

DUP AF Book 2 page 57

Biographical Sketch

of

Berrill Covington

by Zella Hansen, granddaughter

Pioneer Year 1852

Sailed on the Ellen Maria

Abraham O. Smoot company

Born 6 July, 1794 in Willingborough, Northamptonshire, England

Married to Elizabeth Hodges

Died in Gallatin, Davis, Missouri

Buried in Gallatin, Davis Co. Missouri

Berrill Covington [son of Simon and Elizabeth Brown Covington] was born 6 July 1794, in Willingborough, Northamptonshire, England.

His father, Simon, [son of Simon and Jane Berrill Covington] was born 28 Aug. 1763, in Bedford, Bedfordshire, England.

His mother, Elizabeth, was born 1761-4 at Wisbeck, Cambridgeshire, England.

We have no record of Berrill's life until he married Elizabeth Hodges, [daughter of Richard and Elizabeth Hill Hodges] who was born 29 Oct. 1793 in Bedford, Bedfordshire, England. She died 13 Oct. 1881 and was buried in Ogden, Weber Co., Utah.

Elizabeth's father, Richard, was born in Tarmouth near Leicester, England, and her mother, Elizabeth, was born in Bedford, Bedfordshire, England. They had four children, Elizabeth being the third child. Her brothers and sisters were Joseph, Mary Ann, and Richard Jr.

To Berrill and Elizabeth were born nine children; Mary Ann, born 31 March 1815; Berrill, 27 Nov. 1817; Josiah, 10 Jan. 1820; Elizabeth, 19 Oct. 1823; Edward, 23 Aug. 1826; Henry, 4 April 1829; Simon, 19 June 1832; Sarah, 6 March 1835 and Priscilla, 27 Jan. 1839, and they were all born in Bedford, Bedfordshire, England.

In July 1837 the first foreign mission was opened in England, and just one year later, Berrill was baptized a member of the church in July 1838. He and his family shared in the persecutions of those who were seeking to destroy the newly restored Gospel. He was a shoemaker and often while out delivering his shoes, he would be identified as a Mormon and would be forced to flee from a pursuing mob and rushing into his home he would hurriedly bar the door to keep out his pursuers.

In 1841 his wife and four children were baptized and at various other times his entire family also joined the church.

They moved to or near Liverpool to make preparations to emigrate to America. Here he and his sons had a large shoemaking

establishment and besides their private business they made shoes for the army.

At one time he gained permission to visit Queen Victoria of England and he preached to her for one hour, the principles of the Gospel.

While walking to the church one day he was accosted by a strange gentleman who accompanied him to church. This stranger arose to his feet and preached one of the most wonderful sermons it was ever Berrill's good fortune to hear. When they left the church together they linked arms as was the custom in England. After a short distance the stranger asked Berrill to loose his arm and he vanished as completely as a wisp of smoke is blotted from view. He disappeared as suddenly as he had come. Berrill always believed him to have been a translated being.

His son Simon came to America before the rest of his family and located in California and it is believed that they never son him again. He married, raised a family, died and was buried in California.

On Tues. Feb. 10, 1852, Berrill, his wife and six children, left family, home and friends, and sailed for America on the ship Ellen Maria, which carried 369 saints, under the direction of Isaac C. Haight.

Two sons, Edward and Josiah, remained in England. Edward emigrated later, as did Josiah's wife and children, but Josiah remained in England and died in Tuebrook 30 Oct. 1889.

The ship Ellen Maria arrived at New Orleans after nearly two months on the ocean on April 6, 1852.

A company of saints was organized under the leadership of Abraham O. Smoot, composed of 31 wagons, and they started the long journey to Utah. They arrived in the Salt Lake Valley, Fri. 3 Sept. 1852 and they were the first Perpetual Fund Emigrants from Europe to reach Utah. They were met by Captain William Pitts and the First Presidency and many leading citizens. Most of the remainder of their lives was spent in American Fork and Ogden.

Berrill Covington was blessed with the gifts of spiritual manifestations and of healings. Through his great faith in his Heavenly Father many saints received blessings of health, comfort and consolation. Some of the saints had so much faith in his power of healing that they would ask for some personal belonging which they could carry to the sick person to whom he could not go in person, believing that his faith and prayers which went with the object would make them well.

When the cholera broke out among the saints he and his sons went about administering to them and through their faith in God they were immune from the dreadful disease.

He married two other wives, Mary Griffith and Mary Woodmansee. With his third wife he went back to Gallatin, Davis Co. Missouri where he died and was buried, thus fulfilling his patriarchal blessing, which said that his body would be laid to rest in Mo.