

Maximillian Parker

Maximillian “Max” Parker was born 8 June 1844 in Accrington, Lancashire, England.¹ He was the oldest of nine children of Robert Parker and Ann Ruth Hartley. The family lived in Old Accrington² until they joined the Mormon Church in 1852 and moved to Preston, Lancashire, England.³ There, Max was assigned to polish the shoes of the missionaries who boarded with his family.⁴ He was apprenticed at the local woolen mill (his father was a weaver) but didn’t like it, so one day he ran away. This disgraced the family, and crystalized their plans to immigrate to America in May 1856.⁵

The family sailed on the “Enoch Train” from Liverpool to Boston, arriving 1 May 1856. They continued by boat and rail to Iowa City⁶ and then crossed the plains to the Great Salt Lake Valley by handcart, arriving 26 September 1856.⁷ (Note: this family was the one in the revered pioneer story of the mother giving the father a shawl as he left to find their lost son, and told him to wrap or bury him in it).

The family lived in American Fork, Utah County, and then Beaver, Beaver County, where they lived and farmed.⁸ As a young man, Max guided many trains of settlers from the Missouri River to Utah Territory. He was one of the leaders in the construction of old Fort Sanford, near Panguitch, in 1864.⁹ He was a private in Captain Edward Dalton’s company of the Utah Territorial Militia (Cavalry) during the Blackhawk War. He enlisted 21 March 1866 in Parowan, Utah, and was discharged 21 June 1866. He later filed for a pension in 1907.¹⁰

Max married Annie Campbell Gillies in 1865 in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah Territory.¹¹ They had thirteen children, including their oldest son Robert Leroy Parker, better known as Butch Cassidy. Max carried the mail between Beaver and Panguitch along the Sevier River.¹² In 1879, Max moved his family to Circle Valley, which he had passed on his mail route. He built a log cabin and planted summer wheat. He then looked for employment, and one of his first jobs was cutting and hauling wood at the Silver Reef Mine, nearly a 100-mile drive from home.¹³ When the work slowed down, he started freighting timber for the charcoal smelters at Frisco, Utah, and Pioche, Nevada.¹⁴

On the 1880 census, Max was a farmer, living with his wife and seven children in Circleville.¹⁵ Over the next two decades, the family lived in Spry and Antimony in Garfield County, in Beaver, and

¹ Utah Veterans with Federal Service Buried in Utah, Territorial to 1866; Utah Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel Database, 1847-1868; Membership of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1830-1848; Utah Death Certificates, 1904-1964; LDS Pioneer and Handcart Companies, 1847-1856.

² England and Wales Census, 1851.

³ *Familysearch.org*

⁴ Life sketch of Ann Hartley Parker, at *Familysearch.org*

⁵ *Ibid*; *Salt Lake Tribune*, 1938.

⁶ Life sketch of Ann Hartley Parker, at *Familysearch.org*

⁷ Utah Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel Database, 1847-1868.

⁸ United States Census, 1860.

⁹ *Salt Lake Tribune*, 1938.

¹⁰ US Index to Indian Wars Pension Files, 1892-1926; Utah Veterans with Federal Service Buried in Utah, Territorial to 1866.

¹¹ LDS Pioneer and Handcart Companies, 1847-1856.

¹² Maxey Parker, at *Ancestry.com*

¹³ Butch Cassidy: A Biography, by Richard M. Patterson, 1998, p. 3.

¹⁴ *Salt Lake Tribune*, 1938.

¹⁵ United States Census, 1880.

Circleville in Piute County.¹⁶ Max was appointed as judge in Orton in 1894¹⁷ and the family of ten children lived there for a while.¹⁸

Annie died in 1905 in Panguitch and was buried in the Circleville Cemetery.¹⁹ Max was still farming, with five children, in Orton in 1910.²⁰ In 1920 and 1930, he was living on the family farm with three of his sons in Circleville.²¹ He suffered a paralytic stroke in 1937.²² He died of old age at age 94 on 28 July 1938 in Circleville and was buried the city cemetery.²³ He was known through central and southern Utah as an early-day scout and guide, cattleman, rancher, freighter and dairyman.²⁴



Maximillian Parker (image from *Familysearch.org*)

¹⁶ *Familysearch.org*

¹⁷ *Salt Lake Tribune*, 31 October 1894, p. 2.

¹⁸ United States Census, 1900.

¹⁹ Utah Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel Database, 1847-1868.

²⁰ United States Census, 1910.

²¹ United States Census, 1920, 1930.

²² *Salt Lake Tribune*, 1938.

²³ Utah Death Certificates, 1904-1964; Utah Death Registers, 1847-1966.

²⁴ *Salt Lake Tribune*, 1938.



Maximillian Parker's home in Circleville (Image from *Ancestry.com*)



(Old Parker ranch before the Highway 89 realignment (image from *Familysearch.org*)



Dan, Blanche, Bill, Lula, Max, Lona, Mark, Knell, JEAN, PELLINS
Maximilian Parker family (image from *Familysearch.org*)



(Image from *Findagrave.com*)

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