

NAUVOO TEMPLE Family History Info

This record is submitted at the request of the Parker Colorado Stake Presidency to provide a record of Nauvoo ancestors. This is the record of Dennis Orin Clawson, of the Elizabeth Ward. Information is presented for his direct line ancestors only. Names of ancestors are given in the order in which they appear on the family's pedigree chart, a copy of which is included.

Great Grandfather Moses Clawson was baptized on 2 March 1835, in the state of New York at the age of thirty-five, and suffered through the great tribulations of the Saints in the early days of the Church. He was ordained 28 December 1838. His Patriarchal Blessing was given under the hands of Joseph Smith, Sr. He was ordained a High Priest 8 April 1841 in Nauvoo. On April 16, 1842, Moses was commissioned a Captain in the Nauvoo Legion, 5th Cohort, 4th Regiment, 2nd Company. Moses owned a farm at Lima, Illinois, southeast of the city of Nauvoo until his farm was burned out by mobs in 1845. At that time, he moved his family into the city of Nauvoo. His mother, Lowly (or Lola) Foote had died in Nauvoo the year before on 26 August 1844 at the age of sixty-six.

Moses and his first wife, Cornelia Brown, received their endowment in the Nauvoo Temple on 6 January 1846. On that same day they were sealed for time and all eternity. They had been married in 1821. She had been baptized with her husband in 1835.

The Moses Clawson family joined in the Western Exodus of the Saints. Moses served as a president of a branch of the Saints in Pottawatomie County, Iowa, until spring of 1849. Moses was a captain of ten in the wagon train of Silas Richards. They left Winter Quarters, Nebraska with "72 wagons heavily loaded with our families, provisions, merchandise, household goods, farming and merchandise tools, etc." (Autobiography of Silas Richards) on 10 July 1849, arriving in the Salt Lake Valley on 27 October 1849.

Moses later was sent to England to assist Saints of the British Isles making the trek to the Valley. On January 17, 1853, the ship Ellen Marie sailed from Liverpool, England, with 332 Saints under Moses' direction, arriving at New Orleans on March 6. The Saints continued up the Mississippi River to Keokuk, Iowa, where they outfitted for the plains crossing that summer.

Edmund Durfee and his wife Magdalena Pickle Durfee, third great grand parents of Dennis O. Clawson, heard the restored gospel in Upstate New York. Edmund was baptized on 15 May 1831 with his wife following him a few weeks later on June 1, 1831. They, too, suffered with the early Saints in all their trials.

In Nauvoo, they settled on a farm at Green Plains, near Nauvoo. Edmund was killed near their home by a mob on 15 November 1845. His widow and family fled to Nauvoo for safety. Magdalena was endowed in the Nauvoo Temple and sealed to her dearly departed husband on 21 January 1846.

Magdalena died on Musketol Creek, Pottawatomie, Iowa, on 17 May 1850, and is buried in Council Bluffs. Her son, Great Great Grandfather Jabez Durfee, then 22, left his mother's grave and turned his face westward. He arrived in the Valley with the Benjamin Hawkins Company on 9 September 1850.

Little of the history is known to us of third Great Grand Parents Enos Curtis and Ruth Franklin Curtis. Records indicate that he was endowed in the Nauvoo Temple on 1 January 1846. This is the date also given for his wife's baptism. She was endowed on 6 February 1846, and they were sealed that same day. They joined in the exodus of the Saints out of Nauvoo. Grandmother Ruth died near Council Bluffs on 6 May 1848. Again, a family turned their backs on a dear departed loved one to set out for the Valley. Enos and his children arrived in the valley with Brigham Young's 2nd Company on 21 September 1848.

Great Great Grandfather Levi Newell Kendall embraced the gospel in Redford, Michigan where he was baptized by Elder D. H. Hulbert in October 1842. His step-father was so bitterly opposed to his involvement with the Mormons that he ordered his step-son to leave or renounce the gospel. Levi left at once for Nauvoo. Shortly thereafter he was ordained a priest and set apart to work on the building of the Nauvoo Temple. He not only helped to build it, but he also performed vicarious baptisms in the recently completed temple font.

In 1844, Levi Newell was ordained a seventy by President Joseph Young, Sr. He was sent on a mission to Michigan with 15 other elders to preach the gospel and build up the churches there. In 1844, he was serving as a leader of one of the 14 branches of the Church there.

After the martyrdom of the Prophet Joseph Smith, Levi Newell returned to Nauvoo. He received his endowments in Nauvoo Temple on 6 February 1846. He was one of the first to remove from Nauvoo and head west. He was in Brigham Young's original pioneer company. He was a member of Orson Pratt's advance company that entered the Salt Lake Valley on 22 July 1847. With Levi Newell as driver and John Eldredge at the plow, they were the first to turn the sod in their refuge in the Valley. However, they had plowed only a short distance when their plow broke in the hardened soil.

His first wife, Eliza Clements was only 2 months old when her parents moved from their home in Ohio to join the Saints traveling to Missouri as Zion's Camp. She was baptized in Nauvoo in March 1842. Her younger sister, Elizabeth Clements later became Levi Newell's second wife. Elizabeth was born into the turmoil of Liberty, Missouri in 1836. She was also baptized in Nauvoo, 20 May 1844.

The parents of Eliza and Elizabeth were Albert Clements and Ada Winchell. In 1832, while on a business trip, Albert had met Sidney Rigdon, who told him about the Prophet Joseph Smith and given him a Book of Mormon. Albert and Ada, along with a son, Alvin, were soon baptized. They joined with Zion's Camp at Mansfield, Ohio on 10 May 1834. Liberty, Clay County, Far West, Albert and Ada passed through these trials with thousands of others of the faithful, arriving in the new city of Nauvoo some time before June 1840. There they built a nice home.

Ada Clements washed and ironed for the Prophet's family, and Elizabeth and her brothers delivered the finished laundry in a little wagon. On one of these deliveries, the Prophet showed Elizabeth the mummies that were stored in the attic (from which we have the Book of Abraham). He also gave her a blessing. He told her that she would be a great nurse, caring and administering to many.

During the mob action against the Saints in Nauvoo, a Clements son, Paul was brutally murdered. At the time of the martyrdom, Albert was away working. He started for home as soon as he heard the news. Before his arrival, he met Sidney Rigdon, who said he was on his way to Nauvoo to take up the reins of the Church. Before Albert returned, the Saints had had a meeting in the Grove in which Brigham Young had spoken. Ada related the events to Albert when he returned. She told how Elder Young had actually sounded and looked like Joseph Smith. Sadly, Albert chose to follow his friend, Sidney Rigdon, while Ada remained faithful to the true Church.

Ada received her endowment in the Nauvoo Temple on 27 January 1846. A daughter, Lucy, was endowed the following day when she was sealed to her husband, James Hale.

Ada and her children left Nauvoo with the earliest Saints. Although Albert did not join them, he provided well for their passage. It was 9 October 1852, before Ada, along with a son and a daughter arrived in the Valley. The other children arrived at various times.

Their story does have a happier ending. Albert divorced Ada and remarried. In 1872 his wife died and his son (by Ada) prevailed upon him to come and live with them. Albert and Ada met and once again courted and decided to remarry. Albert received his endowment in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City on 21 Oct 1872. Ada and Albert were then sealed for time and eternity and enjoyed another 11 years together as husband and wife and faithful Saints before his passing.

In Iowa, soon after the death of his father Nathan Tolman in 1844, Great Great Grandfather Judson Adonirum Tolman met Mormon missionaries who taught him the gospel. He was baptized at the age of nineteen on 12 January 1845, and soon moved to Nauvoo where he was ordained a Seventy three months after his baptism. There, also, he met and fell in love with Sarah Lucretia Holbrook. They were married in Nauvoo on 12 January 1846.

Two weeks after their wedding. Judson left his bride to serve with the Hosea Stout Company in pioneering the route across Iowa to Council Bluffs. He was occupied in building bridges and roads and guarding the movement from enemies. In the late spring of 1846, he returned to Nauvoo for his wife. Before leaving Nauvoo they were able to take out their endowments on 2 March 1846. Shortly thereafter, in company with her father, Joseph Holbrook, they removed to the temporary settlement at Winter Quarters. Both brethren were ready to begin their trek to Utah in 1847, but were counseled by Brigham Young to wait. They followed his counsel and begin their journey in spring 1848. They arrived in the Valley 20 September 1848.

The parents of Sarah Lucretia were Joseph Holbrook and Nancy Lampson. They were married in Western, Massachusetts on 30 December 1830. They then made their home in Weathersfield, New York. While there, his cousin, Mary Ann Angell, gave Joseph a Book of Mormon. After reading the Book of Mormon, Joseph and Nancy embraced the gospel. They were baptized on 6 and 7 January 1833, respectively.

Joseph gathered his family to the Ohio. Joseph and Nancy, with a two-year old Sarah, participated in Zions Camp. Joseph took part in the Crooked River battle. While in Kirtland, Joseph worked on the temple there. The Holbrook family moved to Missouri, suffering those persecutions with thousands of other faithful Saints. Driven out of Far West, the Holbrooks sought refuge in Illinois, arriving at Quincy on January 29, 1839. In March 1839 they settled in Fountain Green, about 25 miles east of Nauvoo, where they rented a small house.

In 1842, Joseph and Nancy, with their four small children moved to Nauvoo. Soon after their arrival, Nancy became ill. She passed from this life on 16 July 1842. She and a little daughter, Nancy Jane are buried in Nauvoo. Heber C. Kimbal married Joseph to Hannah Flint on 1 January 1843. Joseph was occupied in the building of the Nauvoo Temple. He was also a member of the Nauvoo Legion and a bodyguard of the Prophet Joseph Smith. Hannah was endowed 24 January 1846, followed by Joseph on 6 February.

Cyril Call, our 4th Great Grandfather, was baptized by John Murdock in Madison, Ohio in 1831. His son Anson joined him on 21 May 1836, after a three-year study of the Bible and Book of Mormon. William Smith, the Prophet's brother, baptized him in Kirtland. He was ordained an Elder and returned to his home in Madison and preached the gospel. Almon Babbitt soon joined him there. Within three months a branch was raised, consisting mostly of Anson's former associates of the Methodists church. Included among these were his wife, Mary Flint, and his father's family, except for his mother.

After this, he sold part of his farm and moved his family to Kirtland. He was ordained to the Quorum of the Seventy in February 1836. He remained there until 1838 when he moved to Missouri. He received several severe beatings at the hands of persecutors before reaching Warsaw, about 15 miles south of Nauvoo, on 25 April 1839. He lived also in Carthage and Ramus. In 1841, he was ordained a High Priest under the hands of Joseph Holbrook and Ebenezer Page in Ramus.

In the spring of 1842, he was counseled to move into Nauvoo, which he immediately did. He left for a short mission to Ohio, returning on 31 March 1843. At this time, he built a small brick house about ¼ mile east of the Temple. He spent a portion of his time in the stone quarry quarrying stone for the Temple. Anson was a member of the Nauvoo Legion. In June 1844, just a few days before the martyrdom, he acted as a special messenger for the Prophet.

On June 24, Joseph rode up to the legion and said, "Boys, I have come to bid you good bye. I am going to leave you for awhile. You are my boys, and I bless you in the name of Israel's God. Be faithful and true, and you shall have your reward. Farewell!" He then started for Carthage. June 25, 26, and 27 the legion gathered and went through the usual military duties. No news had been received from Carthage. On the evening of the 27th, Anson was one of the Temple Guards. The next morning, Orin Porter Rockwell rode through the city, shouting, "Joseph is killed! Joseph is killed! They have killed him!"

On Monday, when the bodies had been returned to Nauvoo to lie in state, Anson took his family to view the bodies of their beloved Prophet and Patriarch. Of this experience he writes: "Sleep and the desire of food had left my body. I shall not attempt to describe my feelings...I cried mightily unto the Lord that I might know what to do. The third night I had a dream, or a vision, which I will relate."

"I was traveling by myself in a lonely place till I came to a new field about 3 acres in size. I discovered in the center of the field a nice block house. I went to the door of the house. I discovered Joseph in the house standing in the middle of the floor. I sprang and clinched him by the hand. I threw my arms around him, and kissed him, and said, 'Joseph, I thought you was dead.' He said, 'I am.' I said, 'This is certainly Joseph.' He said, 'Yes, it is Joseph. Take your seat and I will tell you all about it.' I seated myself and then discovered I was in a congregation of saints whom I was acquainted with. Joseph then said, 'Brethren, I have been killed in Carthage jail, and it will not make any difference with you, if you do as you are told. I shall continue to govern and control this kingdom as I have hitherto done. The keys of this kingdom were committed to me. I hold them and shall continue to hold them, worlds without end. I am dead, and I am out of the power of my enemies. I am now where I can do you good. Be no longer troubled. Be faithful, be diligent, do as you are told, and you shall see the salvation of God.'" He awoke and found himself sitting on his bed. He comforted his wife and a few of his intimate friends by relating this vision.

Anson was present at the meeting in which Brigham Young spoke. But it was not the voice of Brother Brigham that he heard; it was the voice of Joseph and the mannerisms of Joseph. There was no doubt as to which he would follow.

In 1845, the mobs began burning out farms in earnest. On a trip southeast of Nauvoo, he found his father and mother and little sisters hiding in a cornfield, the ruins of their home still smoking. They had done the same to his brother and his brother-in-law's places nearby. Anson gathered his family and escorted them to his home in Nauvoo. He spent the next several months assisting others in similar predicaments.

When the removal orders were given, Nauvoo citizens were organized into wagon companies. Anson was appointed Superintendent of the Shumway Company. Over the next few months, they built about 60 wagons to be used in the exodus from Nauvoo.

Anson received his endowment 10 December 1845. His father and mother received theirs on 22 December 1845 and were sealed on 20 January 1846. His wife, who had given birth to twin sons on November 14, received her endowment on 24 January 1846. She was not able to stand, and was carried by Anson from one area of the Temple to another.

Cyril Call left Nauvoo with his family on 2 May, followed by Anson and his family on 15 May and arrived at Council Bluffs on 14 June 1846. They left Winter Quarters in June 1848, arriving in the Salt Lake Valley on 20 September 1848.

(The Russ Call family of Running Creek Ward is also descended from Anson Call.)

Great Great Grandfather, Israel Barlow was baptized with his mother, Annis Gillett Barlow, on 16 May 1832. He was among the faithful at Zions Camp. Shortly thereafter, on 28 February 1835, he was chosen as one of the First Quorum of Seventy. He also helped in the construction of the Kirtland Temple. He joined the Saints in Far West in 1838, passing through the refiner's fire in Missouri.

According to some reports, it was Israel Barlow who first "discovered" Commerce, Illinois. He became lost from the company of brethren who had been to seek a place for the Saints fleeing Missouri to settle. He was introduced to Dr. Isaac Galland of Commerce who owned and was willing to sell a large tract of land there. Israel immediately returned to Quincy to report this to the Brethren who had gathered there. Approval was received from the Prophet and the purchase of the land was made 1 May 1839. The Barlow family did not move there until 1840.

The Barlow home in Nauvoo was about ½ mile east of the Temple site. He also had acreage south and east of the town that he farmed. In Nauvoo, he served as a bodyguard of the Prophet. He was a member of the Nauvoo Legion. He also was called to serve and the Senior President of the Sixth Quorum of Seventy, a position that he held from 1844 to 1883.

Israel was there for the laying of the cornerstone of the Temple. He helped haul stones from the stone quarry for the building of the Temple both by ox team and with his own fine horses. He helped to lay the foundation, build the walls and put shingles on the roof.

In August 1845, Israel was called on a special mission to Ohio to raise funds to help complete the Temple. He returned three months later in November 1845. Israel and his first wife, Elizabeth Haven were endowed 16 December 1845 and were sealed for time and eternity on 17 January 1846. His second wife, Elizabeth Barton was endowed on 21 January 1846 and they were sealed on 28 January 1846. His mother, Annis Gillett received her endowment on 23 December 1845.

Israel, his wife Elizabeth Haven and his mother Annis Gillett were all very active in the earliest ordinance work for the dead. They did baptisms for the dead as early as 1840. These would have been done in the Mississippi River. They rejoiced when the baptismal font in the Temple was dedicated on 8 November 1841, and resumed that great saving work in the Temple. In early 1846, Israel and Elizabeth were called as ordinance workers in the Temple along with 20 other brethren and sisters. They worked diligently to provide as many of the Saints as possible with their endowments from on high.

That final winter and spring, Nauvoo was like a beehive. Hundreds of wagons were built. The blacksmith's anvils rang day and night. Supplies were gathered. Israel was engaged in the making of wagon wheels. In February 1846 when Brigham Young and the first Saints to cross the Mississippi left Nauvoo, he counseled Israel to stay in Nauvoo and continue to make wagon wheels for the Saints. Brigham Young left Israel Barlow and Joseph Young in charge to look after the property interests of the Saints in Nauvoo and to dispose of what they could not sell before they left. He helped move the Saints across the River. He cared for the sick and the poor who were unable to go and helped them to prepare to leave Nauvoo.

A fourth child was born to them on 1 May 1846, while they were still in Nauvoo. On about 15 June, they bid farewell to their City Beautiful and crossed the Mississippi River. Their little company at that time consisted of Israel; his two wives, Elizabeth Haven and Elizabeth Barton; two orphan children, David Turner and Maria Burgess (age about 13); and three of their own children, Israel, Jr. (age 3 years, 9 months), Pamela Elizabeth (age 1 year, 9 months) and Ianthius Haven (age 6 weeks). They journeyed to Winter Quarters and left for the Valley in the spring of 1848, arriving 23 September 1848, in Brigham Young's 2nd Company.

Our family enjoys a rich heritage. What a tremendous legacy these faithful Saints have left for us! Theirs was a living testimony that has blessed the lives of thousands of their descendants. It has been a great testimony building experience to do this research and compile this little history. How grateful we are to be living in this last great dispensation, for the courage and faith and testimony of these our forefathers and foremothers, and for their sacrifice in the cause of Zion. It is a wonderful inspiration to us all. It is also call to rededicate our lives to the building up of the Lord's kingdom and establishing Zion wherever we may be as they dedicated their lives wherever the Lord led them.