

Life Sketch

written by

Joseph Freeman Phippen

at Albion, Idaho

May 22, 1912

My father, Isaac Phippen, son of Joseph and Lila Paul Phippen was born in Westminster, Windham County, State of Vermont, February 15, 1793. My mother Adah Stewart Phippen, daughter of Luther And Esther Smith Stewart (or Steuart) was born in the town of Neversink, Ulsten county, Sate of New York, July 19, 1798. At what time they migrated west I do not know. It appears they met and became acquainted at Springfield, Clark county, Ohio and were married there probably in 1818 for my brother J. W. Phippen was born October 12, 1819. Three years later I was born, September 20, 1822, at the same place.

When I was about two years old my father with his family moved back to Vermont and settled, or rather stopped a couple of years in Rockbridge County. Here my sister Esther Permelia was born. But it seems they were not satisfied there and once more took up the line of march westward and finally settled in Chautauqua County, State of New York, at that time a dense wilderness. We had to clear away the timber to make room to build a cabin. We stayed there until the spring of 1839. During this time we had cleared and fenced and otherwise improved about eighty acres of the 128 acres Father had entered. During this time there was born to my parents, I do not remember date, Isaac Clark, Asa Stewart and Sylvester Smith Phippen.

Men even of middle age know but little of the amount of labor it cost to prepare an acre of ground for the seed. In the first place it had to be underbrushed. That is all the small stuff out and piled up. Then the big trees were felled and cut into suitable lengths, hauled together, piled up and burned. (The ashes raked up, hauled to place prepared, bleached and the lye boiled down to salts. This was our first source of revenue. Salts being worth ;three dollars per hundred.) Then the seed was among the roots and harrowed over. What was left uncovered was chopped in with a hoe. Two of three crops was raised this way then the ground was seeded down to timothy. When grown the tops were cut off with a sythe (sic), seed threshed out with a flail and sold for \$1.25 per bushel (second source of revenue.) On the part of the land not cleared there was between three and four hundred large sugar maple trees and considerable sugar was manufactured every spring and exchanged for store pay.

All wearing apparel and bedding was made at home either of flaxon, wool. Also all foot wear. In that way we worried along until we had sufficient hay and pasture land to keep a few cows and sheep.

Soon after the Latter-day Saints commenced gathering at Kirtland, Ohio. Elders commenced coming our way preaching the new doctrine and father and mother soon joined the church, then the school children called us mormonites.

February 3, 1839 my brother Worthington and myself were baptized by Benjamin Brown at a branch that had been raised up not far from the village of Fredonia. Soon after this Father disposed of his farm and stock and started for Jackson County, Missouri, but as we traveled west heard that the saints had been driven out of Missouri and were settling at a place on the Mississippi River called Commerce, afterwards Nauvoo. We consequently shaped our course for that place and arrived in advance of most of the Missouri Saints as most of the branch from New York had preceded us. It was about the last of April or first of May when we arrived at

Commerce for I remember hearing Joseph preach his first sermon there and he arrived about the 10th of May (1839).

I was much impressed by his remarks and had a manifestation that he was a man of God. And ever after whenever I heard him speak the Spirit bore witness he was a true prophet.

One incident in my life in connection with Nauvoo, I always remember with much pleasure that is I had the privilege of helping to raise the first house built by the Mormons in Nauvoo. It was a round log house and I carried up one corner, that is notched the logs to fit together. One other house had been started belonging to Bro. Turley and was up about six logs high.

During the first season we all except Father and Worthington suffered much with the fever and ague. Steuart died here and one Almon was born and died in his third year. My sister Louisa was also born here. This was about two miles out from the river on the road to Carthage, where Father had bought a small place. Being now in my eighteenth year I left home mostly and worked around wherever I could find employment. On the 6th of April 1841 the corner stone of the temple was laid. I had assisted in digging out the foundation and also hauling rock to the same. I continued to work out my tithing on the Temple until the cap stone was laid, some days hauling rocks and some days using a churn drill on the quarry. Here I became acquainted with the Blacksmith that sharpened the tools, Brother Norris, who was afterwards killed by my side with a cannon ball during the Nauvoo battle.

The false charges and trials of the Prophet are matters of history. Most of the time while living in Nauvoo I belonged to the secret police and night guard. I also belonged to the Nauvoo Legion.

February 11th, 1844, I married Ann, daughter of Hyrum and Permelia Bundy Dayton. She was born in Ohio. She became the mother of eight children.

Joseph Hyrum	born	December 8 th , 1844	Nauvoo
Isaac Freeman	born	August 16, 1846	Nauvoo - Died October 1848
Julia Ann	born	July 21, 1848	Kanesville, Pottawattamie Co. Iowa
Ada Irene	born	December 16, 1850	Kanesville, Pottawattamie Co. Iowa
Permelia Francelia	born	August 31, 1854	Grantsville, Tooele Co. Utah
Ellen Mariah	born	May 7, 1856	Grantsville, Tooele Co. Utah-
	Died	April 1876	Cedar Fort, Utah
Almon Marcellas	born	February 4, 1858	Big Cottonwood Canyon, Utah
William Clarence	born	February 6, 1860	Big Cottonwood Canyon, Utah

Soon after we were married we moved eight miles east of Carthage where I took charge of a saw and grist mill combined, which I had previously worked at off and on for two years. A few days before the martyrdom I went to Nauvoo to learn more full what was taking place and what was likely to be the culmination of the trouble on my return I met the Governor and his guard going to Nauvoo and thought the trouble was over. I passed through Carthage about two hours before the Martyrdom I traveled some distance with part of a discharged company, but I do not think they knew what was going to happen.

During September the mob burned the houses and grain stacks of Morley's and Green plains settlements and many teams were sent from Nauvoo to bring them in. I hauled one load and was afterwards engaged with Col. Marcums Co. in patrolling and guarding the outlying

settlements. My brother Clark was killed on the Public square in Nauvoo by the accidental discharge of a gun in the hands of a man of the opposite side of the square. Brigham Young said he should receive a Martyrs crown. In the fall we moved into Nauvoo and lived there through the winter.

In the spring of 1845 I rented Fathers place and piece adjoining and raised about a thousand bushels of corn and sold it for ten cents per bushel.

In the fall, about November 1845 we received our endowments in the Temple.

Every body was busy repairing old wagons and making new ones. I worked with my brother-in-law, Noah Packard with saw in wagon timber. I think it was about the busiest time I ever saw.

Early in February the Saints commenced crossing the river. As I did not have sufficient provisions to join the move I was counceled (sic) to take a load for Erastus Snow out to some stopping place. Consequently I loaded up and moved out to Sugar Creek. It was extremely cold weather. People suffered very much. One of my horses died here and I traded the other for a yoke of oxen and went on. It was extremely cold, wet and disagreeable most of the way to Garden Grove, 150 miles, where I worked splitting rails and otherwise helping to fix up a stopping place. When I got released to go back, I was told by one of the Twelve Apostles, they couldn't spare any oxen so I left my oxen and wagon and had the privilege of driving a pair of horses back that someone had borrowed which was much better than walking, I found my wife and child all right. I had been absent three months and was that much time besides a span of horses and wagon worse off financially than when I started.

From this time on my whole aim and desire was to get together an outfit a sufficient to take me to Salt Lake. I worked as deck hand a few trips on a steam boat running between St. Louis and Galena.

About the middle of June 1846, with some others I went into Anderson County about 25 miles North of Nauvoo and engaged with a man by the name of Crane to do his harvesting. We finished the fourth day of July and after supper as we were sitting out in the front yard, a company of thirty-two mobocrats rode up to the front, and the Captain demanded of Crane how many Mormons he had there. Crane told him it was none of his G-D-business. Said he hired men to do his harvesting and didn't enquire whether they were Mormons or not. Said they had done their work well and he was going to pay them off in the morning and take them home. This did not suit, and the Captain ordered the men to cut hickory whips and ship us out. Then Crane went out among them and told if there was any whipping to be done to commence with him. Said he would rather take a hundred lashes than to have them strike his men. After considerable wrangling they left, but threatened to come back in the morning and if we were not gone, give us a good whipping, but we saw no more of them. Not much of importance took place until the 10th of September, when the mob which was gathering east of the city, made a break to come in on Warsaw Street, but were driven back. They then moved north of Mulholland Street, and on the 12th ;they succeeded in reaching some of the outside houses where the Nauvoo battle proper was fought.

While the company I was in were moving south to intercept ;them on the right, Isaac Norris was killed by a cannon ball. He was the next man behind me. On the 17th about two thousand marched into the City and drew up in front of the Temple. I was standing on the Temple wall and saw many old acquaintances in the Company.

A few days later, I with my wife and two small children and Father's family moved down

to the river. I succeeded in getting a boat to cross in. I had charge of the boat eight days and nights running it continually with a different crew about every trip. Never took a cent from any of them. We moved out about twelve miles and found a house we could occupy through the winter. In the Spring moved on to winter quarters. Isaac Freeman, my second son was buried here. He died in October, 1848. Father was taken sick soon after stopping here and had all the work to do, making corrals and putting up hay. In company with another man we hauled in from about three miles, sixty-five tons. All this by hand. In the Spring Winter Quarters was abandoned and we moved back to the East side of the River and settled in Allreds Branch lived here about two years engaged mostly in blacksmithing, doing some farming. Julia Ann was born here. Moved from there to Kanessville and remained there until the spring of 1852. Worked at blacksmithing. Ada was born here. By this time I had two yoke of wild steers and a cow. About the first of July moved up and crossed river at old Winter Quarters. Not a living soul there and the houses falling down. In the Company was several families of Danish, the first that joined the church and I was put in that ten to boss. The Captain they had never seen an ox in yoke before. Between them and my steers I had a pretty lively time of it, but got through, arriving in Salt lake October 16th, 1852.

We had some very cold weather on the journey. We were detained at times repairing old wagons. Had the blacksmith tools out fourteen times, built forges and burned coal, set tires and shoes. In all I did over \$200.00 worth of work, received nothing, not even thanks. But I had my hours of guard duty changed so as not to interfere with the blacksmithing. Had a foot of snow on Sweet Water, but got through all right.

Lived in the City (Salt Lake) that winter and moved to Grantsville, Tooele County, next season, stayed there till the fall of 1856. Working in a saw mill and doing some blacksmithing. Then moved to Big Cottonwood Canyon, Utah (sic) County, having been called to work in a saw mill for the Big Cottonwood Lumber Canyon. Stopped there till after my wife died, which happened March 4th, 1861.

Much of the time had charge of two of the principal mills. Was called to take charge of meetings and preside over a few families who made their home at the two mills located there. Was organized into a Branch. About 1862 moved to Chalk Creek, Summit County, in company with my Brother Sylvester and L.L. Randall. Built a sawmill near the headwaters of Chalk Creek. (I will let your Father tell of some of the things that happened here until I went to Lambs Canyon to take charge of a steam sawmill for Jos. A. Young.)

April 2, 1866, married Eliza Jane Hudson, daughter of Wilford and Juliana Graybill Hudson. To her was born seven children.

Celia Ann	born	June 30, 1867	Cedar Fort, Utah County, Utah
Wilford Freeman	born	Nov. 8, 1869	Cedar Fort, Utah County, Utah
Mary Jane	born	Jan. 8, 1873	Cedar Fort, Utah County, Utah
Emma Amanda	born	Sept. 20, 1875	Cedar Fort, Utah County, Utah
Edna Clare	born	May 23, 1878	Cedar Fort, Utah County, Utah
Bertha Loanda	born	May 3, 1882	Heber City, Wasatch County, Utah
Melvin Earl	born	May 10, 1886	Albion, Cassia County, Utah
	Died	March 31, 1890	

Eliza Jane Hudson Phippen died at Albion, Idaho December 8th, 1910.

Worked in Lamb's Canyon two seasons moved from there to Cedar Fort, Utah County, Utah. Worked most of the time operating sawmills in different places. In 1880 moved to Heber City and run a mill for Cummings and Company. Also for McMullen and Company. Also for Bishop Foreman.

In 1884 moved to Idaho and settled at Albion. Homesteaded 160 acres of land. Done some farming and worked in several different mills. Indeed most of my life since I first went to Big Cottonwood Canyon until I was eighty years old has been spent in the lumber business. I have set about 25 steam mills.

A reunion of the Phippen family was held on my Eightieth birthday and an organization effected to be known as the Phippen family Association with an agreement to meet once a year which has been kept with one or two unavoidable exceptions.

(While operating sawmill in Big Cottonwood Canyon we sawed some of the timbers used in the construction of the roof of the present Tabernacle in Salt Lake City.)

This record was copied from a record written by the hand of Joseph Freeman Phippen personally at the age of about ninety years at the request of Ernest Druce Phippen, grandson and has been in the family of Joseph Hyrum Phippen since May 22, 1912. At the death of Joseph Hyrum Phippen, July 29, 1931. It was taken from its place of keeping and used for reference for dates, and at the request of Mildred Dix Harper was given to her for the purpose of making copies for the descendants of Joseph Freeman Phippen. This copy was made August 16, 1931.

Re-copied June 3, 1955 by Karol Loouise Phippen Anderson

Re-copied June 15, 1957 by Lois Thorup Jensen wife of Robert Phippen Jensen