

Talk on Charles Shumway

I. Introduction-

A. Let us go back to the year 1831.

1. The year Balzac, Disraeli, Hugo, Helen Hunt Jackson, and Edgar Allan Poe were born. It was a time of F. W. Farrar, Frederic Hegel, and William Miller began preaching.
2. In September of that year Elisha Hurd Groves was baptized into the Church of Christ by Samuel Harrison Smith the Church's first missionary.
 - a. His wife of six years Sarah did not believe and while he served a mission she divorced him, sold his land and had her brothers tell him that if he ever tried to return to his two daughters again they would kill him.
 - b. He went to Missouri and was driven out of Jackson County in 1833 with the other Latter-day Saints.
 - c. He remarried and in 1839 settled in Nauvoo.
 - d. In 1841 he was on a mission in Dade County Wisconsin. Was preaching and a mob broke into the room and said they were going to kill him. Charles Shumway stepped in front of Groves and said the only way they could kill Groves was over his dead body. The mob backed down.
 - e. Charles visited Nauvoo, and when he returned home he was beaten

up by Joseph McConnel. While in critical condition he was blessed by Amasa Lyman and was healed. Charles said it was time to move.

f. At his funeral Bishop Hunt said he was the nearest a fearless man that he had ever known.

B. Who was this Charles Shumway that so bravely defied a mob, saved a missionary's live and grew faith in the Gospel as restored by Joseph Smith?

1. He was born in August 1806 in Massachusetts.

- a. Napoleon ruled France.
- b. Goethe was writing.
- c. Rossini's first opera was performed in Rome.
- d. John Stewart Mill wrote in England.
- e. The first game of Cricket was being played.

2. His own roots ran back to the Huguenot's in France who were persecuted in the 1660s.

3. In the mid 1830s he was a member of the Baptist Church.

4. Had a farm 40 miles east of Galena, Illinois.

5. After joining the Church he and his family loaded their belongings on a raft and floated down the river to Nauvoo.

6. When he arrived in the City Beautiful he was considered a wealthy man.

7. Gave money to Joseph Smith to build the temple.

8. Purchased land in upper Nauvoo, constructed a two room cabin and began life as a Latter-day Saint.

C. While in Nauvoo—

1. Served a mission in Northern Illinois in and around Galena.
2. Learned the Indian language.
3. On April 21, 1842 he became a Mason and joined the Nauvoo Lodge.
4. Worked on the Nauvoo Temple.
5. Worked as a guard in Nauvoo and assisted in the rescue of Daniel Avery who had been kidnaped by Missourians.
6. Once raised 50 men to protect Joseph Smith.
7. April 1845 with three others he served a mission to the Lamanites in the West. One of his companions was Lewis Dana an Indian himself.
 - a. Ate roasted deer meat and turtle soup.
 - b. Traveled in the Rain.
 - c. Crossed rivers on rafts.
 - d. Visited Adam-ondi-ahman.
 - e. Shot a monstrous turkey.
 - f. Had flour night caps for a pillow.
 - g. Called on a Baptist minister.
 - h. Reported his mission on June 18, 1845.
 - i. August returned west to investigate the murder of Jonathan Dunham who had been killed by Indians.
8. Became a member of the Council of 50.
9. Administered to the sick and Phineas Young was healed.
10. Was very ill the Fall of 1845.
11. Had a fine sword that is still in the family.

12. Had troubles with Hosea Stout the Nauvoo Chief of Police.
13. Entered plural marriage, August 1845 as he Married Louisa Minnerly, who
Julia Ann in the family.

II. The Shumway's travel west.

A. February 4, 1846.

1. My own experience on that day.
2. Why Charles? (Already knew the way).
3. Left in comparative peace.
4. Did not cross on the ice but I did.

B. In the mud rejoicing-

1. Was a messenger for Brigham Young.
2. Shared his food and thus ran out.
3. Became very ill as did Julia Ann.
4. Came to Winter Quarters.

C. Julia Ann died from Black Canker November 14, 1846.

D. Was a captain of 10 in the Pioneer Band (Andrew came, he was one of the youngest).

E. May 30, 1847 participated in a Council of 50 sacrament meeting with Brigham Young at Council Bluffs.

F. Saw Brigham Young heal the sick including Andrew.

G. Arrived in the Salt Lake Valley July 22, 1847.

H. Returned with Brigham Young to Winter Quarters until he met the wagon train of Jedediah M. Grant, which had his wife and family.

I. Worked as a carpenter, built mills and also ran a ferry.

J. Worked to rid the valley of pests in the Pack group.

III. In 1849 he moved to San Pete.

A. The Council of 50 member of the group.

B. Made a snow shoe trip to Salt Lake City to procure food.

C. Spoke in the Bowery about the San Peter Settlement at the request of Brigham Young.

D. Led a rescue wagon back to San Pete.

E. Ran a grist mill in SanPete.

F. Brought an accused murderer, M. D. Hambleton, to Salt Lake City for trial, he was

Freed and became the sheriff of San Pete.

G. Served in the territorial House of Representatives from Iron County.

H. 1851 he married Henrietta Bird.

I. Lived in Payson and South Cottonwood.

J. Served a mission to Wisconsin and Canada in 1857.

IV. March 7, 1859 he came to Cache Valley and settled in Wellsville.

A. Became a select man County Commissioner in 1859.

B. June 30, 1860-Elisha David Skeen was arrested for cattle rustling and stealing by Sheriff Thomas Ricks.

1. Held in the school in Logan.

2. July 2, 1860 Judge Maughan sent Charles to Logan, to warn Ricks that Skeen was going to try to escape that night.

3. Skeen did and was shot and killed in the attempt.

4. Coroner's jury said he was killed trying to escape.

5. In 1875 Charles had to testify in Salt Lake City at the Sheriff's trial who

was charged by Baskin with the murder of Skeen. The Tribune said Charles sweat and we have some of his actual words.

6. Among the first settlers of Mendon, was the first presiding elder of that Church unit and Andrew was elected first bishop.

C. His home stands in Mendon and is made of rock—Charles also assisted in the building of the first church there.

1. Had children he left in Franklin.

2. Charles M. born in 1848 settled in Clarkston.

a. Married two of the bishops daughters.

b. Had a large home.

c. By father was raised in that home.

3. I kissed Charles M. Just before he died in Dayton, Idaho.

D. Most of the Shumways kept on the move.

1. Only two years ago I again visited Shumway, Arizona again.

2. While there I thought of Charles and his life. I also visited his grave in Taylor.

3. Like Charles—

a. I have lived in the east and mid-west.

b. I have lived in Nauvoo almost as long as did he.

c. I have walked across the Mississippi River on ice.

d. I have crossed the Mississippi on a boat as well.

e. Symbolically I left Nauvoo on February 4th.

f. I have crossed the plains more times than did he.

g. Like him I was called in my old age as a patriarch.

h. As id he I have left things behind at the call of the church.

i. While I am not a brave man, I have done difficult things.

V. I have never met a Shumway I did not like, but some I have liked more than others. I am grateful for my ancestors whose roots run deep into the church and whose commitment was sure.