



## A brief History of David Robison.

Father of Heber C. Robison and Grandfather of Sophia Edna Robison Crowley, David Robison, son of Alexander Robison and Nancy Ellen Wagaman, was born April 2, 1827 at Harrisburg, Franklin County, Pennsylvania. At the age of 26 he joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and was baptized December 22, 1853. He, with his father's family, began their journey westward, arriving in the Salt Lake Valley August 27, 1860, after traveling by rail and water for a distance of 2,000 miles to Florence, Nebraska on the Missouri River. There David and his brothers joined the Carles Rich Handcart Company to start their journey to Salt Lake, Utah. This company consisted of 240 people, 40 carts, 10 tents, six wagons, 26 oxen and six teams of horses. The teams and wagons were put in the lead and the carts in the rear. There were 4 to 7 men to each cart. They left Florence, Nebraska on June 7, and arrived in the Salt Lake Valley the 27th of August 1860. This was one of the most successful companies making the long journey. Only one death occurred.

David Robison walked every step of the way, without shoes, helping to pull or push a hand cart. When he reached the Salt Lake Valley, since everything belonged to the church, he had practically nothing with which to start life anew in the land of Zion. However, he was only 33 years of age, ambitious and hard working, so he soon set about to get food and shelter for the winter. He worked on shares for food and also hauled wood from the canyon on the same basis.

He married Mary Elizabeth Grover Simmons, Dec. 26, 1860 in Farmington, Davis County, Utah. The next spring they moved to North Morgan, Morgan County, Utah. Mary Elizabeth Grover Simmons, wife of Alpheas Simmons, who was accidentally killed at Echo Canyon, was the mother of six children by Simmons. Nine children were born to Mary Elizabeth and David Robison. David married again in May 1872 to Johanna Fredricka Kafvelstrom a plural wife. She was a convert to the church from Sweden, and six children were born to this union, but when the manifests were issued in 1895, it was not legal to have more than one wife, so it was decided between David and his two wives as to which one he would continue to live with during this life, so the second one suggested that David remain with Mary Elizabeth Grover Simmons during the remainder of this earthly life as Mary Elizabeth had been sealed to her first husband, William Simmons.

David Robison left Morgan the fall of 1879 with his families and located in Star Valley, Wyoming. Before leaving Morgan, he gave to Morgan the land for their townsite. From Star Valley, they moved to Grays Lake, Idaho. Then again in June 1882 or 1884, he with his families, moved to Lyman, Fremont County, Idaho (which is Madison County now.) So they spent the remainder of their days at Lyman. David was a stone mason by trade. He also taught school for many years besides farming. He had a very cheerful disposition and made many friends where ever he went. He was a faithful member of the LDS Church and served in many different capacities for many years and was a Patriarch of the Fremont Stake and held that position until his death.

David's plural wife is a daughter of Jonas Kafvelstrom and Anna Britts Farley. She was born in

Lestrup, Gardhaur, Sweden, July 4, 1848. In March of 1907, Grandfather David Robison was cutting wood for the stove when he accidentally cut into his left foot, a very severe cut, which caused blood poisoning, so in a short time he was a bed patient and in a few weeks, he had to have his foot amputated. He was confined to his bed all that summer; from March until September 11, when he finally died of the blood poisoning, and was buried on September 12, 1907 on my (Edna Robison's) 14th birthday, at the age of 80 years.

While he was on his death bed, he would often ask for me and my two sisters, Mable and Bessie, to come and sing some church songs for him, which he dearly loved. So our dear father, Heber C. Robison, son of Grandfather would take us to stand by Grandfather's bedside and sing for him. The songs he dearly loved were - "A Stranger Star O'er Bethlehem", "How Firm a Foundation Ye Saints of the Lord", "Holy Night, Silent Night" and "High on the Mountain Top a Banner is Unfurled". Grandfather Robison always had a long white beard and a white mustache, also grey hair. I remember him, and he always kept them neatly trimmed. He really looked like a Patriarch or a Prophet.

David Robison had been married twice before he left Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. He was still living with his second wife, Eliza Knapper, when he joined the Church. They also had one or two little girls and when he joined the church, she would have nothing more to do with him, even though he pleaded with her to come with him, but she would not. Like many other couples, they separated because of the difference of church affiliations. So he left her for the Gospel's sake, which the church allows in such cases. Years later when his second wife was on her death bed, she wanted so much to see Grandfather Robison. However; he just refused to go, but when Grandfather was on his death bed years after she had passed away, one of Grandfather's granddaughters came all the way from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania with two of her little girls, ages about 5 and 6 to see her Grandfather before he died. They stayed a few days at our home in Lyman. She was, I imagine, in her late twenties, and after she went back to Harrisburg, she and I kept up a correspondence for several years, but as sometimes happens, we failed to keep up our correspondence, until we lost track of each other. She was living in Harrisburg, Pa., where she was born. Her name was Eliza R. Bonner. We have tried to trace her the last few years but as yet have had no luck. She evidently has passed away long ago, as she was at least ten or twelve years older, than I was at the time she came to see Grandfather.

The above is my personal knowledge of the life of my Grandfather, David Robison.

Sophia Edna Robison Crowley  
Written April 1972

P.S. Grandfather David Robison's plural wife Johanna Fredrika Kafvelstrom died Dec. 10, 1927 and was buried in the Lyman Archer cemetery. Six children were born to their union, and Johanna was sealed to Grandfather David at the time they were married in Salt Lake.

## HISTORY OF DAVID ROBISON

By - Effie Robison Jensen  
A daughter by a plural marriage

David Robison, son of Alexander and Nancy Ellen Wagaman Robison, was born 2 April 1827 at Harrisburg, Franklin Co., Pa.

At the age of 26, he joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and was baptized 22 December 1853. A few years later he - together with his father's family, began his journey westward. They traveled by rail and water for a distance of 2,000 miles to Florence, Nebraska, on the Missouri river; where he stayed for about two weeks while arrangements were being made by the Charles C. Rich Hand-Cart Co., to start for Salt Lake City, Utah. David Robison and his brothers joined this company, which constituted of 240 people, 40 carts, 10 tents, six wagons, 26 oxen, and six teams of horses.

The teams and wagons were put in the lead and the carts in the rear. The carts were two wheeled and had a cross-piece fastened in the end of the tongue so two persons could stand on either side of the tongue and push or pull the cart. There were from four to seven persons to each cart. They left Florence, Nebraska on 7 June and arrived in Salt Lake Valley 27 August, 1860.

Many hardships were endured by the people while they were crossing the plains; food was scarce, and they often traveled all day before finding water that was fit to drink, many were without shoes, and sometimes quite ill. They passed several bands of Indians but were not molested. This was one of the most successful companies making the long journey and only one death occurred.

David Robison walked every step of the way. When he reached Salt Lake Valley, everything in the company belonged to the Church so he had practically nothing with which to start life anew in the land of Zion. However, he was only 33 years of age, ambitious and hard working so he soon set about to get food and shelter for the winter. He worked on shares for food and also hauled wood from the canyon on the same basis.

The following spring he moved to Farmington, Davis County, Utah, where he lived one year; then he moved to North Morgan, Morgan County, Utah. Here on 26 December 1860 he married Mary Elizabeth Grover (Simmons), widow of William Alpheas Simmons who was accidentally killed at Echo Canyon. Nine children were born to this union. He married again in May 1872 to Johanna Fredricks Kafvelstrom, a convert to the Church from Sweden. Six children were born to this union.

He left Morgan in the fall of 1879 and located in Star Valley, Wyoming. Before leaving Morgan, he gave to Morgan the land for their Townsite. From Star Valley he moved to Gray's Lake, Idaho. In June 1882 he moved to Lyman, Fremont County, Idaho where he spent the remainder of his life.

David Robison was a stone mason by trade. He had a very cheerful disposition and made many friends wherever he went. He also taught school for many years.

He was ever faithful to his Church, and served In many different capacities. For years he was Patriarch of Fremont Stake at Lyman. He passed away 1 September 1907 at Lyman, Fremont County, Idaho.

Copied by Merle Grover W. Fullmer

Proof read by a granddaughter  
Sophia Edna Robison Crowley

NOTE - Johanna Fredricka Kafvelstrom was a plural wife, but after the Manifesto was issued, David Robison remained with Mary Elisabeth until his death.