

James Robertson Sharp was born June 20, 1809 in Davidson County, Tennessee.

The same year they moved to Alton, Madison County, Illinois where a number of their family were born. Others of their family were born in Fulton County, and upper Alton, Illinois.

He was a Minister of the Methodist Church and would go on horseback to other towns doing missionary work and preaching. He was called a circuit rider.

On one of his trips he attended a meeting of the Latter Day Saints where the Prophet Joseph Smith spoke. Later upon hearing of another meeting where the Prophet was to lecture, he told his wife he was going to that town to attend the meeting and for her not to worry if he was a few days late in getting home for he was going to convert this young (so called) Prophet to the Methodist Church. He went to the meeting, and instead of him converting the Prophet, the Prophet Joseph Smith converted my grandfather, James Robertson Sharp, to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints about the year of 1837 or 1838. He and his wife were very much interested and pleased with their new found religion. They began to plan at once on emigrating to Utah with the Saints. His people did not want him to go as he was doing nicely there. He had a good home and a lot of property, but he sold everything at a big sacrifice and came West with a company of emigrants about the year of 1852, and made their home near Farmington, Utah. They had a large family of 14 children. My father, Heber C. Sharp, was their baby born at Kaysville, Utah, May 7th, 1862. When he was one year old grandfather died at the age of 54 years at Farmington, Utah May 22, 1863. My grandmother, Martha Armintha Griffith Sharp, died at the age of 85 years at Reardon, Washington April 12, 1905.

Personal History of James Robertson Sharp,
my Great Grandfather.

Oliver Ira Griffith

The journal of J. R. Sharp handed in by Margaret Hancock, member of Wapello Camp of D.U.P. Bingham Co., Idaho, May, 1946. James Robertson Sharp, who is the subject of this sketch or journal, was born in Davidson County, Tennessee in 1809. Resided in said County 16 years, emigrated to Hickson County, Tennessee, emigrated to Illinois, Mason County in 1826, went from there to Madison County, Illinois in 1829, made a beginning of religion and started myself to the Methodist Church. In 1830 went to Fulton County, in 1833 served a term in the Black Hand.

Returned to Madison County in 1834. Received a limited education in the Seminary in Alton. Married Martha Griffith on March 5, 1835. Resided in Madison County three years, emigrated to Missouri, Fort County, returned to Illinois, 1838. Became a saint June 20, 1839, moved to Tike County, 1840, moved to Fulton County 1842, returned to Madison County 1845, returned to Fulton County 1846, returned to Madison County 1849. I baptized James Low into the Church 1841. Baptized Mary Ann Griffith, Lentha W. Ward, and Caraline Jonson in 1849. Had bad difficulty with Vorset and was justified by the Church.

Vorset being silenced until he made full satisfaction to myself and Jonathan Griffith, which he done in 1850.

I baptized four of my children, John, Mary, Joseph and Sarah Emma, June, 1850 into the Church. Jonathon Griffith coming to board at my house 15 August, 1850, continued until February, 1851, which amounts to Thirty Dollars, which he promised to pay in Spring of 1851. I had been afflicted with a bleeding of my stomach for the past 12 years and would not board the said Griffith any longer, therefore he became insulted and abused me and my family and said he would not pay me anything. Left Alton 6 July, 1851 to go to Adams County, but was sent to Calhoon County. Was called upon to preach at Godspains and went to work, built up, and organized a branch of sixteen members. Baptizing Sern Despain, his wife, also Golman Dispain and Ruth Dispain and his wife August, 1851. Baptized Eliza Jane Dobbs, Margaret Burton, and Nancy Despain November 28, 1857. Married Got Dobbs to Eliza Jane Burton November 13, 1851. Solomon Despain ordained priest November 23, 1851 by myself. J. Griffith, W. Dobbs and James Despain, John Burton and Edward Tadlock, deacons ordained December 14, 1851 under the hands of the above Elders.

On May 2, 1852 baptized Mary Burton, Melba Burton & Ve. Baptized G. M. Salbri into Church again.

May 11, 1852 baptized Mary Blackstone, July 5, 1852 joined in matrimony Jonathon Griffith and Margaret Burton. All things continued well until August 10, 1852 when I resigned the office of President, and Brother John Burton was chosen to preside over the Branch. On the 3rd of September, 1852 I left my beloved brethern in sorrow of heart and grief and tears for the Valley of the great Salt Lake.

I was taken sick 3rd September, 1852. I traveled until I and my family unable to travel, when Elder John Williams left me in distress and went, I knew not where. This was in Harrison County, Missouri, where I remained until winter, when I began to prepare to stay the winter. The people were very friendly not knowing what principles of religion I entertained, but were very anxious to know. Then it was made known by the strange spirit of rapings at which time my good friends, all but a few, turned against me. I will name them. Hanabel Harrison and wife, Henry Harrison and wife, Biddle and wife, Mr. Hallon and family, D. C. Harrison and wife, and others too numerous to mention.

I was requested to preach by two, a Mr. Gfolet and Hannabel Harrison. I preached for both of them to large audiences the first principles of the gospel and not getting

another invitation I hereby seal up the testimony in this settlement to all but the honest in heart 11 February, 1853. 12 May 1852 baptized and confirmed James Dole and Sarah, his wife. On 20th washed the dust off my feet for a testimony against the people of the settlement in which I lived.

On 5th June, 1853 baptized and confirmed Ted Eastwa and Sara his wife, William their son, Rachel their daughter, Mary their daughter, and Sivey and Betsey his wife and Dave their son. On 28th August 1853 baptized and confirmed my son, James I. Sharp, also ordained Gilbert Army as a member of the Church, assisted by Elder Samuel Csain. On 27 August 1853 I was called upon by the Almighty through the gift of tongues and the interpretation of tongues to go back to Cakall County, Illinois to gather the sheaves which I had collected and organize their families.

On October 29, 1853 I baptized Elizabeth, Lydia and Britana Pitcher into the Church. October 23rd ordained Vasdor Pitcher an Elder. November 1, 1853 started a mission to preach the gospel to the world. Traveled first day to Mr. Roberts and was treated well. Went to Trenton, ask a donation of F. H. Musser, which was refused. Went off to Brunswick County. Tracted some literature, stayed night of 2nd with Joseph Bennett, had supper, and leaving without charge. I stopped with Edward Clemons and forded the river until the 10th without charge. Stayed at night again with Joseph without charge. Took dinner on the 11th without charge. Obtained a passage to St. Louis in the "Honduras". W. Couday was the Master and served me without charge, and I was treated with uncommon kindness and respect. Preached on 12th to the officers and hands and passengers who treated me with great respect.

Arrived in St. Louis on the morning of the 18th and started up the Klonis the same day. Arrived in the fields of calling on morning of the 15th, found most of the brethren right at the post. Applied to the Captain of the T. X. Aubusery for a passage on the St. Louis which he promptly refused. Also applied to a Redar, Master of the Ley Paro for passage to St. Louis which he refused.

I was informed on 18th by James Dole that on or about the 15th of October, 1852 Thomas Brike preached against the Doctrines of the Church, which he said Dole said was the reason he quit the Church. I on the 19th of the present month went by the voice of the Spirit and dedicated the place. What I said in Calhoun County, Illinois with all the company more of necessity of my interpretation of the resurrection with the promise of Jesus Christ on the 20th of November, 1853.

Delivered the message of Parley Larkins as directed, on 22nd obtained a promise from most of the saints to go to Valley in the Spring. They entertained me well while with them and gave me some money. I started on 1st of December, came to Prudence Jubly. She entertained me well, which she always did the saints. Went to Mrs. Bushwells and stayed all night without charge. Went to the steamer "North No. 2", asked for free passage to St. Louis which was refused. Landed in St. Louis 4th December, left for home on 5th as a passage free to Glasgo, but was refused by Captain James Gasser. Arrived at Jefferson City on 8th, Thursday, and Friday. I landed in Boonville. Arrived at Glasgo Saturday 10th and walked to Brunswick. Started home Sunday 2nd with Charles Mullen, got home on Thursday 15th and found my family well.

Held a meeting at Gilbert Ausy, 20th. Baptized George Person, got into difficulty with members of the Church and left them to work it out for themselves, went to Missouri County and commenced teaching school the first day I landed. I taught three months, then moved to Decator, Iowa. I lived there in peace and quietude, preached once at Walkers about 16th August. The people were very friendly. I preached twice on Brush Creek in Horkens settlement and twice more on 23rd and 24th of December. I buried my eleventh child, a daughter the 7th September 1859.

Orson Pratt Sharp was born 16 November 1857. In winter of 1850 a young man by the name of F. C. Taft came to board at my house. He took steps to get the affection of my wife, Martha, and daughter, Emma, and succeeded in his designs, therefore disturbing the peace and harmony of my family. I promptly foiled the matter from the first discovery of the intentions stating in all care the reason for so doing which was that I would not suffer my daughter to marry out of the Church, but it all done no good so things went on until I saw I had no influence. I called my family together with W. C. Corbett and asked my daughter, Emma, to left off my shoulders all responsibilities of her salvation in the hereafter and she freely and frankly did so. Therefore, partly contented, the matter rested, but after thinking upon the matter I thought I had done wrong. I grieved over the matter until sometime in the summer one morning in my cornfield I received the consoling impression that I could consent to the matter without condemnation. I immediately came to the house and in the presence of my family stated to Taft that he could have Emma but that I would request her salvation at his hands, so the thing has been delayed from time to time until this 3rd of April 1850. I went to Corant City in the Spring of 58 and was baptized into the reformation by the hand of Brother Bobestice, after which I came home. I offered the privilege to my family several times. They refusing until sometime in 59 I baptized Joseph and James into the reformation and George into the Church sometime in the winter, after Brother Corbitt baptized John into the reformation.

On May 1, 1860 I started for Salt Lake City Valley with all my family leaving only Mary, she came on in 1861. I arrived in Salt Lake City October 4, 1860 being sick most of the way. Losing my span of five mares on the plains, stopped in Centerville for the winter, was taken sick in November, was sick until the Spring following when I moved to Dayops, soon after which my son, George, got his arm broke in the employ of C. Miles.

Raised a crop at J. Jenkins place, in October was taken sick and was confined to my bed for several weeks.