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John Roylance

## ALMA ROYLANCE Sr.

By - Veda Roylance Peterson

Alma Roylance was born in Nauvoo, Hancock County, Illinois, 29 May 1845. He was the son of John Roylance and Mary Ann Oakes. There were ten children in his family, Alma was number seven and the youngest son. Four of his brothers and one sister were born in England. They were Henry, Ann, George, Thomas and William. George died when a young child.

His parents, John and Mary Ann Roylance, joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in 1840. Henry was nine so he was baptized into the church at the same time.

The family emigrated to America with the first Company of Saints from Liverpool, England on the ship "Sheffield" which sailed February 17, 1841 with 235 Latter Day Saints aboard.

They arrived in New Orleans March 31, 1841. They took a boat up the Mississippi river to Montrose, Lee county, Iowa. While in Montrose, Alma's sister Elizabeth was born 26 August 1842. A few months later the family moved to Nauvoo, Illinois. Here they lived until the Exodus West began. While in Nauvoo, (Grandpa) Alma Roylance was born 29 May 1845. When he was nine months old, the family was driven out of Nauvoo by the mobs, along with several hundred other saints.

Six months they asked, Time only to dispose of their property, time to build wagons and buy horses and oxen to pull them, time to gather a supply of goods to see them over 1,300 miles of plain and prairie.

Six months did not seem too long to ask. But the mobsters were impatient and violence was increasing. Shops and forges hummed around the clock.

It was mid-winter, February 4, 1846, when the first of the exiles said goodbye to their homes and crossed the river to face the elements and the savages. By the 15th the mile wide Mississippi was frozen so solid that a large company was able to cross on the ice. By the latter part of April most of the Mormons had left Nauvoo. The Roylance family went as far as Council Bluffs with the Westward movement.

Meanwhile the United States had become entangled in a war with Mexico. On June 26 there rode into camp three dragoons of soldiers bearing "A circular to the Mormons" inviting them to furnish five hundred volunteers to join the army and march to California. Brigham Young saw an overture for peace and a chance to demonstrate to the people of the United States that the Mormon's were loyal to America. So he encouraged the men to enlist.

John Roylance enlisted. He left his family in Council Bluffs, Iowa and marched with the Mormon Battalion through Kansas and the all-but-unexplored regions of what is now New Mexico, Arizona, and California, a trek reported to be the longest infantry march in history.

Grandpa. (Alma) was only thirteen months old when his father left his mother to care for six children, and marched away with the Battalion the last of June, to be gone for five months. The Church officials had promised the men that their families would be taken care of and would be taken to the Salt Lake Valley. After the war, they were to meet their families in the Valley. But through some misunderstanding Mary Ann and her six children, along with many other families were left behind.

The Battalion met with many hardships, by the time they reached California the war was over.

Many of the men forgot about their former plans and began panning for gold around Sutters Fort. But all John Roylance could think about was to earn enough money to get back to his family. He found a job and saved his money for a while. John and a friend each bought a saddle horse and one small Burro to carry their supplies, and started across the wilderness to Salt Lake City. As they were nearing Provo, They met a scout who was sent out by Brigham Young to tell them that their families were still in Mt. Pisgah or Council Bluffs. So they went on north to Provo Canyon, then East through the Canyon over the Rocky Mountains and across the plain to Council Bluffs, Iowa.

John had saved what money he had earned in California. He made a belt to fit his waist in which to carry his money. His companion put his money in the saddle bag on the Burro. When they reached St. Louis the burro was frightened of the traffic, he broke away from them and was never found. John was very glad he had kept his money in his belt.



He reached his family in November 1847. He found them all well but much in need of food and clothing.

John moved his family to Kanessville, Iowas, where he was able to secure employment and earn enough money to purchase an outfit to make the trip to the Salt Lake Valley.

While in Kanessville their 8th child was born, Mary Frances, she was born 8 August 1848.

Grandpa was five years old, in the spring of 1850 when his family left Kanessville and started for Salt Lake in the seventh company of saints led by Johnathan Foote. They arrived in the Valley 17 September 1850 and were assigned to settle in Springville, Utah.

They arrived in Springville the evening of 19 September 1850, the day after the first settlers came to Springville.

The James Mendenhall Family were with this group and arrived the same evening. Their little two year old girl Emma later became Alma's life companion.

Their first home was a log cabin withing the first fort walls. They later moved to a log cabin which now stands on the lot west across the street from the Valley Tavern, and later John built an adobe house which now stands in the same lot on the corner of 1st West and 2nd South Street.

Alma grew up in the best circumstanes of pioneer life. His parents were very industrious and religious. He was taught to be neat and orderly in everything he did, and he always lived up to the principles and teachings of the church, and he was a good honorable citizen.

He Married Emma Smith Mendenhall. (She was named after the Prophet's wife Emma Smith.)

They both received their endowments in the old endowment house in Salt Lake City 17 October 1865. Research shows that at this time there was no provision for sealings to be done in the Endowment house, this was only for a short period of time while some adjustment was being made. So Grandpa and Grandma were married by an elder of the Church, with the promise they would go to a Temple later and be sealed for time and all eternity.

They built a nice house in Springville on the corner lot where the Wheeler Mortuary now stands.

They were the parents of six children, four of which grew to maturity. Alma Elliott Jr, was born 16 October 1867. James Justin was born 5 January 1870 and died 5 March 1870. John Wallace was born 5 November 1871. Austin Hoopes was born 19 Spril 1876. Frances Eliza was born 28 June 1881. Joseph J. was born 12 January 1889 and he died 26 March 1889.

Alma was a farmer, they maintained their home in Springville and their farm was in Hobbles Creek Canyon. Alma owned the first threshing machine in that part of the country, and he would thresh grain for all the farmers in that area every fall.

In 1901 Alma sold his farm, He sold his home in town to Thomas Roylance. Thomas tore down the house that grandpa had built and lived in for many years and built a new house on the same lot. It has since been enlarged and is now occupied by the Wheeler Mortuary.

In the Spring of 1901, Alma and Emma, having disposed of all their property, accompanied by their son Alma and his wife Ida, and their son Wallace and their daughter Frances (who were not married at that time) moved to Rexburg, Idaho. Grandpa bought a 100 acre farm 1½ miles north of Rexburg, and his son Wallace helped him run the farm. Alma Jr. and Ida bought 60 acres at Hibbard, a few miles West of Rexburg.

Grandpa was a very jolly person, lots of dry wit. He kept his barn yard and machine shed clean and orderly. I remember the nice white-top buggy and the nice looking single buggy that always stood under the shed near the barn when not in use. He always took great pride in keeping nice horses.

In later years, his daughter Frances became interested in Genealogy and Temple work. After her parents death, Aunt Frances was unable to find a date of grandpa and grandma's marriage. The only record available was where and when they received their endowments. So on the 23 September 1936 Frances and her husband Hugh Wright did this sealing ordinance for them in the Logan Temple. She also had herself, Alma, Jr. who had died in 1934 and the two deceased babies all sealed to her parents the same day. Wallace was sealed to his parents 23 March 1943 in the Logan Temple.



In 1960, a granddaughter (Veda Peterson) was doing research in the archives of the Manti Temple, and she unexpectedly located the correct sealing date of Alma and Emma Roylance.

So Alma Roylance and Emma Smith Mendenhall were endowed in the old Endowment house in Salt Lake City and married by an elder of the church 27 October 1865, and they had done their own sealing in the Manti Temple 22 May 1890.

Alma Roylance died 1 February 1921 in Rexburg, Madison county, Idaho at the age of 76. The cause of his death was phenomia, he was burried in the Sugar City Cemetary near Rexburg.

#### EMMA SMITH MENDENHALL

Emma S. Mendenhall was born 20 October 1848 in Pawattami county, Iowa, while her parents were in the process of immigrating to the Salt Lake Valley with the Mormon Pioneers. She was the daughter of James and Eliza Ann Hoopes Mendenhall.

James and Eliza Ann were originally from Mill Creek, New Castle, Deleware, they moved to West Chester, Pennsylvania soon after their marriage.

Emma Was: born in very humble surroundings after her family had been driven out of Nauvoo, Illinois with thousands of other Latter-day saints and they were struggling to get provisions together to make the dangerous and trying trip across the wilderness to the Salt Lake Valley. She was only a baby when they crossed the plains.

The family arrived in the Valley in 1849 and Emma's father, James Mendenhall, was sent out by Brigham Young on several scouting missions, as an interpreter for the indians. He had a natural gift to talk to the indians and make peace with them. He also located and staked out town sites all through southern Utah. James was very impressed with the many fresh water mountain springs six miles south of Provo, and while he and his scouting companion were staking out the town of Springville, grandma's father, James Mendenhall staked off a plot of ground for his own farm, on which there was an extra large flowing well, this has always been known as big springs. This farm was located west of the town site of Springville.

After staking off the towns of Springville, Spanish Fork, Payson and other small settlements in that area, James went back to Salt Lake City on horse back hoping to move his family immediately to the little town of Mt. Springs. But Brigham Young asked him to go to Manti and stake out some more town sites after deciding where the towns should be located, and of course there was some explaining to do to the Indians. When he returned to Salt Lake, the first company of saints had already left for Springville. The James Mendenhall family and the John Roylance family were in the second company, and they arrived in Springville the evening of the next day, after the first saints had arrived 19 September 1850.

Emma was two years old and Alma Roylance was five of age when they first saw the beautiful spot where their new home would be. A year later a new baby girl arrived at the Mendenhall home which made nine children. Three years after they reached their new home, James Mendenhall died, when Emma was only five. The oldest boy, Thomas, was 22 and the youngest was 2. Grandma was the mother of six children, four grew to maturity. I remember grandma as a neat housekeeper and an excellent cook. I have never since tasted chicken gravy like she made. Her pumpkin pies and rice puddings were perfect. When they killed a pig, Grandma would make lovely head-cheese and scrapple. The scrapple was made with scraps of pork and beef and cornmeal, molded and chilled and sliced to fry for a wonderful breakfast treat.

She always took care of the chickens and early morning hours would find her working in their very nice garden. Always free from weeds.

Grandma lived four years after Grandpa passed away. Most of this time she lived with her daughter and family in Rexburg. She died 22 December 1925 and was burried in the Sugarcity Cemetary near Rexburg.