THE WELSH MASON

I, EDWARD LLOYD PARRY, was born Aug. 25th. 1818, at or near the village of St. George, Denbighshire, North Wales. My parents names were Edward and Mary Lloyd Parry. My early childhood was passed in the village of St. George. My mother died when I was but four and one-half years old, leaving three children, two girls, Margaret and Mary, and myself. My sisters were taken care of by a nurse to whom my father paid three shillings for each child per week. He and I went to live with his parents.

My father was a well-to-do stone mason and brick layer, as were my grandfather, and great grandfather. I attended school until I was twelve years of age when I went to work with my father at the mason trade. I received one term of school again at the age of fourteen and also attended night school at the age of twenty-four and twenty-five.

Being naturally inclined to religion, I frequently attended the Church of Endland, and also went to hear Ministers of other dominations preach but could not be converted to join any one of them as their teachings did not appear to me to be consistant, or in harmony with the gospel as taught by the Savior and his Apostles. But instantly on hearing an Elder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints preac I was converted to the truth and wondered why I had not understood the Gospel in thatligth before. I was baptized on the 9th of March, 1848 by Elder Abel Evans and confirmed at the river side.

I left Liverpool with my wife and eleven converts from the same branch on the 5th of February 1853 on the sailing ship Jersey, commanded by Captin Day and with Elder George Halliday in cherge of the Saints. We were six weeks to the day coming from Liverpool to New Orleans. We took a steam boat from New Orleans to Keokuk, Iowa where we arrived on the first of April, 1853, and remained there eight weeks.

We arrived in Salt Lake City, October 10, 1853 and settled in the 16th ward. We moved to the 15th ward in 1854. I payed my debt to the Pepetural Emigration Fund in less than one year after arriving in Utah. We moved to Ogden in the fall of 1855. In Feb. 1857, I was called by Bro. Heber C.Kimball to move to Salt Lake City to work on the Temple, He plaved his hand upon my shoulder in his good old fashioned way and said Bro. Edward, I want you to pull up your stakes and come to the city to live and go to work on the temple, will you do it?

I said, 'I will if you say so.'
'Well,' said he, 'Don't I say so?'

In three weeks after I had moved down and reported myself for work, and continued work there and on the Public Works while in Salt Lake City. I was present when the Treasure Box was laid in the foundation of the temple and spread the mortar for it.

In April, 1862 I was called to go to St. George in Southern Utah to settle. I had charge of the mason work on the St. George hall, the Tabernacle, Bro. Erastus Snow's Big House, the County Court House, raised the Was hington Factory one story higher, built a great many residences for privat parties, among them one for President Brigham Young, and was Master Mason of the St. George Temple, the four corners of which I laid without the usual ceremonies, the Authorities not being able to be there at the time and President Young was very desireous of having the work hurried along. I also assisted Pres. Young and others in setting the Treasur Box in the walls of the St. George Temple.

In April, 1877, I was called to go th Manti to take charge of the mason and stone work of the Manti Temple, where I arrived with a part of my family in company of President Young, April 24th 1877. The rest of my family came on to Manti in October of the same year

We were about two yaers leveling the hill, building the terrace walls, and getting ready lay the corner stones of the Temple, which were laid April 14, 1879. The southeast corner stone contained a Treasure Box that I assisted in setting in the Temple.

In connection with my sons with whom I am at present (1895) in business in the stone mason and building vocation, I took up a stone quarry near Ephraim, known as the Sanpete White Oolite Company, from which the large stones in the corners of the Manti Temple Treasure Box were obtained, also the stone from which the Annex Building of the Salt Lake Temple is built, which we provided by contract.

Edward Lloyd Parry married Elixabeth Evans Aug. 16 1848, in North Wales and Ann Parry Feb. 19, 1857 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

When two daughters, Hattie and Emma visited the St. George Temple in September 1911, brother Pickett who was then the door keeper at the temple, showed them through the temple, taking them up to the roof where he told them an incident connected with their father. One time when the Temple was being built, brother Parry had occasion to go up on the roof and where the walls are built above the roof, he saw a bad stone being placed in the wall and said to the builder, "Take out that stone, my boy, and put in a good one". The man said to him, "Whatwill it matter. There will be no weight on it and it will be plastered over and no one will know it". Whereupon brother Parry said, "My boy, three persons will know it. You will knowit, I will know it, and God will know it. That is three. My boy, take it out." This shows how particular and conswientious he was to have the work done right.

He. died Audust 26, 1906 at the age of 88 years, and was burried at Manti Utah.