

Aunt Ruth Pickett interview by Loy Ann McArthur McClendon

(This interview was conducted after Orpha Morris's death which was October of 1974.)

Loy Ann: Emma Packer

Ruth: Emma Packer. She would have to sneak away to go to the other churches but they told her that if she she ever left the door they would never let her in again and they were pushing her out.

Loy Ann: Why?

Ruth: Now that was in England and they decided to go anyway because there were 350 converts and they were all going. The ship was ready to go and she talked to her mother again and she said she would go even if they never did see her face again. They were not married there.

Just as they left to go down to the place where the ship would take off, now I don't know his name but it was the Elder or the President of the Mission Headquarters in London, but he said "I think it would be far better for you to be married before you go." So just as the ship pulled out of the harbor they were married and never went back.

I've had 3 or 4 people say after Orpha's funeral "Why did they sing that song, 'Someday I Want to go Back Again.'" ("I'll Take You Home Again, Kathleen." was the song sung at Orpha's funeral) I can remember my father when he would take all of our cattle across the road where Mrs. Buhler lived, right across the street from Judd's. Well there's a big watering trough there and so every day, two times a day, you had to drive the animals out of our corral over to the watering spot but Father quite often did that and on his way he would often sing "Someday I Want to go Back Again." I asked him what it was all about and he said that Grandfather promised Grandmother even as she was leaving London, broken hearted because they, her folks, turned her out and forbade her to come back. And Grandfather said to her, "Someday you'll go back again, as the old folks sang. I didn't know Orpha loved music of any kind because she wouldn't even applaud when people performed. She just refused to applaud. So that's where that song came from.

I don't know what else to tell you. That's what Richard Ander in California and the one that spoke at the funeral - Ralph (Ralph Morris). I've been helping him. I sent him some birth dates and what not, both boys. They both wanted to know something about my Grandfather Adams. I never can remember a thing about either one of them. He said, "Isn't it a shame, Aunt Ruth, that you had that right by you, walking with it every day and lived with it with your mother and father and didn't ask any questions. " That's where the song originated as far as being in that family.

Loy Ann: That's sure interesting. I didn't know that.

Ruth: Oh, LoyAnn, I guess you know how I miss Orpha. There's things like this come up and I think well, I'll ask her.

Loy Ann: O I know. I'll be walking to work or something and I just think I wonder if Aunt Orpha is out and I'll just look up on the porch.

Ruth: I don't know what Grandpa Morris did before he was married or how old they were. The dates are there.

Loy Ann: I think I've got the dates of that.

Ruth: Daniel D. McArthur He was the second group of the handcarts, one ahead of him. There was a man that came out ahead of him with the first group of handcarts. That was the first group. He came first and Brother McArthur came next. Brother McArthur, out of all of the trips they had following that and all those that even came west in the handcart companies and I don't know how many different groups that came. I don't know but Brother McArthur had the fewest number of any of deaths. It was wonderful. It was. Because it was quite terrible but he, out of all that followed, the hundreds, he had the fewest people die on the trail.

The Willie Company and the Martin Company. They, I guess, buried nearly all their people. I guess they buried nearly 90% near the Missouri River. A lot of them froze to death and the animals froze to death. Mrs. [name not given], she knew Brother Willie quite well. She said that all his life after all that terrible tragedy he went through she said he was a kind hearted man and he was a sad man always. The Willie and the Martin Company. Now they were the ones who left too late. They had been warned and warned and warned not to go because it was too late to go because they would get into the fall storms. But some of those people they said were so anxious to get going. They thought Christ would be here before they got to Zion. They were willing. They took votes on it and they were willing to come so that's how they did that. It's terrible, And that was the Willie and Martin Company ---- Martin and Willie Company I think that's what he said.

About your Grandfather. Now this is, I think they were just about ready to leave, just about a week away from the time they were scheduled for them to start. That was the 2nd handcart company. Well this night he dreamed that he should go down to the river, the Missouri River, I've got to think --- and cut a shepherd's crook with a handle on it and be sure to take it along with him. He told his folks the next morning that was, well that's a foolish thing to do -- all the packing we've got and all the good things we've had to throw away because 90 pounds - no more. If you had any more it would end up on the side of the road which is what they had to do. So he thought it was kind've a foolish thing when he was under such pressure about all these people under his supervision but the next morning he came out and someone jokingly said, How is your shepherd's crook? Well he'd had a dream again last night. The 3rd night he had a

dream about going down to the river and getting a shepherd's crook. He thought it's easy to throw away and difficult to carry on his saddle but it will be easy to throw away and I'll cut it because this must mean something -- getting it 3 times exactly alike.

They had only been out just a few days when here comes the rain and it rained and it rained and those little cheap wagons and carts got stuck and that shepherd crook, they used that for always pulling them out of the mud. They put in on the front wheel or on some kind of a tongue and pulled those people out of the mud with that Shepherd's crook and that's the help they had besides the shovel.

Loy Ann: Your Grandmother's name was?

Ruth: Emma Packer Morris

Loy Ann: What was you Grandfather's name?

Ruth: His name was just Richard. Richard and Emma Packer and on the other side, Emma Jackson Adams and Samuel Lorenzo Adams.

About this war. It was an early War in England. Oh, what was the name of that war? But Richard was the one I wanted to tell you about. He was the one who served and they fought and fought until they were exhausted and evidently there was a wall there somewhere. He said that 7 men had been shot down going to the top of the wall to wave their flag in this horrible affair but 7 men had been shot down so he tried it and he got through and raised the flag and that was the end of this terrible war and so he was given, well it was a gold or silver medal.

Loy Ann: Who's got that now?

Ruth: I think Orpha gave that to [] years and years ago. I'm not sure.

Loy Ann: Now who is this?

Ruth: That was Samuel Adams, father of your grandmother and my mother. His name is Richard and he was awarded this -- One day Donald Schmutz's wife was up here, [], and I said this is his paper and I said the medal is wonderful and all that goes with the idea that he was the one that conquered after so many sad things that happened before.

I said there was no pay even though he did it. There's no financial pay in it. It was just an honor, goes with war times-- Well, no, no she said they didn't have the money to give them then. Some of these tragic deaths but they would give them a piece of land and he never did come back home after he was given this grant and he received that and they say that he went on down there to live on this piece of property.

Loy Ann: So he never came to America?

Ruth: He never came to America.

Loy Ann: So that would be your Great Grandfather, Samuel Jackson?

Ruth: He was a brother to Grandpa's wife. His name's Samuel Jackson. Grandma's last name was Emma Jackson -- on my side that was Emma Packer.

Loy Ann: Who was the war between? Do you know?

Ruth: Yes and I'll think of the war, too. I'll think of the general. But I thought the story about the shepherd's crook I thought that's kind of an odd one but boy it ended up to be quite a worthwhile thing to follow that dream.

Loy Ann: I wonder if that man was given any recognition in England for doing that?

Ruth: I think so because I thought it was something great and it's been quite a while since it happened. I thought this was quite a wonderful thing to be the only one to have ever known about it. He said no there were lots of those given. I don't know but when they surrendered at that time when Samuel stood on the wall and waved the flag.

Loy Ann: Was it Samuel or was it his brother? I mean Emma Packer's brother?

Ruth: Here's my father's family. Now who's this? Emma Packer Morris. Now here's your death dates all along here. Richard Alexander Morris, born November 26, 1856, at Williamsburg, New York.. That's my father. Richard Alexander Morris.

Loy Ann: So my great grandfather then.

Ruth: Well, now this Richard Morris is a -- Now father's name was Richard A and Ellis's was Richard A. but I thought that other was just plain Richard and Henry Adams Morris.

Loy Ann: Who was St. George Morris?

Ruth: St. George Morris - Father's youngest brother. He didn't live around here very much after he went on a mission. He and his wife had that Miracle Manor. It was a hotel and he went on a mission. That's who he is, St. George Morris. He was born October 8th. Then there's Izzy Morris.

Richard Morris and Emma Packer married December 1, 1855. Here you are. On a ship in the English Channel.

Samuel Lorenzo Adams and Emma Jackson, February 5, 1852, by George B. Wallace in Liverpool, England.

My father's family: Richard Morris born June 24, 1835 at Vernon, England. Emma Packer, born April 21, 1830 at Reading England and died November 15, 1916 in St. George. They were the parents of 10 children.

Loy Ann: Children of Samuel and Emma Wilson Jackson.

Ruth: I didn't know the Wilson was in there. I got this from my mother I got quite a few of these things.

Loy Ann: The children of Samuel and Emma Wilson Jackson were: Jane, Hanah, Rebecca, Ann.

Ruth: Is there a Samuel?

Loy Ann: Yes. Samuel

Ruth: He's the one that stood on the wall. What in the world is the name of that war?

Loy Ann: Let's see, he was born March 11, 1817. So they were still in England weren't they.

Ruth: Oh, here's Rick's patriarchal blessing. It was given him by George E. Miles, an awful lot of promises in it.

Loy Ann: I'll have to come over and copy a lot of this stuff.

Ruth: All right. I wish now when I was talking to them and he said, Richard Ander said, "My you've had so much time to do it and I said, "When my father was here, if I'd just opened up and asked him I'd have had a world of knowledge."

Loy Ann: Now what was that war ?

Ruth: Sabastapol.

Loy Ann: Who was the guy on the wall?

Ruth: War - Sebastapol
June 24