

This is a copy of a sketch of the life of Andrew Jackson Workman.

This copy was completed in September 1936 by James Erickson of the Historical Records Survey Project of the Works Progress Administration at Ogden, Utah.

This sketch embraces the period from 1824 to 1875.

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A SHORT HISTORY OF THE LIFE OF ANDREW JACKSON WORKMAN

Who was the son of John and Lydia Workman who was the son of Jacob and Workman.

A. J. Workman was born in the state of Kentucky, Bourbon County, July 15th. 1824. At the age of three or four years my father moved to Tennessee, Overton County, and settled there and followed farming for a living.

About the year 1839, the first Mormon elder came to our County to preach and father, mother, and most all of my brothers and sister were baptised by Dewight Webster and confirmed by A. C. Smoot, and in 1842 I left home with A. C. Smoot and traveled into South Carolina, and returned home the same year to Tennessee with A. C. Smoot, and in the Spring of 1843, started with my father and family for Nauvoo, Hancock County, Ill., where the Mormons were settling. In the fall of 1845 my mother died also, and in the spring of 1846 we were called to go west with the church.

But previous to this Joseph Smith and Hyrum his brother, our prophet and Patriarch, were murdered by a mob in Carthage Jail, June 27th. 1844 and Brigham Young by the voice of the people, was chosen to lead the church, being President of Twelve Apostles, and the spirit of Joseph rested upon them and he called all who wished to flee with him to the mountains, and in February, 1846, we commenced to cross the Mississippi River and travel west to the Missouri River,

I driving a team for John D. Lee and E. T. Benson to a place called Mount Pisgan. There stopped a while with my brother Jacob until my Father came up, which was in June sometime. I lived with him until the first of July, then was called to enlist with five hundred others in the United States Army to go to California to fight the Spaniards and take the country. So we were mustered into service under the command of Colonel Allen, July 16, 1846, and in a few days took up the line of march for Fort Leavenworth. On the way there I was taken sick and came near dying. We arrived at the fort, stayed there about weeks, got our arms, etc., and started for California. After leaving there, I got well and was able to stand guard in a few days. We traveled west for three months and arrived in Santa Fe, a Mexican town. Stayed there a few days, and started on our march again for California, all this time having to carry our muskets and clothing and equipage, on short rations and without water sometimes for two or three days at a time, and not having enough to eat any of the time, glad to get rawhide to roast on the coals and eat as we marched along. I have more than once ^{picked} up the grains of corn that the officers horse slobbered out, and eaten them, and could not get enough to satisfy my appetite. So we traveled in this way until we got through, but the last few days we had almost nothing to eat. But we got through all alive and that was all. We were not only starved, but we were almost naked. We arrived

on the Pacific Coast in Jan., 1847. I will here say that a small company of the battalion stopped near Santa Fe, some being sick and not able to go through, the Doctor decided. When we arrived on the coast we were quartered to San Diego awhile, then we went to San Louis Mission and held ourselves in readiness to fight the Spaniards; but they did not have the pluck to attack us. So we stayed on the coast until our year was up, which was in July 1847. Some were quartered at San Diego and some at Los Angeles. I was with a small company stationed at the San Louis Mission under the command of Lieutenant Barras. At the time were we to be discharged. we all come to Los Angeles and received our discharge.

After we were discharged, Colonel Stenenson (Stephenson) wished a company of one hundred of us to enlist again for six or eight months, for the safety of the country, as peace had not yet been declared. So I with ninety nine more, enlisted again under Captain Davis, one of the Captains of the Mormon Battalion. We enlisted about the first of August, 1847, and in a few days we marched to San Diego., after we got to San Diego I and twenty-five or thirty others were called to march to San Louis Mission under the command of Lieutenant Barras to hold that fort from the Spaniards. we stayed there until the time the discharge, and we marched to San Diego and were honorable discharged which was in April. 1848, having served in the Army of the United States for one year and nine months, in what was called the Mormon Battalion.

After our discharge, I and sixteen others went to the ranch of Colonel Williams, an American, which was about eighty or ninety miles northwest. There we took a job of building fences for Colonel Williams. The fence we made was called adobe fence. We made about three and one half miles of it. We were to make four miles of it, but some of the boys of the Battalion, after their discharge from the army, went up the country to get work, and the rich gold mines were discovered, by two of the boys and some of the boys, after working awhile in the mines, brought some of the gold down and told us of the discovery, and showed us some of the gold and we left our job and went up to the gold mines with those who had come down and told us about the gold. We started up in August sometime and arrived there in twenty five or thirty days. We found some working in the mines. It was a few days before we got in to work. I did not make much for three or four weeks, nor did any of the company make much for three or four weeks, nor did any of the company make much in that time, but we dug out quite a lot of gold. But it took a lot to board us when we had to give a dollar a pound for flour, and meat the same price and other things in proportion. I did not make more than two or three hundred dollars over grub, The first three or four weeks, so I thought I would change my place and try to find better diggins (as we may call it). My brother Cornelius and myself, and eight or ten others, went north of what is called Mormon Island on the American River.

We pitched our tent and went to work. For the first few days we made but little more than our board, but as luck would have it, my partner and I found a rich pocket of gold. He dug up the dirt with his pick and shovel, and I washed it in a tin pan that would hold at least eight or ten quarts and in two days I washed out about five thousand dollars in gold dust. We then divided our money and started for home in November, 1848.

We traveled about fifty miles on our journey, and awhile before we got to where we were going to camp, Edwin Corkins, one of our company thought he would take a short cut by following an Indian Trail. We never saw him again, but we found an Indian on his horse and killed him then took the horse.

Our company consisted of myself, and G. C. Workman, my brother, and Philander Fletcher, Jerome Zabriek, Lot Smith, Harold McBride, Edward Walker, Philo Carter and Hyrum Fellows.

We stopped and hunted for Crokins two or three days, then went down a few miles to what was then called Mormon Island, bought a few good rifles and other weapons and ammunition and started for lower California some five or six hundred miles down from the Pacific coast to William's ranch, there we stopped to fit up to go to Salt Lake City, Utah.

We stayed there a few weeks until Ebenezer Hanks come in from Salt Lake City, and told us that it was not safe for as small a company as ours to go to Salt Lake on account of the Indians. So we stopped awhile to get more company. I and my brother, Cornelius and the two fellows, William and Hyrum, went to work on Colonel William farm, and some one stole five thousand dallars in gold dust from me and my brother, Cornelius.

We did not like to go home with out any money, so we left William's farm which we had rented, and to the mines again in the spring of 1849. We worked in the mines again about six months and did well. Made eight or nine hundred dollars in good mules, with which we were packing goods into the mountains for the miners. But one morning the Indians got up too early for us and got off with our mules, about forty head belonging to myself and Wm. Peacock, and Cornelius workman, and about as many more horses and mules belonging to some Texans whom were camped close by. They followed the Indians, but did not get any of the animals. I was sick at the time and not able to go after the Indians. So that left me broke again. I went to San Francisco and went to work there. This was in the spring of 1850. I worked there some five or six months, and have not got my pay yet. So I went to the mines again.

I worked there with about the same luck until the spring of 1852. Then I took a steamer for Lower California, about six hundred miles down the coast to a place called San

Bernardino, where the Mormons were settling. I stayed there until the spring of 1855, then in company with George A. Wilson, John H. Rawlins and Elmer Taylor, and others, I set out for Salt Lake City. We arrived there on the May 24th. and in June I got married to Rebecca Dack, and started back to San Bernardino, in September. Arrived there in November, 1855, stayed there until December, 1857 and started for Utah Territory again. Arrived in Cedar City, February 1858 stayed here until October, then moved to Fort Harmony in Kane County. Stayed there until January, 1859, then moved to Virgin City, Kane County, Utah, in the Rio Virgin Valley, for the purpose of raising cotton and fruit. On the thirteen day of March got shot in the foot through the carelessness of an Indian setting down his gun and its falling on my foot, which laid me up about five or six months. January first, 1861, found me on my feet again ready for work. This year quite a lot of family came in from the northern settlements and settled with us. I worked on the water ditch, etc., until June, then rented my place and started with my wife and two children for Salt Lake City on a visit. Stopped at Provo a while and worked, and then went on to the City. Worked some until October, then started for home. Arrived at home alright in 1863. Worked on the water ditch and farmed a little, my wife Rebecca had a fine son born, June 12th. We called his name William Manti after the city of Manti

in the book of Mormon. In 1864 worked on the water ditch and raised some cotton, wheat, etc., and started to build me a house. Burned the brick and hauled them on to the ground. In 1865 I laid part of the walls of my house, and on Christmas day was called to part with my wife Rebecca. She died in childbed, taking cold two or three days after the child was born, and died in two or three more days. The child was a fine boy, we called him Joseph James. He lived until October, then died and was buried by the side of his mother. That left me with three children, Louisa Evelyn, and Manti. So, in 1866 I thought I would get married again so I made a bargain with Mrs. Sariah A. Egar, widow of John Egar who died two years before. We started for Salt Lake to get married, March 3rd. Got married on the 17th. by Wilford Woodruff, started for home and arrived there all well, April 8, and fixed and moved into our new house before it was finished, but I managed to get the roof on in a few months, and raised a small crop of cotton, wheat, etc., and in December 1867 my wife, Sariah had a fine boy. We called him Amps Jackson. In 1867 stayed at home and worked on the water ditches and farmed a little, and had plenty of fruit, apples, peaches, etc., nothing of much interest transpired. In 1868 were bothered very much with our ditches to get water to stay in them. But managed to raise a tolerable good crop. My wife had another son which we called Nephi Johnson born in July 9, 1868.

We had a new Bishop appointed in place of Nephi Johnson. John Parker was ordained under the hands of Erastus Snow in 1869. I rented my farm to my brother Jacob L. and took my wife and part of the family on a visit to Cache Valley. We got our visit out and started for home. Arrived home in June of the same year; all well, found plenty of grasshoppers. They had eaten up all of our wheat and some of our corn, but we had plenty of fruit and the late corn did tolerably well. In this year the great railroad across the continent was finished. I sold my farm up the river and brought one down near home and farmed it myself. But grasshoppers did us some damage; but we had a tolerably good crop of wheat, fruit and so forth.

My wife had another fine son, September 3rd., 1870 and we called him Charles Adelbert. I erected my arbor and build a small addition to my house and budded some fine kinds of apples into my apple orchard. In 1871 I rented my farm to A. L. Stratton and did not raise much. Lost all of our cotton by the grasshoppers and the hoppers injured the fruit and other things some.

This same year Pres. Brigham Young, came down from Salt Lake and stayed at St. George a month or so to see the country and preach to us. I made some more addition to my house and improved my lot a little, and got my timber together for my barn, or the most of it. We also this year, commenced to co-operate with our stock on Kolob, and also

commenced a cheese factory on Kolob. Bishop John Parker was President of the herd and George Spillsbury was Vice President, and Martin Slack Secretary. Did tolerably well for a beginning. In March 1872, I built a small house and corral on my farm, and moved down there and put in my crop. I stayed there two months and moved back to town, and on the second day of July my wife, Sariah had another fine son. We called him Edwin Monroe. In September my wife started to Salt Lake City with some sons John and Joel was gone one month and got back all well, bringing a load of goods for our co-op store. I staying at home and tending the farm and orchard, raised a tolerably good crop of grain, cotton, fruit and molasses. Put up the frame of my barn in the fall. I also made my first wine of any account.

In the spring of 1873 I started to improve my farm. Made a fence at the east and opened a street or lane between William Haslams farm and my own. Put in my crops in the fields in the city lot. I also builded in some more good fruit and made some improvements on my lot setting out some dried fruit trees and vines, and also commenced to make me a cellar with a granary on top of it. Dug out the cellars and laid up part of the walls, and also boarded up the barn and put the roof on it; and gathered up my crop of hay, corn, cotton, wheat,. Our fruit had all been killed in the spring by the frost, and all but a few apples, wild plums and currants.

In 1874 I started to farming and improving my lot. Sowed my wheat and fixed up my fence and commenced to lay up the wall of my cellar and to finish the cellar. In March Brigham Young came here and preached the order of Enoch, or New Order as we now call it. He, Brigham Young, Prophet told us to go into this order and put all into it that we had and labor for the Kingdom of God, and not for the Kingdom of the devil.

So we were organized into the new order and put all into it that we had and labor for the Kingdom of God and not the Kingdom of the devil. We were organized into the new order with Bishop John Parker as our president and Jefferson Wright and Albert Stratton as Vice Pres. and few others to act as he as Farmer, Head Gardner, etc. I put all what little I had in and labored in the order all the season. I did not finish my cellar and the granary as I had first intended for fruit of all that kind that we have ever had since we came here. Thousands of bushels of fruit rotted on the ground for the want of help to take care of it.

In the fall of that year we found out how much as we had raised and what it was worth in money, and I then found out how much labor, or how many days work had been done, and then we easily told how much we made a day. We all worked and no one was found idle long at a time. It came to one dollar and thirteen cents per day after all taxes were taken out. This settlement had between 30 and

40 families. I was bothered some in the latter part of the season by a complaint called the piles, but not to hinder me from work most of the time. November 18th. my wife had another fine son. We called him Jacob Louis.

The plan we worked on in the order was first year we put in our city lots and farms and worked all together, and at the end of the season we got so much a day (1.13) and lived on that, but some like myself with big families of small children had to live quite short at some times. But we managed to get along. The family dried the fruit, apples and peaches, and put on half in the order and kept on half for family use.

In 1875 I was appointed to take care of and gin the cotton belonging to the New Order. At the beginning of this year we were organized differently from last year. We were organized according to the laws of the country so that our Order would stand the law of Territory, and we were permitted to take our city lots and raise all we could, and turn what we didn't consume or need in the families to the order and got credit for it under the first organization, our farms and city lots were appraised and we got ten per cent divided on our capital stock, but as it is this year we do not get any dividend on our city lots.

Copied by James Erickson

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