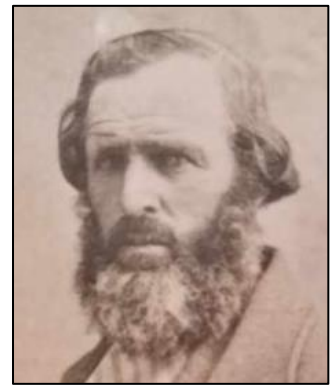




Rufus Chester Allen

Rufus Chester Allen was born in Delaware County, New York on October 22, 1827, the oldest of nine children. His parents joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in 1835 and traveled to Missouri in 1836, eventually arriving in Nauvoo in 1840 where they resided until the expulsion of the Saints in 1846.



At age 18, he enlisted with his father in Company A of the Mormon Battalion, reaching California where they were based at Los Angeles for the last four months, constructing Fort Moore.

On an 1897 Jubilee document, he wrote, “I came to the Salt Lake Valley in the fall of 1847 after being discharged from the Mormon Battalion or after discharge of the M. Battalion, being a member of the same. I remained there during the winter and spring....”

Rufus traveled a great deal in his life assisting those traveling to Utah, serving missions, and exploring areas to the south. In 1848 he went east to meet companies coming along the trail which included his parents. Arriving back in Utah, his name appeared on a list of men who received a certificate for their service on October 2. It was carried to Council Bluffs in case it was needed for his bounty land application which was submitted in his name in Missouri in December 1848.

In October, 1849, he went south on an exploring trip with a company under the leadership of Apostle Parley P. Pratt, and in 1851 he was called to go with

Apostle Parley P. Pratt and others on a mission to the islands in the Pacific ocean.

From San Francisco he accompanied Apostle Pratt on a mission to South America; they landed in Valparaiso, Chili, Nov. 8, 1851, and after an unsuccessful attempt at introducing the gospel in Chili, they returned to Salt Lake City in 1852.

He was sent as a missionary to the Indians in the Rio Virgin and Santa Clara country in the spring of 1854. His name appears on multiple Utah Militia rosters from 1853 through 1865. In March 1855, he was commissioned captain of Company F Battalion of the Infantry at Cedar and Harmony posts, Iron Military District of the Nauvoo Legion.

He returned to Ogden in September 1857. During the winter of 1857 he spent a good part of the winter as guard in Echo Canyon, where he took part in the Utah War in 1857-58.

During this time, he served in multiple church callings and married in 1853 with another marriage in 1857 to which four children were born.

In 1862 he moved to "Utah's Dixie" believing the warmer climate would be beneficial to his health, as he was suffering with rheumatism.

In 1866 he again traveled east as a Church teamster to bring emigrants to the Valley. On his return he settled in Paragonah, Iron county, where he was chosen second counselor to Bishop William Jones. He married his third wife with a child born in Circleville, fathering the last of his five children in 1894 at age 67.

In 1891, Rufus purchased a home in St. George where he spent the remainder of his life and served in additional church callings, and laboring in the Temple. He died December 7, 1915. Interment was made in the city cemetery.

Sources:

Military and Church records

Pension and Bounty land applications

Pioneer Jubilee records

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