

*My great, great great
grandparents
J. Shattuck*

In writing this sketch of the lives of Grandfather and Grandmother (Jacob and Sarah Strong) it is not my purpose to go into detail as to dates, members of the family or many of the accomplishments of these good people as this association already possesses a biographical sketch of these people and their family which was prepared by James T. Strong and which gives us this information. I shall, therefore, only give a faint shadow of their lives, calling to the attention of the association some of the things which have not already been written, using as little of the recorded matter as may be necessary to make my story interesting.

Alvin C. Strong

Jacob Strong was a splendid character, gentle, kind, big-hearted and charitable. He was a man of few words, never bothering his neighbors about his business or family affairs. He was born October 9, 1799, in York County, Penn. In the year 1819 or 1820 his father, James Strong, purchased 400 acres of land in Indiana County, same state, and moved his family to that part of Pennsylvania. About this time James Hill and family moved from the same place to this section and later the heads of these two families drew cuts to see who should have the honor of naming the townsite which they were about to lay out. James Strong drawing the winning straw gave it the name of Strongstown.

Jacob Strong married Sarah Hill, daughter of James Hill, Feb. 28, 1822. While living in this section five children were born to them.

During the time Elder Erastus Snow was preaching the Gospel in that vicinity they were converted, baptized and confirmed members in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Their fathers and mothers did not accept the Gospel.

Jacob Strong was a natural genius; altho he was a farmer by trade he was able to adapt himself to conditions and do the necessary. He never tired of work, arising at daybreak and working vigorously in the field until breakfast was served. In the early days of their lives in Utah they had very little machinery, therefore, planting, harvesting and the threshing of grain was done by hand. Flax and hemp were among the things grown by Jacob Strong and from these Sarah and he made thread and rope. He used to make shoes for the children from boot tops which were discarded by the adults. Having no nails he manufactured pegs out of maple wood and used thread which Sarah made from flax. Hinges upon which doors were swung he also made out of maple wood.

It can be said of Jacob and Sarah, as has been said of others, - "They were the man and woman of the hour"; being able to master the situation; nothing being impossible to them.

His wife, Sarah, was blessed with ability, having learned the art of spinning and weaving while in Pennsylvania. This knowledge was, indeed, a wonderful asset to this family as it was necessary for them to make their wearing apparel and bedding.

As time progressed this family accumulated a few cows, oxen and sheep. From the sheep they clipped the wool and made it into clothing. After the wool was clipped it was washed, dried, carded and spun. Sarah did the carding, spinning and weaving and all the clothing worn by this family was made by her. All these things were done by hand. At the time of the move to Springville, when all the Saints were ordered to move south because of the approaching army which they feared was coming to destroy them, this family did not have a wagon cover so Sarah Strong spun the flax into thread and wove it into cloth for this purpose. In a few months the scare was over and they returned to Salt Lake City, again residing in the 10th Ward. This wagon cover was later used as sheets upon their beds.

Just before the move southward the "Martin Handcart Company" of pioneers arrived in destitute circumstances, having suffered many hardships from heavy snows and intense cold. About 150 out of approximately 600 who made up this company died enroute. Pres. Brigham Young allotted a certain number of the survivors to each Ward to be cared for during the winter. Bishop Pettigrew of the 10th Ward went to Jacob and Sarah Strong and told them it would be necessary for them to care for one of these families which they consented to do, providing they could have their choice. This privilege was granted and together they went to the old school house to make the selection. Upon entering the building Sarah noticed a woman with two small children, ages 4 and 1 years old. This woman's feet were badly frozen and she had lost her husband by death during the journey. This little family was selected by Jacob and Sarah and taken into their home to share as members of their family. This woman's name was Alice Walsh. Later she became the wife of Jacob Strong by the order of Patriarchal marriage.

Sarah Strong was a natural nurse and understood the use of herbs, making medicine from same, consequently much of her time was taken up among the sick. When she was in Nauvoo, she cared for a woman who was in a delicate condition and who died later from childbirth. Notwithstanding the fact that Sarah Strong had a small baby of her own, she took this babe and nursed it, weaning her own because it was healthy and strong. After seven months this motherless babe died.

This good man and woman lived a useful life, worthy of emulation and at all times proved themselves equal to the task before them, never murmuring because of their trials and sacrifices. They lived to a good age. Jacob died February 18, 1872 and Sarah May 9, 1884, being in their 73rd and 78th year, respectively. Thus ended the careers of two worthy people of pioneer ability who like a willing and trained team pulled together, enjoyed pleasures and shared sorrows together and at all times had time to work for others. In so doing, they laid a most splendid and sound foundation for their posterity to build upon.

By---Alvin C. Strong