

Samuel Keele

pid 1857

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OBITUARY.

SAMUEL KEELE.

There departed this life on April 5, 1897, at Panaca, Nevada, one of God's noblest sons, Samuel Keele, son of Richard J. and Eleanor Keele, was born in Bedford county, Tenn., Jan. 21, 1816. His parents were farmers and he learned to till the soil. He heard the Gospel and joined the Church at the age of nine years; moved to Nauvoo and became a zealous worker in Zion. He was intimately associated with the Prophet Joseph, being one of his body guard. He was enlisted in the Nauvoo Legion, assisted in building the temple, giving everything that he had, then adding to this his labor. It may be said here that his possessions were always at the disposal of the Church authorities. Brother Keele moved to Mt. Pisgah and was married to Annie Elizabeth Hess in 1849, and by hiring out as teamster he was enabled to make the journey across the Plains, and reached Utah in 1857. Settled on Kay's creek where he remained two years; moved to Farmington in 1859; built a home there and remained but three years, when he moved to Manti; built another home, to enjoy which he remained but two years, then moved to Fairview, where he remained until after the Black Hawk war. He was a great peace maker among the Indians and a father to the needy.

Brother Keele went as a volunteer to assist in the settlement of the Muddy valley and got as far as St. George, when he was advised to come to Panaca, Nev., which place has been his home up to his death. Great blessings were pronounced upon his head, and his testimony was that Joseph Smith was a true Prophet. He died with a full assurance that his offering was accepted. A few hours before his death he awoke from his sleep with a heavenly smile upon his face, and related his vision or dream. He saw Joseph and Hyrum and others and they informed him that his election was sure. Several times after this he was heard to say, "Death, sweet, O sweet." He was the father of twelve children, and has thirty-four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

GEORGE K. RIDING.