

Hale Family History Work

“The Logan Temple Lighted”

Brother Samuel Roskelley was hired by the Hale family to do the genealogical work in preparing the record for the Temple work. And after the work became more strenuous he was anxious to give up the Hale records. When his health was impaired he brought the records to Alma H. Hale Sr. and told him he would have to get someone else to take care of them as he was not well and had so much work to do in the Temple, and left the records with father, Alma H. Hale. He [Alma] spent the next few days in worrying over what to do, knowing that none of the family was familiar with the records and did not know just what was done and what was not done. The next Sunday Brother Roskelley came to father and asked that he return the records to him as he would have to finish them as he had made a promise to a heavenly messenger that he would finish the Record.



Then he told this story in my hearing, “Last Friday evening as I was returning from Logan Temple to my home in Smithfield in my buggy; a messenger appeared by my side and kept by the side of my buggy for some distance and plead with me to take the Hale record and complete it; as none of the family were able to take it up and finish it, declaring that the work so far had been done right and was being accepted by those for whom it was being done, and promised him health and strength and time to accomplish the work if he would promise to finish it.”

The description given of this messenger proved him to be my grandfather, Jonathan H. Hale, who was the first to accept the Gospel and spent his life in the service of the Church from the time he was baptized in 1833 until the time of his death in 1846 in the state of Iowa.

Brother Roskelley filled his promise and when the last of the work was done and the line linked up. The Temple was illuminated with a glorious light from roof to foundation. The light was so bright the lines could be seen on the opposite walls. Many people saw this and among them President Marriner W. Merrill who observed it with some concern. There were no electric lights in the Temple or any other means of lighting at the time. It was soon decided that the illumination was a spiritual phenomenon.

The next night to the gratification of the faithful souls, the illumination was repeated and many there be who can testify to the beauty and glory thereof.

President Woodruff when he was told of the manifestation declared it was the progenitors of the Hale Family who had gathered within those sacred walls to manifest their joy and gratitude for what had been done so abundantly and generously for them.

Copied in part by Jonathan H. Hale son of Alma H. Hale from Deseret News of April 30, 1908, and the rest from memory in respect to Brother Roskelley's statement to Father.

— Alma Helaman Hale, Jr.