

THE FIRST SETTLERS OF VIRGIN CITY, UTAH

Virgin City was the first little town site chosen on the Virgin River. The word “City”, was used in connection with the name of the river to make it easier to designate which was which, whenever it was recorded.

The town never boasted of more than 500 population at any one time. It was called Pocketville by the Indians because it is situated in a low spot or pocket on the bank of the Virgin River, about 20 miles west of Zion National Park in Washington County, Utah.

In the spring of 1857, Seth Johnson and his brother Nephi, Darius Shirts and his brother, Carl Shirts, Anthony J. Stratton, James Bay, Andrew J. Workman, William Haslam, and Samuel Bradshaw camped on the La Verkin Creek and made a road up the face of the great Hurricane fault so they could explore the upper Virgin River country. One man had to stay at camp all the time to keep the Indians from stealing their food. They were about a month making the road and named it Johnson’s Twist. Seth Johnson was the first man to drive over the road, and he took two yoke of oxen with an empty wagon into the upper Virgin River valley. As soon as the road was passable. Nephi Johnson got several families from Cedar City and New Harmony to come and settle at Virgin City.

Those who moved to Virgin City before 1862 were the three Johnson brothers, Seth, Nephi, Sixtus, and their father, Joel Hills Johnson, Oliver Stratton Sr., and his two sons, James Albert and Oliver Jr. and several small children. Jacob Workman with three sons, Hy Hilton with four sons, Charles, John, Joseph, and Hyrum, and a Thomas Benson and Capson, William A, Beebe, Moses Clawson, Charles P. Clark, Simon Anderson, Samuel B. Hardy and son, and Augustus B. Hardy.

In December 1861, there was a very unusual, heavy prolonged rainstorm when it rained some every day for forty days. The ground was so soft that quite a number of cattle and other animals were lost.

In the late fall of 1863, a number of families were “called” at the October Conference in Salt Lake City to the “Pinto” mission to raise cotton. They were John Parker, John N. Hinton, LeRoy W. Beebe, John Wood, George Lovekin, Joseph Hopkins, James Dougherty, George B. Gardner, Thomas Burgess, Robert Reeve, Edwin Ruthven Lamb, Brigham Young Lamb, Philitus Davis, John Dalton, Alexander Wright, Jefferson Wright, Joseph Wright, Daniel Matthews, and James Jepson, Sr. with one son, 8 years old, the author of this history.

Nephi Johnson made his home in Virgin City from 1857 to 1873. He was a natural born pioneer, always looking for new frontiers to conquer. He was both a civic and church leader. He helped to lay out the foundation for the town site with homemade surveyor’s instruments. He was also a good farmer. He was the first presiding elder when Virgin City was made a branch of the Toquerville Ward about 1858. He married two fine women. His first wife was Mandanie Merrill, and the second was Deannie Marringer. He was a young married man at the time.

Joel Hills Johnson, father of Nephi, Seth, and Sixtus, moved to a sawmill site six miles north of Virgin about 1862 with his second wife and her children. With the help of Simon Anderson, he built a saw mill which furnished lumber for all the houses in Virgin, Duncan, and Mt. Dell in the early days. He also started a nursery there and the early settlers got all kinds of fruit trees from him.

Seth Johnson helped build the road up the Hurricane fault, drove the first team over it, and taught school either the first winter or the second. He had two wives, Emily Smith, and Martha Jane Stratton.

Sixtus Johnson was the older brother of Nephi and Seth. He came possibly in 1858. He had already filled a mission to the Sandwich Islands, had three wives, and was the first postmaster of Virgin City. His first wife was Edytha Merrill, the second wife was Mary Ann Haslam, and the third wife was Mary Stratton. About 1876 they all moved to Kanab and Johnson.

Anthony Stratton helped to build the road up the fault and moved to Virgin City from Cedar in 1857. He had a family of nine children. He had a good education and taught school, he also served as a councilor to the bishop for several years. His wife was Martha Lane. She was adept in all the pioneering arts. He was called to go to Snowflake, Arizona in 1878. He had three grown sons who went with him, Calvin, James, Marion, and William Ellis.

James Willard Bay, a convert from Massachusetts with his two wives, Lucinda Sprague, and her sister Emily. Lucinda was either the first or the second school teacher in Virgin City. They were both good mothers and housewives. Brother Bay had filled a mission for the church and he was a very good preacher. They are all buried in the Virgin cemetery.'

Darius Shurtz and his family, his brother, Carl, both helped to build the road over the fault. Darius married Margaret Haslam, daughter of William Haslam. They only remained a few months and then returned to a small place about six miles from Cedar City, later called Hamilton Fort.

Andrew J. Workman, a member of the Mormon Battalion, helped to make the road too. He was a horticulturist and raised many kinds of fruits and nuts, vegetable, berries and flowers. He also served as Justice of the Peace. Rebecca, the first wife, died in 1865, leaving three small children. Earlier, Sariah Johnson Eager, a widow with eight children, moved to Virgin City to be near her father, Joel Hills Johnson, and her three brothers. She soon married Andrew J. Workman and became the mother of five fine sons; Amos, Nephi, Charles, Edward, and Jacob L. All her children and the three left by Rebecca all grew to maturity in Virgin. Sariah was a woman of great faith, very industrious, a good homemaker, and she was the President of the Relief Society for many years.

William Haslem and his wife, Margaret, were converts from England. They had two girls, Margaret who married Darius Schurtz, and Mary Ann, who married Sixtus Johnson. William helped to make the road up the Johnson's Twist. His second wife was Mary Ann Smith. She had five children, four of whom grew to maturity in Virgin City. Elizabeth Ann, William, John and Joseph. He acquired a

buckboard and a span of mules with which he did considerable traveling. He did some farming and peddled for a living.

Samuel Bradshaw helped to build the road up the Hurricane fault. He was a convert from England. He was a brick mason and a builder. He freighted some to Salt Lake and was a very useful man in the community. He was a man of very good character. He married Mary Ann Elsey, a convert from England, by whom he had seven children. Three died in infancy, but four sons grew to manhood: Ira, Samuel Jr., Edward and David. After Mary Ann died, he married a widow with five children. She died in a year and he married Annie Broubacher from Switzerland, who had two children, Ester and Benjamin. She worked in the Relief Society for years.

Chapman Duncan was a civil engineer who surveyed a ditch with the intake lower than the outlet. This was an expensive mistake for the pioneers, but some wit composed a song entitled, "Way Down South in Pocketville, Where Duncan Dug His Ditch Uphill".

Henry Barney came to Virgin City about 1861. He drove a team back to the Missouri River to help emigrants to Utah. He moved away shortly after his return.

Moses Clawson was a mechanic and millwright. He started a flour mill in Virgin City, but moved to Toquerville with his wife at the time of the fort in 1866.

Oliver Stratton joined the Church in Tennessee and came to Utah in 1848, then moved to Virgin City about 1861. He was an active Church worker. He was a farmer and did some brick work. He had great love and charity for his fellowmen. His wife was Harriet Brown. She was very energetic, thrifty and skilled in pioneering, especially in making molasses. She was the mother of eleven children. Her oldest son married Emily Gardner, and they carried on the tradition of his parents. They even raised eleven children, and one of James Jepson Jr., whose mother died at birth. They always kept open house for the friendless and needy. They are buried in the Virgin City cemetery. Oliver Jr. was fourteen years old when he came to Virgin City. He married Fanny Workman and they raised a family of four children there, later moving to Wyoming.

Jacob Workman, a brother of Andrew, came to Virgin City about 1860 from Tennessee. He was a farmer, and knew how to make brick for building. He was a very dynamic speaker. He had two wives, Fanny Harris first, and Rebecca Smith second. Fanny had four children and worked as an officer in Relief Society. Rebecca had a large family and they were both good mothers and women. All their large family later moved away.

George Lovekin came to Virgin with John Nock Hinton about 1862. He was a good carpenter, active church member. He moved to St. George, in 1870. He had a wife and five children.

Hugh Hilton, and his second wife, Isabel H. Hilton, came from Lancashire, England, to Virgin City about 1861. He was a farmer, brewer, and cattleman. He was a very industrious man and soon became “well-to-do” for the time. Both were good in dramatics, and singing and entertaining, and they were the parents of John, Joseph, Hyrum, and Sara Ann. These all grew to maturity, married and had families, but later on all moved away.

William A. Beebe, a convert from New England, was a blacksmith, had some knowledge of law, and was very active in church work. He was also a good teacher, he taught school for several years. Louisa, the first wife, had six children. She was the mother of LeRoy W. Beebe, who later served as bishop of Virgin for twenty-three years. LeRoy was also a blacksmith, and he married Mary Ann Sabin, and they had nine children, and raised them all in Virgin. Sarah Luce Beebe was the second wife of William A. Beebe. She was a talented musician, and the mother of seven children. She was the mother of Adam Campbell, who became a bishop in Idaho.

Lewis Brewer came to Virgin City from the timber country in the Middle West. He was a convert. He could make many things of wood, such as churns, buckets, tubs, barrels, and he made a small grist-mill, and a large grindstone. Lewis Brewer bore testimony that he did not know how to read until he tried to read the Book of Mormon, and the ability to read came to him. Adam Campbell and his cousin, Ralph Campbell, came to Virgin City with Lewis Brewer. They married his

daughters and were coopers. Brewer taught them all the arts of wood work. Ralph Campbell had four sons and a girl by his first wife, and after her death he married Susan Eager, and had a large family of sons and daughters.

Charles P. Burke, a convert from Sweden, came to Virgin City about 1861, with his wife Christina. She was the mother of six children, three sons and three daughters. After her death he married Annie Johnson, who came from Denmark with one child. She had two children, then died, and he married Annie from Denmark, and she became the mother of six or eight children. He later moved to Millard County. He was a farmer and peddler, and also acted as councilor to Bishop Beebe for about fifteen years.

Simon Anderson and his wife came to Virgin City from Denmark. She never learned the English language, and they never had any children. Simon had at least one child by an earlier marriage. He was a very religious man, a carpenter, and a farmer.

A man by the name of Capson came from Denmark, probably with Simon Anderson, but he lived only a few years, and left a wife and two children.

Samuel B. Hardy and his wife, Caroline, came to Virgin City about 1861 from Massachusetts. He was a shoemaker by trade and very active in church affairs. He had a fine thresher and cradled grain at harvest time. Caroline was educated, active in church work, and the first mid-wife in Virgin City.

Augustus P. Hardy and wife Elizabeth Cooper came to Virgin City with his father, Samuel P. Hardy. They were both well educated, and active in church, he served as an officer in the militia while they were under martial law to protect themselves from the Indians. Previously had filled a mission to the Indians and had learned their language. He went to St. George after the fort.

John Wood Sr., a convert from England, came to Virgin City in December 1862. His wife drove the oxen and he drove cattle for John Parker. He farmed and helped to build several homes. Later they moved to Grafton.

John Nock Hinton with his wife, Emma Spendlove, who he had met and married on the sea, came to Virgin in 1862. Emma was a very thrifty housewife and soon learned the art of pioneering. John was a musician and led the choir for years, giving each his pitch with his “tuning fork”. He was a carpenter, cabinet maker, and cooper, as well as a horticulturist. They raised a family of ten, four sons and six daughters.

Joseph Hopkins, a soldier from Johnston’s army, came to Virgin, in 1860. He was a mechanic and blacksmith and made several plows. His first wife died and he married Ann Spendlove.

James Daugherty came to Virgin in 1862. He was a blacksmith but lived there only a few years.

George Bryant Gardner was in Virgin in 1862, later he moved with his family to Mt. Dell, just four miles north of Virgin City. It was in the Virgin School district and ward. He taught music and dancing and led the choir. He was a mechanic, carpenter, cooper, blacksmith, etc. He was called to settle Snowflake, Arizona in 1879. His wife Harriet Beebe and several of his oldest daughters were married before he moved to Arizona.

John Dalton was a Pennsylvania Dutchman. He came to Virgin City in 1862. He had three wives and eight children under twelve years of age. They moved to Rockville, Utah.

Alexander Wright was of Scotch descent and his wife was of Welsh descent. They came to Virgin City in 1862. He had a cotton gin and owned a share of the flour mill. They raised six children, three boys and three girls.

Jefferson Wright came to Virgin City in 1862. He was a Yankee from Massachusetts. He drove the team for Brigham Young when he first entered the Valley. He was a miller by trade and during the “order” was superintendant of farm hands. He filled a mission to the Eastern States. His wife was Sarah Angell. She made the first beet sugar produced in Dixie. She was a good cook and needle

woman and knew nursing and use of herbs. Had a large family of girls and three boys.

Joseph Wright, an Englishman, came to Virgin City in 1862 with his second wife and two boys of his first family, whose mother stayed in Mill Creek near Salt Lake City. Joseph and wife were active church members. He raised cattle and “blooded” horses. He was a butcher by trade and he sent his two sons, William and David, out over the California Trail to purchase a horse-powered threshing machine. This trip was so dangerous, full of hardships and trials that it has been a memorable incident in the lives of the Wright family. This son William married an English convert, Lovinia Normington, who had crossed the plains in the Handcart Company. William also raised cattle. They formed a company called “The Kolob Herd”. William was the president of that company, and his wife went with him every year during the summer months, every year for thirty years. She sometimes made as much as one hundred pounds of cheese in a day, and while “Silver Reef” was running, they took one hundred and seventy pounds of butter a week to sell there. All this work was done by hand in pioneer methods. Lovinia was a very thrifty woman who could card and spin, and weave and make all kinds of clothing. She was the mother of five boys; four grew to maturity and married while in Virgin City, also her four daughters.

George Brimhall and family came to Virgin City in 1862. His son George H. Brimhall had his first year of schooling there under Henry R. Young. This family suffered great privations there and moved away in the fall of the same year.

We have no history for Henry R. Young, but after George H. Brimhall became a professor at the BYU, he remarked that Henry R. Young was a good school teacher.

William Theobald and his large family moved to Duncan’s Retreat, a branch of the Virgin Ward, and remained there for ten years. He moved to Toquerville in 1871.

Edwin Ruthven Lamb, Brigham Young Lamb, brother and Philotus Davis all moved to Virgin in 1862. They all married daughters of Samuel B. Hardy. All three families moved to Toquerville in 1869.

James Humphries, a convert from Australia, came to Virgin City about 1866 with his wife Dorothy Melissa Allen. He had a fair education and taught school several years, was ward clerk many years and he was a carpenter, farmer, brick maker, cooper, butcher, and always kept bees. They were both interested in a good garden and always had a lovely flower garden.

Thomas Wilson, with his wife and large family, came to Virgin in 1863. One year later they moved up to the "Mills". Later one son Morris married Sarah Isom and they made their home at Mt. Dell. They belonged to the Virgin Ward. He was a farmer, and he worked on the Hurricane Canal from the beginning to the end.

Nathan Badger, William Martin Martindale, and William Gibson all came to Virgin from Duncan with their families at the time of the fort, but returned to Duncan after. All three were farmers.

William, George, and Samuel Isom, all brothers, from England, came to Virgin City about 1863. William was married to Katherine Wolf, who came with him from England. Owen and Elizabeth, his father and mother, came in 1874 and they all moved to Mt. Dell. William and Kate raised a large family. Their sons, Will, John, and Sam, all filled missions, and Will and Sam both were bishops. George Isom married Alice Parker and moved back to Virgin City. He had a good education and was the first ward clerk of the Virgin Ward. He was the business manager of the mercantile organization during the "order". He was a farmer and builder, and died in 1885, leaving a large family of girls and only one son. His wife was an expert needlewoman and she continued in the mercantile business until about 1900, when she took her family to be educated at the Brigham Young Academy in Provo.

Daniel Matthews was a convert from England. He came in 1862 with his wife and she died (just outside of Salt Lake City), leaving him with two children. He was a farmer and joint owner with John Parker in a "Chaff Piler". He made a

trip with Mary Leah Groves Lee, widow of John D. Lee, to Salt Lake City to be married. She had seven children, and together they had three children and all these children grew up in Virgin.

Two brothers, James and John Sr., and a sister, Ann Spendlove, English converts, came in 1863. James soon moved back to Northern Utah, and Ann married Joseph Hopkins.

John Spendlove Jr. came with his father and he brought his wife, Mary Davis of Welsh descent. He farmed for a living, and had a fair education and was both school trustee and Sunday School superintendent for over twenty years . He had a large family, all raised in Virgin City.

Clayborn Elder came in 1862. He married a widow, Nancy Ferguson Ott. He was a farmer and learned to play the fiddle from his step-father. He moved to Duncan and then married Hannah Normington; step-daughter of Bishop John Parker. They had a large family, but moved away before the children were married.

George Williams was a step-son of Henry Barney. He had a wife and family and was active in military affairs during the time of Indian troubles.

Thomas Burgess, a convert from England, came in the early 1850's. His daughter and son-in-law came with him and they always lived close together. They were both farmers and active church members. Burgess had four daughters marry while he lived at Duncan and Robert Reeve raised four sons and daughters.

Gorgan Peterson, a convert from Denmark came about 1862 or 3 and his wife Maria Christian Martina Peterson was a professional cigar maker, and after he got all the equipment and the tobacco raised, he decided it was not right to make them, so he burned everything. He had a small farm and made adobe to sell.

Richard Parkinson left his wife and several children in England, and came to Virgin in the early 1860's. His family in England did not join the church and since his children were old enough to support themselves, he left them. He did quite a lot

of temple work and was married twice after coming to Utah. He and his third wife are buried in the Virgin City cemetery.

Heber Ayers married the oldest daughter of Jefferson Wright, Ellen. He was a farmer and later moved to the Deseret country leaving no children at Virgin City.

Solomon Angell brought his wife and several children from Long Valley at the time of the “fort” and he helped to build the flour mill, but left after the Indian trouble and went to Toquerville.

George Hunt married Sarah Ann Hilton, and they had three children, Belle, George, and Mary. George Sr. died and his wife married Allie Johnson with whom she moved to Mexico.

Lucinda Bybee Layne Manzer came to Virgin with her daughter, Martha Jane Layne Stratton. She had one son, Stephen Manzer, who went to Sevier County after her death. Lucinda did fine needlework and became expert at dyeing a bright orange color with the roots of the “madder” plant.

These people came after 1879, so I just list them without attempting to give their history. Jessie Lowder, wife Ann, and her granddaughter, Sadie Lafevre. Ezekial Pratt, wife Minerva, and two children, Zenia and Charles. Horace Estelvin Owens, and wife Ann, and three sons, Estelvin, Burr, and Ardean, also four daughters, Sylvia, Dora, Media, and Mary Ellen. Al Barney and wife, Nancy Wilson. Alf Chinfire and wife. Henry Gardner. A family named Dameron. Mrs. Crandall, mother-in-law to Joseph Brewer. Sol Acton and George Catlin, who each married a daughter of Thomas Wilson. Flave Green and a man named Buchannon with his wife. William Willis and wife Gabrilla Stratton. Joseph Sanders came in 1876.

James Jepson Sr., and wife Eleanor Nightingale, converts from near Bolton, Lancashire, England, with three children Mary Ellen, age 11, James Jr., age 8 and Eleanor, age 5. They were called to raise cotton during the civil war. James Jepson Sr. was active in all pioneering work, making dams, digging ditches, and was a good farmer and grew some of the first fruit. He was councilor to Bishop Parker

until his death in 1881. His wife could weave many kinds of cloth, also was a midwife and delivered over three hundred babies. She was a councilor in the Relief Society, and also a good singer, and often had the gift of tongues. She lived to be 98 years old, and is buried in the Virgin City cemetery. Mary Ellen married Nahonri Steele and moved to Panguitch. Eleanor married John Spendlove and they moved to Tropic in 1903. James Jepson Jr., although 8 years old drove a team from Salt Lake City to Virgin in 1862. Children had to develop early in these times. James hunted the hillside to find food for the cows and the oxen and a few head of sheep. He had only 3 months of schooling in his life, but he learned to read and write and knew the multiplication tables, and this was a real education compared to that which his parents received in England.

John Parker was an English convert who came in 1862, with his wives and their families. His first wife had died, leaving him with several children, and he married Ellen Douglas, a widow with several children, and they had one daughter, Alice Parker Isom. Ellen was the first Relief Society president in Virgin, and she had a loom and could weave beautiful white cloth from cotton grown at home.

Maria Jackson Normington, the third wife of John Parker was also a widow with three girls. They crossed the plains with the ill-fated Martin Handcart Company. She had two children with Parker, Richard and Marie. She was a singer, a weaver, and an excellent cook.

Virgin was made a branch of the Toquerville Ward about 1860, with Nephi Johnson as Presiding Elder, with Seth Johnson and George Bryant Gardner as assistants. In 1866, the Virgin Ward was formed with John Parker as Bishop, and Nephi Johnson, and George Isom Sr., as clerk. The following men later served as Bishops and counselors; James Jepson Sr., Anthony Stratton, and LeRoy W. Beebe. On the death of his father James Jepson Jr., was appointed as first counselor. Also serving through the years were; Charles P. Burke, Joseph Hilton, and Samuel Isom. James Jepson was Bishop of the Virgin Ward until he moved to Hurricane in 1910. James Humphries served as Ward clerk for three bishops.

In January, 1874, James Jepson Jr., Oliver Stratton, Simon Anderson, Anthony Stratton, Edward Stratton, Richard Parkinson, George Hunter, William Willis, Hyrum Workman and Heber Ayers all worked on the St. George Temple for one month. Mary Ellen Jepson went with this group and cooked for them. The walls of the present Virgin church house were up and the roof on in January, 1866, but it was not finished until the fall of that year. The first floor joists were logs hewn flat on one side. Solomon Angel was the carpenter in charge of the building. A log schoolhouse was built about 1860, on the southwest corner of the public square. Following is the list of early day school teachers; Lucinda Sprague, Seth Johnson, Henry R. Young, Edwin Ruthven Lamb, James Humphries, Anthony J. Stratton, William A. Beebe, Edwin Sprague, Ianthus F. Richards, Wealthy Richards, and David Spilsbury. George Bryant Gardner taught a dancing school, and Professor Charles Thomas taught a course in music. The rock schoolhouse was built in 1874 and 1875. It has a full basement for use in storing tithing, as it was paid "in kind". It has two stories for school use. The co-op store building was made of adobe and was made in 1886. Nephi Johnson and Anthony Stratton, Andrew J. Workman surveyed the Virgin City town site with homemade instruments in 1866, all the nearby settlements were made to "fort up" to protect themselves from the Indians. They were under martial law, and quite a little excitement prevailed. The population increased to about 500. The center of the town was laid out in a large square, about 250 feet square, but it never became necessary to build walls for the fort, so the boundary is still imaginary lines. The fort was abandoned in 1869.

The irrigation was the first public project in every pioneer community. In Virgin, the lower ditch was made first. It was only one half mile from the dam to town, but it had to be flumed across a sheer hillside called Thompson Point. The farming land ditch was started in 1859. The dam was two miles up the river, and the ditch came along the foothills to water the small pieces of land where crops were raised. Though dirt and rocks were all the material available to build with and every summer when the thunderstorms came, it would fill the ditches, wash the dam away and carve a strip of land away. The farmers eventually lost their fight with the river and since about 1910 it has supported a mere handful of people.

Brigham Young organized the United in Virgin March 4, 1871. The Bishop automatically became president of the order in Virgin, but the membership elected the board of directors. Membership in the order was optional. Everyone gave everything they had to the order such as furniture, animals, harnesses, wagons, etc. There were no deeds given to the order because the land was not open to entry. This group of people tried hard to live with everything in common, but as in every group, some were not very ambitious, some had large families with only one worker. Some had three or four workers in one small family some occasionally could not use their own initiative, so it was discontinued November 1875.

The board of directors were; Jefferson Wright, James A. Stratton, with LeRoy Beebe as treasurer, James Humphries, secretary.

Moses Clawson started a flour mill in 1866. The framework of the building was up when everyone went into the fort, and then it was abandoned. Clawson moved to Toquerville. Solomon Angell completed the building about 1868, as a flour mill, and Jefferson Wright was the first miller. Hugh Hilton and Alexander Wright owned the mill. It served all the new settlements from New Harmony to Kanab.

Virgin had a post office and mail came once a week before 1872. Date of first post office unknown. The first postmasters were; Sixtus Johnson, James Jepson Sr., Mary Ellen Steel, and Eleanor J. Owens, later postmasters were; Joseph Hilton, Marion Bradshaw, Kate Isom, (Xeniall?) Pratt, Jacob Workman, and Emily Stratton. John Hilton carried the mail four years from Silver Reef to Springdale.

Silas Hoyt, a convert from the eastern states, came about 1866. He was a good tinsmith, and a good preacher. He married a widow, with a son, Henry and a daughter, Alice Gardner. He had two children with her, Rachael and Mary.

John Thompson, formerly a sailor, now an old man, married a spinster sister of Lewis Brewer. He worked for others, planted cotton, hoed gardens, and cut cane.

Thomas Maloney, a convert from Ireland, worked his way to America on a ship. He arrived in So. Utah in 1869. He worked in St. George, Silver Reef, and later came to Toquerville where he met Olive Lee and married her. They moved to Virgin about 1875. He moved to Silver Reef in 1885 and moved back to Virgin in 1886, back to Silver Reef about 1887 or 1888, back to Virgin about 1889 or 1890. They had a family of six. He was a singer, a miller and a miner. He worked on the Hurricane Canal and was a cook at Silver Reef and the Hurricane Canal.

As recalled by James Jepson, Jr., in his ninety-third year, and recorded by his daughter, Lucy J. B. Isom. January 1947.

Added to with corrections of spelling of names by Lenny Wilcox Brinkerhoff.