

HISTORY OF RETURN JACKSON REDDEN--UTAH PIONEER OF 1847  
BY--HIS GRANDDAUGHTER--NITA REDDEN HAMPSHIRE

The first recorded fact that we have found about the history of Return Jackson Redden began sometime before the year 1620. It began in Scotland with Arbella Bruce who was a sister of King Robert Bruce of Scotland.

Arabella Bruce came to America on the Mayflower and landed at Plymouth Rock in 1620. She later married a Mr. Carylton who came from England. They had a daughter named Delevrence who was born in New York, Ontario County.

Delevrence Carylton married James Higley and they had a daughter named Adelia. She was born March 8, 1794.

Adelia Higley married George Grant Redden, who was a son of Christopher Redden and Margaret Grant Redden. Christopher had two other sons, John and Richard, and a daughter Sara.

Christopher Redden fought in the war of 1776 and crossed the Delaware River with General George Washington. He was taken prisoner at Quebec, but lived to become a Revolutionary War Veteran.

The family of Christopher Redden moved to Pennsylvania and in 1803 his son Richard and two other men hired out to help clear land in Hiram Township, Portage County, Ohio.

Richard Redden bought the southeast corner of the west half of Lot 33 from John Flemings. He sent for his father, Christopher and family to come to Hiram Portage County, Ohio.

In the spring of 1816, Nelson, Portage County was set off from Hiram County and at the election next April, Thomas F. Young, John Redden and Benj. Hurdley were chosen Trustees and Richard Redden was chosen Treasurer.

In 1820 there were four Revolutionary war Veterans living in Hiram, namely, Col. Daniel Filden, Christopher Redden, Elijah Mason, and old Mr. Turner. ( This information was taken from " History of Portage County, Ohio"--Warner, Ferris & Co. Chicago--1885.)

Christopher Redden's son, George Grant Redden ( father of Return Jackson Redden ) was born November 8, 1790 in New Jersey. He was a volunteer in the Western Reserve in the war of 1812.

Orders were given to Major Mason and Andrews to enlist volunteers to fill the squad. A call was given that men who wished to volunteer would step out as the band played. While the band was playing, a man in the crowd said, " I see a star in our horizon, a star of promise, maybe." George Grant Redden of Hiram, Portage County, Ohio said that if he could see the star, he too would enlist. Upon being shown the position of the star, he said that he could see it and he stepped forward and volunteered.

George Clark Redden married Adelia Miller, daughter of James McCoy. He was born March 8, 1794. They had eight children, namely, Return Jackson Redden, (my grandfather) born September 26, 1817 in Adams, Orange County, Ohio; William, Lewis, Sara, Nancy, Adelia Minor, George Albert, and Christopher.

Return Jackson Redden was married to Laura Trunk and they lived in Douglas County, Illinois. Two children were born to them--Marion, born August 1841 and Charles, born September 17, 1845. Charles and his mother both died soon after Charles' birth. Return Jackson Redden then married Marya Whiting, who also died. They had no children. He worked on farms and sold wooden clocks on the river boats.

Father Jay Saint Hoesdenaries came to see him when he was working in the field and he joined a small band of Latter Day Saints. We know that he was a thirty-second-degree Mason and my father, Richard Edson Redden had his masonic ring, which he gave to my brother, Richard E. Redden. I saw this ring in our family home in Hoytsville, Summit County, Utah.

Return Jackson Redden was twenty five years of age when he joined the L. D. S. Church. He was baptized in the winter of 1841 in the Ohio River and received his endowments December 25, 1845.

He became closely associated with the Prophet Joseph Smith and was asked to be his private bodyguard. In this capacity he saved the Prophet many times from the mob. He was forced to go to places where the mob gathered; to accept drinks, act reckless and rough in order to find out information for the Prophet's safety. He did not think this was fitting for a member of the church and told Joseph Smith of his feelings. The Prophet told him not to worry but to carry out his assignments and his acts would not be held against him.

My father, Richard Edson Redden, a son of Return Jackson Redden, told the following incident many times in our home in Hoytsville, Utah. I relate it as an example of the service his father gave.

The Prophet Joseph Smith sent Return Jackson Redden to get a warrant for his (the Prophet's) arrest. He told him that three men would be sleeping on the floor of a tavern and that the arrest warrant would be under the saddle blanket of the man sleeping in the middle. The men would be warned by a large, vicious dog. He was to go to the tavern after the men retired and remove the warrant and take it to Joseph Smith. He was told that neither the men nor the dog would wake up. He did as he was directed. The men and dog did not awaken. He took the arrest warrant to Joseph Smith, who said to him, "Never was a man so rightly named, Return. No matter how difficult the task that I assign you, you do it and return safely."

On February 16, 1847 Return Jackson Redden married Naomi Miss Murray. She was the daughter of William M. Murray and Mary Lyinger. She was very beautiful with black eyes and black curly hair, which she always wore in ringlets. She was very cultured and refined. Wilate Murray, who was the first wife of Heber C. Kimball, was her aunt.

When A. J. Redden came to Utah with the pioneers in 1847, his wife Naomi remained in Winter Quarters.

The following excerpts of the diary of the Pioneer journey of 1847 were taken from "Day by Day with the Utah Pioneers, 1847." This was a revision of the account published April 5, 1897 to July 24, 1897 in the Salt Lake Tribune, and was compiled by Andrew Jensen, Assistant L. D. S. Historian.

Monday April 12, 1847: It was decided that some of the brethren, familiar with the country, should go ahead and choose the best route for travel. Four men were selected. Return Jackson Redden was one of the four.

Friday April 16, 8 A.M.: The pioneer camp was called together. There were one hundred forty three men and boys, three women, and two children. The men were divided off into companies of ten. There were fourteen companies of ten. Return Jackson Redden was in the tenth ten.

Sunday May 4: At 7:30 A.M. the brethren were called together. Ten men volunteered to be the sixth company of ten for night guard. Return Jackson Redden was one of the ten men.

Wednesday May 12: Rain began at midnight and at one o'clock in the morning Howard Egan got up to put away Heber C. Kimball's saddle and other belongings. He found Return Jackson Redden, who was captain of the guard, going around with some of his men picking up harnesses and other things and getting them under cover. 'Howard Egan remarks that Brother Redden was a faithful and praiseworthy man who worked for the good of the camp'.

Saturday May 22: The evening was spent very joyfully in the pioneer camp by most of the brethren. It being moonlight, a number danced until the bugle sounded at nine o'clock. A rock trial was also prosecuted in the case of "The Camp vs James Pavenfort" for blocking the highway and turning ladies out of their course. Return Jackson Redden acted as presiding Judge.

Monday June 29: (A short sketch of Return Jackson Redden is given at the end of this day's diary. The date given as his birth does not agree with Redden history. It is given in the sketch as September 22, 1817, and at the end of the book in the index another date is given; namely September 26, 1816. The correct date should be September 26, 1817.

"Return Jackson Redden was born September 22, 1817 in Torrance County, Ohio, and died August 30, 1891 in Hoytsville, Summit County, Utah. He traveled in the tenth ten of which Appleton H. Warren was captain, and entered

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the Valley with the main company of pioneers, July 22, 1847. He left the valley to return to Winter Quarters in August 1847, being captain of the first son in the second division of the return company, which arrived at Winter Quarters October 31, 1847. He at once prepared for the second trip to Utah to be made the next spring."

July 22: "According to this arrangement, Elder Orson Pratt, accompanied by Elder George A. Smith, Erasmus Snow, Joseph Matthews, John Brown, John Beck, Porter Rockwell, Jesse G. Little and one other man whose name is not given in the records, started on horseback for the Valley \_\_\_\_\_." (This man whose name is not given was my Grandfather--Return Jackson Redden.)

I will now return to Redden history. Return Jackson Redden served as a scout for the Mormon Pioneer Company, and several of the wagons and teams belonged to him. He also provided some of the supplies in the wagons. He rode horseback in advance of the main company to locate good camping spots with adequate water etc. It was while he was attending to these duties that he sighted the beauties of the Salt Lake Valley. He was hunting for some straying stock when he came upon Little Mountain and viewed the beautiful Salt Lake Valley on the twenty second day of July, 1847.

Orson Pratt, also an advance scout, came up to him as he was viewing the valley. Pratt returned to camp, but Redden kept on hunting the stock, which he found. When Return Jackson Redden returned to camp he found that Orson Pratt had had Thomas Pailock record himself as the first man to view the valley. Credit is given, however, to Return Jackson Redden in a recorded history given in "Pioneer and Prominent Men of Utah" by Frank Kesham.

When my father, Richard Edson Redden, told me of this happening which his father, Return Jackson Redden, had told him many times, I asked him, "Why did another man take credit for seeing the valley first?"

He said, "That is the same question I asked my father."

I said, "Tell me what Grandfather Redden answered you, Dad."

He looked at me and said, "These are your Grandfather's words, dear, just as he told them to me. 'If any person wants to live a lie, let him. The credit means nothing to me. I was on scouting duty and it was just a day's work'."

One of the prized possessions of the Redden family is the book "Pioneer and Prominent Men of Utah" by Frank Kesham, which gives Return Jackson Redden credit for seeing the valley first.

While the pioneers were coming down Echo Canyon, my Grandfather, Return Jackson Redden, located a cave and rode his horse inside the cave. This cave was known as "Redden Cave" for a long time but is now called "Cash Cave". Return Jackson Redden's name is carved inside the cave and my son, Richard Redden Hamshire, has been there and seen the cave.

In the fall of 1847, Return Jackson Redden returned to Utah from Winter

Quarrens, bringing his wife, Naomi Murray Redden and the child Marion, ( daughter of his first wife, Laura Brock ). They settled in Salt Lake City and their first child, William, was born April 5, 1849.

The family moved to Grangerville, Utah in 1852 where eight children were born to them. They were: Adolbert, George, Eliza, Norman, Vilato, John, and twin sons Murray Carlos and Carlos Murray.

While the family lived in Grangerville, Return Jackson Redden, in the company of an Indian, located the Overland Route from Salt Lake City to California. The names he gave the streams and peaks still carry those names. One spring in California is known as Redden's Spring. The trail he paved is today National Highway.

In 1854 the family again lived in Salt Lake City. Return Jackson Redden went to Coalville, Utah with John Springer to assist in hauling coal for a coal mine there that had been opened in Shark Hollow by a man named Spriggs.

Church Authorities had told Return Jackson Redden to take a certain young woman for a plural wife. He told his wife, Naomi, of this and asked her permission to invite the young lady to dinner. Naomi gave her consent. While they were at dinner, Return Jackson Redden proposed marriage to the young woman and she was bewildered and refused him. Return Jackson Redden never lived in polygamy. He told his son, Richard Edson Redden, that when Joseph Smith told the L. D. S. Church members of the Revolution of Polygamy, Mary Brown men cried. ( Richard Edson Redden, who was my father, told me of this many times.)

Return Jackson Redden planned to settle on the Bear River, but Heber C. Kimball told him to stop in Coalville, which he did and the family settled there. Return Jackson Redden owned a land grant of one hundred sixty acres in Coalville in what is now the heart of the city.

In 1865 he was Prosecuting Attorney under the honorable George G.

Snyder, Probate Judge, and again under Judge A. E. Simkley.

A son, Richard Edson Redden was born to Return Jackson Redden and his wife, Naomi Murray Redden, on August 29, 1866. ( He was my father.) Their last child, Heber, was born in Coalville, March 11, 1868. Naomi died in childbirth as did her son, Heber. Naomi was thirty eight years old at the time of her death. They were both buried in the Coalville Cemetery, Coalville, Summit County, Utah.

Return Jackson Redden never remarried. In 1871 he moved his family to Hoytsville, Utah where on August 6, 1878 he was granted land under a patent from the United States Government of one hundred fifty nine and sixteen hundredths acres. The patent grant was signed by Rutherford B. Hayes, the nineteenth President of the United States. ( This information was obtained from the recorder's office, given on titles to land in Summit County. )

In 1804 he was granted more land by U. S. Patent and he deeded a piece of land to each of his sons.

He was a Black Hawk War Veteran and killed at Kansas, Utah. For three terms he was Justice of the Peace in Summit County. He was a friend of the Indians, who trusted him. Chief Washakie often visited him in Hoytsville.

At the time of Nelson Jackson Reddon's death at Hoytsville, Utah, on August 30, 1891, he was a member of the seventies of the Latter Day Saints Church. He was respected and loved.

His name appears on the Brigham Young Monument at the head of Main Street in Salt Lake City, Utah.

This history was read at the February 9, 1970 meeting of Camp Dale in Castle Dale, Emery County, Utah, by Wita Kampshire.

And mailed to the State Central Company  
by Camp Dale Historian Naomi A. Jensen  
March 2, 1970.

BY HIS GRANDDAUGHTER, NITA REDDEN HAMPSHIRE.

The first recorded fact we have found about the history of Return Jackson Redden began sometime before the year 1620. It began in Scotland with Arabella Bruce who was a sister of King Robert Bruce of Scotland.

Arbella Bruce came to America on the Mayflower and landed at Plymouth Rock in 1620. She later married a Mr. Carpenter who came from England. They had a daughter named Deleurence who was born in New York, Ontario County.

Deleurence Carpenter married James Higley and they had a daughter named Adelta. She was born March 8, 1794.

Adelta Higley married George Grant Redden, who was a son of Christopher Redden and Margaret Grant Redden. Christopher had two other sons, John and Richard, and a daughter Sara,

Christopher Redden fought in the war of 1776 and crossed the Delaware River with General George Washington. He was taken prisoner at Quebec, but lived to become a Revolutionary war veteran.

The family of Christopher Redden moved to Pennsylvania and in 1803 his son Richard and two other men hired out to help clear land in Hiram Township, Portage County, Ohio.

Richard Redden bought the southeast corner of the west half of lot 33 from John Flemmings. He sent for his father, Christopher and family to come to Hiram, Portage County, Ohio.

In the spring of 1816, Nelson, Portage County was set off from Hiram County and at the election next April, Thomas F. Young, John Redden and Benj Hinkley were chosen trustees and Richard Redden was chosen Treasurer.

In 1820 there were four revolutionary war veterans living in Hiram, namely, Col. Daniel Tilden, Christopher Redden, Elijah Mason and old Mr. Turner. (This information was taken from "History Of Portage County, Ohio"-- Warner, Berris & Co., Chicago-- 1885.)

Christopher Redden's son, George Grant Redden ( father of Return Jackson Redden) was born 8, November 1790 in New Jersey. He was a Volunteer in the Western Reserve in the war of 1812.

Orders were given to Major Mason and Andrews to enlist volunteers to fill the squad. A call was given that men who wished to volunteer would step out as the band played. While the band was playing, a man in the group said, " I see a star in our horizon, a star of promise, maybe." George Grant Redden of Hiram, Portage County, Ohio, said that if he could see the star, he too would enlist. Upon being shown the position of the star, he said he could see it and he stepped forward and volunteered.



George Grant Redden married Adelta Higley, daughter of James Higley. She was born March 8, 1794. They had eight children, namely, Return Jackson Redden, (My grandfather) born September 26, 1817 in Hiram, P Portage county, Ohio; William, Louise, Sara, Nancy, AdeltaFlor, George Grant and Christopher.

Return Jackson Redden was married to Laura Trask and they live d in Schyler County, Illinois. Two children were born to them-- Marion, born August 1841 and Charles, born September 11, 1843. Charles and his mother both died soon after Charles' birth. Return Jackson Redden then married Martha Whiting, who also died. They had no children. He worked on farms and sold wooden clocks on the river boats.

Latter Day Saint Missionaries came to see him when he was working in the field and he joined a small band of Latter Day Saints. He knew that he was a thirty-second-degree Mason and my father, Richard Edmon Redden had his masonic ring, which he gave to my brother, Richard E. Redden. I saw this ring in our family home in Hoytville, Summit county, Utah.

Return Jackson Redden was twenty five years of age when he joined the L.D.S. church. He was baptized in the winter of 1841 in the Ohio river and received his endowments December 25, 1845.

He became closely associated with the Prophet Joseph Smith and was asked to be his private bodyguard. In this capacity he saved the Prophet many times from the mob. He was forced to go to places where the mob g gathered; to accept drinks, act reckless and rough in order to find out information for the Prophet's safety. He did not think this was fitting for a member of the church and told Joseph Smith of his feelings. The Prophet told him not to worry but to carry out his assignments and his acts would not be held against him.

My father, Richard Edmond~~RE~~ Redden , a son of Return Jackson Redden, told the following incident many times in our home in Hoytville, Utah, I relate it as an example of the service his father gave.

The Prophet Joseph Smith sent Return Jackson Redden to get a warrant for his (the Prophet's) arrest. He told him three men would be sleeping on the floor of a tavern and that the arrest warrant would be under the saddle of the man sleeping in the middle. The men would be guarded by a large, vicious dog. He was to go to the tavern after the men retrned and remove the warrant and take it to Joseph Smith. He was told that neither the men nor the dog would wake up. He did as he was directed. The men and dog did not awaken. He took the arrest warrent to Joseph Smith, who said to him, "Never was a man so rightly named, return. No matter how difficult the task that I assign you, you do it and return safely."

On February 16, 1847, Return Jackson Redden married Naomi Eliza Murray. She was the daughter of William E. Murry and Mary Springer. She was very beautiful with black eyes and black curly hair, which she always wore in ringlets. She was very cultured and refined. Vilate Murray, who was the first wife of Heber C. Kimball, was her aunt.

When R.J.Redden came to Utah with the pioneers in 1847, his wife Naomi remained in Winter Quarters.

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"Return Jackson Redden was born September 22, 1817 in Portage county, Ohio, and died August 30,1891 in Hoytsville, Summit county, Utah. He traveled in the tenth ten of which Appleton M. Harmon was captain, and entered

the valley with the main company of Pioneers, July 22, 1847. He left the valley to return to Winter Quarters in August 1847, being captain of the first ten in the second division of the return company, which arrived at Winters Quarters October 31, 1847. He at once prepared for the second trip to Utah to be made the next spring."

July 22: "According to this arrangement, Elder Orson Pratt, accompanied by Elder George A. Smith, Erastus Snow, Joseph Mathews, John Brown, John Pack, Porter Rockwell, Jesse C. Little and one other man whose name is not given in the records, started on horseback for the valley \_\_\_\_\_. " (This man whose name is not given was my grandfather-- Return Jackson Redden.)

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Orson Pratt, also an advance scout, came up to him as he was viewing the valley. Pratt returned to camp, but Redden kept on hunting the stock, which he found. When Return Jackson Redden returned to camp he found that Orson Pratt had, had Thomas Bullock record himself as the first to view the valley. Credit is given, however, to return Jackson Redden in a recorded history given in "Pioneer and Prominent Men of Utah" by Frank Essham.

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In the fall of 1847, Return Jackson Redden returned to Utah from Winter

quarters, bringing his wife, Naomi Murray Redden and his child Marton, (daughter of his first wife, Laura Trask). They settled in Salt Lake City and their first child William, was born April 5, 1849.

The family moved to Grantsville, Utah in 1852 where eight children were born to them. They were: Adelbert, George, Eltza, Heman, Vilate, John, and twin sons Murray Carlos and Carlos Murray.

While the family lived in Grantsville, Return Jackson Redden, in the company of an Indian, located the Overland Route from Salt Lake City to California. The names he gave the streams and peaks still carry those names. One spring in California is known as Redden's spring. The trail he marked is today National Highway.

In 1864 the family again lived in Salt Lake City. Return Jackson Redden went to Coalville, Utah with John Springer to assist in hauling coal for a coal mine there that had been opened in skunk Hollow by a man named Spriggs.

Church Authorities had told Return Jackson Redden to take a certain young woman for a plural wife. He told his wife Naomi, of this and asked her permission to invite the young lady to dinner. Naomi gave her consent. While they were at dinner, Return Jackson Redden proposed to the young woman and she was bewildered and refused him. Return Jackson Redden never lived in Polygamy. He told his son, Richard Edmon Redden, that when Joseph Smith told the L.D.S. Church members of the revelation of polygamy, many grown men cried. (Richard Edmon Redden, was my father, who told me of this many times.)

Return Jackson Redden planned to settle on the Bear River, but Heber C. Kimball told him to stop in Coalville, which he did and the family settled there. Return Jackson Redden owned a land grant of one hundred sixty acres in Coalville in what is now the heart of the city.

In 1865 he was prosecuting attorney under the Honorable George G. Snyder, probate Judge, and again under Judge A.E. Hinkley.

A son, Richard Edmon Redden was born to Return Jackson Redden and his wife, Naomi Murray Redden, on August 29, 1866. (He was my father). Their last child Heber, was born in Coalville, March 11, 1868. Naomi died in childbirth as did her son, Heber. Naomi was thirty eight years old at the time of her death. They were both buried in the Coalville cemetery, Coalville, Summit county, Utah.

Return Jackson Redden never remarried. In 1871 he moved his family to Hoytsville, Utah where on August 6, 1878 he was granted land under a patent from the United States Government of one hundred fifty nine and sixteen hundredths acres. The patent grant was signed by Rutherford B. Hayes, the nineteenth president of the United States. (This information was obtained from the recorder's office, given on titles to land in Summit County.)

In 1884 he was granted more land by U.S. Patent and he deeded a piece of land to each of his sons.

He was a Black Hawk War Veteran and drilled at Kamas, Utah .  
For three terms he was Justice of the Peace in Summit County.

He was a friend of the Indians who trusted him. Chief Washakie often visited him in Hoytsville.

At the time of Return Jackson Redden's death at Hoytsville, Utah, on August 30, 1891, he was a member of the seventies of the Latter Day Saints Church. He was respected and loved.

His name appears on the Brigham Young Monument at the head of Main Street in Salt Lake City, Utah.

*This history was read at the February 9, 1970  
meeting of Camp Dale in Castle Dale, Emery County,  
Utah, by Nita Hampshire.*

*Mailed to The State Central Company,  
By Camp Dale Historian, Naomi A. Jensen  
March 2, 1970.*