

THE LIFE SKETCH OF EDWARD ALMA BAGLEY, A PIONEER OF 1855
Brother to John Bagley



Edward Alma Bagley was born at South Hampton, New Brunswick, Canada, April 10, 1847. The first history of the Bagleys is of three Bagley men who came from England on the Mayflower. One of these men is thought to be Alma's distant relative.

His father's name was Edward Bagley, and he was born February 15, 1815, in Old Hartford, Connecticut. Very little is known about Edward Bagley while he lived in Old Hartford except that he was a shipbuilder and that the timber was not as large and as of good quality as he would have desired. Accordingly, he went to Canada where the timber was larger and better for his occupation. Edward Bagley married Julia Ann Grant, who was a cousin

of Ulysses S. Grant. Edward and Julia were the parents of fourteen children.

They heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ in New Brunswick, and accepted it and wished to be identified with the people of God. When Alma was seven years of age, the family emigrated to Utah along with other converts traveling across the plains with ox teams. When they got ready to leave New Brunswick, one of the grandmothers took one of the small boys and hid him. For this reason, his parents didn't get a chance to take him along. This was a great hardship on the parents to leave one child behind. Not long after they left, the boy drowned.

Alma's mother, Julia Ann, died in June, 1855 with cholera while crossing the plains at Omaha, Nebraska. She got up one morning, cooked breakfast for her family and before sundown she had died and was buried. Seventy-five years later when Alma was eighty-two, he described her death. He said that the wolves howled and the mourning doves mourned, and then he cried just like he had when he was a seven year old boy.

John, the second boy, came to Utah with a company of saints awhile before his parents started. He stayed in the Salt Lake Valley working and waiting for his folks to arrive. The day that the company of pioneers, which included his parents, were to arrive he rode on a horse out to meet them. Imagine his disappointment and grief when he found that his mother was not there, but had died and was buried beside the pioneer trail. She left a young babe and the father spent the winter in Provo with his large family. All he owned was one ox and half a tent. He traded the ox for a little cabin and tore up the old tent to make diapers for the baby. Alma and the other boys slept on a pile of straw in the corner--the only bed that they had.

Alma's father had bought his wife many pretty dresses to wear when they arrived in Utah, but after her death they were more poverty stricken than ever and had to sell the treasured dresses one by one to get food for the children. Each time a dress was sold, the father would sit and cry.

helped them with money or in whatever way he could. One poor, old man came from Dixie one time to sell molasses. Since Alma had already bought his molasses, he didn't buy any from the old man. That day Alma hurried home from priesthood meeting and caught up with the old man and said, "You've been praying that you would sell some molasses, haven't you?" The man said that he had been praying because he was so badly in need of money. Alma bought an extra barrel from him and gave a gallon to everyone who came to the house.

In early days instead of putting his money in a bank or some investment, he kept it in a buckskin bag under the carpet and sometimes under the floor. In later years he was a director of the Richfield Commercial & Savings Bank and kept his money there.

He thought lots of Brigham Young, and at one time he rode with President Young's company from Nephi to Payson. He was a soldier in the Black Hawk War.

He was loved by the Indians, and that is saying a great deal, because Indians are very good judges of character. You will not find them caring for a person who is not honest and dependable.

He was witty and a great entertainer. He was not very well educated, but could make a splendid "Stump Speech." The thoughts seemed to crowd themselves into his mind so rapidly that it was impossible for him to utter them fast enough. His speeches were well arranged and sometimes were real comical.

Alma was a man who loved the Lord. In six days he did all his work and on the seventh he did go to the house of prayer and offer up his devotion to the Most High. He was not ashamed to "pray night and morning, every day," as the song goes. No matter who was in his home or if he was on a round-up in the mountains, he always remembered to pray. He was a man of great faith and God-given power to magnify the same among the sick. He always wanted to bless babies as well as pick their names. He was a man who was always on time and would never neglect his duties. He believed in the old adage, "That which is worth doing is worth doing well." He was a man of sound judgment and very determined in what he thought to be right.

He was the father of eighteen children, nine with each wife. He had three small girls die, a boy sixteen, and a married son.

For a number of years before death released him, Alma suffered with a stroke and was faithfully cared for by his wife, Christena. He had been to Idaho and Provo hunting geneology and visiting relatives for a month. He reached Richfield on his return trip and on that day, July 3, 1922, he took his stroke. He remained in the hospital for one week. He was then taken home and confined to his bed for seven years.

He died in Koosharem, Utah, May 29, 1929 at the age of eighty-two and was buried in the Koosharem Cemetary.

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Information from Alice K. Hatch, Edward C. Bagley, and Nettie Hallows.
Information was compiled by Nettie Hallows and Carmel Hallows Nielson.
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The family was too large for their father to take care of them properly so some of the children were taken by others. It happened that Alma lived with a Mr. McClellan. While he lived with this man he worked very hard. As a boy he herded cows a good deal. Sometimes he would herd all day for his dinner. Sometimes he would get so hungry that he would eat squash rinds and potato peelings out of swill barrels. That was the reason that he always hated to see anything wasted. As he grew older he moved to Payson and herded cattle in Tintic in the winter. He learned to ride broncho horses. Sometimes he would drop onto a wild horse as it went under the gate, and then choke it down when he wanted to get off.

As a young man he did lots of freighting to Pioche. When the St. George Temple was built, he spent a month hauling a four-horse load of supplies to St. George.

Alma was baptized and confrimed by Flos Jacque in the year 1855. He married Mary McClellan on September 17, 1870, and built a home in Payson. He had a farm on Spring Creek where their first baby girl, Adelma, was kicked and killed by a horse when she was 15 months old. Edward C. Bagley and Julia Estella Bagley were born in Payson. In 1876 Alma desired to get where he could raise cattle. He moved to Grass Valley, which was a pretty country with much grass everywhere.

He settled at Greenwich where he got a farm and meadow and raised cattle. Sometimes he milked as many as fifty cows and made cheese. He took part in the small Sunday School in Greenwich and also in the Koosharem Ward. He went with his family to St. George when the Temple was completed and had his family sealed to him. It took about seven days by ox team to make the trip at that time. Alma was ordained a Seventy by Francis M. Lyman at Koosharem, Utah, November 26, 1884.

On January 1, 1886, he went on a mission to the North Western States, but was stricken with malaria fever and returned home in a year. In 1887 he took the family to Old Mexico and was gone a year. In 1889 his wife, Mary, died leaving a two-month old baby, Cyrenius. Joe Whitehead and his wife, Sinda, kept the baby for a year.

He married his second wife, Christena Torgerson, February 10, 1885. They were married by Apostle Merrill in the Logan Temple. Alma was manager of a store in Greenwich at one time. He owned a large farm and ran lots of cattle on the mountain in the summer and fed them in the winter.

He was ordained a High Priest and was set apart as Bishop in the Koosharem Ward on May 27, 1891 by Francis M. Lyman. He served as Bishop in the Koosharem Ward for fourteen years. During this time he attended all conferences and business meetings possible at Richfield. He had to go to Richfield in a wagon and it took three days to make the round trip. He donated much to the Church. At one time an allotment of \$500 was made to the Koosharem Ward. He paid half of it and allotted the rest to the ward. He helped bring Dan Throckmartin and his family to Koosharem from Arkansas for the sake of the Gospel. His son-in-law, Sidney Rust, had converted the family while he was there on a mission. Alma had a great interest in other people. He was broad minded and charitable. He felt sorry enough for poor people that he often