

JACOB VERNON HAMBLIN

Jacob Vernon Hamblin was born April 2, 1819 in Salem Ohio. His parents were Isaiah and Daphne Haynes Hamblin. He had a normal childhood with a family that was religious and studied the bible. He grew to a lean six feet tall. He married Lucinda Taylor in the autumn of 1839.

Jacob learned about the gospel from Elder Lyman Stoddard. He was baptized March 3, 1842 much to the chagrin of his wife, family and neighbors.

My wife, Brigid, is from Michigan and in 1981 she joined the Church. One of the missionaries who baptized and confirmed her was Elder Gary Stoddard from Idaho. The Stoddard family blessed my life twice.

Jacob's father-in-law took great pains to insult and abuse him. Jacob told him "you won't have the privilege of abusing me much longer". A few days later he took sick and he died. Later Lucinda asked Jacob "why don't you pray with me and our family?" Jacob stated "I don't like to pray before non-believers." Lucinda explained that her father appeared to her in a dream and said not to oppose Jacob any longer. She was baptized soon after.

Jacob's father Isaiah Hamblin was very ill with spotted fever and near death when Jacob felt prompted to stop by. Jacob prayed for him and from that moment on, the fever broke and Isaiah was healed. Later, his 18 year old brother, Obed, was sick and near death and Jacob gave him a priesthood blessing and he was healed. Jacob's entire family joined the church.

The family moved to Nauvoo and Jacob was called on a mission to Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania. He served from April 1844 to June 1844 when all missionaries were called home after the martyrdom of Joseph and Hyrum. He helped finish the temple and was called on the Vanguard company to head west.

At Pottawattamie county, Iowa, Lucinda had had enough. She was baptized, but not truly converted and refused to go west. She handed their 13 month old baby named Lyman under the fence and said "take your Mormon brats and go west". Just before the family left, Lucinda made one last appearance and gave the three older children and baby a hug and final present.

Jacob was saddened, but had a dream that he would come to a cabin and there he would meet his future wife and mother for his children. While entering Council Bluffs he saw the cabin in his dream. He walked to the door and knocked. A beautiful young lady answered the door. Jacob said "I'm Jacob Hamblin and I was impressed to come to your home and ask you to be my wife." Fortunately Rachel Judd said yes and said that she had a dream that a man would come to her door and ask her to marry him. She was so convinced of her dream she was wearing her Sunday best and had packed her trunk. She was widowed and had two children and was worried how she would be able to go west. They were married immediately and headed west.

Jacob and family were part of the Aaron Johnson company and when arriving at Salt Lake City, Brigham Young asked the whole company to go and settle in Tooele.

One evening, Jacob and Rachel headed three miles up Pine Canyon to cut wood and gather wild fruit. As they started to unpack to spend the night, Jacob had the impression that they were being watched by Indians. He calmly walked to the wagon,

loaded the gear back up and headed home much to the surprise of his wife. Later there was trouble with the Indians and Jacob was called out to go after them. He tracked one Indian with large feet who was called "old big foot". Jacob was blessed with the gift of tongues and was able to communicate with him. As Jacob pointed the barrel of his gun at old big foot the Indian said "Don't kill me. I didn't kill you when you were up the canyon. However if you had taken three steps further I would have sunk my arrow in your chest to the feathers. Jacob convinced him and other Indian leaders to go back to Tooele to see the leader there. He gave them his word of safety. Upon arriving the leader demanded that all the Indians be shot. Jacob stood in front of them and said they would have to shoot him first. The Indians were eventually let go.

There was another instance where Jacob and a group of men went out after a group of raiding Indians and chased them to Johnson's Pass. Jacob's gun mis-fired as he attempted to shoot an Indian. The same Indian shot four arrows at Jacob while he attempted to re-cap his gun. The first arrow hit his gun. The second arrow went through his hat. The third arrow barely missed his head. The fourth arrow went through his coat and vest. No Indians or settlers were killed that day. All the guns seemed to misfire and no arrows found their mark. In thinking the situation over, it appeared clear to Jacob that a special providence had been over them to prevent the shedding of the blood of the Indians. "The Holy Spirit forcibly impressed me that it was not my calling to shed the blood of the scattered remnant of Israel, but to be a messenger of peace to them. It was also made manifest to me that if I would not thirst for their blood, I should never fall by their hands." This was an important promise especially later in his life.

Pushed his horse past all.

Jacob was later called as a missionary to the Indians in southern Utah. He eventually located his family with him and became mission president. The church has made his home in Santa Clara, just outside of St. George, a historical site where a missionary couple work year-round to provide tours and teach about his life. Jacob's father was in failing health before the move and refused to go to Southern Utah. He said "Grasshoppers or no grasshoppers, I'm staying here. I will not leave Tooele."

Forever in Tooele.

A tragedy happened that almost sparked a war between the fierce Navajo nation and the settlers of southern Utah. Four young braves were in Utah trading and were caught in a snow storm. They spent the night in a abandoned cabin and killed a small animal to eat. In the morning a non Mormon man by the name of "McCarty" who owned the property arrived and killed three of the braves and severely wounded the fourth. These four braves happened to be sons of chiefs of the Navajo nation. The wounded brave with great effort made it back to his home and told the sad story and blamed it on the Mormons. The entire Navajo nation prepared for war. They delayed the war until all groups could be gathered and they wanted to hear from Jacob Hamblin.

Jacob received word of what really happened and was sent by Brigham Young to work things out. No one would go with him except for two miners by the last name of Smith that he met at Lee's Ferry. Twice riders came to persuade Jacob not to go as it would be suicide, but he was called by a prophet of God and that was all he needed to know. As Jacob and the Smiths arrived at the camp they were taken into a lodge where they were surrounded by 24 angry Navajo chiefs and leaders. Jacob calmly told the truth of what happened to the braves and that it was a non Mormon who shot the braves. The older chiefs had some understanding, but the younger braves wanted blood revenge. The

Indians voted on it and decided to let the Smiths go after they had witnessed Jacob's death and were going to roast Jacob over a hot bed of coals. Jacob was given one last time to speak. He told the truth again and challenged anyone present to name a time that he had spoken with a forked tongue or ever did any harm to any of the Indian tribes. He spoke calmly in his special way, very composed and in a slow low voice.

Then a young brave came in and took his shirt off to show the bullet hole and ranted and raved. This excited the whole lodge to a frenzy and it appeared as if all was lost. One of the Smiths reached for his revolver until Jacob told him to be still and not to make the first move. In time things cooled down and the Indians changed their plan and now demanded 350 cattle in payment from the Mormons. 100 cattle each for the three braves killed and 50 cattle for the wounded brave. All Jacob had to do was give his word of payment and he could have left. He at once told the Navajos that the Mormons were not responsible for the murder and would not pay. He considered 350 cattle worth more than his life.

The Piute interpreter started to shake and asked Jacob "Are you not scared?" Jacob replied "What is there to scare me?" The Piute interpreter said, "the Navajos" Jacob said "I am not afraid of my friends." The Piute interpreter said "Friends? You have not a friend in the Navajo Nation. Navajo blood has been spilled on your land. You have caused a whole nation to mourn. Your friend Ketch-e-ne that used to give you meat when you were hungry and blankets when you were cold has gone to mourn his murdered sons. You have caused the bread he eats to be like coals of fire in his mouth, and the water he drinks like hot ashes. Are you not afraid?" Jacob replied "no, my heart never knew fear."

The Navajos got angry and asked the Piute interpreter what they were conversing about. He explained all that they were talking about. After listening, hearts were softened and they asked Jacob if he knew their great chief Hastele? Jacob explained his friendship and the great talks at Fort Defiance where Indians and settlers agreed to get along. He said this was good medicine and should continue. He then volunteers to guide Chief Hastele to the scene of the murder and provide the proof of his story.

Arrangements are made for Jacob to meet Chief Hastele in 25 days. He was given a stick with 25 notches and to cut one off for each day until they meet. Tempers had cooled now and the Navajos offered food to Jacob and the Smiths. It was goat roasted over the fire. The Smiths ate, but Jacob told his friends that he was sick and excused himself to be outside. The sight of roasted goat brought back the reality that it could very easily have been him that was roasted over the fire that night. In all, the trial lasted over 11 hours and as the Smiths and Jacob rode away, Jacob reminisced the promise he had received many years ago that if he never thirsted for the blood of the Lamanites, he should never die at their hands. He also thought of the 15 good years that he has served among his Lamanite brethren and felt truly blessed for his success.

There were at least two wagon trains that were nearly attacked by angry Indians that Jacob was able to calm them down and avert disaster. It is thought by many church historians that if Jacob would have been in southern Utah rather than in SLC at the time, he may have been able to prevent the "Mountain Meadow Massacre."

Missionary
Explorer → John Wesley Powell
Peace-maker
Colonizer