

HISTORY - HISTORY

DUP PREVIEW PAGE

HISTORY OF JOHN CHANTRY

Born April 30, 1802, at Lenton, Nottinghamshire, Eng.

Died Feb. 20, 1875, at West Weber, Weber Co., Utah.

Arrived in Utah from England in 1868.

History written by Gladys Brown White as told to her by her mother, Sariah Holmes Brown, granddaughter of John Chantry.

History submitted by Delpha Brown Gulley, daughter of Sariah Holmes Brown. Roy, Utah, Camp 40, 1965.

This copy, made available through the
courtesy of the International Society
DAUGHTERS OF UTAH PIONEERS
may not be reproduced for monetary gain

My grandfather, John Chantry, was born in Lenton, Nottinghamshire, England, April 30, 1802, he was the son of William Chantry and Ann Bonnington. As a young man he worked on a farm hired by the year.

He had two sweethearts and had promised to marry both of them. When the time came to decide which he should marry he started off with his walking cane wondering what to do, for he loved them both. The roads of these sweethearts' homes led in opposite directions, so he stuck his cane in the ground, saying that whichever way it fell that girl he would marry. After the cane had fallen he thought that he would rather it had fallen the other way, but he said he would go in the direction he fell and he did. It seemed the Lord had a purpose in this, as my grandmother was the first to bring the gospel to the family.

It was in the year 1846 or 1847 when my grandmother, Ann Bonnington Chantry, a little black eyed woman, went up town to do some shopping. While there she noticed two men standing on the street corner preaching. Out of curesity she stopped to listen to them. These two men were Mormon Missionaries from America and had gone to England to expound the new and everlasting gospel unto to all who were willing to listen. The Elders announced that they would hold a meeting the following evening. My grandmother was interested and decided to attend this meeting. So the following evening found her, with a houseful of other curious investigators.

It was a cold night in November. The hall was a rude construction with no seats and only mother earth for a floor. The Elders had purchased a few tallow candles, which they placed around the walls for lights. However, the spirit of the Lord was present, and grandmother said that she did not get tired nor did she feel the cold.

After the meeting grandmother went home to her family and said to her husband, "Oh, father, you must go and hear these men, They have the gospel that was taught by our Savior and the same gifts that the Apostles had in ancient days." She urged her children tbo to go and hear the missionaries, which they did, and later they were nearly all converted and baptized into the church. Grandfather was baptized in 1849.

After this they had the spirit of gathering to Zion. My grandmother used to say that she would never lay her body down in old England because of her strong desire to go to Zion. However, she was not permitted to go to Zion, as she died in 1868 and was buried in England.

My grandfather, John Chantry, however, came to America in November, 1868. He was very happy to think that he was coming to Utah and when he was on the boat he danced for joy.

He experienced many hard and trying times after coming to Utah. He lived with his daughter, Hannah Chantry Buck, in a dugout in West Weber, and the family at times scarcely had enough to eat, as the grasshoppers had devoured the crops.

Grandfather was very faithful and had great faith in prayer. He prayed three times a day, no matter where he was. If he was out in company and noon time came he would leave them and go in secret and pray. If he was working in the fields he did the same, often ridiculed for it by less faithful companions. Because of his faith he received visions and manifestations. One notable vision he received was as follows: he saw a railroad crossing the sidewalk leading to the Temple in Salt Lake City, which was then being built. The railroad was for the purpose of hauling stone from Cottonwood Canyon to build the temple. At that time there were no trains in Utah and the Saints discredited what he said. Later I saw the tracks across the sidewalk with car loads of granite with which to build the Temple, just as my grandfather had seen it in his vision.

He was a High Priest and was the father of sixteen children, six only of whom lived to maturity. My Mother, Sarah Chantry Holmes, was his oldest child. She was baptized into the church in 1849 and was a very faithful member. She was blessed with the gift of faith also the gift of talking in tongues and the interpretation of tongues. She and her family came to Utah in 1874. She and her sister Hannah were the only members of the family to come to Utah. Grandfather passed away in West Weber Feb. 20, 1875.