutting cloak or coat, or simply a vest, fifty or seventy five cents. Which itself tells the story of thrift, and no doubt necessary economy practiced by the Saints, the good housewives apparently making their husbands suits after the tailor had cut them.

The daily notations throughout the Journal indicate a regular exchange of Mdse. for work, and work for work, the receipt of very little cash being recorded. There appear credits for day labor, wood, pistons, cabbage, loads of brick, hauling posts, pickets, fence rails, laces, flour and meal, veal, and other sundry items. A Mr. Blunt being given credit for five dollars for five days work.

On page 80, there is recorded a sample year's tithing, as follows:

Tithing of 1864

½ bushel Beans. Mary 3 ½ # butter and 3 doz. Eggs.

8 ½ lbs. Wool. Elizabeth 7 ¼ Lbs. Butter. 5 Gal. & 4 Lbs. Molasses.

15 bushel Potatoes, 10 Carrots, and 1 of Beets.

40 Pumpkins and Squash, Elizabeth 2 Doz. And 6 Eggs.

14 ½ Bu. Corn, Mary 2 ½ Lbs. Butter, Elizabeth 1 lbs.

4 Sheep, 4 Chickens, 5 ½ Bu. Corn, Elizabeth 1 Doz eggs.

2 ¼ Bu. Barley

3 ¼ Bu. Oats, 6 melons, Mary 1 ½ lbs. Butter.

Elizabeth 6 ¼ lbs. Butter, 13 Bu. Wheat, 2 Bu. Peas, 1 Ton Hay,

I paid tithing for 2 colts, 1 calf, 3 yearlings and 2 two year olds.

I have paid my tithing in full up to this date, Jan. 1, 1865.

David Grant, the tailor, was known for his honesty and integrity, his firmness of purpose, and his fairness to everyone. His accounts were accurate, and balance in every instance to the very penny certain notations plainly showing a concession on his part in allowing odd cents or in charging less than his average price of the outing of a coat or vest, that the account would balance a perfect "Receipted in Full". On page 35, there is posted, Vest making & trimming - \$2.62 $\frac{1}{2}$; to repairing coat and shoes, #.37 $\frac{1}{2}$, and on page 72 "Making coat for W. Chipman, \$4.33 $\frac{1}{3}$; Making coat for John Neff -- \$6.62 $\frac{2}{3}$."

But David Grant, the man, is better known through his inspiring verse, into which he has breathed his emotions and dispositions during those trying but happy days of pioneer life. For between stitches and after his hours of confining work, he was given to penning the thoughts that portray his real character - A character of devotion and sincerity in the faith, loving nature and all art which embodied the highest and most beautiful things of life. He left a complete volume of verse as a beacon light to guide his children and their children or in the faith for which he may rightfully claim a place among the leading pioneers of 1847.

David Grant, the father of Nineteen children, died Dec. 23rd, 1868, at Mill Creek, at the age of Fifty-two, a devout Latter Day Saint to the end; and he left two wives, Mary Hunsaker Grant, and Elizabeth Williams Grant. He was buried in the City Cemetery at Salt Lake City.