

Written by James C. Parry, His Son

For the Coal Creek Camp, Cedar City, Utah

The subject of this sketch, Edward Parry, was born September 28, 1843, in Wales, his parents were John Parry and Elisabeth Parry of the same place. His childhood and early youth were spent in his native land. Along in the early fifties the family heard the gospel as preached by the "Mormon" elders and after a period of investigation joined the Church. They came to America in 1856, landing in Boston from whence they took cars for Iowa City.

The family, which included his father and mother, a brother, John, sisters Mary Parry Morris and Elisabeth Parry Corry, all of whom preceded him in death, came across the plains in one of the first hand cart companies under Captain Edward Bunker. Their sufferings and privations were intense and bore evidence of an abiding faith in the cause which they had espoused. They left Iowa City June 23, 1856, and landed in Salt Lake City, October 2, 1856, a distance of 1300 miles in 98 days. Upon arrival in Salt Lake they moved to Cedar City in company with Elias Morris, a brother-in-law. At this time Edward Parry was only 13 years of age, but conditions required that he early in life assume the responsibilities of manhood, consequently his life was one of a pioneer. Building roads and bridges, subduing the barren waste and guarding against the attacks of Indians, etc. By trade and profession he was a plasterer and builder, also a stone mason plying his trade both in his home town and abroad, going as far away as Salt Lake or Nevada. In the year 1861 in company with John Lee Jones of Enoch, Andrew Corry of Cedar City and a Brother Woolsey, a call from Bishop Lunt was responded to, to escort a body of Swiss emigrants into the Dixie country. Their diary of Elder Jones records that each had three yoke of oxen and two wagons, furnished by the Saints of Cedar, and also that the snow was deep, the cattle depending the grass that they could reach from between the rocks and protruding above the snow. Again in response to a call of Bishop Lunt (April 30, 1861) he in company with

John Lee Jones and Charles Nye, crossed to the frontier of Nebraska to bring in Saints. Their trip was ~~slow~~ slow and trying and accompied by many difficulties. The trip in all covered a distance of some 4000 miles, an average of some 12 miles per day being made. He also saw service in Captain James Andrus's company which was called to fight the Indians and recover cattle and horses stolen by them. They were out about 60 days, covering the country south of the Green river.

As a Black Hawk War vereran he drew a pension from the government. He was mustered into service August 16, 1866, and served in company with William McGregor and Heber Benson of Parowan, Andrew Corry and Samuel Wood of Cedar City and others.

In a civil capacity he filled the offices of city councilman, assessor and collector, sherriff, city marshal and justice of the peace. For many years he was secretary of the 63rd quorum of Seventy and a long time member of the local choir. The declining years of his life were spent in and around home. He was lover of nature and took great pride in his gardens and surrounding taking care of his place up to two or three months before he died. On the morning of October 10, 1926, he passed away at the age of ~~82~~ 83 years and 12 days.

He was a kind and indulgent parent, a man of genial qualities and unusual intelligence, a natural humorist, and as hospitable and kind as he was he was mirthful and intertaining. The esteem in which he was held both by young and old was evidenced by the throng which paid homage at his funeral and the many things said to attest his sterling worth.