

# HISTORY HISTORY

*Esplan*

DUP PREVIEW PAGE

HISTORY OF ISAAC MORLEY Sr.

*Born 11 Mar 1786 Mass*

CAME TO UTAH 1848 *1849*

*1848 is correct*

WRITTEN BY

*Hattie Esplan*

Mabel Morley Shaw

MARGARETT MARTHA CAMP

CASSIA COUNTY COMPANY

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First Counselor to Bishop Edward Partridge from 1831 to 1840. He was the son of Thos. E. Morley and was born in March 11, 1786 at Montague, Hampshire County, Mass. He was an early settler in the so-called western reserve, being one of the men that cut down the woods and introduced agriculture in northern Ohio. He served his country in the War with Great Britain in 1812-15 and also held the position of Captain in the Ohio Militia. In June 1812 he married Lucy Gunn in Massachusetts. When Oliver Cowdery and missionary companions passed through Ohio in the latter part of 1830 Isaac Morley was among the first converts. At that time he was the owner of a good farm and considerable property, which he devoted to the establishment of the Latter-Day work. He was ordained a High Priest June 3, 1831, by Lyman Wight, and on the same day set apart as a counselor to Bishop Edward Partridge. This office he filled until the dismissal of Bishop Partridge, in 1840. In June 1831 he was also appointed by revelation to travel to Missouri in company with Ezra Booth, preaching by the way. (Doc. and Cov. 52:23). During the month of July, 1833 and while in their heated frenzy the Jackson County mob had demolished or razed to the ground the printing office and dwelling house of Wm. W. Phelps & Co. at Independence, and tarred and feathered Bishop Edward Partridge. Isaac Morley and five others slipped forward and offered themselves as a ransom for their brethren, willing to be scourged or die if that would appease the anger of the mobocrats, who on that occasion were gathered together to the number of five hundred men. They were armed with rifles, disks, pistols, clubs, and whips. In 1835 Elder Morley visited the Eastern states on a mission in company with Bishop Partridge. On their return to Kirtland in November, Joseph the Prophet wrote: "The word of the Lord came to me saying: Behold I am well because of the integrity of their hearts in laboring in my vineyard, for the salvation of the souls of men." He attended the dedication of the Kirtland Temple in March 1836 and received his blessings in the same, after he returned to Missouri and helped locate the city of Far West, where he settled his family. At a general assembly of the church held Nov. 7, 1837, he was chosen Patriarch of Far West and ordained to that office under the hands of Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon and Hyrum Smith. He remained at Far West until the arrival of General John Clark and army with the exterminating order of Governor Lilburn W. Boggs, and was one of the fifty-six citizens taken by the Militia and marched to Richmond, Ray County, to await trial. He was turned over to the civil authorities at that place, where he, after the famous mock-trial together with others was discharged by Judge Austin A. King, Nov. 24, 1838. Upon the final expulsion of the Saints from Missouri, they located in Illinois near Lima, Hancock County, the settlement made by him and others was named Yelrome. Here he began to gather round him the comforts of life by his industry being engaged principally in the coopering business. In the fall of 1845 his houses, coopers shop, property and grain were burned by a mob and he was driven from the ashes of his hard-earned home to Nauvoo, where he remained until the expulsion of the Saints from Illinois. He removed to Winter Quarters, where he buried his wife, and emigrated to Great Salt Lake Valley, in 1848. In the fall of 1849 he took charge of the company which settled Sanpete Valley. The winter which followed was very severe, and notwithstanding the supplies, of the settlers were barely sufficient to subsist upon. The Indians were not allowed to starve. Some of the settlers had to shovel the snow from the grass that their animals might have something to eat. These things nearly disheartened most of the settlers yet "Father Morley" as he was familiarly called was never discouraged but exhorted his brethren to diligence, faithfulness and good works and encouraged them by telling them that it would be one of the best settlements in the mountains.

He lived to see Sanpete Valley dotted with thriving villages and termed the granary of Utah. Elder Morley served as a Senator in General Assembly of the provisional State of Deseret. In 1851 he held a seat in the legislative council of Utah Territory. As a counselor from Sanpete County to which office he was re-elected in 1853 and 1855. During the last ten years of his life he devoted himself exclusively to the duties of his calling as a Patriarch, conferring blessings upon thousands of the Saints. He died at Fairview, Sanpete County, Utah June 24, 1865. Isaac Morley was of a kind and gentle disposition, unassuming in his manner. His public preaching and that of his fellow-laborers, Bishop Partridge was spoken of by the Prophet Joseph. In the characteristic terms he said, "Their discourses were all adapted to the lives in which we live and the circumstances under which we are placed. Their words were words of wisdom like apples of gold in pictures of silver spoken in the simple accents of a child yet sublime as the voice of an angel.