

"COLONEL ALDEN A. M. JACKSON FAMILY"

Alden Appollos Moore Jackson, son of Jeremiah Jackson and Martha Keyes, was born Nov. 4, 1807, at Rensselaerville, Albany County, New York. He fought in the Mexican War with General Zachary Taylor and General Winfield Scott at Vera Cruz and Buena Vista. After Cessation of Hostilities he became a Customs Officer at the Customs House in San Francisco, California. It was at this time that he became acquainted with Caroline A. Perkins Joyce through whose influence he became interested in the Mormon Church and its people. He subsequently was baptized a member of the church by Apostle Parley P. Pratt at the North Beach in San Francisco, California. Caroline Joyce having been divorced from her husband after his apostasy, and she still being strong in the faith, left San Francisco by steamer with her two daughters Helen and Augusta. They embarked on a three day voyage to Southern California, and thence came the three day trip by team and wagon inland to the Mormon settlement in San Bernardino, California, arriving in Nov. 1852.

Colonel Jackson was wealthy and scholarly, and a gentleman by birth and breeding from the southern state of Florida. He had closed his heavy books of ancient lore when the voice of duty called in tones too stern to be ignored. He could return to his law books better now and with more pride after fulfilling his Country's call. When the period as Customs Officer was behind him, Colonel Jackson decided to travel to Utahtto re-establish himself in the practice of law with the body of the Church. While en-route to Utah he was delayed in San Bernardino waiting for a train to cross the desert. During this time he renewed his acquaintance with Caroline Joyce, and at last determined to win her if possible. This he accomplished and they were married. The Jackson family home was beautiful and situated in a lovely setting of shade trees of variety; on the brow of a knoll overlooking two winding brooks and a pretty lake, with Los Angeles located sixty miles straight ahead. The forest and meadow adjoining, (where through many years the May day and Fourth of July festivities were held). The farm acres were planted with three vineyards and an orchard of seven hundred trees, an ornamental garden with a curved carriage drive.

The Latter Day Saints and their Spanish neighbors lived most harmoniously. Colonel Jackson became the family lawyer for many Latter Day Saints, and also in most of the old Spanish families as well, in the making of wills, divisions of property or marriage dowers, as the case might be through sixteen years. His wife, Caroline, often accompanied him when he was summoned or had an engagement to meet, and the trips sometimes lasted from three days to a week long. There was always something interesting in the fascinating histories of many noted characters in these families. Colonel Jackson was also early installed as the Justice of the Peace and Notary Public in the Mormon settlement, for which offices the people held great respect. In 1854 the city of San Bernardino was incorporated and on June 5th was held the election for the first City Officers: as follows; Mayor, Amasa Lyman; The Council, C. C. Rich, G. W. Sirrine, Daniel Starks, William J. Cox, and Q. S. Sparks; Marshall, J. D. Holliday; Assessor, Theodore Turley; Treasurer, J. H. Rollins; Attorney, Colonel Alden A. M. Jackson. Ordinances were adopted to restrict drinking and gambling. On the 22nd of Oct. 1855 the citizens of San Bernardino assembled for the purpose of forming a Library Association. Installed as President was Colonel Alden A. M. Jackson, attorney at law.

After the leaders of the Mormon settlement, Amasa Lyman and Charles C. Rich started for Utah on their way to England came the tidings of impending war against the Saints in the Rocky Mountains, and next, the story of the Mountain Meadows. From that time a shadow hovered over them in San Bernardino. The Saints who were able to dispose of their property, gladly sold out

and hastened to Utah. Great sacrifices were made, as many of the Saints had prospered over the years, and in some instances comfortable homes were given in exchange for a wagon and one or two yoke of oxen. All the beauty and comfort of climate and plenty were counted as naught, beside the privilege of sharing the lot of the Saints in the valleys of the mountains. Then again, as when the Gospel was first preached to them, families were divided--some to go, and some to stay. With the rest Colonel Jackson and his lady sold out household goods and cattle, and their home was engaged to a purchaser when Mr. Joyce the father of the two girls by Carolines first marriage brought the power of the law to prevent his children from leaving the State until the youngest should come of age, and there was no appeal against prejudiced officials. The Jackson family knew despair and loneliness in the months that followed. Their hearts ached to share the burdens and trials and persecutions of the Saints. All the little world in which they moved seemed broken up. The prayer meetings of their Ward, which for a long time had been held weekly in their parlor, the choir rehearsals which had also been held in the same room, where three happy years in succession they had sung the old year out and the new year in; the dear friends and schoolmates all vanished in the silence and loneliness of anxious waiting for messages from the Mountains.

During this long winter of 1857 when Colonel Jackson and his family were unable to unite with the body of the Saints leaving San Bernardino for Utah, their family with a few others, five families in all, were living in a constant state of harassment and anxiety and suspense, watching every movement of the Government towards their people in Utah. It was quite a source of distress to them that trouble was so heavily and darkly hanging over the heads of their people and they were not with them. To be sure, they had a share, all around them were men who by a strange fate had swarmed into San Bernardino just as the Saints were leaving, who boasted that they were "Mormon haters, some of them going so far as to style themselves "Missouri Mobocrats", and related with strange familiarity well known names and scenes in the persecutions of Missouri and Illinois. They could but believe some of their assertions and felt some fear of their repeating their alleged crimes; particularly as they built a small Fort, and every day drilled an hour or two on the Public Square, fired off cannon, and rode from house to house of the remaining Saints ordering them to leave their homes or suffer the consequences.

Missionaries, who had been called home on signal of the approaching storm, came quietly and passed on through the little town out to the desert road unknown save to a few who were true and faithful. Colonel Jackson's home sheltered some of these, and although they were not even cautioned to secrecy, the girls knew enough to refrain from asking a question, or speaking of their guests outside of their own family circle. Therefore, when Colonel Jackson came home one night and told their Mother he had met a gentleman in town whom he must again visit after supper, and perhaps not return until late, they were surprised, but betrayed no anxiety then, nor on the morrow. The next evening their Father absented himself again after supper, which was contrary to his usual custom, for he was a lover of home and strong were his attachments to even the commonest ties of domestic life. They never sat down to supper until he came home, no matter how late; the food might lose its flavor or grow cold, but wind or rain, moonlight or darkness, he always found wife and children at the gate awaiting him. The third evening, Mrs Jackson accompanied him, and for a day or two after was very busy cooking, but not for them. Knowing that they could be trusted, she told the daughters that a stranger, a Dr. Osborne, an invalid, had arrived at the principle hotel and desiring the strictest privacy, requested his meals to be brought to his room.

Colonel A. A. M. Jackson's Law Office was in a front room of this same hotel and commanded a view of the arrival of the stage. He had noticed the

feeble appearance of the stranger and sent his card to his room, when to the surprise of the landlord he was immediately admitted. Colonel Jackson did not recognize the gentleman fully, though he felt that he had seen him before, yet refrained from speaking of it. He offered his services if needed, and soon learned that the stranger wanted a prompt and swift conveyance to Salt Lake, and by the spirit of his guarded conversation Colonel Jackson was impressed that the stranger was a friend in disguise. Almost before another day had passed certain wicked men suspected something, they could not define what, but determined to force the stranger to declare himself and his errand. Colonel Jackson, being ever watchful, discovered this and on the second evening went to the landlord of the hotel saying, "Mr. Lemon, you may not be aware that a riot is about to occur here in regard to your invalid guest. He is a friend of mine, allow me to convey him to a place of safety." Already the voices, rough and excited were approaching; and the landlord gave his consent. By a ruse, the attention of the Missourians was drawn to the back of the building, and Colonel Jackson taking him in his strong arms, conveyed him out by a side door to the house of a friend.

6/ Mrs. Jackson hastily made a very large and handsome thick comforter, covered a pillow to match it, roasted and ground coffee, made a cake, and boiled milk and sugar down to a gallon of cream, for use in traveling. In the evenings she accompanied her husband and his son, Clarence Jackson, who carried the things in their arms, a mile away, and the night was as dark as need be. It was after midnight when they returned, and their daughter Augusta waking, wondered to see her Mother sitting by her own bright hearth, her face buried in her handkerchief; her Father and Brother Clarence almost as deeply affected. Colonel Jackson said to her, "Listen my child, I will tell you what I wish you to always remember, but not to speak of now. The things we took down tonight were for a friend, an angel in disguise. When the large quilt was unfolded he laughed and said: 'This will answer for bed and bedding.' He was delighted with your Mother's prepared food for him. Knowing that he must soon enter the carriage for his journey we turned to bid him farewell, when he said to us: 'Colonel, and Mrs. Jackson, and Mr. and Mrs. Clark, for your confidence and kindness, I wish to reveal to you who I am. When Colonel Jackson sent up his name to me at the hotel I recognized it at once. I had found an old friend; but he did not recognize me in my disguise, I am Colonel Thomas L. Kane, bearing important papers from our Government to your people in Utah.' My child, I was overwhelmed, but Mrs. Clark turned to him saying: 'Colonel Kane, you did not deceive me, I knew you the night you were brought here.' 'Madame, said Colonel Kane astonished, where did you ever see me before?' 'You came to my wagon when my child lay dying, on the bank of the Mississippi River. I knew your voice, you could not disguise your eyes - - - did you think I could ever forget you Colonel Kane?' My child, we all wept, and this is why your Mother is weeping now. He is safely on his way, God Bless Him."

to Utah ←

In the winter of 1874-75 General Kane, his wife and family were the guests of President Brigham Young, at St. George, Utah. Colonel A. M. Jackson and his family had removed to Utah and were also living in St. George, and great was the surprise and happiness on both sides, when they met him from whom they had parted at midnight, eighteen years before. General Kane and his excellent wife called several times at the home of Colonel Jackson and they formed an especial regard for them. The time arrived when they were to conclude their visit and return to Salt Lake City. Early in the afternoon of the day preceding their departure, General Kane called to pay his respects. Mrs. Caroline Jackson was absent at the house of Brother Asa Calkins who had just died. He called again at four o'clock, but she had not returned. After dark he came once more and she was at home. When the visit had terminated and they, accompanied by Colonel Jackson and the two girls, went to the door,

it had grown very dark, and it was raining. Mrs. Jackson was distressed, knowing the General's health was not good, and as he would not allow her to send for his overcoat, she proffered him the loan of her large winter shawl, which he accepted. Looking from the doorway on the light within and the stormy night without, he said: "This looks like our political horizon. Stay you in camp, eat roast beef and rest; I will go out in the storm and stand on picket guard for you." He extended his hand, repeated thrice, "goodnight," "goodnight," "goodnight", and was gone.

Colonel A. A. M. Jackson became very prominent in educational circles after his arrival in St. George. He was associated with the beginnings of the University of Utah, serving as a Trustee of the St. George Normal School, at St. George, Utah in 1872. Serving also as Trustees on the Board of Trustees of the St. George Normal School, which was a branch of the University of Deseret, and the forerunner of the University of Utah, were Henry Eyring, and R. Bentley. Colonel and Mrs. Jackson contributed much of their time, work, and money toward the completion of the Temple being built in St. George. They also helped financially as promoters of the early silk industry there. His wife Caroline set out the first fruit orchard in St. George, and they planted the first Tokay grapes there. President Brigham Young had told them previously that they could do more good in helping to settle and build up St. George, than any other service they might undertake, so they made their home there rather than in Salt Lake City.

On April 24, 1857, at a meeting of the Deseret Agricultural and Manufacturing Society, of which Mrs. Alden A. M. Jackson was a member, President Ed Hunter remarked, "The first item of business before the meeting would be the acknowledgment of Colonel Jackson's liberality in having sent from San Bernardino, California the splendid assortment of choice cuttings received in the last California Mail." Upon which Mr. C. H. Oliphant, director, introduced the following: "Resolved, that the thanks of this Society are most respectfully tendered to "A. A. M. Jackson Esq; for the very liberal package of choice grafts, and wish him to continue in well doing and he shall have his reward, and to others we say, go and do likewise."

Elder D. Bonelli wrote in a dispatch to the Editor of the Deseret News Apr. 26, 1868 : "Southern Utah is largely indebted to Colonel Alden A. M. Jackson and his Lady for the introduction of the choicest seeds and scions that could be procured in California for many years. Very material aid has been obtained from them, which shows its traces through the most of our settlements, and they have the satisfaction of knowing that they have helped to clothe the desert land with scenes of living beauty."

"The following copied from the notes of James G. Bleak: - Tuesday March 29, 1870, -- minutes of a mass meeting held at St. George, Utah. Prayer by Colonel McArthur. Upon motion of Hon. Jos. W. Young, General Erastus Snow was elected President and Col's A. A. M. Jackson and McArthur, and Major H. W. Miller, were elected Vice-Presidents. General Snow stated that the object of the meeting was to take an expression on the action of the House of Representatives in passing the Cullom Bill ---- commonly known as the Anti-Polygamy Bill. The Cullom Bill was read by Hon. J. W. Young. A Committee of five was appointed to draft a preamble and resolution expressive of the sense of this meeting. Speeches were then made by Hon. James D. McCullough, Colonel A. A. M. Jackson, and General Erastus Snow expressive of their unqualified disapprobation of the passage of the Cullom Bill.

In the death of Colonel Alden Appollos Moore Jackson, in 1876, and his wife Caroline, who followed him in death five weeks later, the Latter-Day Saints lost two of their most constant, watchful, influential, and courageous friends. In them were most happily blended physical courage of the most

daring and chivalrous character, and a moral courage that knows no peers. They had been furnished with rare opportunities of knowing the world as few knew it, and of becoming familiar with its leading men. Colonel Jackson and his wife Caroline were personally acquainted with President Brigham Young, who saw their noble characters and esteemed them for the sacrifices which they had made in behalf of their own persecuted and unpopular people. Now, it has been a source of great delight and satisfaction for me. to become acquainted with them through the printed pages of History. They have gone to their rest; and the Lord will assuredly reward them according to their works. They were noble spirits and will reap the reward of noble deeds.

This History has been compiled from many sources: Information from our family records, Journal History, Early Contributor Magazine articles by Augusta J. Crocheron, early Deseret News articles, a 1948 issue of the Relief Society Magazine, etc.

* This Biography was written by Elaine Baggaley Price, a great ~~great~~ grand-daughter of Colonel Alden A. M. Jackson.