

BIOGRAPHY OF JOHN LEE JONES: WRITTEN BY SAMUEL B. JONES
Given at a meeting of the Daughter's of Pioneers - Feb-
ruary 4th, 1932 in the Third Ward Chapel (R.S. Room)

John Lee Jones was born May 18th, 1841 in the town of St. Helens Lancashire, England. Emigrated to U. S. A. in 1848 on the sailing vessel Airns Queen. Set sail on the 9th of October. Was on the ocean seven weeks, landing in the Gulf of Mexico and sailing up the Mississippi river and landing at St. Louis, Missouri on the fifth of November. The family lived at this place for three years; during this time his father was preparing to cross the plains. While living in St. Louis, my father was baptized in the Mississippi river at the age of nine years, on July 28th, 1850.

On April 15th, 1851, his father purchased an outfit consisting of a wagon, two yoke of oxen, two cows, and what provisions they could obtain, a kentucky rifle, a whip and prod pole; started for Great Salt Lake, a distance of 1600 miles. After traveling for some time their wagon broke down, and they were obliged to stop until the next year. His father bought a farm of 80 acres, which they farmed for that year, this was on the third crossing of the Keg river, near Council Bluffs. During that winter his father went back to St. Louis to work to get another out-fit to continue their journey. It was during this time that his brother Joseph, took sick and died and was buried at this place. In the spring of 1852 his father returned from St. Louis with provisions and another wagon, started with another small company of Saints who were going to Utah traveling thru the (then) territory of Nebraska and Wyoming. At that time there were lots of buffalo on the plains, and occasionally they would kill one, and thus furnish food for the company. At different times they were visited by the Indians. After traveling 16 weeks and three days, they came upon the beautiful valley of the Great Salt Lake, their cattle foot sore and worn out, with the long grind of travel across the plains.

After staying in Salt Lake for three weeks, he was counceled to go south, a distance of 275 miles, to Iron County, and so they started again on their journey, traveled until they came to Salt Creek, which is now known as Nephi, arriving on the 5th of November 1852. The night they camped at this place it snowed 3 feet, so they decided to stay there for the winter. They went to the mountains, got some logs and built a house to live in thru the winter. They covered the roof with willows, and dirt, put a small stove up, which they had brought along, and lived with a dirt floor thru the winter. In the spring of 1853 March 15th, they started again for Iron County, arriving April 2nd, 1853. The saints who had preceeded them had built a small fort 20 x 10 rods, you have all heard the story of how the fort was built, will not take time to tell it here. In the spring of 1854 they moved from this place, and built another fort, half a mile square. About this time, the men started the Iron works, on a small scale, but were unsuccessful. In that year 1857, Pres. Brigham Young, called a number of men to go to Iron County and manufacture iron. A company was orgainzed, his father being one of them. Not understanding just what to do, and how to handle the making of iron, they made a failure of making iron of such a quality, that could be used to any great extent. In the year 1859, my father was ordained to the office of a deacon. In December 1861, he was called by Bishop Henry Lunt, to take some of the saints down to St. George and Santa Clara, a distance of 71 miles; in this company was bros. Edward Parry, Andrew Corry, and Bro. Woolsey, each had three yoke of oxen wagons being furnished by some of the company.

On arriving at Santa Clara, we found a small fort, built of adobies. This place was founded by Jacob Hamblin. After unloading our wagons we started on our homeward journey, arriving just in time to celebrate Christmas, taking eight days to make the journey down and back. One January 13th, 1862 he was married to Miss Rachel Simkins by Bishop Henry Lunt, at the home of his father, he remark's in his journal that this was the happiest time of his life, although he didn't have a penny in his pocket, not a knife or fork, only a city lot his father had given him. Upon which he built a little adoby house, having made the adobies himself. He planted a few fruit trees and farmed a piece of ground, about nine acres, in those days, farming had to be done on a small scale, having to be harvested by hand, the grain being cut with a hand cradle, and hay with a scythe. One April 18th, 1863 he was ordained to the office of seventy by Alex Gordon Ingram. In 1864 he was called to fill another mission, and this one was to drive four yoke of oxen down to the frontier of Nebraska, on the Missouri River, to help bring some of the saints to Utah. These Saints were brought to Utah by the perpetual fund; when he was called to this mission, he had but one shirt to his back, so my mother took a blanket of the bed, and made him one, also made him a pair of buck-skin pants. His supply of food and equipment, consisted of a small bog of crackers, 20 lbs of flour, a knife, fork, spoon, tin cup, and plate, a blanket, two quilts, a gun and a pistol, the last borrowed from Bro, Lunt. Bro. Edward Parry and Elias Nye, were called to go on the same mission. When they started on this mission, they were obliged to break some their oxen to work, which was quite a hard thing to do as they didn't have any carrol, to catch them in. These oxen and wagons were furnished by the brethren of the Cedar Ward. They started on their lang journey, April 10th 1864. Their average distance made per day was from 10 to 16 miles. They arrived at their distination in July; after resting their cattle a few days, they loaded on what few things the saints had and started back to Utah, eight people were in my father's wagon. At this time the Indians were werry bad, they were obliged to put on a double guard every night, there were 110 wagons in their company which reached 6 miles in length when in motion; In due time they arrived in Salt Lake City, where the saints were taken care of by the saints of Zion. After saying good-bye to those of the company they had brought so many miles, they started for their homes in Iron County. He found his family well, he was away from home on this mission eight months. In April 1866, he was called on still another mission to go with John Parry, George Perry, J.M Higbee, and others, to help fight the Navajo Indians. A band of them had come across the Colorado River and attacked the saints, who were making homes in Kane County near Pipe Springs. Two of the Berry boys and the wife of one of them, had been killed, before they could ge there; They found their bodies lying out in the sand. One can imagine how they felt finding these poor people in this condition. About this time in their journey in life, my parents were obliged to make their own cloth, mother carding and spinning yarn, to weave into cloth, my father doing the weaving, on a loom he had made himself. Their neighbors, Bro. & Sister Lord, a fine old English couple, whom many who are here will remember, gave them their first lesson in weaving. In the year 1865, in October, he took his wife Rachel (my mother) to Salt Lake to have their washing and anointings done, and be sealed by one having authority. This was done about October 16th, 1865 by George Q. Cannon. In the year 1869 my father and grandfather purchased a farm out at Johnsons Springs, now known as Enoch, where he has resided ever since. When a boy 17 years old he read a partrarchial blessing, which has been fulfilled, almost to the letter. This blessing was given by Bro. Elisha H. Groves, and written by James Whittaker Jr.

January 8th, 1878 he entered into the order of Plural Marriage, my M. Walker being the lady in question. To this union were born eight children, seven of whom are living. On October 6th, 1879 he was called on a mission to his native land, England, to preach to Latterday Gospel, having only nine days, in which to get ready, and not 50 cents in his pocket or old sock either. His Bro's Sylvester and Fredrick made a raise of the money needed. On October 24th, after bidding us all good bye, left for his mission, on board the Mail Coach as far as Juab, thence by rail to New York, after waiting two days for boat. He set sail on the Steam Ship Arizona, 50,000 capacity, on the 5th of November. All went well, until they were about half way across the ocean. He was retiring to his State room, when all at once the ship came to a sudden stop, had struck a mountain of ice, smashing the front of the ship, about 30 feet back; from all appearances they were doomed to a watery grave. The captain ordered bails of cotton to be put in the front of the ship to keep the water out, he then turned the course of the ship toward Newfoundland Irland a distance of 250 miles, he stayed on this Island one week. On November 16th, the S.S. Nevada steamed into harbor, it having been sent to take the passengers over to England. It took this ship seven days to reach Liverpool England They arrived there on the 23rd of November. After visiting a few days he was appointed to labor in the Bristol Conference, a distance of 181 miles where he arrived December 10th, to join Br. John South, an Elder who had charge of that conference; during his stay in England he obtained 125 names of his dead relatives. He left the Bristol Conference in 1880, having labored there for one year, baptizing 30 people, distributing 1000 tracts He was then called labor in the Nottingham Conference, here he baptized 14 of the people, visited St. Hellens, the place of his birth, he again obtained a number of names of his dead relatives. Having labored in the mission field for 18 months, he was released to return home having traveled 21,000 miles by sea and land. Held 170 meetings, and blessed a number of children. He left Liverpool to return home on the 16th day of April 1881, on the steam ship Wyoming, arriving in New York on the 26th, of April. He immediately took the train for Utah arriving home on the 9th of May 1881. My father was supt. of the S. S. for about 20 years. Also President of the Y. M. M. I. A. for some time. It was thru his efforts that the Post Office was established at Enoch up until this time, the place was known as Johnsons Springs, since then it has been called Enoch. It derived that name, because of the fact, that his father and brothers all worked together in their financial affairs. As I remember it, there was some opposition to the name, but father was acting Post Master at the time, and sent the name to our representative in Congress, John T. Cairne and it was accepted, now we pass on, until we come to one of the greatest events of his father's life. On October 23rd early on the morning there came a knock on the door of our little log house, was answered by my sister Rachel and the man that stepped in was none other than the U. S. Marshal, The Purpose of his visit was to arrest my father on the charge of having more than one wife. The government of our country, had passed a law, making it unlawful for a man to have more than one wife. He was immediately placed under arrest my along with his father John P. Jones, and taken to Beaver for trial. They were taken to court and placed under bonds of 5000.00 each, Thomas Walker, Edward Parry, George Wood Jr. and John Chatterley being their bondsman. The witnesses subpoenaed against them were, Thos. Walker, Ed. Parry, George Wood Jr. and John Catterley, Nelson Dalley and Jos. S. Armstrong. After standing trail my father and Grandfather, were sentenced on 27th of December to six months in the Utah State prison, I assure you they were well taken care of during that time; in the first palce, after arriving at head quarters, they were stripped of all their clothing, a careful examination made of them, then he was taken to another room, and placed against a wall where they took his height, color, age and size and so- forth. Then he was given a nice little room to live in for

six months. At the end of that time he was taken before the Warden, and took the paupers oath; was released to go home, a wiser if not better man.

As time will not permit me to tell all the main events of my father's life I will conclude by telling of his 90th birthday. Most all of his children and a number of relatives, met at the meeting house of Enoch, to pay honor to him on his birthday, the 18th of May 1931. Three long tables were placed in the meeting house reaching from one end to the other, spread with all good things of the earth, to eat; and beautifully decorated with early roses and flowers, brought from Dixie's wonderful flower gardens. After all had feasted to their hearts content, the tables were cleared away, and a very fine program was given, consisting of songs, readings, speeches, etc.. A pleasing feature of the program was the rendering of a song, composed by my brother Myron, especially sung by 12 of father's children, six sons and six daughters. After the program was through, we all joined in dancing, my father playing the violin for some of the old time quadrills and waltzes, while his children and grandchildren danced to his music. I make mention of this because it was wonderful how well he played his violin on his 90th birthday. There were about 150 present, who joined in wishing him health, happiness and many happy returns of the day.

His posterity is numbered in the hundreds.

He has done more for the redemption for the dead than any other man in Parowan Stake.. Thousands have been baptised for as well as being sealed, and endowed at his instant, their work has been uppermost in his thoughts, and ambitions, for the past fifty years. He takes great joy and satisfaction in this work.

I well remember my father saying that the time would come when people would fly through the air. But we children only laughed, and thought he didn't know. But the day my father reached his 88th birthday the air port was dedicated and he had the privilege of going up in an airplane for a ride. Having this privilege made it one of the outstanding events of his life.

Historical Sketch of John Lee Jones and Family

He came into Utah in 1854. He attended the Conference 2 days. At the last session, about noon, Pres Young called my Fathers family, consisting of five persons-Father, Mother, John Lee, Sylvester F, Fredrick K, Isaac Jones.

My father called as a missionary to go down to Iron County-Coal-Creek, as it was then called, to assist in the making of Pig Iron. My father was an iron moulder by trade.

There was quite a number of other families called at the same time- George Wood and family, Joseph Walker and family, John S Williams Thomas and Mary, also George Perry and family, Thomas Bladen and family, Isaac C Haight and his two families, Richard Harrison and family, James Bullock and family-wife and 3 children-Robert, David and Teeney, also Father Hunter and his family-Joseph, George, David, (?), James Bosnell and family, Robert Easton and family, and William Black and family.

The above names with others that I cannot now remember, settled in the first Fort. They built a Fort out of cottonwood logs 12 and 15 ft, by digging a deep trench and putting them up vertically in the trench. placing the logs up endwise close together, they also ~~for~~ made a corral on the south end of Fort. The Fort was about 125 yards in length and about 60 yards wide, with a pair of double gates on the north end, and a pair of double gates on the south end of the corral, the walls was 10 ft. high, the houses forming part of wall around thru the east and west sides and the north end.

The cattle was put in the corral every night, and in the daytime to men was appointed to take the stock down some $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the top of the Cedars Meadows. They wear well armed with guns and pistols to protect themselves and the cattle from the depra-dations of the natives.

Some 500 who lived in brush wickiups (weakups). They were nude except 'exap) a rabbit ? around their bodies and a breech clout around their loins.

This Fort was built in 1851 and 2. My father and family arrived in the spring of 1853, and some came later in '54 and 5.

In the latter part of 1855 the Saints moved across country and built another Fort-2 miles around, made adobies and some sod houses, because built on the line, they formed part of the wall.

About this time a large company 200 Saints came from the north from Great Salt Lake City. The next 3 Or 4 years whenue a great and - experience. Govener Cumings and other Government officials-Cradelbouch and others sent libelous letters of falshood and hatred again against the Mormons saying we were disloyal to our country. We paid no heed to the ~~l~~ laws, we was not fit to live in the Terratory. These scrrilous reports where sent to Washington D.C. The ferment and hatred became so great and widespread in the east, that Pres James Buchinauon sent up a army of 20,000 soldiers and 200 wagons loaded with provisions for the Johnsons army; with tons of cannon-balls and powder, and tons of rope to hang and kill the d----- Mormons and exterminate us from the eart

When the army reached Hams Fork near the head of Echo Canyon, Pres Young, then Gov., called upon 200 men to go and stop the army, and tell them they could not come into Salt Lake Valley on pain of death.

The brethren built rock walls of red sandstone, across the Canyon at intervals of $1/3$ mile down the canyon, nearly 12 miles. It is a box canyon of 300 ft high perpendicular walls. We placed rocks on the edge and cliffs, ready to throw down upon the enemy, if they dared to attempt to go thru. Fear seized upon them, so they had to pitch camp at Hams Fork. that winter and until there was an instrument of peace-terms formed and signed by the officers in charge of army, and while this was going on Col Thomas L (C) Kane tho small in stature, but noble in bearing-- he went and along the Gulf of Mexico, across the Isthmus W Gutamalano, thense along Pacific coast to SanDeigo, Call, thense across Los Angeles Desert into Utah to see and nego thote terms with Governor Young, met him in his office held out his hands and said to Col Kane, Welcome thrice welcome Col Kane for I know your mission It's one of PEACE. Pres Young (Said) to him, "If the army attempt to come into this valley, we will take our wiv- es and children up into the mountains and swoop down upon them and whip them out. I have caused straw to be placed in every house and orchard in the city, and at a given signal will be laid in flames. I have given orders for the saints to to evacuate the city and go south and leave the state as desolate as they found it.

Now we come to the settlers of the 2nd, or Old Fort-on the west side of Coal Creek. A large influx of Saints came to this Fort, at the time of the great move from Salt Lake City as it was called.

There was no Beaver, Kanosh, Scipio, Dixie. Pres Young called the Saints in from Sanbarnidino-150 or so; Amasy Lyman was one of that colony. They came to Old Fort and tarried the winter of '57. This swelled our numbers to near 300. The Fort was full of Saints. Isaac C Haight was made Pres., With B. P. Klingan-Smith as Bishop of the Ward.

Now we come to the year of 1853. This is as near the date when the Deseret Iron Works was organized. (Bro Jones is wrong here, year was 1852) They selected a site just east of the Co Bridge, where we cross the Creek, about 300 yards from the bridge. Isaac C Haight was President and manager of the Company, Christopher Arthur first Treasurer, Thomas Bladen Engineer Arthur Parks and Charlie Simkins-pattern makers, George Wood, Jos Walker had charge of the two-blasted furnace, James Farrow had charge of charging the blast furnace-he run the car up the long long F----- way to mouth of the furnace. John Pidding Jones and Richard Harrison where the moulders, Joseph Walker and George Wood tapped the furnace when they run the iron into pig but it was so hard they could not chip it, hard as Bissimer steel, on account of so much sulphur in the coal, it et the carb on out of the iron and left it very hard.

The Iron Company made many castings for machinery ged---- for water-wheels, segments for spur-gearing and threshing machines.

The Church spent a million dollars in the enterprise, and after 3 or 10 years it was discontinued.

Before I close this brief sketch from memory I will go back to the Johnsons army. There was a peace treaty made-that we would let them come into Utah, that they would pass thru the streets of Salt Lake, not molest with or interfere with any thing. They passed thru and made their camp about 55 miles west-called Camp Floyd.

John Walker, William and Thomas Walker, went with teams to fetch the cannon balls, tons of them to Cedar. Jos Walker broke them in peices and put them in the furnace, and my father moulded them into grate-bones, molasses-rolls for the Dixie people, also flat-irons, dog-irons-3 sizes of grates your humble servant made the patterns. You will find grates scattered the Counties of Iron and Washington to this day.

These ~~an~~ wrote 100s of wagons loaded with cannons and balls, tons of rope to hang the d----- Mormons. Now these cannon balls were made up into articles for do mestic purposes, and the ropes made the Saints tie-ropes for their horses, so you see the words of the Prophet Isiah came true-that every weapon formed against Zion should perish; so it did and built up Zion in these vallies. Camp Floyd was finally deserted. Millions of dollars worth of property wasted for naught, and the devil and his em- isaries foiled by the power of God. Thus he made bare his arm for our deliverance, thru that terrible ordeal of bitter experience. After peace was restorred many of the saints returned to Salt Lake, took the straw out of the houses and orchards.

Now after 70 years a beautiful city and temple erected, and all who no come to us, marvel and wonder. Zion will become the pride and joy of the Latter Day Saints-especially the sons and daughters of such noble sires. I am proud of my parentage and thankful fo such sturdy yeomen and victorious mothers, yea and lovely daughters of Zion the pure in heart.

I mingle with joy and pride because of noble birth, wirth more than gold and silver, or diamonds of South America.

I have given but a brief mention of the crusade waged against us. The Poligamy crusade of 1825-6-7-8. I had to flee up into the Cedars and rocks, and make my bed among horny-toads, lizzards and snakes, as they crawled over my head with their cold bodies, and woke me up in midnight hours. My present wife Betty was parted from me, and taken to Bunkerville, so the Marshalls could not find her, so she be compelled to testify against me, her husband. I speak of this as another trying time, especially for plural wives. I could write a book on the scenes we passed thru, and those who entered plural marriage.

The law that was passed by Edmunds-an old batchellor, was to catch those in poligamy, in Utah. It was led by the old devil, to stop the perpetuation of the chosen seed-a pure lineage who have been born under the new and everlasting covenant-will yrt ~~save~~ ~~the~~ Constitution of United States, from being torn in shreds.

Now my dear sisters-may the doctrine of Priesthood garnish your thots and distill upon you the blessing of heaven, that you may live to see Zion redeemed . This is the desire of your undeviating friend and brother in the new and everlasting covenant. God bless you forever, is my prayer.

With compliments of high esteem,

Yours respectfully John Lee Jones.

The original copy of this paper is held by Ella B Leigh. The envelope is addressed to Elizabeth Wood Leigh. Copied by June Wood Danvers.