

SAMUEL THOMAS JONES

Samuel Thomas Jones, son of Thomas W. And Eliza Slack Jones was born 17 Feb 1863 at Isengreen, Nottinghamshire, England. He was the 4th child of a family of 7, 4 boys and 3 girls. With his father, his brother William and a sister Emma, he emigrated to America when 8 years of age. After coming to Provo, employment was secured by his father and brother, William, at the Provo Woolen Mills, Reed Smoot, being manager. Samuel and Emma were yet too young to work. Another sister, Elizabeth Ann, remained in England with an Aunt and came at a later date, the other three children, Samuel W, Emma A., and Edward T. Died in childhood.

Little is known of Samuel T.'s schooling, other than that he attended the school of Wm. O. Beesley after coming to America. When he was old enough, he secured employment at the Provo Woolen Mills in the weaving department. Wages for this work were fairly good and he saved some money so he could attend school at the Brigham Young Academy. In the meantime however, his father had married Sarah Ellison, who he had met on the boat, and this family consisting of Elizabeth, Mary (Polly), Sarah (Sarah), Henry and Will, together with his own children, made a financial burden, so that each child was required to pay board of \$20.00 a month. This made further attendance at school impossible.

Samuel T. Jones will be remembered by all who knew him for his lovely bass voice. From his early manhood he was a member of the Church choirs. When about 16 years of age he and his step-sister Polly (Vincent) sang at a musical entertainment in the Old Tabernacle, said to be their first appearance at such an important affair, but thereafter he was constantly in demand, singing also with Alta Conover Strong, Mrs. O. H. Hyde and others. It was with Mrs. Strong that he sang the ABC song and other humorous numbers, including LaDeDa which his wife remembers and loves to still sing on occasions.

He also belonged to 2 male quartettes, one composed of John Allen, Thomas Allen, Will Romney and himself. This quartette presented many minstrel shows, which were very popular at that time. The other quartette was composed of Will Roberts, John Johnson, Walter Whitehead and Mr. Jones and was called the Garden City Quartette. This group sang together for 9 years, disbanding, when Walter Whitehead was called on a mission. This quartette was known over the entire county, singing at church and civic functions. They were often called to sing at political rallies and traveled with Thomas N. Taylor over most of the state in this capacity. It is said that at these rallies and at a funeral service for a Mr. Dallen of Springville, a non-member of the LDS Church, is the only time they received pay for singing. Another instance of which the family have record is singing at the dedication of the home of Mr. And Mrs. R. E. Allen, she a daughter of Jesse Knight, on 3 March 1906. At this time the following numbers were given; "O My Father", "Which Way Shall I Take", "I Need Thee Every Hour", "Sailor's Dream", and "Juanita". This quartette held their rehearsals at the Hotel Roberts, Will Roberts being the owner of the hotel, and the patrons of the hotel took much delight in listening to them sing, townspeople often dropping in and spending an hour in the hotel lobby to enjoy the fine music.

He was a member of the Utah Stake Tabernacle Choir for many years and participated in a number of operas in the Old Opera House. He was a member of this choir for over 30 years, being the oldest member at the time of his death. He was conductor of the 2nd Ward Choir for 9 years, following in the footsteps of his father and leading the way for his son, Viril, who became conductor a few years later.

Another organization to which he belonged was the Provo Silver Band, playing a tenor

horn. Pictures of this group show them playing at the Union Depot, when Pres. Taft visited Provo, also on the steps of a public building with the notation "The band played for all city celebrations, led funeral corteges and played between sessions of quarterly conference on the tabernacle square."

On 28 May 1891, Mr. Jones married Phoebe Ann Hardy. 7 children were born to them, 4 of them passing away in infancy, those living were Samuel Virl Jones, Thomas William Jones and Mayme Jones Baker.

Besides working at the Provo Woolen Mills, Mr. Jones worked at the "Inquirer", a local newspaper, and for the last 9 years of his life, was custodian of the Franklin School of Provo. In this position he was very precise in his work and was respected and loved by teachers and children alike. His son, Virl, remembers a picture which his father had hung in the supply room at the school, picturing an elderly couple dining in elegant surroundings and he said it represented the ideal to which his father was working.

Samuel T. Jones was a member of the Church of Latter-Day Saints, being baptized 17 Aug. 1873 by William Nelson. At the time of his death he was a Seventy, being ordained 13 Dec. 1911 by Charles H. Hart.

Death came 21 Aug. 1912, after an operation for appendicitis. Funeral services were held in the Utah Stake Tabernacle, where for so many years he sang the songs he loved, his chair in the choir being profusely decorated with flowers.

It can be said of Samuel T. Jones, that he indeed made many hearts happy by his songs and his cheerful disposition, for he truly multiplied the talents the Lord had given him to the good of all. Buried in Provo City Cemetery.

(Written by LaVon H. Jones, daughter-in-law, at the desire of Phoebe Ann Hardy Jones, and read at the Hardy Family Reunion August 1941.)

Typed into computer 7 Oct. 2002 by Kathleen J. Woolf a relative.)