

HENRY ELISHA PERRY

By Lucy Perry Holton, a daughter.

Henry Elisha Perry was born 24 Aug. 1827, at Lewis, Essex Co., New York. He was the third son of Gustavus Adolphus and Eunice(Wing) Perry. His older brothers were named Alonzo and Lorenzo. He also had three sisters named Rosalie, Melvina and Lucy.

They were prepared for the Gospel message by a stranger visiting their home. He was a man of striking appearance, with long hair and beard. When he entered their home, he said, "Peace be unto the inhabitants of this house". He talked about ancient prophecy and said that ere long the Kingdom of God would be established and would flourish in the west. He said that they would soon behold an ancient record, containing the Everlasting Gospel, and that the New Jerusalem would be built upon this continent.

Amasa Lyman, William E. McLellen and Jared Carter and others brought the Gospel to the part of the country where they lived, in the year 1832. Grandfather's whole family gladly received the message and were baptised into the Church. They opened their home for the elders to hold meetings while they remained in New York.

They moved to Far West, Missouri, in the year 1838 and were with the Church during their many persecutions, drivings and mobbings.

When the Church members were driven from Far West, they went to Adams Co., then to Hancock Co., Ill., and afterwards to Winter Quarters.

While here, father and Uncle Alonzo, his oldest brother, went back to Missouri to find work in order to get provisions for the rest of the family to move to Utah.

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Father obtained work with a man who was a Roman Catholic, and was married to a woman who had two children, but he had no children of his own. There didn't seem to be much affection between him and his wife. He owned twelve hundred acres of land in the Missouri River bottoms, and also a freight outfit for hauling provisions to Santa Fe, New Mexico and Laramie, Wyo.

After working for some time on the farm, father was sent to drive one of the teams and the next trip he was given full charge of the freighting outfits. He did this work for four years. They fed the Indians so their trains were never molested.

A great testimony of Father's honesty, or at least the confidence this man had in him, was given when Father was going to leave his employment and move to Utah. He told Father if he would stay that he would deed him all of his possessions, for he had full confidence that Father would take good care of him the rest of his life. But, of course, the call of the Gospel was worth more to Father than land and freight outfits and he was anxious to gather with the Saints.

While working in Missouri, my father became acquainted with and married Elizabeth Zabriskie, daughter of Abraham and Susannah Coleman Zabriskie.

My mother's father died sometime before they left Missouri and mother inherited forty acres of land and some money. The land they could not sell and had to leave, but the money, together with what father earned, fitted them out well for the trip west.

They had one team of horses, six yoke of oxen and two wagons. Uncle Alonzo drove one wagon. They also helped others-- Brother and Sister Boyle, who located in Ogden and Brother and Sister Duncanson who located

in Salt Lake. They and Father and Mother were very good friends as long as they lived.

John Hindly was captain of their company, which contained forty-six wagons and two hundred souls. Father and Uncle Alonzo were both good shots and were often sent out to get some buffalo for the company.

They arrived in Utah, Monday, Sept. 3, 1855, and settled at Three Mile Creek, now Perry, Box Elder Co. Grandfather and the rest of the family had come to Utah the year before and settled at this place and had taken up considerable land, which they divided with Uncle Alonzo and Father.

Father had a good farm and raised some sheep and Mother would wash the wool, card it, spin it and weave it into cloth, from which she made suits and dresses for Father, herself and the children. Father married Lydia Thorn in the Celestial Order of marriage, by whom he had one daughter.

They soon had fruit trees planted and within a few years were raising their own fruits, vegetables, grain etc.

I believe we had the first yellow peach raised in the town, and many a happy day did we children spend under the old Early Harvest apple tree.

Father was presiding elder for several years before his death, when the town was not organized into a ward.

He was chosen captain of some men to guard against the Indians. He took a great interest in all Church and civic affairs of the town.

Father had very poor health, suffering from tuberculosis of the lungs, during the last thirteen years of his life. He died May 19, 1875.