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Sketch of the Life of William Shepperson

Utah Pioneer of 1850

Prepared by Ella Thorley, a Neighbor and Friend.

For the Old Fort Camp, Cedar City, Utah

William Shepperson was born December 3, 1834, in England. His father died while he was very young leaving him the responsibility of helping support the family. At fourteen he went to France to seek work. He obtained employment at the railroad yards through a man he met there. While helping his friend couple cars he met with a terrible accident. Two cars came together, crushing his left arm until it was necessary to amputate it to the shoulder.

He joined the church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and came to Utah along with the early settlers. He met Eliza in Beaver where they were married and later moved to Cedar City. Here they lived in a dug-out for some time before he built a log cabin for the two of them. He herded sheep for a number of years. In those days one man did the herding, cooking and all. He lived in a wagon box put on the ground and did his cooking outside. For weeks at a time he would not see anyone. This was his life until he started in the sheep business for himself. He secured 600 head of sheep of his own and rented them out.

When he did not have to go away from to earn a lively-hood he devoted his time to his flower and vegetable garden. He spaded, raked and hoed a large garden each year, from which he supplied their own table and sold many dollars worth each season. He also had some apple trees from he sold apples. He saw very orderly about his place. Most all of his possessions were the workmanship of his own hand. He set aside fifty dollars for the years expense and they lived within this amount.

After the death of his wife he lived alone for eight years. On account of poor health Uriah Goodfellow took care of him for five months before he died on February 3, 1908. He remained until the end a true Latter Day Saint.