

"Testimony of Sarah Moore"

As told to her great-granddaughter, Julie (Smith) McCormick

Thomas and Sarah Moore were the parents of my grandmother, Elizabeth (Moore) Smith.

My great-grandparents had joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Tennessee in the early 1870's and had been "counseled" to gather to "Zion" in Salt Lake City, Utah. They joined a Mormon immigrant wagon train led by Mormon officials and headed West. The wagon train had decided to winter near Mannasa, Colorado.

All those in the wagon train had become increasingly distraught as they continued to hear the rumors of the teachings and practice of Polygamy, Blood Atonement, and the Adam-god theory. They also heard of the danger of trying to leave Utah, once there, and the deadly pursuit of the "Avenging Angels" or the "Danites".

As they were encamped they talked among themselves and prayed, desiring the Lord to deliver them from pressing on to Utah and becoming entangled in these dangerous doctrines. The Mormon officials who were leading them to Utah had left them for a short period to go into the nearby town, all the while being able to keep an eye on them as the campfires could still be seen by them.

It was at this time that Sarah had a dream. The dream was that a man entered into their camp and he carried saddlebags that were filled with gold. He would minister to them and Sarah would minister to him.

A day or so later, a man did walk into their camp, He had lost his horse and he was carrying his saddlebags. He had "walked out of his boots" and his feet were cut and bleeding. Sarah took him into their tent and put him into their bed and she cleansed his feet and poured wax over his cuts and nursed him back to health. He showed the group what he carried in his saddlebags. They were filled with copies of the Book of Mormon and the Inspired Version of the Bible. He told them of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. The man's name was James Caffall, an Apostle of the Lord in the **RLDS** Church. The entire camp gladly received his message and they came up with a plan to escape the Mormon authorities and go back to the United States. They quietly packed up and muffled the horse's hooves and wagon wheels and left by night, leaving one man behind to keep the campfires burning so that it would appear that the wagon train was still encamped. That man would let the wagon train get a good head start and then make his escape. All went well and they made it back to the protection of the States. Sarah and Thomas Moore settled in Brownville, Nebraska. Many of their descendants moved to the Council Bluffs area and remained faithful members of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints until their death, knowing that they had indeed received "gold" from the Lord!