

LIFE STORY OF MARSHALL FRANKLIN ALLEN

Compiled by a granddaughter Emma H. Auger

My grandfather Marshall Franklin Allen was born 12 Oct. 1833 in Mansfield Cattaragus Co. New York, the son of Alberm and Marcia Allen Allen. He was the fourth child having two brothers Rufus Chester and Alanson David and one sister Clarrissa Abby.

When he was two years old his parents joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and moved to Caldwell Co., Missouri. Two more sisters Rachel and Rebecca were born there.

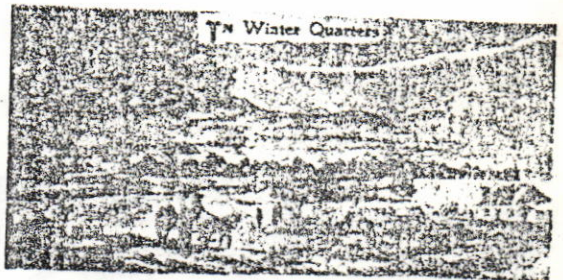
When the saints were driven from Missouri in 1838 they moved to Adams Co., Illinois and on to Nauvoo in 1840, where another sister Sarah was born. He was baptized in the Mississippi River in 1842, and his sister Sarah died the same year. In 1843 another sister Sarah Ann was born.

(While living in Nauvoo, one time when a group of boys were gathered together in the public square, one large fellow was teasing the smaller boys and throwing them to the ground. After a short time the Prophet came along. He told one of the boys to go throw that boy down. The smaller boy doubted and was at first afraid, but as he thought of the Prophet's command he jumped up and threw the larger boy down on the ground. This ended the aggressive acts of the bully.)

(Another day Grandfather was playing on the street when the Prophet came along. He stopped and looked at his watch. Grandfather standing close by showed interest in the Prophet. He turned and asked him if he would like to see his watch. He replied that he would. He was then permitted to hold and look at the watch for a few minutes. The Prophet then continued on his way. This was a thrilling experience for a ten year old lad.

The Allen family left Illinois with the main body of Saints in 1846, when they were forced by mob violence to flee from the city, and journeyed to Winter Quarters in the Brigham Young Company.

Here his father and brother Rufus were called into the Mormon Battalion, 22 July 1846. In accepting this call Brigham Young told these volunteers that if they did their duty they would not be called to shed blood. Their only fighting was with wild cattle. They entered the Service in Fort Levenworth, Kansas and were assigned to Company "A".



Winter Quarters

The Battalion marched to the southwest of California, enduring privations, hardships, making roads through impassible mountains, and trackless deserts without food, water or grass and almost without provisions. Now and then they found themselves almost without clothes and worn down with fatigue. For nearly thirty days they had nothing but beef and not enough of that all the time. While on this march the men even had to scrape the wool from their saddle skirts and boil the leather to get broth to eat. By the early spring of 1847 they had arrived at their destination of Los Angeles, California. While stationed at Los Angeles on the 24 April 1847, Lieut. Col. St. George Cook issued an order that the Battalion should erect a fort, later called Fort Moore in honor of Captain Benjamin Moore, U.S. Army, who was killed in the battle of San Pasquel on 6 Dec. 1846. The proposed site was on an eminence which commands the town of Los Angeles. Company "A" was detailed to this area and immediately began the erection of the fort. The logs to erect the Liberty Pole were obtained from San Bernardino Canyon, and on the 4th of July 1847 the Stars and Stripes were flown for the first time over the City of Los Angeles.

They were released from the Mormon Battalion on the 16 July 1847. Albern and Rufus joined a company fitted out with pack animals and made the trip to Salt Lake Valley. They arrived in the valley by way of Fort Hall, Idaho, the distance of 1300 miles, and joined with the vanguard company of pioneers, expecting to meet their families there.) In this they were disappointed as they had not yet arrived.

Now back to the story of Grandfather with his mother Marcia, (her aged parents, brothers and sisters and the rest of the children, the eldest being about 17, were left behind on the bleak desolate plains ill in a wagon, not knowing whether the privilege would be theirs to join the promised home in the tops of the mountains or perish with many others who were not strong enough to withstand the adversities of such a journey.)

They suffered much during the winter and two of his sisters Rachel and Sarah Ann were taken in death. In the spring they decided to plant a little wheat and corn which they thought they could spare for that purpose. The boys helped to dig the ground with what crude implements they had to plant the wheat. Grandfather said they sharpened sticks and drove them into the ground to make a hole in which to plant the corn. Soon after planting their seeds they were told that they could leave Winter Quarters and travel in the second Brigham Young Company.



(They were met about 100 miles east of Fort Laramie, Wyoming, on the Platte River by their father and brother Rufus in company with several others who were on their way to join their families. It was a joyous meeting, yet a tearful one when they were informed of the death of the two children at Winter Quarters. They arrived in Salt Lake Valley in the fall of 1848 and made their home in Big Cottonwood District of Salt Lake.) While living there on 14 Jan. 1850 another sister Mary was born.

Grandfather made six trips back to meet the different companies of Saints.

It was about 1852 that Grandfather moved to Ogden, Weber, Utah with his parents. On 31 Oct. 1852 he was ordained to the office of Seventy, and some years later to a High Priest. On 6 June 1856 he received his endowments in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City. He married Emma Holmes 27 Feb. 1859 in Ogden and on 15 Sept 1869 they were sealed as husband and wife in the Endowment House. Their first two children were born in Ogden, Marshall Franklin born 6 Sept. 1860 and Mary Emma born 20 Dec. 1862, she died 17 Mar. 1876. They moved to Huntsville, Weber Utah, where their son Roy was born 19 Mar. 1864. Grandfather purchased a farm in Willard, Box Elder County, and moved the family there where seven more children were born. Alburn Ozro, 20 June 1867; Clarissa Paulina, 30 Apr. 1870; Marcia Ann, 23 June 1872; John Ethan, 29 Mar. 1875; Loris, 25 Mar. 1878; Belva, 10 Apr. 1880 and Alvin 16 Jan. 1883, who died 26 Feb. 1886.

Grandfather had a peach orchard and some small fruit and raised some to sell. One summer the three girls Paulina, Marcia and Belva cut and dried enough peaches to sell at a few cents a pound to buy each of them a trunk of which they were very proud.

(In about 1878 Grandfather received a call from Box Elder Stake Authorities to supply the logs for the building of a Stake Tabernacle at Brigham City, Utah. He with his son Roy, cut and hauled several loads of logs for the construction of this building, obtaining the logs from the head of Willard Canyon, hauling them down the steep mountain side with a yoke of oxen on the front chassis of a wagon. Grandfather would cut them and his son Roy, who was only nine years old at that time would haul the logs down the dangerous road." The building was completed and dedicated 14 years later 26 Oct., 1890 and was destroyed by fire on 7 Feb. 1896. It was reconstructed in a period of 14 months, the walls being of stone resisted the fire, so reconstruction involved the replacing of all wood structures in the building.

In those early days of the west, times were hard and it took the effort and labors of each member of the family that was old enough to work to sustain a livelihood for such a large family. There was very little education to be had for the children. They were all taught to work hard and gain much from their experiences. Their sons spent many long summer days herding cows on the hillside, and on many occasions at such times visiting with Indians as they would pass by. Their noon-day lunch while herding cows would usually be an ear of roast corn. Many of the family meals consisted of cracked corn meal mush or sometimes corn meal bread with molasses.



Cold Springs

For amusement and recreation, the boys would play marbles, go swimming in the cold springs or the Great Salt Lake. In the winter time skating was the chief sport. The girls would go to the cold springs and gather clam shells. It was very seldom there would be any clams in them. They would take them home, and as there was a large oak tree by the side of their house, they would take the acorns and shell them, leaving the shells in the shape of a cup and saucer and the clam shells they used as plates, from which they would eat the acorn nuts for their play dinner. (Many times Indian children of various groups of passing Indians would be their playmates in their sports.)

In about 1884 Grandfather sold his farm in Willard and moved to Paradise, Cache, Utah, where he purchased another small farm. Some of the boys went away from home to work, and Pauline took a course in dressmaking, although she did not complete the course, she became very efficient in her work and did a lot of sewing for other people. She did some free and got some money which paid for her course and helped the family a little. Best of all she was able to do the family sewing. She taught other members of the family to make their own clothes.

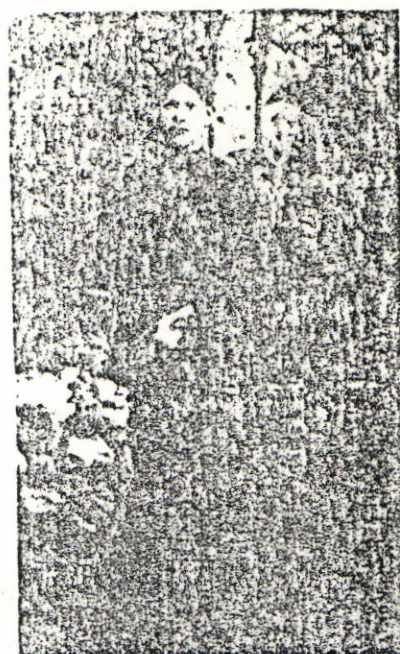
About three years after the family moved to Paradise, his wife became very ill and she was bedfast for several months. And the last several weeks she was entirely helpless. On Aug. 14, 1887 she passed away and was buried in Willard Cemetery beside her two children who had preceded her in death.

Pauline being the oldest girl in the family, had complete responsibility of the care of her mother during her illness and death. She also kept house for seven years for her father and the other members of the family who were not married.

Marshall Franklin had married Sarah Singleton, Rory had married Elizabeth Howells, Marcia Ann had married S. Napoleon Obray and Ethan had married Margretha Teslie. On Dec. 19, 1894 Pauline and her brother Ozro had a double wedding. They were married in the Logan Temple. She married Benjamin Housley and he married Lillian McMurdie. She made her own wedding dress and cooked the wedding supper for both of them. They had a house full of guests and received many useful gifts.



Ozro



Paulina

Soon after this wedding Grandfather stopped keeping house and took the two Loris and Belva who were still home with him and went to live with Ben and Paulina.

On 21 Dec. 1899 Belva was married to James Housley, a cousin to Benjamin, and Loris married Mathilda McMurdie. At that time they all lived in Paradise. Although Grandfather made his home with Paulina, he spent some of his time with his other children. When Jim was away from home he would stay at night with Belva. Some times this would be a few weeks or months as he worked away herding, shearing sheep and other jobs.



Paulina, Grandfather and Belva

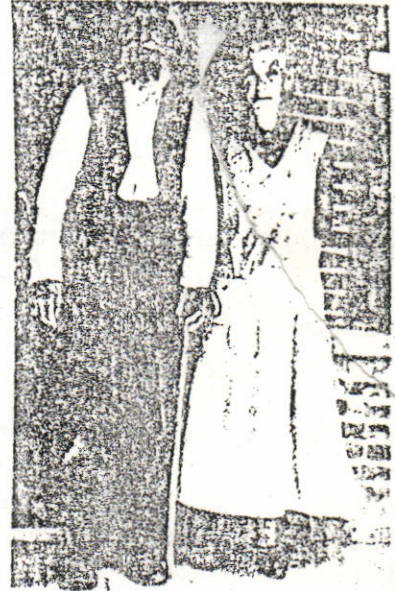
Grandfather was active in the Church. He was called upon to speak often and seldom missed the opportunity of bearing his testimony on fast day. He was a member of a Priesthood Quorum. Part of the members of that Quorum lived in Hyrum. Some of the times they held meetings in Hyrum, and some of the time in the Tithing Office in the Paradise ward. He was considered well educated in the Gospel and enjoyed conversing with other people about church principles.

He loved to teach his grandchildren. I well remember what a lot of pains he would take in helping the little ones wash their face and hands, and to button or tie their shoes. He would sit for hours and tell the children stories of the early days of the church, crossing the plains, the progress of the building up of the west, and how the desert was made to blossom like a rose.

(He remembered hearing the Prophet speak in public many times, and said how terrible the people felt when he and his brother were martyred.) He saw the blood stained clothes. He heard a woman who helped to wash them bear testimony that it was the blood which sealed the Prophet's testimony. Grandfather said that although he was but a boy the truth of that testimony was made known to him and it was always as a spark of light to him. When he thought of the blood stains on the floor as he had seen them, when a lad, and then to know that they were still there when he had grown to be an old man just made that testimony that much stronger.

(Grandfather always reminded us that although times were hard, everyone was under the same strain, and in his good natured humorous way, would relate many things of how life was made worth while by simple ways of entertainment. Neighbors really practiced love and kindness and were always helpful with each other.)

While living with Paulina, he had a gray horse and a small wagon. During the summer he would go, as he called it "over the mountain," to Box Elder County, or to Weber County to get a load of salt from the Salt Lake. Sometimes he would stay overnight with his sister, Mary Hinchcliff in Ogden, and have a good visit and then get his load of salt. If it was late he would stay another night and start home in the morning. He usually stayed a night or so with friends along the way home. Then when he had rested he would take it to Hyrum, to get it ground into fine salt. There was a man there who had a small electric mill in which he would grind seeds for the farmers to feed their animals. This man would either take a small amount of the feed or a little money for his pay of wheat, corn, oats, or barley which ever it happened to be. When he started to grind salt, it would not be clean for table use until the mill would be cleaned by the running through of the salt. The man would keep this salt to sell to the farmers for their animals. This is how Grandfather would pay for the grinding of his salt.



Grandfather and Mary
Hinchcliff

He had a bucket and a pair of stillards to weigh the salt in small amounts as he went from door to door peddling. In fruit season, he would have a few cherries, apricots, or peaches to sell also. He usually went to homes out away from the stores. Some places were near Hyrum, Providence, Millville lane and back through some parts of Paradise. This only brought a small amount of money, but he enjoyed the association of his old friends, and also loved to make a few new ones.

One time when driving home from one of these trips there was a bad thunder storm. He heard a voice say "Hurry," he hit the horse with his whip. The whip was one he made from a willow about three feet long with a strip of leather about the same length, split from an old harness line, the strap was tied on to the end of the stock with a piece of cord string. Just as the horse jumped and made a plunge forward, he felt something tapping on his straw hat. He said it sounded like small pebbles. The horse stopped and Grandfather took off his hat. It was full of tiny brown holes which looked as if they had been burned. He looked back and there was a hole in the ground and the dust was flying, from right where he was when he hit the horse. It must have been a lightning strike.

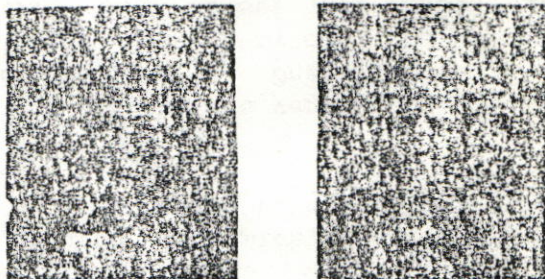
(As stated in his blessing, given by Patriarch John Smith, Grandfather had the gift of healing through administration, and did feed many, both spiritual and temporal food, and did not lack for the necessities of life.)

When my brother Fred, was only a few years old, he was very sick. He had Spinal-meningitis, then a complication of diseases set in. One afternoon Dr. D. C. Budge, the family doctor, and the nurse Lois Gibbs were in my mother's bed room where Fred lay. My mother and father were also there. I sat just outside the room on a little chair. I remember hearing the Dr. say, "he is dead," then Sister Gibbs laid her hand on his forehead and said, "I think there is still a spark of life." How wonderful my grandfather looked to me as I watched him coming from the kitchen with a bottle of oil. He went straight to the bed and anointed his head. Then he asked my father and the Doctor to assist him. Grandfather sealed the anointing, rebuked the disease, promised him life, health and strength to live to fulfill his mission here upon the earth.

Grandfather was always on hand wherever he was to bless the sick. When he was in any of his children's homes he did not even wait to be asked. If a child had a very bad crying spell, even if it was in the middle of the night, he would get up and bless that child, sometimes with oil and sometimes without it. A calm peaceful influence would come over those he blessed.

Pauline moved to Mapleton, Idaho in June 1905. Soon after this, he came and made his home permanently with her family. They lived a long way from town and sometimes when Paulina and Ben went to do their shopping, Grandfather would stay with the children. He was a lot of company and kept all fear away.

In the early part of 1907 Marcia and her family moved to Alberta, Canada, and he never saw them again.



Marcia and Napolion Obay

One time when Grandfather George Fredrick Housley from Hyrum, Utah, was visiting in Mapleton he and Grandfather Allen were talking over old times. Grandfather Allen told of one time when "Brother Brigham" had called him to accompany several other young men in going out to meet the hand-cart company, to take them provisions and assist them into the Valley. As he knelt in Prayer the evening before, he said he told the Lord it was a foolish thing to do, going out in such weather and no roads to follow. But while he was still in the act of prayer, it was made known to him that he should go. It was also made known that he would be able to save many of their lives. After searching many hours the rescue party became discouraged thinking the hand-cart company had been lost on the plains. They decided to return to the valley. Grandfather said he told them he would go till he reached the states, but what he would find them. About noon he found a group of hand-carts with their poor starving people. Thinking there may be more father back he rode on for some distance. He saw a dark spot among some rocks, and upon investigating found it to be a young man. He wrapped his blanket around him and helped him onto his horse. Then Grandfather Housley spoke up and said:

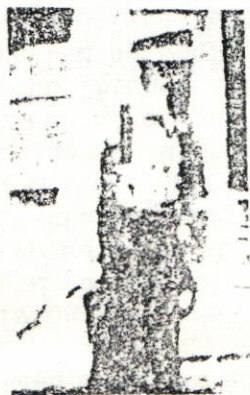
"The horse had one white leg, a white strip in it's forehead and the rest of it was coal black.

Grandfather Allen said "yes".

Grandfather Housley said, "It was a bright plaid blanket."

Grandfather Allen asked, "How do you know?"

Grandfather Housley said, "Because I was the one you found." Then he stood up and said, "And I want to tell you, if it hadn't been for the prayers of my mother and the faith of the saints, I would not have lived till you found me and I never would have reached the valley."



Grandfather Allen



Grandfather Housley

On April 1, 1914, the family moved to Cornish, Utah. The middle of May, 1918 they moved to Richmond, Utah.

I have been greatly blessed along with other members of the family by having him in our home. He taught us by the hour the principles of the Gospel. He was a good entertainer both in the home and in the wards in which he resided and could say many long poems from memory. He also used to step dance. I am sure my testimony has been strengthened many times through the examples and teachings I received from him.

In my early married life he visited in our home many times, occasionally he would remain with us a few days or a week. These visits were really appreciated.

Whenever he would lie down to rest in the daytime he would always put his straw hat over his face. This amused the children and when they would ask why, he would tell them that the light hurt his eyes and that the hat protected them from the bright glare. In spite of this condition he was always able to read. He read many books and the newspapers, keeping up on world affairs as well as religious. He never got too old to do a few chores such as gathering kindlings, carrying in a few armfuls of wood, pulling some weeds and feeding them to the pigs or cows, digging potatoes or some other vegetable etc.

He was about five feet six inches tall and weighed about 145 pounds. He had keen alert blue eyes and silver gray hair which he wore a little long with a slight under turn toward the neck and a beard to match. He was neat in appearance and really looked dressed up in the brown corduroy suits he wore most everyday, especially during the winter months the last few years of his life.

He passed away on July 10, 1921, of Brights Disease, at the home of his daughter Paulina. Funeral services held in the Richmond Tabernacle and the remains were taken to Willard in a pick-up truck. As the procession was going up the Wellsville Canyon road in a place that was slick as it had been raining, the truck slipped off the road and almost tipped over. Some of the men jumped to the ground, lifted it up on the road again. We were all frightened but on examining the casket found all to be OK. We then proceeded on the journey. He was buried in the Willard Cemetary.



M. F. Allen

References -

Family, Temple and Richmond Ward Records.

All between () taken from "My Allen Line and Historical Sketches ." by A. LeeRue Allen

The Journal of June 1895 stated that "Marshall Allen of Paradise found some very good looking copper stained ore in the vicinity of Smith's Fork near Cokeville, Wyoming. Allen is confident he has a good thing.

