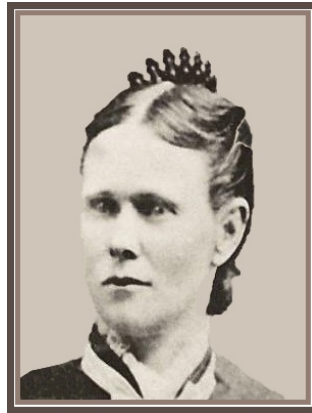


## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF JOHN AND LOUISA PARK

By Jane Park Jones

Daughter



Little is known of the early lives of our Father and Mother. No journal or memorandum of dates has been kept by either of our parents for reference, and here let me say how great would be our satisfaction if we had in our parents handwriting, telling us of their early lives. This is also a hint for all present to profit by our loss. It is understood that John Park was born May 11, 1802, at Kent, five miles from Glasgow, Scotland. From a sample in my possession written in the hand of Father's youngest sister, our Aunt Jean Parker Williamson, we have the following: Our grandfather James Park and Marion Allen were married August 6th in the year 1788, then follows the initials of our children, First James Park, Hugh Park, Martha Park, Marion Park, Andrew Park, John Park, Mary Park, Joseph Park, Ellen Park, William Park, Margaret Park, Jean Park. At the end of this it reads that Jane Park and David Williamson were married on the 5th day of May, 18--. The sample is so old that the figures are scarcely discernible in some instances.

I think that the Park family emigrated to Canada before the Smith's. Father married our mother when he was 37 years old. Mother was born June 24th, 1818, Farenham, Kent County, England <sup>1</sup> and emigrated to Canada in about 1829 with her parents, and lived with them in the neighborhood of the place now known as Lambton, Ontario, Canada. Her mother assisted her father in the clearing of the forest, burning the brush, and all the vicissitudes of the early settlers on the frontier. Mother was engaged in teaching school about the time she married father. Grandfather Park lived with our parents, I do not

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<sup>1</sup> Farenham is not a place in Kent; obituary from The Daily Enquirer of Oct 21, 1891 lists Faversham, Kent, England as birthplace.

remember him but mother has told me that I waited upon him when I was quite a little child.

The gospel reached our parents in Canada, and was carried to them by Elder John Borrowman, who married our uncle William Park's daughter Agnes. They came to Utah and lived and died at Nephi, Juab County. Father and mother, soon after embracing the gospel, left Canada in the year 1846, passing through Nauvoo. I can remember we journeyed with oxen and cows, also staying with wagons while our parents went to visit the Temple at Nauvoo; and we children were given some nice red apples to keep us engaged. While during their absence, we journeyed on, staying at Winter Quarters through out the winter of 1846 and 47; and then journeyed to the valley with President John Taylor's Company in 1847, when we arrived that same year. With mother and father were four of the children-- myself, Jane, Mary, Marion, and Louisa, the latter born at Winter Quarters; all constituting Pioneers of the State, receiving our badges at the Jubilee Celebration of the entrance of the Pioneers held in Salt Lake City.

On the journey across the plains with our slow going ox and cow teams, (Father brought in two teams), our cousin James Pollock Park had been engaged to drive one of the teams, but the call of the government for a Battalion of Mormon men took Cousin Jimmy away from us, and our good brave mother took his place, and assisted by father, who drove the lead wagon, she drove the team across the great wild plains to this, our wilder Mountain home. May God bless this deed and the many others she preformed to the strengthening for the character of her children.

I remember on one occasion a buffalo was killed while crossing the plains near the road, and six yoke of oxen were taken to drag the great monster into camp, the butt parts were taken and the balance left for the gaunt grey wolves that were so abundant on the plains in those days. I must introduce a little later history in this my sketch. At the time our Uncles, John and Alfred Smith (Uncles on our Mother's side) were visiting us in 1885; getting off from the train at the depot, they quietly wandered their way around the town looking for the home of their sister, Louisa. Seeing Mrs. Martha Smith Harris, the sister of Pres. Joseph F. Smith leaning on the fence, they approached her and asked to be directed to the home of their sister, which information they promptly received, and soon were exchanging greetings with their sister whom they had not seen for so many years. It was rather peculiar when we consider that mother was born in a direct line south only forty miles from the cradle of the Prophet Joseph Smith's family at Tafferfeld Essox, that these Smiths should go to a Smith to inquire for a Smith.

Mother's hair had a tinge of hazel color. She continued a steady worker never falling by the way. Her faith and zeal for the gospel shining and enduring to the end. She was

President of the teachers of the Relief Society of the Second Ward here. At times, in the quiet meetings with her sisters, her zeal and strength of faith in the Gospel would be shown.

**Jane Park Jones**

**Source: Park Family files, family history library of Robert N. Reynolds. Image added from collection of Annette B. Anderson; January 14, 2012.**