

SAMUEL BRADSHAW

Samuel Bradshaw, second son and third child of John Bradshaw and his wife, Ann White, was born at Ilkeston, Derbyshire, England on the sixth day of November in 1822. Some fifteen years later the gospel was brought to England, and many of the residents of Derbyshire were introduced to its teachings and principles. Among those who accepted its principles were John Bradshaw and family. John and wife, Ann, were baptized on 10 August 1848; their daughter Mary on 13 October, son John White on 20 May, Samuel on 5 September 6, and Edward the same day.

All of these baptisms took place in 1848 and are recorded in the LDS Church records of the Derbyshire conference. Elder John Fiddo performed the ordinance for Samuel and confirmed him a member of the church on the same day. Three months later on 10 December 1848, Samuel was ordained a Deacon by the same Elder Fiddo. On 31 August 1849, he was ordained to the office of a teacher in the Aaronic Priesthood by Elder Isaac Roome. The fires of the Gospel must have burned deeply in his soul for he was advanced quickly in the Priesthood offices.

On the first month of the year 1851, about two years after receiving the gospel, the father John Bradshaw, mother Ann White Bradshaw, son Samuel and daughter Mary left their native land, and on 4 January 1851 set sail on the sailing vessel "Ellen" for America. They sailed from Liverpool, England for the land of Zion in the mountains of America. The vessel carried 466 people with J. Cummings as their leader.

Two of Samuel's brothers, John and Edward, also sailed with their wives, but the other brother, Richard, chose to remain in England.

In the latter part of February, the little vessel arrived at the port of New Orleans, and changing to a river boat, the passengers were soon sailing up the mighty Mississippi River. The people arrived at the camp of St. Joseph, Missouri and began making preparations for the overland journey to the mountains. But Samuel, being young and full of energy, and burning with a desire to join the Saints in their new home, must have found an early opportunity to travel with an independent group and so left at once for the West, for there is no record of his being a member of any of the church organized groups.

A few months after his arrival in Salt Lake City, he received his endowments, the date being 13 December 1851, quite a year of importance for him. The church leaders were looking for young men to go south to help strengthen the newly organized mission of Southern Utah, or Deseret as it was then called. Parowan was chosen as headquarters and George Albert Smith was the leader. Iron ore had been located in a nearby hill, and coal was discovered in the mountains about twenty miles south of Parowan. Many were attracted by the coal mines so they left Parowan and started the settlement of Cedar City. Among its early settlers were the Bradshaw boys with their parents, but no mention is made of the location of their daughter Mary. She is listed with her parents of Samuel and Ann in the Joseph Branch records in 1851. Some say she met and

married a young man that was not of the church and made the family unhappy and that they seldom spoke of her anymore. *(According to newfamilysearch.org, she married a William C. Cure on 28 December 1857 in St. Joseph, Missouri.

Young John and his wife had suffered the extreme misfortune of having to bury their three little children at sea as they crossed the stormy Atlantic, but their faith in the Gospel gave them the courage to carry on.

Samuel still had not found himself a wife, so he spent most of his time going back to Salt Lake City each month for a load of freight. Perhaps he was still single because the pioneer girls in their faded patched dresses failed to attract him, as he still remembered the fresh beauty of the English maidens he had left behind in his mother's country. He stopped the inquiring remarks of his friends by telling them he was just waiting for a little girl fresh from England.

Whether that hope really burned in his breast as he traveled the weary miles through the territory, I do not know, but it all worked out as he had planned. On one of his trips he met her, was introduced to her by President Brigham Young himself, who told Samuel he should marry himself a wife, and help build up the kingdom of God.

The young girl in question was Mary Ann Elsey who was seven years younger than he, having been born on 25 June 1829, at Dowsby, Lincolnshire, England. She, and her sister Susannah, had joined the church in her native land and soon sailed for America. They crossed the plains in the summer of 1852, leaving Kaneshville, Iowa on 29 May 1852 in the James J. Jepson company. The girls walked all the way and arrived in Salt Lake City on 10 September 1852.

Mary Ann was the daughter of Joseph Elsey and his wife Sarah Lane of Semperingham, in Lincolnshire, England, and later Ilkeston in Derbyshire, the home town of the Bradshaw family. Mary Ann was a frail looking young lady, but she found the strength to complete her "thousand-mile-walk" spaced at fifteen miles per day. She had formed the acquaintance of a young man as they walked along, and she had promised to marry him as soon as they arrived in the valley. As they neared the journey's end, the young man contracted the "gold-fever" and felt he must continue on to the mines in California and get his share of the gold nuggets that everyone was talking about. He begged her to go on with him but she told him that she had sacrificed every material thing she owned to come and make her home with the Saints and she couldn't walk away from them now.

Promising her that he would return in a year or less, loaded down with riches beyond their imagining, he bade her a hurried farewell and went on with a crowd of gold seekers. And now the year of waiting was up, but Mary Ann was still unclaimed.

Was it luck, or just a fortunate incident that Samuel became acquainted with her when her future wasn't too hopeful? But Samuel made his proposal to Mary Ann, and wished her to accept at once so he could take her home when he drove back with his load of freight. But the girl had

lived too long with the idea of marrying her first love to give him up so readily. She told Samuel that she would like to wait another month to be sure lover No. 1 wasn't going to return. And if this proved true then she would be ready to marry Samuel and go with him to his home in Southern Utah.

So Samuel returned home happy to think he had found the girl of his dreams, but worried for fear he might not get her after all. It was a long month for both of these young folks, both looking forward to a home together, but not too sure things would turn out for their happiness.

When Samuel returned, a little early, he found her ready to go with him. They were married at once in a civil ceremony, but five years later they were back in Salt Lake City to be sealed by President Yung in the Endowment House on 21 March 1857.

They made their home in Cedar City near his parents, and here their first four children were born as follows:

Sarah Ann on 5 July 1853

Samuel on 6 January 1855

Ira Elsey 25 January 1857

William Alma 13 February 1859

More settlers were moving into this southern part of the state. John D. Lee had headed the settling of Harmony about 20 miles southwest of Cedar City; Jacob Hamblin with seven or eight men had been called to settle the Santa Clara Creek just above where it joins the Virgin River, to live among the Indians and teach them the Gospel; and Washington was being established on the slope north of the lower Virgin River. Samuel and a few friends had done a little exploring on their own. In 1857 nine of them were camped on the la Verkin creek, south of the present town of Toquerville with the intention of making a road up the side of the La Verkin Hill so they could explore the land on this upper mesa.

With none but the most primitive tools they worked for a month and succeeded in making a road of sort up the hill. A few hardy settlers dragged their wagons up this hill and settled on some of the favorite spots along the upper Virgin River. (Johnson's Twist).

But for the present Samuel went back to his home in Cedar City. In the spring of 1860 he took his family to Tooele to visit some friends who had newly arrived from England. But what was most important on this trip was the fact that Mary Ann gave birth to a baby boy while there. They gave him the name of Edward Elsey, and celebrated his birthday on 29 May 1860. They now had five children but the oldest, Sarah Ann had died on 31 March 1854 when only eight months old. William Alma, born in Cedar City on 13 February 1859 had lived only nine months, and died 23 November 1859.

So Samuel must have bundled his wife and three children into his wagon and moved south from Cedar City and on up the road he had helped build three years earlier to the little town of Virgin City. Only a few people were living here at the time, but rocks were plentiful so it didn't take long for him to provide a shelter for the family. On March 10, 1861 another baby was added to the family circle and was given the name of Joseph Elsey (some say Eson, but the Virgin Town Cemetery records say it was Joseph Elsey). He just couldn't survive the pioneer hardships and so died in his infancy.

Little Joseph had two sisters born in the home at Virgin. Mary Anna or Susannah, born 17 July 1865, and Emma Elsey born, 22 September in 1857 but they both died as infants.

Since Samuel was a mason by trade, he took an active part in building up the country. The flat red sandstone covering the hill south of town furnished material for homes as well as their public buildings. Samuel built a two roomed house for this family to protect them from the storms of winter and the heat of summer. Always there was a call to help build irrigation ditches and canals to carry the water to the fields where their wheat and food stuff was raised. Because floods and cloudbursts were frequent, the ditches and dams had to be rebuilt continually. Although Samuel was a hardworking man, and a real pioneer, there was always more work around than he could do, and that is when the women showed their worth too.

Besides the hard work, inadequate shelter, and always a scarcity of food, there was the women's task of raising a large family for the glory of God. Mary Ann worked far beyond her strength, as did the other Pioneer women. They made their clothes, their bedding and when rags were available, wove some rugs for the bare floors. They helped tend the gardens and then gathered and cooked the precious vegetable when they matured. They were the mothers of large families and did their best to care for them when they were sick and provide for their daily needs when they were well.

Out of Mary Ann's eight children, she had three boys left, but she gave birth to two more sons, David Elsey born, 17 September 1870 and Joseph Elsey born December 10, 1871. David grew to maturity, but was not a healthy child so required much care from the mother and the older boys. The last son, Joseph Elsey died at birth and was freed from the struggle to survive. But the loss of the baby was not the greatest sorrow, for the little mother passed away at the same time. *(In the Virgin Ward records, the birth and death of the baby Joseph Elsey was not evident).

The last son, Joseph Elsey died at birth and was freed from the struggle to survive. But the loss of the baby was not the greatest sorrow, for the little mother passed away at the same time. ---Virgin City Deaths record her death as being Jan. 1871 not Dec.1861.--- She had used her strength trying to prepare family supplies for the coming winter. During the late fall she had stayed out in the cold skinning and cleaning some animals to get fat to make soap, but the storm chilled her through and through. She caught a bad cold which developed into pneumonia, for

which the pioneers knew no cure. Just before she lost consciousness, she had a feeling that she was slipping away so she turned to her attendants and said weakly, "If Sammie wants me, he'd better hold me tight." And then she was gone. So, she and her baby left the family circle on December 10th 1871.)

And now Samuel was left with four sons, aged sixteen, fourteen, eleven and two years. Samuel's mother who was now a widow, moved with the family to see what she could do to help them, but she was seventy-two years of age and that is an old age for pioneer women. But with great courage she held on for nearly four years, although most of the hard jobs had to be done by the boys themselves or by the kind neighbors who were always ready to lend a helping hand.

An accident occurred in December 1873 which caused blood poisoning to take the life of the oldest son, Sammie, who had just turned eighteen, thus leaving Ira and Edward to draw close together and assume more of the responsibilities of the home.

After Samuel had tried to manage without a woman companion for several years and found how difficult life could become, he married a widow with five children who had recently arrived in Toquerville and needed a home. This incident was told by Mrs. Wright, a neighbor who did much to help the Bradshaw family. Mrs. Wright said the woman soon became ill and when local ministrations failed to help her, she asked Brother Bradshaw to take her to Salt Lake City to a doctor. He put her and her children into his wagon and started on the long trip. Help was sought but the poor woman died, and her children found homes among the people. Alone and saddened, Samuel turned his team homeward, and in the course of time arrived again at Virgin City.

The future looked discouraging, life must go on, and hunger must be satisfied. Samuel had planted his lot mostly to trees and grapevines which did well in that little community. When the grape crop became too large for local eating, the idea of making wine from the surplus grapes was brought into the country. In a few years' time, Dixie wine became very plentiful, and was used for religious rites, for trade and for home consumption. Too late, many found that as a beverage it was habit forming, and some of the stalwart pioneers lost their sterling qualities of manhood. Samuel raised the grapes, made the wine, and learned to enjoy drinking it, as it helped him forget his loneliness.

But in spite of it, he did find another good woman who was a convert from Switzerland, named Anna Bruppacher. She was glad to find a home in Zion and did her part to make it beautiful. This couple was married in a civil ceremony and later on 22 August 1877 they went to St. George and were sealed in the newly dedicated temple there. On 24 October 1877 their first child was born, a son who was given the name of Benjamin Bruppacher Bradshaw. On 20 July 1879 a girl was born to them and given the name of Ester Annie Bradshaw. A pair of twins were born 7 June 1882 a boy and a girl. Ugene and Unis. Ugene passed away in November 1882 and Unis passed away February 1883.

Samuel had lost his three girls born to his wife Mary Ann, and one of those born to Ester, but he did have one living, and she lived to have her own family. Samuel still tried to live a good life and was advanced in the Priesthood to the office of a Seventy. In spite of his life's hardships and problems of his later life, he did live to the good old age of 75 years, his death occurring 18 August 1897. He was buried in the Virgin City Cemetery beside his beloved Mary Ann. His wife Anna lived on to care for her two living children, and made a wonderful mother for them. She lived eighteen years after her husband's passing, her death occurring 29 June 1915 and her final resting place was in the Virgin City Cemetery beside the other family members..