

## HISTORY OF HENRY MILLER PARKER

*Documenting This American Family (DocFam) Editor's note: The history of Henry Miller Parker was written in 1952 by his granddaughters, Sarah Murray Brenchley and Violet Parker Parkinson. Handwritten notes were later appended to the original manuscript in 1956 by a third granddaughter, Sarah Parker Kerr. Ms. Kerr's additions are noted and inserted where they appeared in the original document. Light reformatting has occurred in this DocFam version; however, text is copied verbatim from the original transcription. No corrections are made to spelling, punctuation or syntax, to preserve the original author's unique personality and voice.*

“History compiled by Sarah Murray Brenchley and Violet Parker Parkinson, written in 1952, with a few additions made by Sarah Parker Kerr in 1956. All of the above named persons are granddaughters of Henry Miller Parker.

Henry Miller Parker, son of William H. Parker and Ellen B. Miller, was born September 26, 1807, at Brindle, Lancashire, England. He grew to manhood in that part of England, and was a picture frame maker by trade.

In the year of 1835 he married Ann Cummings of Brindle, Yorkshire, England. Their First child, a son, was born May 1, 1837 at Whittle, Lancashire, England, and he was named John

Grandfather was baptized into the church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in May 1838. In the year of 1842 they immigrated to America and were eight weeks on the ocean. They went direct to Nauvoo, Illinois, and it was here in August 1842 that their second baby, another son, was born and they name him William Henry. Shortly after the birth of the baby, Grand'father's wife, Ann Cummings, died. It seemed so sad such a young woman, she was just twenty-six years old. This was a real trial for him; having a small baby and young boy to care for, but no task was impossible for this good man to try. Besides caring for the children, he worked hard to make a living for them and he did a great deal of work on the Nauvoo Temple.

Two years later, January 28, 1844, he married again, this time to Nancy Wood Riley, who was born in Blackburn Lancashire, England and had immigrated to America. She joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and was baptized before she left England. She was baptized by Heber C. Kimball., who was on a mission to England at that time, in the year 1837.

(Handwritten note in manuscript: On August 19, 1844, Grandfathers oldest son John died, he was 7 years 3 months old. This information is record in a Nauvoo newspaper, Nauvoo Neighbor, Aug 21, 1844.)

Their experiences and trials were many in their new home land and along with the other members of the church they suffered much. A good portion of the history of Nauvoo is also the story of Grand'father and Grand'mother Parker; city building, temple building, and much spiritual building. Close association with the leaders of the Church gave them a rich religious experience. They stood strong and donated liberally to the building of the Nauvoo Temple and the Church at that time. Grand'mother gave her wedding ring as a donation for the Temple. They were personally acquainted with the Prophet, Joseph Smith.

In 1845 the first child of this marriage was born and he was named Joseph Hyrum. One year later Grand'fathers oldest son died, he was nine years old.

The following was copied from one of the Nauvoo newspapers, dated December 15, 1845. 'This may certify that Henry Parker who is now living in the of Joseph, a small place just out of Nauvoo is entitled to the privileges of the baptismal faunt having paid his proper, labor and tithing in full for the year 1845. Signed – Wm. Clayton.'

Shortly after they went and had their work done in the temple. This was just before the temple closed. They were driven from their homes by the mobs along eith other saints and they moved as far as Council Bluffs, Iowa. They remained there for four years, while there two more children were born, Violet Ellen and Heber Thomas. The family worked very hard while there and tried to save enough to immigrate to Utah.

Grand' father Parker's family came to Utah in the Edward Hunter Company. This trip was very hard on them, as they walked most of the way. To these noble pioneers we must pay tribute for their fortitude and courage, to stand up under the many hardships and trials they were called to bear.

They arrived in Salt Lake City in October, 1850.\* "Sunday October 13, 1850 Bishop Edward Hunter arrived in Great Salt Lake City with the first company of P.E. Fund emigrants from the United States" After a short stay here they went on to Lehi, Utah. They remained here about two years and during this time another child was added to the family, Ruth Elizabeth. From Lehi, Utah they moved to Cedar Fort and began farming. \*"In 1852 Cedar Fort or Cedar Valley was settled by Allen Weeks, Alfred Bell and others." It is possible that Grand-father Parker and family were o this group, as he left Lehi about this time. While they were there they got a farm of their own. Another child was added to their number on October 7, 1854 Willard Richard was born.

In 1856 the grasshoppers destroyed their entire crop, and they suffered much poverty and hardships. In the spring of 1856 the Indians caused a lot of trouble and several men were killed. \* "The Indians stole many cattle and horses in Utah and Cedar Valleys, and on the 22<sup>nd</sup> a posse of ten men with the legal write called at an Indian camp in Cedar Valley to arrest the murderers. A fight ensued in which one Indian and a squaw were killed and George Carson, one of the posse, mortally wounded. He died on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. On that day (23<sup>rd</sup>) Governor Brigham young, by proclamation, ordered out part of the Utah Militia to fight the Indians. This difficulty with Indians is known in history as the "Tintic War."

On Februgry 16, 1857 another baby was born, a little girl, and she ws named Sarah Jane. In this same year Johnsons Army came through Utah, which proved to be a blessing to them in many ways. It furnished a market for their products and this enabled them to buy the things they were so much in need of. While still at Cedar Fort a pair of twins were born, a little boy and a little girl, they were named Henry Abraham and Nancy Ann. They were born August 11, 1859.

In the spring of 1860 they came to Cache Valley along with the Leishman and Cooper families and several others and settled in Wellsville. Their first two homes were dugouts, the first one was between Wellsville and College Ward and the second in the side of the hill down near the Little Creek located just East of Wellsville. They were given a tract of land whereby they were able to make a living for themselves. Grand' father owned a farm between Wellsville and Mendon, Utah. Not long after they came to Wellsville, they were called to part with three members of their family this was in the year of 1861. In just twenty-three days, the twins, Henry Abraham, Nancy Ann and Violet Ellen. This was a terrible blow to these noble people who were trying so hard to make a home and a living for their family in this new, wild country.

Grand'father built a log room with the of his wife and children they were comfortably located and were always faithful and sincere in their church duties. In the spring of 1876 Grand'father went on a short mission to England. While there he gathered a large genealogical record of their ancestors \*! "Henry M. Parker was set apart for a genealogical mission to Great Britain April 15, 1876, he returned the same year."

(Handwritten note in manuscript: "(Henry Miller Parker) Released 13 Sept. 1876 sailed for home on the ship "Wyoming")

In the year of 1869 he built one of the nicest homes in Wellsville at that time. It still stands as a monument to his memory, and is now owned by heber H. Bankhead.

It has been told that Grand'father was of a very sensitive nature. One time brother James Ad Leishman visited at Grand'father's home and found him in tears, he had been to town and one of the other men of the community had passed him by without speaking, this was too much, it hurt him so that he cried and was almost sick trying to recall just what he could have done to make this man pass him by without speaking.

These noble parents had eight children come to grace their home; four girls and four boys. May 13, 1879 he was called to part with his dear wife who had been so faithful, she was sixty two years old. She was laid to rest in the family plot in the Wellsville City Cemetry.

In 1880 he married again to Lucy Gustava Burgland who had immigrated from Sweden. She was very kind and hospitable to his family and a loving and kind wife to him. The family loved her very much. There were no children to this union.

Grand'father Henry Miller Parker, died July 28, 1887 at the age of eighty.

A daughter-in-law, Sarah Ann Cooper Parker, said of him, "Grand'father Parker was such a good man."

(Handwritten note in manuscript: "Lucy died 28 July 1886.")

Note: All quotations marked (\*) are taken from "Church Chronology," by Andrew Jenson.

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(Handwritten note in manuscript: "Wed. 13 Sept. 1876. The steamship Wyoming sailed from Liverpool, England, with 322 Saints, in charge of Wm. L. Binder. The Company arrived at New York Sept. 23, and at Salt Lake City Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1876.