

THE RALPHS FAMILY

*possibly written by
Jane Collett?*

Three sons of Benjamin Ralphs and Mary Edwards immigrated from Shropshire England to America. Richard settled in California. His descendants, who own the large grocery stores there, have never joined the church. We find records which show that the two young men, William Benjamin Ralphs, aged 29 years, and Thomas Ralphs, aged 26 years were in Nauvoo, Illinois in 1845. Where they joined the Church we do not know but the Early Church Records state that Thomas and William were both baptized in February, 1841. Also, there is record of both of these men and Sarah Johnson, the wife of Thomas having received Patriarchal Blessings from John Smith on the 15 Sept, 1845. Thomas was ordained a Seventy 8 Oct, 1845. William Benjamin Ralphs told his children stories of how he was with others in the Nauvoo Temple when mobs came and drove them out.

WILLIAM BENJAMIN RALPHS, born May 6, 1816 and Elizabeth Brooks, born 30 March, 1819 daughter of Samuel and Mary Brooks, were married 10 May 1841 three months after his baptism. Exactly one year later, 10 May, 1842 Thomas was married to Sarah Johnson, daughter of Joseph and Margaret Johnson. Both of these families went to Utah with the Pioneers. There is a record of Sarah Ralphs re-baptism in Salt Lake City 28 Sept. 1851, also of William Benjamin being ordained a Seventy in April, 1852 which would have been after he had reached the Valley.

The family record sheet shows that the first three children of William Benjamin Ralphs and Elizabeth Brooks were born in Nauvoo, Mary Ellen in 1842 followed by Samuel and Sarah who both died in Nauvoo. After having been driven from Nauvoo, they apparently lived in Burlington, DeMoines Co. Iowa, for another son, William, was born there in 1847 living only nine days. Then JOSEPH was born 10 July 1849 in the same place. The next year the family of four, the father and the mother with eight year old Mary Ellen and one year old Joseph crossed the

plains to Salt Lake City. Here the next four children were born. Thomas, who died at ten months of age, Nephi who died at birth, Emily and Parley Pratt.

In 1860 they had moved to American Fork, Utah Co. for it was there that the last of Elizabeth's children, John Heber was born. He was only three years old when the mother was also called home leaving her husband with five children to rear. He found a helper in Mary Ann Johnson, who became his second wife. This couple had a son, William Benjamin Ralphs. He was living in Idaho when Joseph Ralphs died according to the Newspapacr report from Ferron.

Joseph could recall as a small boy how the people nearly starved during the plague of the crickets in 1848 and how he and his sister would go out every morning with a spade to dig Indian roots for food.

He married Ann Cable who had unsuccessfully tried to live in polygamy with Stephen I. Binnel. Two children were born to Joseph and Ann: MARY ANN RALPHS born 18 Sept. 1877 and John Henry, born 20 May, 1879. The little son just lived six months. Nor were the parents happy together. Joseph moved to Ferron, Utah where his brothers Parley and John had settled. It was said that Ann would not leave her folks to go to that country. Mary said they could not agree so they were divorced 26 Nov. 1878.

In Ferron Joseph helped to construct the first irrigation ditches. There he met and married Mariah Amanda Jensen. In October 1921 they went to the temple in Manti to be sealed. They had no children of their own but adopted a boy, Ray and later a girl, Nann.

Amanda always kept in close touch with Mary through letters. Mary made several trips to Ferron. She and her husband visited there after Ann Cable died in 1910. Again in 1929 she took her two daughters, Velma, just returning from a Mission,

and Lucille, having her holidays from her training at the L.D.S. Hospital, with her to visit her father in Ferron. The letter which Amanda wrote to Mary after the death of Joseph Ralphs 7 February 1931, aged 81 years, is interesting:

Ferron, Utah
Feb. 15, 1931

Dear Mary and family,

Just a few lines this evening. Please excuse pencil writing for I am too shaky to write with a pen. I want to thank you for your dear, kind letter, Mary. It sure touched a tender spot and made me feel that you appreciated my efforts in doing my best. Our Heavenly Father knows I did all that lay in my power and I am thankful I did, too. I never trusted any one to care for him one night until the last one when the folks forced me to take some rest as I had been sick for over two weeks with flu. He would feel so sorry for me when I could hardly get up and down and would want me to get someone to sit up, but I just felt like they might neglect him.

He was bedfast three months. The doctor said what caused death was the puss that didn't drain out as it should after he opened the lump. It mixed with the blood and practically caused blood poison. Then he got this cold or flu that has been going around. He coughed almost every breath and had a raging fever for over a week. The doctor thinks he got cancer from a bruise on his face. It was just below the left eye.

Last summer he and I made a floor to put in the pig pen as the rains made such wet puddles in it. After we put the floor in we had a large trough to put up on it. Daddy got the pinch bar to pull the trough where we wanted it and I was to nail it in place. As he was pulling with all his might he slipped and fell against the pen. He grabbed for his face and seemed in pain with it, although I thought at the time that he hurt his breast worst.

Well he never was free from pain in that side of his face again. The first doctor we got said it was only neuralgia, and didn't take a hold like he cared to do anything so we got another after Christmas. This doctor was so nice and kind to Daddy, that he thought so much of him. He said Daddy had sinus trouble and doctored for that.

When the hump got so large that he couldn't see over it, and that eye was the only one he had been able to see with for four years, it broke and we poulticed it night and day to get it down so he could see but it didn't get smaller. The Doctor decided he would open it and put in a drain to draw out the puss faster.

When he lanced it he found a hollow cavity in the cheek, everything gone, clean into the nostril on that side, and that it was cancer.

We never let him know and he kept worrying because the hump shut off his sight. He wanted the doctor to cut it off.

There was a large attendance at the funeral. The casket was made here. He asked Ray to have that done as John's and Parley's were made here. We got the best we could for his clothes. The linen for the robe was beautiful. His nephews carried the casket from the house over to the church and the small girls of the family carried the flowers in bread. The family walked just behind. Besides the regular singing at the service the music teacher from school sang a beautiful song entitled, The End of a Perfect Day.

There were people here from Emery and Orangeville and Kennilworth. There were some lovely and expensive flowers from the hot house at Price. Ray got a bouquet that cost five dollars. Aunt Edie and her family got one a little larger than Ray's. Aunt Hamner and her family got a lovely big wreath on a wire stand. The Crawford family got a large bouquet and the Myers family gave a beautiful bouquet of white lilies and roses. My folks sent

a box of red carnations and ferns from California. I wish you could have come but its so far away I was afraid you couldn't.

The folks have all read your letter and think you are great. Everyone was so good to us, all during his illness and after. Tena wants Nan and I to come to California for awhile but I can't afford it for one thing and I believe it will be best to stay with my home, until I get a little used to being here without him. But oh, it's lonesome and tomorrow Nan must go back to school, and then I will be lonlier than ever. When the bills are paid we will have \$1300 to live on. It's drawing 8%. That and this home and a cow and 40 chickens is the extent of our means. But I and daddy talked it over at different times and he thought I better try and sell a part of the lot, so I will try to do so if I get a chance, but there don't seem to be sale for anything now.

Nan sent a card to Lucille when she sent out the others. Am wondering if she got it.

Love to you dear from all the folks and accept it from Nan and I to you all. Write soon.

Amanda

EARLY CHURCH RECORDS FILE

SARAH RAIPHS- b. 3 Feb. 1821, Ireland; Father, Joseph Johnson; Mother, Margaret; Pat. Blessing, 15 Sept 1845, Nauvoo Ill. by John Smith Vol. 4 p. 393 # 1157.

SARAH RAIPHS- b. 3 Feb. 1821, Ireland; Bapt. R. 26 Sept, 1851, Salt Lake City, Utah by David G. Dennet, Record No. Rc. Bapt. 1808 p. 64 Confirmed 28 Sept 1851.

RAIPHS THOMAS- b. 22 July 1819.Worton Shrop. Eng. Pat. Blessing, 15 Sept. 1845, Nauvoo, Ill. by John Smith. Vol. 9, p.392 #1156. Bapt. 12 Feb, 1851 by C. Thornton (or Charles

Hanlborg) Ordained 8 Oct. 1845 by H. Herrison Record No. 1C
Seventies p. 207 (31 quorum) p. 313 (58 quorum)

Ralphs William - b. 6 May 1816 Hodnot Park, Shrop. Eng. Parents
Benjamin Ralphs and Mary. Pat. Blessing, 15 Sept. 1845, at
Nauvoo, Ill. by John Smith. Vol. 9 p. 392 # 1154 Baplt. 1 Feb.
1841 by E.N. Ordained April 1852 Record F# 1C Seventies p.185
(26 quorum)