



## **SAMUEL KNIGHT 1832-1910**

information taken from a biography written by A. K. Hafen

Samuel Knight was the son of Newel and Sally Knight. Shortly after he was born, the Saints were driven out of Jackson County, Missouri by unruly mobs. His mother died before he was 2 years old. He stayed with an aunt when his father went to Kirtland to work on the temple. While Newel was in Kirtland, he met and married Lydia Goldthwaite. They went to Missouri, but within a few years were driven out of Far West and went to Nauvoo, Illinois. Samuel remembered going through snow 10 to 12 inches deep to get to Nauvoo. In Nauvoo his parents along with many other saints came down with malaria. Samuel carried water to the sick.



In Nauvoo Samuel was in the meeting when Brigham Young spoke after the death of Joseph Smith. He was just a boy--possibly playing-- and not watching the speaker when he thought he heard the voice of Joseph Smith. He looked up in astonishment and saw Brigham Young but he looked like Joseph Smith.

When mobs again rose up, Newel was called to be in the first 50 to go to the Rocky Mountains in what was called the Advance Party. Difficulties slowed the progress and the group tried to winter in Nebraska. After fighting a prairie fire, Newel became ill and died. The Advance Party went back to Winter Quarters.

In the spring of 1847, Samuel at the age of 15, was advised by Brigham Young to go west and try to prepare a way for those who came later by growing grain and other food. He went with a company of 660 wagons. His guardian was a man named Dickinson. Until harvest they subsisted on roots and greens and nearly starved. Dickinson married and went to California leaving Samuel to fend for himself.

Samuel wandered around and ended up sleeping in a haystack at the fort. Bishop John Smith found him and asked his son-in-law Thomas Callister to take him in.

They showed him kindness until Lydia was able to cross the plains and Samuel rejoined his family.

In 1853 Samuel was called with other young men to serve as missionaries to the Indians on the Santa Clara. In 1857 Jacob Hamblin was called as president of the mission and Samuel as a counselor to him. Samuel married a saint from Denmark and she joined him on the Santa Clara.

As a missionary to the Indians Samuel learned their language, taught them, and several times worked to prevent war. He went on an expedition to defend a wagon train going to California. At other times he went with the brethren to visit different Indian groups and maintain good will. He was with Brigham Young as he traveled in southern Utah. Near the confluence of the Virgin River and the Santa Clara, the Mormon leader asked his driver to stop. He arose in his seat and looked across a valley. Samuel later said, " I saw his countenance change almost white, and a shadow of light seemed to surround him." Brigham Young later held a meeting and explained that he had had a vision in which he saw a city with towers and steeples and many inhabitants. (It would be called St. George.)