

The History of Jacob Kump

--Author Unknown

Jake was born in Chester, Utah to Zachariah and Mary Catherine Cloward Kump, April 21, 1889. Jake was the ninth child born to Zachariah and Mary Catherine. At that time they had one of the best farms in Chester. Jake grew up on the farm and helped with the work.

Jake was taught to be honest. When he was asked to do something you could always depend on him to do it.

Jake was a very stubborn and determined man. If no one was there to help him do something, he would do it by himself. He grew to be very strong. When he was going to school he loved to participate in all activities that required strength and endurance. He could out run, out swim, out jump and out wrestle anyone in school. One day Jake and his brother, Willis were fighting in their backyard. Their father came home and cut a willow and gave them both a whipping for fighting.

He was free hearted and easy going. He loved his brothers and sisters. He bought them gifts whenever he could. With the first fifteen dollars that he earned he bought his mother an eight day clock. Jake was very proud of it. When his mother died, he was given the clock back. He gave it to his wife and she has it to this day.

When his father died he tried to run the farm for a while. That fall when the harvest was in Jake went out to seek work. Jake worked on the railroad going into Bingham Canyon.

Jake was nineteen years old when he went to Nevada to find work. One day while in Ely, Nevada, he saw a friend lying on the ground in front of a saloon. He had been beaten up. When Jake found the man who had beaten up his friend the man took a club and hit him on the head and knocked him to the ground. Jake got up and chased him two blocks before catching him and giving him the beating of his life.

Later Jake found work on a sheep farm owned by Richard Swallow. Jake put his whole heart and soul into whatever he did and this job was no exception.

As a camp tender in Cave Valley, he would go to the neighboring ranches to buy eggs and butter for the sheep camp. In the summer of 1912, Jake came to the O'Donnell farm to get eggs and butter. It was then that he met Catherine O'Donnell. He came every week after that. Her father was leasing a ranch in Cave Valley.

When Jake came back the next summer, the O'Donnell family had moved to St. Thomas, Nevada, because of Mr. O'Donnells [sic] health. Jake found out where the family had moved and wrote to Catherine for the next year.

He came to Parowan, Utah to see Catherine, while he was there they became engaged. Jake and Catherine were married November 9, 1915, in Ely Nevada. When Jake would come in off the sheep range to see his wife, who was living in Lund, Nevada, there was always someone who would come and get him and arrange a wrestling match.

In the last wrestling match he had at Preston, Nevada, he hurt his side. Catherine told him he would have to quit wrestling if he continued to get the pain in his side.

On May 10, 1917 Jake and Catherine had their first son. Albert was the name to be given him.

There weren't any homes to buy near Mr. Swallows ranch. So in the spring of 1919, Jake quit his job on the ranch. He took his small family and moved to Gunnison, Utah.

Jakes sister Ellie and her husband Levi Coats had written to Jake and they wanted him to go in with them and buy a ranch. When they got to Gunnison, Levi had already sold the ranch, so Catherine and Jake decided to rent a farm.

Lorin, Jakes brother, came to Gunnison and the two of them decided to farm together.

Then the Kumps moved to Clarian, Utah. They had to haul their own drinking water.

One day Lorin and Jake went to get water. They took Albert along to supervise. On the way back they got stuck in a mud hole. Jake got out and he lifted the car out with Lorin and Albert inside.

Jake didn't like to herd sheep on the Utah deserts because they were too crowded. The sheep from different camps would mix with other camps.

While herding sheep on the desert, two men came out and said that Jake had 2 of their sheep mixed in with his herd. They wanted Jake to get off his horse and fight them. He said he would if he could take one on at a time in his camp, but he didn't get off of his horse. If he had they would have roped him and drug him to death. There had been a man killed the same way the year before. The men never came to Jakes camp.

In the spring of 1927, Jake asked his boss, Mr. Yellow, if Catherine could go out and cook for the sheep camps. She left her six children with her mother and cooked for the sheep camp for the next 6 weeks.

Jake had many job offerings and one of them was the job of being a policeman. He didn't accept that job because he didn't like the idea of being shot at.

Lorins daughter Elvena, and her husband La Ray Jensen, were at a bar in Ely, Nevada. The bar tender came over and they started to talk. Elvena said she had an Uncle who had worked in Nevada. He asked who he might be and Elvena said Jake Kump. The bartender knew Jake and remembered a time when Jake took two men who were bigger than himself and he took them by the knapp of the neck and bumped their heads together and threw them into the street for insulting a lady.

In the summer of 1928, Jake received a letter from his brother Lou. He wanted Jake to come to Genola, Utah to buy a farm. In the fall the family moved from Gunnison to Genloa.

Jake was working for Burt Robison herding sheep. It was shearing and lambing time and it was the busiest time of the year.

Jay, their second son, became ill with spinal megnitis [sic]. Catherine sent for Jake immediately. Jake knew he had to get home when there was illness in the family. He was only home for one day when he became ill himself. The doctor said he had appendicitis. They took him to the hospital in Payson, Utah to operate. He never recovered from the operation. He died May 23, 1929, at the age of 40.