

Sketch written by Valentine Carson.

Valentine Carson was born in Pickens Co., State of Alabama, Nov. 6, 1831.

My father Samuel Carson died when I was six years old leaving my mother with a family of three children, my self being the oldest, two boys and one girl Elizabeth and William. My mother lived a widow about two years and married a man by the name of Pearson. She had one daughter by him, Jane, and he was killed by being thrown from a mule, and my mother was once more left a widow. She remained single for six years and married again to John Price who is still living in Washington, Washington Co., Utah. My mother had six children by Price, Febecca Ann Price, George Thomas, John Wesley, Hyrum, Jacob Smith and Elizabeth Price, making eleven children in all. After her marriage to Price he moved to Mississippi there we lived one or two years and moved two miles west on the Tom Bigby river and made a new farm remaining till the fall of 1843. While there the Elders, 40 in number, came from Nauvoo preaching the gospel. My mother and stepfather Price together with most of our kindred embraced the gospel with full purpose of the heart.

The same fall the people of the neighborhood became excited and raised in mobs and compelled us to leave our homes and we crossed back to the east side of the river where there was a small branch of the church. Here we remained until the fall of 1845. I was baptized at this branch of the church by Daniel Thomas performing the ordinance. I was about 14 years of age at this time.

My parents commenced to move from that country about the first of November 1845. They family then consisted of my mother, my stepfather, myself, my sister Elizabeth, my borther William, my two half sisters Margaret Pearson and Rebecca Ann Price. We traveled and at times stopped to mark on the road. We arrived in Nauvoo the sixth day of March 1846. The saints were then on the move. The first Presidency and others had crossed the river and were moving on. With his family, my stepfather, would sometimes move one family on a days travel and then go back and move the other families and so we journeyed on.

It being the time of year to put in crops my stepfather consented to stop and put in a crop which he did. It was about 25 miles west of the river where we stopped. On the old Mason Route I worked with my stepfather and helped him all that I could and we raised a crop and made some means which enabled us to move on. We started fro the falley in the spring of 1851 and landed in Salt Lake City early in 1851. After helping mu stepfather fix out for the valley I hired my self out and drove an ox team across the plaines. My wages was three dollars a month and board. I was freighting goods as well as moving Livistons family.

After arriving in Salt Lake Valley my parents moved to Provo which at that time was only a small settlement. After living in Provo for two years my stepfather desired to go back to Salt Lake and go in the lumber business which he did in mill crest canyon. I remained in Provo, rented a farm and raised a crop and at times went to Salt Lake and worked at the saw mill chopping logs for the

saw mill. After I chipped timber for President Young in mill  
bresk canyon this was about the time he was building the Lyon House  
in Salt Lake City.

I married a wife in the summer of 1856 and the next spring  
was called with the rest of the other people to move to the  
southern part of Utah on the Rea Vergin River and help develop the  
resources of that country. We settled in Washington, Utah, in  
1862 and went back to the Missouri River and drove an ox team to  
gather up the saints. I drove four yoaek of oxen there and back  
twenty seven hundred miles in a little over seven months and did  
not loose an ox out of the team, but all came back looking better  
than when they started. I resided in Washington seventeen years  
working hard building dams and ditches ans exposing myself in many  
ways. I became afflicted with rheumatism and fever and chills,  
I came out to Kanarra and farmed three years I had a severe sick  
spell and lost the use of my right arm. In the spring of 1879  
through the persuasion of my brother in law I moved to Parowan  
and undertook to herd the Parowan sheep. But finding the exposure  
I was subjected to was too much for my health I quit that and  
settled in Parowan and have remained. I am living on a homestead  
of 160 acres of land and finding my health still failing I was  
prompted to write this sketch of my life and that of my parents.  
My mother and stepgather are still living in Washington, Utah.  
I have done work for my father and quite a number of my kindred  
in the St. George Temple, and if the Lord will spair my life I  
would do much more work for my dead. My disease is of such  
nature that I am liable to pass away at any moment or hour. I  
wich to have this account published for the benefit of my many  
friends. I am the father of 14 children which are still living  
in Iron Co. I have 14 Grandchildren. I am in my sixty first year  
now. I wish to bear my testimony to the truth of the gospel  
revealed to the inhabitants of the earth, If they will be true  
and faithful and all that will obey him with true and honesty  
of heart and live up to the principles of the gospel shell gain  
their reward. I will now close hoping this sketch will be published  
in the Deseret News, I remain yours truly Valentine Carson.