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## Charles Stapley Jr.

Contributed By justinervinnielson1 · 15 June 2013 · 0 Comments

Charles Stapley, Jr. was born 28 November 1824 at Rolvenden, Kent, England to Charles and Sarah Bryant Stapley. While still a young man He went with his father's family as a freeman to Australia where on 10 February 1853, he was baptized and confirmed a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints by Elder John McCarthy. Charles served as a missionary in Australia 1853-1854. About the middle of March, 1854 Charles, with other members of the Stapley family, set sail on the 'Julia Ann' ship for America, (this ship shipwrecked hitting a coral reef the next year or so. Ensign 97). There were about seventy converts in the company, among them Sarah Parkinson, a young widow with two children. They arrived in San Pedro 13 June 1854, and immediately proceeded to the new Mormon colony in San Bernardino. On 24 July 1854 Charles and Sarah were married, some six weeks after arriving in California. After living in San Bernardino three years, and with the threat of Johnston's Army there being considerable unrest in Utah, Brigham Young called all the Saints outside of Utah Territory to come to 'Zion' to help resist this menace. Charles and family began to make preparations to heed President Young's call and joined an ox team company under Sterling Driggs which arrived in Cedar City, 02 February 1858. One child, Harriet E. was born in San Bernardino. Shortly after their arrival in Cedar City their son, Charles Henry Stapley was born. Nine more children were added to the family Toquerville, where Charles and Sarah had been called to serve in the Dixie Mission and settle there. Charles also legally adopted the two children of his wife, both born in Australia, John B. and Sarah Ann Rodwell. In the words of daughter Mary... "My people had seven children born here. Father was bishop counselor for thirty-five years. He was a good singer and had the first choir in Toquerville. "We raised cotton until the mill at Washington closed. The first gin house belonged to John Nebeker. Before that we had to pick the seeds out of the cotton by hand and card and spin and weave it. Mother could card and spin. Mother never wove but Sister Willis had a loom also. Sister Savage could weave. The people also made the thread they used to sew with... "I never went to Silver Reef (a mine high up LaVerkin Creek), but once. Father was very strict with children and would not allow us to go there. The opening of the reef brought up the price of fine fruits. I remember we used to sell strawberries to people who came from the Reef to spend Sunday in Toquerville for fifty cents a quart... "My father and mother and my own home were successful even in this hard country because Mother and Father were always united and I always tried to follow their example in my own home." On 09 May 1863, Charles Stapley Jr. was chosen counselor to Bishop Joshua J. Willis, who was the first Bishop of Toquerville, and on 03 May 1877 he


was set apart as the first counselor to Bishop William A. Bringham which office he held for over thirty years. He was a good man and made an effort to live the Golden Rule by being good to his neighbors but still he was concerned as to whether he was living an acceptable life according to the standards of the Church. As he was thinking very seriously about it one time, a vision came to him and his whole life was shown to him in a 'panoramic view'. He was told that his life was acceptable except for the habit he had of swearing. He took immediate steps to correct this habit. An incident related by Carol Stapley, a great granddaughter tells how spiritually minded he was, the following incident will illustrate: As he was hauling wood for the Silver Reef mine, high up in the LaVerkin Creek, he ran onto a ledge of gold ore. He took a sample and sent it to Salt Lake City to have it assayed. It proved good, as he suspected, but he was told by the authorities that the time wasn't yet that the Saints should have riches. He had no idea but that he could go back to the place but for some reason he was never able to find the gold again. We of the third generation often wonder if there is hidden wealth in our hills, and the answer is affirmative. The time may come when it is right for us to have it, but for the past and the present, the wealth has come in the brawn and sinew it has taken to conquer the desert and make it blossom as the rose. As Apostle Melvin J. Ballard once told us in Stake Conference, that this country was reserved for raising men and women. Charles Stapley Jr. was watermaster for forty years. One time, while a crew of men were cleaning ditch, two of the men persisted in telling stories, to which the rest of the men would stop their work to listen. Charles told the two men if they would take their shovels and go home, he would give them a full day's wage. Another time when a former member of the Mormon Battalion had taken the water out of turn, Charles Jr. turned it off. Brother 'X' came out of the house, rolling up his sleeves ready for fight. Brother Stapley just smiled and asked him if that was the way he magnified his Priesthood. The Brother was whipped and went back into the house. Threshing time brought a stir of excitement. A crew of men from Rockville, the most notable character being Johnnie Hall known for his dry wit would enter the town and go from place to place until all grain was threshed. The women folks felt duty bound to provide a feast for the threshers. The wheat was milled, first in Virgin, then in Washington. It was while Charles Jr. and the boys were hauling grain from the field and town that John, the oldest son about ten, fell off the wagon of grain as they went over a steep rocky road. The wheel ran over his head which he survived but it left him totally deaf. He lived quite a normal life in spite of his affliction. He married and had a family, but spent the remainder of his life with his brother Seymour working about the place. We should mention that Charles Jr. and Sarah had a large family. Besides the two adopted children, John and Sarah Ann, Harriet who was born in San Bernardino and Charles Henry being born in Cedar City, the following children were born in Toquerville: Jane Elizabeth, Emma Ellen, Mary Janet, James Chattle, William Francis, Adelaide and Seymour Thomas. A brief survey of the facts as nearly as I know is as follows taken in the order of their birth: John and wife Elizabeth Hoopsmith lived in Toquerville but their posterity moved to Cedar City and Idaho. Sarah Ann married James Jackson Jr. in polygamy. They went through many hardships. Their posterity moved to Arizona and California. Harriet married John Batty and she died when she was twenty three years of age, with no record on them. Charles Henry Stapley married James Adams and moved to Beaver. Jane Elizabeth married Hamilton Monroe Wallace and after moving around to other places some, they finally came back home. Emma Ellen and Henry Tanner moved first to Arizona, then their children moved back to northern Utah. Mary was the third wife of William Augustus Bringham, living their entire married life in Toquerville. James Chattle married Teresa McGee and they moved to Cedar City, later some of their posterity moved to northern Utah. William Francis and Lucy Ann Barton lived in Paragonah, Adelaide died at age seventeen and Seymour Thomas and Mabel Williams lived in the home built by his father. This house has thick walls made of black rock which makes a natural insulation. You will notice that most of this posterity have moved away. This was a necessity and is still going on because our country doesn't have the resources to sustain a large population. Most of the Charles Stapley Sr. family also moved away. Nothing is known of the two oldest daughters who remained in California. I have no record of Henry who married Elizabeth Button. Thomas married Mary Ann Bliss and moved to Mesa, Arizona, where their son, Orley went in to the hardware business, having several chain stores. One of Orley's sons, Delbert, was chosen as one of the quorum of the Twelve Apostles of the Church. Seymour

married Jane Button and I have no record of them. Harriet died at age eleven. James married young Elizabeth Steele, the first white child to be born in Utah. Sarah married Josiah Reeves and settled in Kanarrahville. We have no record of Robert Dent, and adopted boy, and Sarah Amanda Dodge. Although Charles Stapley Sr. and his wife, also Charles Stapley Jr. and his wife experienced hardships of pioneering in Utah's Dixie, they were happy with their lot because of the Gospel. Now over one hundred years since their arrival here, great changes and advancements have taken place. Today, we have good roads, modern conveniences, good schools, etc. However, human character never changes. We have our problems to solve as they had theirs. We only hope that we will do as well as they did in meeting the challenges of life...



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