

James Franklin Foote

As told to me by Sarah Frances Foote Jones

James Franklin Foote, was born 22 Jun 1859 Mount Pleasant, Sanpete County, Utah; to Warren Foote and Eliza Marie Ivie. When he was small his parents moved to Southern Utah to make their home.

He married Emmaline Sophia Minchey 25 Dec 1877, daughter of Pleasant Minchey and Emmaline DeGraw. They lived in a little town known as Hillsdale and were among the first families to come to Emery, Emery, Utah. Settling on the Muddy Creek, in 1882. They were pioneers from Orderville and came by oxteam as there were no horses in those days. They had three boys born while living at Panguitch and Sarah Frances Foote (their first daughter was born on the Muddy) 12 May 1884. The townsite of Emery Town was being surveyed and was completed on the day she was born.

James Franklin served as second counselor in the Bishopric with Bishop Casper Christensen and Hyrum Strong as First counselor in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

They started the little settlement near where the present Highway 10 crosses the creek, it was called Casper, in honor of the wonderful leader that brought them to Castle Valley.

The first church on the Muddy was located about where the highway is now. The school house was located just below.

Some of the relatives of Frank's wife, Emmaline, who settled on the Muddy were as follows: her parents, Pleasant and Emmaline Minchey, her brothers and sisters Jacob, William, Moroni, Benjamin, Calvin, Franklin, Clarissa and her husband Jedidiah Knight and Jula who was soon to marry Abraham Colby.

These people took up farms as far west as the mouth of the Canyon and took water from the creek to irrigate them. They along with some of the other pioneers surveyed a canal to take the water to the town of Emery. They had to bore a hole through a big blue hill for the water to flow through.

They lived on the Quitchipah, south of Emery for awhile. Frank went among the sick, adminstering to them. He had great powers of healing, through the priesthood he held and his faith and prayers; preached the gospel, he exerised his faith and healingpowers with the sick and the needy. He was admired by all.

One night he was awakened out of a sound sleep, about 11 p.m. He heard a voice calling him. It cllled three times to him and told him he was needed in Emery. He felt that he couldn't go as there was a quarantin law for smallpox there. Many people had the smallpox and the whole town was under quarantine. But the voice told him he was needed. (They couldn't even bring the mail into town. The rider would leave it at the edge of town and someone would pick it up). He dressed and walked from the Muddy to Emery. He stood where the road forked, wondering which way to go. It felt as if someone had put their hand on his shoulder and showed him which way to go. He headed down the street, after walking three blocks he saw a dim light. He went there and opened the door. (Brother Foote and Margaret Jacobsen was caring for the sick) When they saw him, they said "Brother Foote you don't know how much you have been needed. Little Cassidy is scik and not expected to live until morning she has colled for you all day. We are glad you came." She had the smallpox and had gone in on her and made her very sick that she was out of her head. They had tried to get word to him and wondering how when there was no way to get out of town. He went over and took Cassidy's hand, she said to him. "I wanted you to come all day. I'm glad you came, will you adminster to me?" He said that he would and did. "Now I'll go, she'll live and get alright. If you need me, I'll come and adminster to her again." He went on his way home without anyone finding out that he had been in town. Cassidy did get well.

When he passed the Indian reservation on his way back home, The Chief stopped him and said to him "Brother Foote, you come here, we meet you often. You a fine man. Live an honest life." He stayed there until it was almost daylight, then went on home.

One day a couple of young Indian braves, who got milk from the Foote's, came and I was feeling sorry for myself; they asked what was the matter I told them, it was because I couldn't see very well. They said, "Little squaw not be completely blind, she be able to see a little bit."

The night as I was getting ready to go to the dance I was told to be home by 10 p.m. At 10 I slipped quietly out of the door and started home. I had to walk a couple of miles and when I got half-way home I heard someone running. I waited to see who it was. It was Dave Behunin He had missed me at the dance and wondered why I had left in such a hurry. and when I started to walk again I found that my feet were numb from the cold night. Dave made me run for about two blocks, then he picked me up and slammed my feet against a tree several times. When we got home and told my folks what had happened; my father and brothers prepared water with ice in it and held my feet there until the frost came out of them. Then father wrapped my feet in a blanket and wouldn't let me go near the fire.

When I was fifeteen years old, Aunt Annie Minchey was really sick; the doctor said a change of climate might help her. They took her over to Rabbit Valley. I went with them to help take care of her. We were there just a few weeks and Aunt Annie Died. I was with her when she died. I sat up with her body and packed it in ice until time for her to be buried.

I went with a boy named Del Merrick. We grew fond of each other and decided to be married. Del went to her father and asked for my hand in marriage. Father asked Del if he was L.D.S. He said, "No." Father siad he was sorry but I couldn't marry him.

Ben Jons came over with a load of freight. We liked each other as soon as we met. We were married 24 Feb 1905 in Huntington Utah by JW Nickson We made our home in Huntington; where all of our children were born. Execept Albert James who was born in Rochester (now Moore).

Our first child was James Albert born 14 Dec 1905. My mother acted as midwife and delivered him. Later Albert married Myrtle Ilean Rowley 19 May 1932 in Manti Temple. They had four children: Wayne, Shirley, Reva and Verna. They lived in Huntington for several years and then to Dragerton where Albert was employed by Utah Fuel Company.