

SAMUEL BRINGHURST, Sr.  
1812-1888

My great Grandfather, Samuel Bringhurst and his wife Eleanor joined the Mormon Church in 1845. They were living in Chester County, Pennsylvania. Soon after they joined the church, he and his family moved to Nauvoo and were living there at the time the Prophet Joseph Smith was killed. During these troublesome times in Nauvoo, great Grandfather experienced many unpleasant and annoying difficulties. At that time the residences and homes of the Mormon people were being searched and investigated for guns and ammunition which the officers of the State believed they had in their possession. Great Grandfather's home was often searched and on one occasion when the officers came, he had a gun secreted under a trap door. His wife, seeing the officers coming, put her rocking chair over the trap door and sat down to get the youngest child to sleep and in that way they saved their gun. This gun was later given to a friend to keep and when he started for Winter Quarters, his friend delivered it to him in a quiet way and the same gun was brought to this valley. When great grandfather and great grandmother left Nauvoo, they had three children and she was expecting another child. They crossed the Mississippi River and went to the Rocky Mountains taking their effects---farming implements, seeds, grain, provisions, bedding for themselves and family in one wagon drawn by an ox team. While camping on the banks of the Missouri River in a tent with the weather so cold as to freeze the river over, a son was born to them on Nov. 25, 1846. They stopped at winter quarters and while there their little 19 month old son died. Can you imagine their sorrow as they buried him there knowing that they would probably never see his grave again. My husband and I have been to Winter Quarters and we found the grave stone of this tiny pioneer who lost his life on that long hard journey. When they arrived in the valley in Sept. 1847, they immediately set to work to prepare the soil to grow their crops and to build a fort for protection. The land was dry and barren and they had to dig ditches to irrigate the land before they could plant anything. The

first year they succeeded in raising enough for seed, with a little to spare for food. Provisions were very scarce and they lived mostly on roots and wild fowl. Great grandfather was a wheelwright and was the first man to establish a wagon and carriage repair and blacksmith shop in the valley. They settled in what was then known as Taylorsville. Their old home still stands. It is on Bullion Street just west of the Jordan River. It is a white two story house.

---Donna Jensen Wood