

JESSE RICHARD DREDGE

MUCH OF THE FOLLOWING IS A COPY (by Grandson Jesse L. Roberts) of an account in the "BIOGRAPHIES OF PIONEERS OF MALAD VALLEY"  
 Copied in 1954 at Malad

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## JESSE RICHARD AND ELLEN RHEESE DREDGE:

Jesse Richard Dredge, son of Richard Henry and Sarah Sharp Dredge, was born Jan. 14, 1828 at Box, near Wooten, Underedge, Gloucestershire, England.

His educational opportunities were limited due to the necessity of assisting his family financially. In his early youth he worked for a gardner. This experience proved helpful through his life. Because of better opportunities for employment, the family left England for Abergavenny, Monmouthshire, Wales. Here Jesse worked as an Iron Puddler, where pig-iron was manufactured. His job was to keep the furnace at a uniform temperature. This took much shoveling of coal and constant watching. It was here that he heard the message of the L.D.S. Missionaries as they sang and preached on the streets. Even though this meant separation from his family he became a member of the church, being baptized 1 May, 1851 and he continued his close association with the missionaries and the members of the Monmouthshire conference in the Blair Branch.

In the mean-time in Bath, Somersetshire, England, a young lady, Ellen Rhees, was born 12 Feb. 1836. She too worked early in life, in a tayloring school at the age of eight, where she also learned to read, write, and sew. Here she met a friend who taught her the Gospel, and together they attended meetings held by the Missionaries. She was baptized 1 Aug. 1851 at the age of sixteen. Because of her association with the church she was disowned by her family and lived for a year in her friends home. Then, after hearing from her brother, Charles, she learned that he too had joined the church in Wales and upon his invitation, she joined him there.

At the home of friends following a church service, she met young Jesse Richard Dredge. Immediately they became aware of their similar circumstances. Their love of the gospel and their desire to live their religion was even a greater force in bringing them together. When Jesse proposed to Ellen he said, "You have lost your home and I have lost mine for the gospel's sake. Lets make a home where we can live it together.

They were married 29 April, 1854 at Coalbrook Vale, Blaine, Aberystwith, Monmouthshire, Wales. They had known each other just three weeks. He was 26 and she 18. They had two girls and one boy, Elen Harriet, Sarah Ann and David Charles, all died with typhoid-fever as children, all within 14 days. After such a tragedy we can imagine how they welcomed another little girl, Elizabeth Ann (who was my, Jesse L. Roberts' mother) 11 months later. It was then that Jesse and Ellen decided to join her brother, Charles, not living in America. (Charles lived at Pleasant View North or Ogden)

They sailed from liverpool 16 May, 1861 on the Monarch of the Sea with their six weeks old baby Elizabeth Ann. The sea was rough and the crossing hazardous, the mother holding her baby all the way until they arrived in New York City on 19 June, 1861.

They arrived in "The States" during an eventful year in our history. Lincoln had stated his position regarding the Union in his inaugural speech in March of 1861. On April the 12th the first blood was shed to mark the beginning of the Civil War. Ellen and Jesse must have been more than a little bewildered upon entering the states the following June and they must have found it difficult to get passage from the coast into the interior to join the saints who were going to Utah. They probably made their way west as far as they could on the railroad and then traveled by ox-team and hand-cart the balance of the way. Because of his unusual ability in handeling oxen, Jesse was asked to go back and assist companies of immigrants to make their

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way to and across the Platt River, a very difficult crossing. His wife and child came on to Utah with the Joseph Horne and Duncan companies. At one time the wagon tipped in the river and Jesse was nearly drowned. It was at this time, after he had gone under the water three times, that he was rescued. He often spoke of a vision he had while in the water of a numerous posterity in the Church.

Ellen walked a good part of the way to Utah where kind friends helped provide a home for her and Elizabeth Ann. She worked as a practical nurse until Jesse came two months later 21 Oct, 1861 with the Godby Freight Co..

Shortly thereafter they moved to Kaysville where two daughters were born, Hanna Adelia, 28 March 1863, and Lucy Jane in May 1865. Lucy died 23 Dec. 1863. For a short time they lived at Willard and then in the spring of 1866, they came to Malad, happy to meet friends whom they had known in Wales. Here the following children were born, Emma, Alice, Nora, Jesse Horatio, Hettie, Richard Henry, and William Rhees.

In establishing his home in Malad, his early experience of hard work and gardening in England proved invaluable to him, and he was known for his Dredge Murphys. He was a hard worker and could dig ditches alongside any man. When the 52nd. Quorum of Seventy was organized 11 Nov. 1883 by Seymour B. Young, Jesse was made 2nd in the presidency. He was a High Council man from 1888 to 1907. During these years he traveled with a good team from one end of the Stake to the other, from Bear River on the South to McCammon on the North and Preston on the East to Rickland on the West.

In 1907 he and his son, Jesse H. traveled to Bethlehem, Pa. to visit his brother and sister, Henry and Sarah, whom he had not seen for forty five years. (They came to America many years after he left Wales).

Jesse married a polygamist wife, Rose Kunz Bischoff who was known throughout the community for her rug weaving. (She never had any children)

Ellen died of Pheumonia 9 Dec. 1903 at Malad. Jesse died 11 March 1913. They were held in honorable remembrance by their large family of children, grand children and by their neighbors and the entire community.