**Biographies**

In order to determine the names of the residents of Big Pigeon, several sources were used. By using a combination of sources, names were added, and names were corrected.

**Big Pigeon Branch Records** (12)

In 1991, Ronald G. Watt published the *Iowa Branch Index 1839-1859.* The Church History Library has no document entitled, “Big Pigeon Branch Records.” It is not clear as to the source of those Branch Records in the Index. There are no notes available that could provide this information.

**Jerome Messenger Benson (Jarome Benson on original transcript)**

A close up of a tattoo

Description automatically generatedJerome Benson was born November 5, 1810 in Fabius, Onondaga County, New York to Benjamin and Keziah Messenger Benson. He married Mary Rhodes in Lafayette, Tippecanoe County, Indiana on October 1, 1830. Mary was the daughter of George and Susannah Prugh Rhodes and was born on July 12, 1812.

Jerome and Mary joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in 1832. They endured the trials of persecution of the Saints as they moved from Missouri to the Nauvoo area. His family lived in a small community called Ramus which was about 22 miles southeast of Nauvoo. He was a millwright by trade.

Jerome left the Nauvoo area with Brigham Young to find a new home in the West. He was a member of the Pottawattamie High Council. (13) On the 1850 U. S. Census, Jerome’s family was living in Big Pigeon, Pottawattamie County, Iowa. Listed were Jerome (Jarome), age 39; Mary 36; Evaline, 14; Mary 11, Louisa, 9; Amelia 5; John Stephen, 2; Lovina, 3; and Jerome, 1. They were enumerated in dwelling #654. Two sons, George and Benjamin had passed away previously and a daughter, Susannah, had married Isaac Hawk Vail on June 8, 1848, possibly in Big Pigeon. Two sons may have been born in Big Pigeon, John Stephen in 1848 and Jerome Messenger Benson, Jr. in July 1849.

Jerome was given the responsibility helping Martha Bartholomew and Mary Cartwright cross the plains. He married both on April 14, 1848, possibly in Big Pigeon. The exact date the family left for the Salt Lake Valley is not known but it was probably in 1851.

The family settled in Springville, Utah County, Utah Territory. Twins were born in June 1852, Alma and Alvah Mosiah Benson. On December 1, 1852, Jerome married Jane Eliza Pine. They had a daughter, Eliza Jane Benson, who was born September 21, 1852 in Springville.

Mary, his wife, died unexpectedly in 1853. She had visited her daughter in Provo and was returning home in Springville. The July 30, 1853 issue of *The Deseret News* relates the story, “We learn by letter from Elder L. N. Scovil, June 25th that Sister Mary Benson, wife of Jerome Messenger Benson, aged 41 years, 11 months, and 7 days, was drowned on the ninth of June attempting to cross from the bank to a portion of the bridge on a log. Brother Alanson Norton was leading her and was drawn into the water at the same time and came near drowning. Sister Benson has left eight children and numerous relatives. She joined the Church on February 8, 1832. She was driven with the Saints from Jackson County in 1833 and was with them in their persecutions to the end. She has gone to rest with the faithful, to come forth in the first resurrection.” (14)

Unfortunately, according to the Springville, Church records, Jerome was cut off from the Church in 1853 and decided to leave Utah with his wife Jane and other members of his family. They settled in San Bernardino, California in 1854. Later they moved to San Jacinto, San Bernardino County, California where he operated a large ranch until his death. He died on April 17, 1877.

**Jacob George Bigler (Jacob G. Bigler)**

![A person wearing a suit and tie

Description automatically generated]()Jacob George Bigler was born on his parent’s, Mark and Susannah Ogden Bigler, plantation in Shinnston, Harrison County, Virginia. The date was April 4, 1813. Jacob grew up working on the plantation and raising animals. His father became a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints after he heard the missionaries. Jacob and his father traveled to Far West, Missouri to meet the Prophet Joseph Smith and after speaking with him, he was thoroughly convinced that the Church was true and was baptized while there.

Jacob purchased a farm in Far West and left to go back to Virginia to sell the plantation and

move the family. Because of the extermination order given by Governor Boggs, the family had to move again this time to Quincy, Illinois. His father, Mark, joined his family but passed away suddenly in September of 1839. His estate was settled, and the family relocated to Nauvoo, rendering help to Joseph Smith family’s move.

While in Nauvoo, Jacob married Mary Ann Boggess on March 25, 1841. She was born to Alonzo and Katherine Eleanor Stringer Boggess on July 31, 1822 in Harrison County, Virginia. The couple’s first child, Alonzo Harrison, was born April 14, 1842. Unfortunately, the baby died the same day. Mary Ann contacted the ague fever and died on October 27, 1842.

Two years later, Jacob married Amy Lorette Chase on June 18, 1844 in Nauvoo. Amy was the daughter of Abner and Amy Scott Chase and was born on November 7, 1822 in Lincoln, Addison County, Vermont. Their first child, David George, was born in Nauvoo on February 8, 1846. Shortly after the birth, the family was forced out of Nauvoo and made the trek to Winter Quarters in the Nebraska Territory.

Jacob served as a Counselor of the Winter Quarters Fifteenth Ward, under Bishop Isaac Clark. Jacob’s mother, Susannah Ogden Bigler, died of consumption on May 14, 1847 and is buried in grave #100 in the Winter Quarters Cemetery.

On the 1850 U. S. Census, Jacob is listed as the overseer of the poor. He was age 37 and in dwelling #103. Amy was listed as Anna, age 27; David was 4; and Jacob was 1. On the 1851 Iowa State Census, another child was listed, Mary Ann, who was born on July 24, 1850 probably in Big Pigeon.

Jacob placed an advertisement in *The Frontier Guardian* on August 6, 1850 which read,

“CATTLE WINTERED ON THE RUSHES. Jacob Bigler will take any number of cattle upon the rushes, to winter, for seventy-five cents per head, commencing the 15th of October, and keeping them on the rushes until the first of April. Any persons wishing cattle wintered will find this to be advantageous to them, as the best of care will be taken of the cattle. Persons having cattle wintered are expected to assist in driving them there and assist in driving them down.”

(15)

It is not clear when Jacob’s family lived in Big Pigeon. However, he listed Big Pigeon as a place of residence on the Tabernacle Post Office Petition. (16) He migrated west with the either the Benjamin Gardner Company or the William West Lane Company in 1852. His family settled in Nephi, Juab County, Utah.

Jacob served as a Bishop, participated in the Black Hawk Indian War, served as a State Legislator, appointed President of the Juab Stake, and was elected Mayor of Nephi. He also served in the European and Ireland Mission. He died at the age of 94 in Nephi.

**Robert Campbell**

![A person wearing a suit and tie

Description automatically generated]()Robert Campbell was born in Cambridgeshire, England on March 31, 1810. His parents were John and Susannah Staples Campbell. He was the eldest of twelve children. At age three, he was afflicted with a severe disease which caused a rheumatic problem that settled in his right foot. At age seven, his left foot was also deformed. Even though he had surgeries, he demonstrated a chronic lameness. He immigrated to the United States with his brother. While living in New York, he was converted to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in 1838.

He moved to Nauvoo, Illinois, in about 1842 and met his wife there. He was married to Amelia Delilah Mikesell on August 23, 1844. Amelia was born on July 27, 1813 in Liberty, Montgomery County, Ohio to John Aylor and Catherine Mikesell.

Robert and Amelia had their first child in Mount Pisgah, Iowa Territory. The couple was on their way west from Nauvoo. Their daughter, Catherine, was born on January 23, 1847.

Robert signed the Tabernacle Post Office Petition and listed Big Pigeon as one of his residences. His son, Robert Ashmore, was probably born there on July 28, 1849.

The Campbell family started their trek west with the Edward Hunter Company. Robert was the clerk of that Company. It consisted of 261 individuals and 67 wagons. It was organized near Twelve Mile Creek close to the Missouri River. It departed on June 29, 1850 and reached the Salt Lake Valley on October 13, 1850. Martha Spence Heywood, a person on the wagon trail, wrote the following about Sunday, August 18, 1850, “Instead of enjoying ourselves by having a good meeting as we proposed and expected that Brother Hunter’s division would have met midway on the occasion they having camped about ½ miles from us, but our fairy castle was destroyed by a rest day preparing meals and washing dishes is not pleasant work in a rain storm outdoors. During the day Brother Campbell called to get some medicine for his wife who was dangerously ill from jumping out of the wagon when coming down a bad place in Ash Hollow and since has continued feverish and in great pain. She had her infant in her arms.” Amelia died the next day. (17)

Robert remarried on January 1, 1853 in Salt Lake City. He married Mary Dalley, the daughter of William and Anna Davis Dalley. She was born February 13, 1825 in Leominster, Herefordshire, England. She had previously been married to Robert Crook Denham and had two children. Mary and Robert had nine children—seven sons and two daughters.

Robert served as President of the Eighth Quorum of Seventy, a recorder for Salt Lake City, and Chief Clerk of the Utah Territorial Legislature. His obituary which appeared in the June 9, 1890 edition of *The Deseret Evening* News, stated, “He was taken sick in April 1889, with an affection of the kidneys and bladder, and grew worse until he became very low and was mostly insensible for a month. In September he recovered almost miraculously and got about again, to the great surprise of himself and fiends. In March 1890, he went to the monthly fast meeting, which was the last meeting he attended as he fell sick again and gradually weakened. While he had a great desire to live to be about a century old, he was quite resigned to the will of the Lord. His ambition declined toward the last, and for about two weeks before his death he had a desire to depart. He suffered considerable pain for a day or two previous to his decease, but he became easier and his end was peace, departing this life about two o’clock on the morning on Thursday, June 5th, 1890.” (18)

**Josiah Lobdel DeForest (Josiah L. Deforest)**

Josiah L. DeForest was born August 9, 1820 in New York City, New York County, New York. His parents were Samuel Isaac and Sarah Ann Bartram or Burr DeForest. Not much is known about the parents nor the early life of Josiah.

Josiah married Mary A. Collins on February 6, 1846 in Nauvoo, Hancock, Illinois. Mary was born June 16, 1815 in Fairfield County, Connecticut. Little information is available for Mary. Her parents may have been John and Mary Collins.

Josiah and Mary appear to be living in Big Pigeon and possibly North Pigeon. However, the Big Pigeon Branch Tithing Report (19) recorded donations for Josiah from July 1848 thru March 1850. Josiah is also listed in the membership of the Big Pigeon Branch. The 1850 U. S. Census listed the family in the area where many of the people from the North Pigeon Branch resided. Josiah was in dwelling #1173. He was listed as a schoolmaster, age 30. Also listed were Mary, age 34; Sarah Benadict, age 16; and Mary, age 3.

The couple had five children. Two were probably born in Big Pigeon. Mary L. was born in 1848 and Josiah Lobdel “Joseph” was born on March 1, 1850. Further children were born to them, Mabel, Samuel Isaac, and Martha E. either in Pottawattamie or Harrison County, Iowa.

Josiah and Mary stayed in Harrison County for the rest of their lives. Josiah died in 1866 and Mary in 1902. According to the 1900 U. S. Census, Mary was living with her son, Samuel Isaac DeForest’s family, in Weston, Pottawattamie County, Iowa. There it listed that she had seven children and only three were living. Both Josiah and Mary are buried in the Greenwood Cemetery in Harrison County.

**Pleasant Ewell**

Pleasant Ewell was the first Ewell to become a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. He was born on August 2, 1788 in Albemarle County, Virginia. He was the son of Maxey and Ann Mullins Ewell. His father was a plantation owner and planter. Pleasant was the tenth of twelve children.

Pleasant married Barbara Fauber on January 27, 1814 in Augusta County, Virginia. She was the daughter of Christian and Barbara Ann Renic Fauber. Seven of the couple’s children were born in Albemarle County, Virginia—Sarah, William Fletcher, Elizabeth Hill, Martin F., Thomas Maxey, Barbara Ann, and John Martin. From Virginia, the family moved to Bedford County, Tennessee where Mary Dabney was born in 1831.

In 1833, the Ewell family moved to Ray County, Missouri. Pleasant served as Justice of the Peace and two daughters, Pirene Brown and Ida Fauber were born. In 1837, the family joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. In 1839, they moved to Nauvoo. Barbara Ann Fauber Ewell died on June 28, 1839 in Nauvoo, Hancock County, Illinois. In addition, two daughters died, Sarah on June 1, 1839 and then Elizabeth in 1840.

Pleasant married Elizabeth Clapper Smith on March 16, 1843 in Nauvoo. She was the widow of Jacob P. Smith. Elizabeth and Jacob had eight children. After Pleasant was ordained a High Priest, he was called to serve a mission in Virginia. Evidently, Elizabeth did not leave Nauvoo with Pleasant. Her death occurred on February 19, 1883 in Hancock County, Illinois.

Pleasant left Nauvoo in April 1846. When he arrived at the Missouri River, Brigham Young was asking for volunteers for the Mormon Battalion. Two of Pleasant’s sons signed up, William and John Martin. Both were assigned to Company E. William contracted tuberculosis while in the service and died after he made it back to Iowa. He may have been buried in Big Pigeon.

Pleasant married one more time in about 1847 to Mary Magdelena Wiekel Huff. This wedding probably took place in Big Pigeon. Mary was the widow of Henry Huff and had two children. The 1850 Census listed Pleasant in dwelling #1203, age 63; Mary, age 30; Susannah, age 8; Jeremiah, age 6 and, Martha, age 2. Susannah and Jeremiah were Mary’s children and Martha was the daughter of Pleasant and Mary.

Early in 1851, Pleasant came to the Salt Lake Valley. He made it to the west but died on March 4, 1852 in Lehi, Utah County, Utah Territory.

**William Fletcher Ewell (William L. Ewell)**

William was born November 30, 1815 in Palmyra, Fluvanna, Virginia. He was the son of Pleasant and Barbara Ann Fauber Ewell. He was raised on a plantation and may have attended medical school.

A black and white photo of a person

Description automatically generatedWilliam married Mary Lee Bland on November 30, 1834 in Carroll County, Missouri. She was born November 1, 1817 in Cumberland County, Kentucky to John and Sarah Caldwell Lee Bland. The family owned a plantation and were rather well to do.

From Mary Lee’s history as told to her granddaughter the following story of the meeting of William was told. One day, after saddling her horse, she was riding through the woods. The cinch was not tight enough, it turned, and threw her to the ground which injured her back and ankle. While she was on the ground, a young man came along and bound her ankle. He introduced himself as William Fletcher Ewell, a medical student on vacation for the summer. William said he was a Mormon and told Mary Lee’s family about it. At first the new religion was listened to and agreed with. One day, her father went to town and found that the teachings of Joseph Smith and the Mormons were very unpopular. If he would have followed the teachings, he would have been very unpopular in the community.

Mr. Bland tried to convince William to give up his religion but when he refused, he commanded him to leave and forbade Mary Lee to see him. She loved him and believed the Gospel. With the support of Mrs. Bland, she arranged to leave and to marry William. She left with her slave, Chloe. Her father disinherited her, but she never questioned her choice even with all the trials she experienced. (20)

While living in Ray County, Missouri the couple had two children, Francis Marion and John Pleasant. They moved to Livingston County, Missouri where two more children were born, Sarah Elizabeth and Barbara Ann, although Barbara Ann may have been born in Nauvoo, depending on when the family was driven out of Missouri. Eventually, the family moved to the Winter Quarters area and another child was born on October 5, 1846. His name was William Thomas Ewell. He was born after William had volunteered to join and Mormon Battalion and had begun the long march to California.

William contracted tuberculosis and was ill as he returned to his family in Iowa sometime in 1847. His father, Pleasant, and his wife were probably living in Big Pigeon by the time he returned. The Tithing Records recorded his name on November and December of 1848. From then on, the receipt of Tithing was in the name of Mary Ewell. The last recorded date was July 1852. His health grew worse and he died on December 22, 1848 and is probably buried in Big Pigeon. Mary Lee was left a widow and had another child, Mary Jane, on February 5, 1849.

On the 1850 U. S. Census, the family was listed, Polly (Mary Lee), age 33; Francis, age 15; John, age 12; Sarah, age 9; Barbara, age 6; William, age 4; and Mary, age 1. This was enumerated as dwelling #689.

![A picture containing outdoor, grass, tree, fence

Description automatically generated]()Mary Lee and her six children came west with the Uriah Curtis Company in 1852. They left Kanesville on June 28, 1852 and reached the Salt Lake Valley on September 29. There were about 260 in the Company and 50 wagons.

Mary Lee married Peter Jones in 1853 in Ogden, Weber County, Utah. Peter was the son of James and Mary Jones. He was born October 25, 1819 in Alfrick, Worcestershire, England. The couple had two children born in Ogden—Hannah and Zachery Henry. They moved to Santaquin, Utah County, Utah Territory and had another daughter—Emma Keziah. Peter died on October 15, 1890 and Mary Lee on May 24, 1898. Both are buried in the Santaquin Cemetery.

Peter & Mary Lee’s house in Santaquin.

**Permelia Brown Flint Sterrett (Permelia Flint)**

A person looking at the camera

Description automatically generatedPermelia was born February 6, 1822 in Westmoreland, Cheshire County, New Hampshire. She was the daughter of James and Desire Sylvester Brown. Permelia met and married William Flint in 1840 in Dansville, Livingston County, New York. William was born on January 26, 1814 in Spafford, Onondaga County, New York. He was the son of Josiah Grant and Anna Woodard Flint.

The couple had two children—James and Sophia. Both were born in the early 1840’s possibly in New York state or in Nauvoo, depending on when the couple moved there. When the couple left Nauvoo for the Middle Missouri Valley, the two children died. At some point, the couple divorced.

![A black and white photo of a building

Description automatically generated]()The Big Pigeon Branch and the Branch Tithing Records listed Permelia Flint. By 1850, the U. S. Census listed Permelia as the wife of William G. Sterrett living in Utah County in Utah Territory. William Gibson Sterrett was listed as a cabinet maker. He had also been a sexton the Winter Quarters Cemetery.

William was born on June 4, 1813 in Philadelphia, Chester County, Pennsylvania. He was the son of Reuben and Ann Gibson Sterrett. William joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and evidently moved to Nauvoo.

House in Pleasant Grove

Permelia and William Gibson Sterrett had three sons and one daughter. They raised their family in Pleasant Grove, Utah County, Utah Territory and resided there until their deaths. William died on August 28, 1873 and then Permelia died on May 30, 1900.

**Elizabeth Tennant Wade Gibson (Elizabeth Gibson)**

Elizabeth Gibson’s name appeared on the Big Pigeon Branch Record and the Tithing Records. Elizabeth was born Elizabeth Tennant Wade on October 8, 1803 in Otsego, Otsego County, New York. She was the daughter of Jonathan and Betsy Tennant Painter Wade.

Elizabeth married John Gibson, Jr. on October 7, 1822 in Howard, Steuben County, New York. John was son of John and Margaret Shelf Gibson. He was born on June 9, 1794 in Florida, Montgomery County, New York.

The couple had ten children, all born in the state of New York and possibly Monroe or Otsego County. In approximately 1847, Elizabeth and John separated. Elizabeth ended up in Big Pigeon.

Elizabeth married Levi Hezekiah Murdock on January 25, 1849 possibly in Big Pigeon. Levi was born on May 19, 1790 in Bristol, Addison County, Vermont. He was the son of Hezekiah and Martha Henry Murdock. He married Elizabeth Campbell of Pennsylvania in about 1818 in Steuben County, New York. Most of their twelve children were born in Warren County, Indiana or in Vermillion County, Illinois. Elizabeth died in 1846 near Nauvoo.

It is believed that Elizabeth Gibson and Levi and some of their family came west with an unknown company in 1850. At least four of Elizabeth’s children went west. The 1850 U. S. Census listed the family in Weber County, Utah Territory. Those listed were: Levi, age 52; Elizabeth, age 47; John, age 22; Harvey, age 17; Daniel, age 11; Electa, age 8; and Alma (Elizabeth and John Gibson’s son) age 4.

Levi died on September 18, 1879 and Elizabeth on March 29, 1890 in Ogden. Both are buried in the Ogden City Cemetery, Ogden, Weber County, Utah.

**Evan Melbourne Greene (E. M. Green)**

A person wearing a suit and tie

Description automatically generated

Evan was the son of John Portineus and Rhoda Young Greene (Rhoda Young Greene was the sister of Brigham Young). He was born on December 22, 1814 in Aurelius, Cayuga Country, New York.

Evan married Susan Kent on August 29, 1835 in Cayuga County, New York. Susan was born April 3, 1816 in Genoa, Cayuga County, New York. She was the daughter of Daniel and Nancy Young Kent (Nancy Young Kent was the oldest sister of Brigham Young).

At the age of fifteen, Evan began training as a schoolteacher. He was baptized a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints by his father.

Susan and Evan had two children while living in Kirtland—Emily Frances, born May 1836 and Evan Flavius, born February 22, 1838. Emily only lived two years and died on May 27, 1838 while in Kirtland. As the family migrated west more children were born. Rhoda was born on March 8, 1839, Nancy Leonora, on September 25, 1841, and Susan Eveline, on May 6, 1843. All were born in Scott County, Illinois.

After the family arrived in Nauvoo, Ann Eliza was born on July 14, 1845. She died as the family traveled west toward the Middle Missouri Valley, possibly in Carterville. Melissa was born in Carterville on June 9, 1847 and Louisa Lula was born on April 18, 1849, possibly in Big Pigeon.

An entry was recorded in the Big Pigeon Tithing Record on February 1849 for E. M. Greene. E. M. Greene’s name is also listed on the Big Pigeon Branch Records.

In 1848, a petition was sent to the Postmaster General of the United States asking for the establishment of a post office in Kanesville. Brigham Young appointed Evan to be the postmaster.

On the 1850 U. S. Census, Evan’s family doesn’t appear to be located in Big Pigeon and may have moved to Kanesville (dwelling #170 on the 1850 U. S. Census; this Census does not list the names of any settlements but is just categorized as District #21, Pottawattamie County). John Portenius was born June 16, 1851 in Kanesville. Evan remained the postmaster until the family departed with the Allen Weeks Company on July 18, 1852. They arrived in the Salt Lake Valley on October 12, 1852. The family was asked to travel further south to Provo and establish a school, which they did. Three more children were born in while living in Provo—Admanza, born January 27, 1854; Jasper Willoughby, born January 11, 1856, and Daniel Kent, born April 7, 1858.

Evan was asked to move his family several times to help develop communities--from Provo, to Grantsville, in Toole County, to Bear Lake in Idaho. Their thirteenth child was born in Grantsville on November 25, 1859. His name was Edwin Murray Greene.

A close up of a mans face

Description automatically generatedEvan was made a Patriarch and then called to preside over a developing branch in Springdale, in Utah’s Dixie. Because of ill health he established a home in Escalante, Garfield County, Utah. When Susan took ill, he moved her back to Salt Lake City. He had married Susan Platt in April of 1869 and she had given him five children. Therefore, he had two families, one in Escalante and one in Salt Lake City. He traveled back and forth giving patriarchal blessings on this way. On one such trip, Evan became ill and stopped in Clover Flats, Iron County, Utah Territory at the home of a friend. He developed pneumonia and in five days died. He was buried there but eight years later his body was removed and taken to the Salt Lake City Cemetery.

Susan Kent Greene died in Marion, Cassia County, Idaho where she was living with her two youngest sons and her daughter, Melissa and her family. The date of her death was April 17, 1888. In 1894, her body was removed and taken to the Salt Lake Cemetery to lay next to her husband Evan.

**Angeline Hodgkins Horn (Angeline Horn)**

Angeline Hodgkins was born on February 19, 1816 in Nobelsboro, Lincoln County, Maine. She was the daughter of Frank and Sarah Boyd Hodgkins—the first of ten children. She married Moses Horne on November 18, 1835 in Lincoln County, Maine.

Moses was born in 1804 in Friendship, Knox County, Maine. He was the son of Moses and Patience Davis Horne. All three of Moses and Angeline’s children were born in Friendship, Knox County, Maine. They were Lydia Ann, Emeline, and Sarah Elizabeth.

The family moved to Nauvoo by 1845, where Moses died. His death was recorded as, “the work at the quarry had only one serious accident which occurred on March 14, 1845. A man was reported killed by a stone falling on his head while they were blasting rocks. Moses Horn died of a fractured skull.” (21)

Angeline married Albert Perry Rockwood on January 21, 1846 in Nauvoo, Hancock County, Iowa. Albert must have been a supervisor at the quarry. He realized that it was dangerous work. He promised the workers that if anything should happen to them, he would marry their widows and provide for them. Since Albert was a polygamist, Angeline went by the surname Horn on the Big Pigeon Branch Records and the Tithing Records.

Angeline Horn was listed in the Silas Richards Company that left Kanesville on July 10, 1849. They arrived in the Salt Lake Valley between October 25th and 29th, 1849. There were about 100 wagons in the Company. Angeline’s three daughters traveled with her.

After reaching Deseret, the families lived in Salt Lake City. Angeline and Albert had two children while living there—Nancy Angeline in 1850 and Moses Perry born in 1852. Nancy died at the age of fifteen.

Eventually, Angeline moved to Bountiful, Davis County, Utah to take care of her sister-in-law, Sallie Borne Loveland. After Sallie’s death, she moved to Centerville to live with her son, Moses Perry Rockwood. She remained there until her death in July 1902.

**Mary Magdelena Wiekel Huff (Mary Huff)**

Mary Huff was born July 20, 1818 in Union, Union County, Pennsylvania. She was the daughter of George and Elizabeth Eckley Wiekel. She married Henry Huff in about 1838 in Union County, Pennsylvania. Four of their seven children were born in Union County—Caroline Sarah, born June 15, 1840, Jeremiah, born June 21, 1841, Mary born 1843, and Susannah, born March 31, 1844.

They family moved to Nauvoo, Hancock County, Illinois where Lavina was born on November 22, 1845. After going with the Saints from Nauvoo to the Middle Missouri Valley, two more children were born, Martha on September 2, 1847, and Eugene in February 1850. These two children were probably born in Big Pigeon. Mary probably died in 1849 and then Eugene died in 1851. These children were both probably buried at Big Pigeon.

Little information is known about Henry Huff before 1850. It is believed that he went back to Pennsylvania to make money to outfit the family to go west. He died shortly after his return.

Mary is listed on the Big Pigeon Branch Records and in the Tithing Records. She is also listed on the 1850 U. S. Census, in dwelling #686, as follows: Mary Huff, age 32; Carolina, age 11; Jeremiah, age 9; Susannah, age 7; Lavina, age 5; Martha, age 3; and Eugene, age 8 months.

Mary and her family joined the Uriah Curtis Company. The Company consisted of 260 individuals and 50 wagons when it left Kanesville. At some time during the journey, Uriah married Mary. When they arrived in the Salt Lake Valley on September 29, 1852, Mary was Mary Curtis.

Mary and her family are listed on the 1860 U. S. Census in Springville, Utah County, Utah Territory. Listed are Mary, age 41; Jeremiah, age 19; Susannah, age 17; Martha, age 12; Louisa, age 6; and Phoebe, age 4. Louisa and Phoebe are the children of Uriah Curtis.

By the 1870 U. S. Census, Mary and Phoebe are living in Curlew Valley, Box Elder County, Utah. Mary was listed as age 52. According to the 1880 U. S. Census, Mary is living with her son-in-law, John Houtz, and her daughter Louisa in Curlew Valley. On the same census, Mary’s daughter, Phoebe, was living with her brother-in-law, Hugh McCorkindale and sister, Martha, in Levan, Juab County, Utah. Mary may be been with that family when she died on September 17, 1890.

**Aaron Johnson**

A close up of a person

Description automatically generatedAaron Johnson was the son of Didymus and Ruhamah Stevens Johnson. He was born on June 22, 1806 in Haddam, Middlesex County, Connecticut. Aaron’s family was poor, and he was sent out at the age of fourteen to learn gunsmithing.

On September 13, 1827, Aaron married Polly Zerviah Kelsey. Polly was the daughter of Jonathan and Polly Parmalee Kelsey. She was born September 14, 1808 in Killingworth, Middlesex County, Connecticut. The couple had four children—Willis Kelsey, born September 13, 1828; Lucretia Marilla, born October 12, 1830; Mary Ann Johnson, born June 28, 1833; and Emma Marie, born September 13, 1836. All were born in Middlesex County, Connecticut.

A picture containing photo

Description automatically generatedAaron and Polly joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in 1836. They family moved to Kirtland in 1837, Far West in 1838, and Nauvoo in 1839. Aaron was appointed a member of the Nauvoo High Council and Justice of the Peace.

Aaron married Jane Scott on July 12, 1845 in Nauvoo, Hancock County, Illinois. She was the daughter of George and Abigail Rebecca Robinson and born on July 10, 1822 in Livingston County, New York. Together they had six children.

Aaron married Sarah Maria Johnson on December 22, 1845 also in Nauvoo. Sarah and Aaron had two children.

Aaron’s families left Nauvoo in May of 1846. He was appointed the Bishop of Garden Grove Branch. While residing there, he married Mary Ann Johnson on May 18, 1846. Mary Ann was Sarah Mariah’s sister. They may have had eleven children.

Aaron was listed on the Big Pigeon Branch Records. If all his families were living with him, there may be births a Big Pigeon. Aaron and Jane Scott had two sons who were possibly born at Big Pigeon, Don Carlos, born July 1, 1847 and Aaron Johnson, Jr., born May 22, 1850. Aaron and Sarah Mariah Johnson had two children, Aaron Moroni, born August 10, 1847 and Helen, born April 12, 1850 that could have been born in Big Pigeon. Both children died at Big Pigeon—Aaron Moroni on October 22, 1849 and Helen on April 12, 1850. Both would be buried there.

Aaron and Mary Ann also had two children possibly born in Big Pigeon, Mary Eliza, born July 9, 1847 and William Lorenzo, born August 17, 1849. Mary Eliza died at Big Pigeon on April 15, 1848. Those children born in 1847 may have been born in Winter Quarters although they are not found in any of the Winter Quarters Ward Records.

On June 12, 1850, Aaron became the captain of a pioneer overland trail company. There were 100 wagons in the company. Aaron’s wife, Polly Zerviah died on June 27, 1850 on the bank of the South Platte River, Nebraska Territory and Sarah Maria, died on July 3, 1850 about sixty miles west of Fort Kearney, Nebraska Territory. Polly’s son, Willis Kelsey Johnson, also died on the journey. He died on June 15, 1850 on the bank of the Platte River.

Aaron and his families settled in Springville, Utah County, Utah Territory. He became the first Bishop there. He served as postmaster of Springville for twenty-six years. He was sealed or married to eight more women and had twenty-nine more children.

Aaron died in Springville on May 10, 1877 in Springville. He was buried in the Springville City Cemetery.

**William West Lane (William Lane)**

William Lane was born in Sumner County, Tennessee on August 29, 1797. He was the son of James and Mary Phipps Lane. Not much is known about his early life, but he did meet and marry Mary Willis. Mary was the daughter of Merrill and Margaret Susan Cherry Willis. She was also from Sumner County, Tennessee and was born on January 25, 1806. The couple was married on July 22, 1821 in McLeansboro, Hamilton County, Illinois.

Margaret, Martha, Lewis, James, William Phipps, Catharine Mariah, Nancy Phipps, Merrill, and Lucretia, the couple’s children, were all born in Hamilton County, Illinois. When the youngest child was about two years old, Mary Willis Lane passed away.

At some point, William and his children moved to Nauvoo where he met Maria or Mariah Burr in 1842. She was the daughter of Samuel and Concurrance Johnson Burr. She was born January 5, 1806 in Haddam, Middlesex, Connecticut. She was the oldest of five children. When she was ten years old, her parents died within three days of each other.

Mariah had married John W. Clark, the son of Pelatiah and Amy Wilcox Clark, on 24 July 1826 in Haddam, Middlesex County. Connecticut. They became the parents of five children: Harriet, Alpheus, Davis, Flora, and Enoch Alpheus Clark.

Mariah and John, along with several of her maternal uncles, joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in 1836. They followed the other converts to Kirtland, Ohio and then to Far West, Missouri. They were forced out of Missouri and went to Nauvoo. John was working in Quincy, Adams County, Illinois when he became ill with bilious fever. He died August 9, 1839 at age 31. Two weeks later their daughter Harriet died on August 21, and on August 27 their son Alpheus died.

Mariah and William’s first child, Lavina, was born in 1843 in Nauvoo and then Sarah J. in 1844. Twin girls, Cordelia and Ciscelia were born on February 10, 1848 which may have been in Kanesville since William oversaw a Church farm in that area. Emma was born on May 11, 1850,

probably in Kanesville. The 1850 U. S. Census listed the family as residing in dwelling #93.

William was listed as a member of the Big Pigeon Branch and early in the year of 1851 was listed in the Big Pigeon Tithing Record. William was asked to organize a company of about fifteen families to migrate west. The company left on June 24, 1852 from Kanesville.

The group traveled only a few days when cholera broke out in camp and several died. William was stricken ill and the camp halted at Loup Fork for two days to allow him to recover. He felt somewhat better, so the company moved on. Mariah Burr Clark Lane became sick about 9 o'clock in the morning after the company had started. The company kept moving to find the next place with water, but Mariah passed away at 4 p.m. that afternoon, July 5, 1852. This was on her son’s, Davis' twentieth birthday. The family peeled the bark off from a cottonwood tree to make a coffin for her. She was buried along the trail three days journey west of Loup Fork. The next day, the company moved on, but William’s condition grew worse. On the eighth of July, just three days after the death of his wife, he too died. The train took some good boxes and patched them together to make a coffin for him. Eight of Mariah and William’s children on the journey were left orphans. Twelve others, besides William and Mariah, died of the cholera. Two other men were shot by Indians. The company arrived in the Salt Lake Valley on September 24, 1852.

**John Jasper Loveless (John Loveless)**

John Loveless was born in Colerain, Ross County, Ohio on June 24, 1807. His parents were Joseph and Dorothy Rogers Loveless. He grew up on a farm where he worked hard and had little time for formal education.

A close up of a coin

Description automatically generated

![A picture containing cat, indoor

Description automatically generated]()John married Rachel Mahala Anderson when he was nineteen years old on January 25, 1826. Rachel was born August 26, 1805 to James and Priscilla House Anderson. She was born in Hampshire County, Virginia but was living in Perry, Fairfield County, Ohio when they were married.

John and Rachel’s first child, Sarah Ellen, was born in 1827 in Pickaway County, Ohio. Their second child, James Washington, born in 1828 was in Fairfield, Ohio. In 1829, the family moved from Ohio to Fountain County, Indiana on the Wabash River near Attica. He obtained a farm and continued the farming vocation. Their second son, third child, was born on June 1, 1831, Joseph J. Loveless, in Fountain County, Indiana.

Two Mormon Elders, Simeon Carter and Solomon Hancock, contacted the family in July 1831 and John was baptized. The Elders remained in the area four or five days and built up a Branch of some thirty members. After visiting Jackson County Missouri, Simeon Carter returned to John’s home and found him as he described, “prostrated with a burning fever of five days standing; he prayed with me, and administered to me, and I was immediately healed, arose and joined with in returning thanks to God.” John explained that this was the first miracle that he had witnessed in the Church and in about two weeks his wife was baptized. (22)

In 1833, the entire Branch moved to Jackson County, Missouri. About the first of November the Church was compelled to leave by the mob. Their third son, Nephi Anderson Loveless, was born on September 11, 1833 in Jackson County, Missouri. From this expulsion the family went to Lafayette County, where on March 8, 1835, their fourth son was born, John Thomas Loveless.

In October 1837, John and his family moved to Caldwell County where the Saints were gathering. On August 1, 1836, Mary Elizabeth, was born. In the fall of 1838, the mob arose, and they were expelled from the State of Missouri and compelled to sign over all property by force of arms. In March 1839, they located in Adams County, Illinois and again began farming. On September 1, 1839, Parley Pratt Loveless was born and then on February 15, 1841, Rachel Pricilla Loveless was born.

In the spring of 1842, the family moved to Hancock County, Illinois, six miles east of Warsaw, where John bought a farm and again went into farming. On January 6, 1843, the sixth son, William Duncan Loveless was born. Hyrum Smith Loveless was also born there on May 16, 1845. While in Nauvoo, John married a widow, Sarah “Sally” Corina Elmer, before they left.

John and his families arrived on the west side of the Missouri River in June 1846. He described the conditions, “I witnessed scenes of suffering, destitution's and heart rending distress that would have melted the heart of adamant and made a demon shed tears of blood and cause a man, yes even a man of God to curse and call upon God to curse and swear eternal vengeance against the perpetration's of all this horrid misery.” (23)

John settled in or near Big Pigeon and resumed farming. Here Rachel and John had two more children, John Oscar, born August 30, 1848 and Charlotte Lucretia, born December 15, 1850.

John married another widow, Rhoda Sanford Lawrence. Her husband, John Lawrence, had died at Winter Quarters on December 13, 1846. Three of her children had also passed away while at Winter Quarters. Angelina Elizabeth was almost 4 years old and was buried in grave #34 and Rhoda Almira was 7 months old and was buried grave #36, both a Cutler’s Park. John Lawrence, Sr., age 43 years, was buried in grave #39 and John Lawrence, Jr, age 14 days, was buried in grave #99 at Winter Quarters

On the 1850 U. S. Census, John and Rachel (Mahala) and eight children are listed. Living next to them is James (James Washington), their son, and his wife, Matilda Elizabeth McClellan, and daughter, Caroline (Jane Caroline). James and Matilda were most likely married at Big Pigeon. Jane Caroline, born March 25, 1848, and Cynthia Angeline, born July 14, 1850, were probably born there.

The families joined the John G. Smith Company in 1851. The Company departed May 1, 1851 from Kanesville and arrived in the Salt Lake Valley in September 1851. John took his families and settled in Payson, Utah County, Utah Territory. John remained there for the rest of his life. He passed away on December 6, 1880. Rachel died on October 25, 1891.

**Wilkinson Hewitt/Huett (Wilkinson Merrett)**

William Hewitt was the son of James and Elizabeth Webb Hewitt. He was born March 20, 1812 in Belgrade, Washington, County, Missouri.

Sarah Ann “Sally” Robinson was the daughter of Archibald Josiah and Jane K. Vanlear Robinson. She was born in Virginia on April 9, 1816.

Wilkinson and Sarah were married in Washington County, Missouri on February 7, 1833. Their first child, a daughter, Mary Jane, was born in about 1837 in Missouri. Henrietta, another daughter, was born in about 1840 in Illinois. The Nauvoo Census of 1842 listed Wilkinson, Sarah, Mary Jane, and Henrietta as residing in the Ward 1. (24)

Horace was Wilkinson and Sarah’s next child. He was born in Nauvoo, Hancock County, Illinois in 1843. While living here, Wilkinson married Julia A. Jaques on February 6, 1846 before the Saints left for the Middle Missouri Valley.

After reaching their destination in the Middle Missouri Valley, the family wintered at Winter Quarters in the Fifteenth Ward. Another child, Sarah Ann, was born on February 1, 1847 probably in Winter Quarters. (25)

Wilkinson is listed as a member of the Big Pigeon Branch and his name also appeared in the Tithing Record. His name was transcribed wrong on the Branch records as Wilkinson Merritt. The Tithing Record clarified the name which matched the Nauvoo Census Records, but the surname has many spellings—Hewitt, Huett, Huet, etc. Wilkinson married Margaret Grinder or Calhoun (adopted name) on May 19, 1848. Most families had moved out of Winter Quarters before May of 1848 so the marriage may have taken place in Big Pigeon. Since Wilkinson Hewitt, Jr. was born in 1848, it is likely that he was born in Big Pigeon as was Archibald R., who was born in 1851.

The 1850 U. S. Census, listed the family in dwelling #203 as Wilkinson, age 37; Sarah, age 33; Mary, age 14; Henrietta, age 10; Horace, age 7; Sarah, age 5; Wilkinson, age 2, and Margaret Calhoun, age 24. The family was also listed on the 1851 Iowa State Census.

Wilkinson died on July 16, 1851 possibly in Big Pigeon. There is no indication that Sarah and the children went west. Most of the children were married in Iowa, Nebraska, or Missouri. Sarah remarried to Lorenzo Don Burgess on March 20, 1853 in Mills County, Iowa. When he died between 1870 and 1878, she married William Barnett on October 5, 1879. She died on March 8, 1890 at Dexter, Dallas County, Iowa and is buried there.

**Charles Chauncey Perrin (Charles Perren)**

Charles C. Perrin was the son of Ephraim and Hannah Draper Perrin. He was born in Granville, Washington County, New York on April 26, 1812.

Charles married Mary Hannah Williams on October 24, 1839 and then moved to Wisconsin. They had their first child on September 5, 1841 in Walworth County, Wisconsin. His name was Thomas Jefferson Perrin. At some time, Charles joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and moved to Nauvoo. Their son, Charles Chauncey Perrin, Jr. was born there on August 8, 1845.

When the Saints were driven out of Nauvoo, the family traveled to Iowa where Charles volunteered to serve in the Mormon Battalion. He was assigned as a Private in Company D. His wife, Mary Hannah, and her two children moved into the Winter Quarters Third Ward.

# Charles finished his service in the military and traveled with the Levi W. Hancock/Jefferson Hunt/James Pace/Andrew Lytle Company, leaving from Sutter’s Fort in California, across the Sierra Nevada mountains to Fort Hall, Idaho and then to Salt Lake City. From there he returned to Iowa. For a period, his family lived in Big Pigeon where Charles was listed on the Branch Records and in the Tithing Records.

# A gravestone in front of a building Description automatically generatedA sign in front of a brick wall Description automatically generatedCharles and his family may have decided to follow Charles B. Thompson rather than Brigham Young and he moved to Preparation Canyon in Monona County, Iowa. While living in Monona County, their son, John William, was born on September 15, 1849 as was Ephraim, born January 4, 1851, David Everett, October 11, 1853, and Hannah Malvina, born October 20, 1857. The 1850 U. S. Census listed Charles, age 37; Hannah, age 37; Thomas, age 9; Chancy, age 5; and John, age 1.

Mary Hannah Perrin tombstone

Charles C. Perrin tombstone

# Mary Hannah died on May 14, 1871 in Moorhead, Monona County, Iowa. She is buried in the Preparation Canyon Cemetery, Monona County, Iowa. Charles died on March 25, 1889 in the same place and is also buried in the same cemetery.

# Lyman Stoddard (Lymon Stoddard)

# Lyman Stoddard came from Woodbury, Litchfield County, Connecticut. He was born on February 8, 1795 to Ichabod and Mary Mitchell Stoddard. In 1806, his parents moved to Bastard Township, Leeds County, Ontario, Canada. At that time, it was called Upper Canada.

# Ruth Wright married Lyman in Upper Canada in 1819. She was born October 13, 1805 in Earlington, Bennington County, Vermont. She was the daughter of Benjamin and Mary Ingersoll Wright.

# Five children were born to Lyman and Ruth while they were living in Upper Canada: Harriet Marie, born August 13, 1820; Judson Lyman, born April 13, 1823; Mary Jane, born July 27, 1826; Ester Ann, born 1828; and Elizabeth Ruth, born September 12, 1834.

# In 1836, Elder John Page and Elder Blakesly taught and baptized the Stoddard family into The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. In January of 1837, they left for Kirtland, Ohio with others in the community that had also been converted. Lyman took his family overland, driving the cattle, while the others sailed up Lake Ontario to Cleveland, Ohio where they met.

# In about 1840, the family relocated to Nauvoo. It was there that their daughter, Harriet Marie, passed away in 1840. Another daughter, Aurelia Jane, was born on September 20, 1841. Three weeks after her birth, Lyman was called on a mission to Wisconsin. Another son, Enoch Mahonri, was born December 22, 1845. The family left Illinois and went to the Missouri River.

# Lyman helped to develop Kanesville. Their last child, Alavan Moriancum, was born March 5, 1849.

# Lyman appeared in the Big Pigeon Branch Records and on the Tithing Records recorded on October 1849. His family was listed in the 1850 U. S. Census in dwelling #263—Lyman, age 55; Ruth, age 46; Elizabeth, age 16; Aurelia, age 8; Enoch, age 5; and Alavan, age 2.

# Lyman, Ruth, Elizabeth, Aurelia, Enoch, and Alavan came to the Salt Lake Valley in either 1851 or 1852. The Company they came with isn’t known.

# The family resided in the Farmington, Davis County, Utah Territory. Alavan died at the age of 3 on February 3, 1852. Then Elizabeth Ruth died on May 14, 1853. Lyman had ill health since leaving Iowa. He died on December 12, 1854. Ruth went to Ogden to live with her daughter, Aurelia Jane, and son-in-law. She passed away on September 22, 1877.

# Elizabeth Ann Seaton (Elizabeth Stump)

# Benjamin Stump was from Loudon County, Virginia. He was the son of Joseph M. Stump and Elizabeth Boggess. He was born on November 16, 1806. He married Elizabeth Ann Seaton on March 24, 1828 in Fauquier County, Virginia. Elizabeth was born on January 17, 1807 in Fauquier County. James B. and Elizabeth “Betty” James Seaton were her parents.

# Benjamin and Elizabeth’s first child was born April 3, 1829 in Union, Monroe County, Virginia. Between 1829 and 1831, the family moved to White Oak, Brown County, Ohio. James Edward was born on March 31, 1831 and Joseph William on February 5, 1833. The next move was to New Hope in the same county. Here the next six children were born, Francis Marion, born February 4, 1835; Jacob Kenner, born July 23, 1837; John Harvey, born November 3, 1841; Benjamin Rush and (twins) Margaret Elvira, born April 25, 1844; and Nancy Adelaide, born December 11, 1846. During their stay in Brown County, Francis Marion died on September 20, 1840 and Elizabeth Ann died on June 4, 1849.

# Within a year, Benjamin sold all his possessions and the family started west. He went to Cincinnati, took a boat to Cairo, Illinois and then up the Mississippi River to the Missouri River and then to Kanesville. During their trip, an epidemic of smallpox broke out on the boat and Nancy Adelaide passed away on April 3, 1850; Benjamin, on April 8, 1850; Benjamin Rush on March 28, 1850; and James Edward on May 20, 1850.

# A person wearing a black dress shirt posing for a photo Description automatically generatedElizabeth Jane, the oldest sibling was left in charge of the family. The family was listed in the 1850 U. S. Census in dwelling #688 and enumerated on October 5, 1850. The list included: Elizabeth, age 31 (should have been 21); Joseph, age 17; Jacob, age 13; John, age 8: and Margaret, age 6.

# One night, Elizabeth attended a meeting where Mormon missionaries were teaching about life after death. She had been told at her mother’s death, “to gaze up her Mother’s face for the last time, as you will never see her again.” (26) After hearing the missionaries, for the first time, she had felt comfort. Elizabeth’s name appeared on the Big Pigeon Branch Record and on the Branch Tithing Records. The date on the Tithing Record is date February 1851 and again in March.

# On March 9, 1851, Elizabeth Jane married Solomon Parks McIntosh. On the Pottawattamie Marriage Index, both Elizabeth and Solomon are listed as being from Big Pigeon. Solomon was a widower with two daughters. On the 1850 U. S. Census, the family was enumerated in dwelling #685 as Solomon, age 40; Sally, age 14; and Malinda, age 7.

# Solomon, Elizabeth, Sarah Ann McIntosh, Malinda Jane McIntosh, and Margaret Elvira Stump left with the Daniel A. Miller/John W. Cooley Company on June 8, 1853 from Six Mile Grove. They arrived in the Salt Lake Valley on September 9, 1853. The family settled in Lake Point, Tooele County, Utah Territory. There Elizabeth gave birth to two daughters, Nancy Elvina and Mary Ann, who both died very young. She endured the conditions when the grasshoppers swarmed over the land and there was very little to eat. Even in her weakened condition, she gave birth to Benjamin Cornelius.

# After her son’s birth, marital problems developed between Elizabeth and Solomon. Brigham Young approved a divorce for her. She then moved to Pond Town (Salem), Utah County, Utah Territory. She worked at anything she could to support her children. Through friends, she met Uriah Curtis and they were married on February 5, 1860. She had a daughter, Vicena Calesta Curtis, on October 15, 1860 and a son, Joseph Uriah Curtis, on October 18, 1863. Joseph Uriah was only one hour old when his father, Uriah Curtis, died of pneumonia.

# Uriah oldest son, Erastus Curtis, took responsibility for his father’s families and was called by Brigham Young to help settle Sanpete County, Utah. Elizabeth then moved to Moroni. She lived in the house of a good friend until the Blackhawk War began and she had to move into the Fort. When the War declined, she moved back to her house.

# When Cornelius was about 10 years old, he and his little brother, Joseph, took the team of horses to go collect sage brush so they would have fuel. On the way home, the horses became spooked, Joseph was thrown from the wagon into a mud puddle and was not harmed but Joseph was fatally injured when the horse’s hooves struck his head. He died three days later.

# Elizabeth struggled to feed herself and her two children. She cleaned houses, nursed the sick, and used her spinning and quilting skills. In the spring of 1872, an old friend of the family, Dr. William Taylor Dennis, came to Moroni and on April 1, 1872 Elizabeth married Dr. Dennis.

# A close up of some grass Description automatically generatedThe couple moved from Moroni to Marysville, Piute County, Utah. Elizabeth milked cows and made butter and cheese. Because of domestic problems, she moved back to Moroni and used the surname of Curtis. On December 29, 1872, a daughter, Elizabeth Ann Dennis was born.

# Elizabeth continued to spin and quilt and find any work that she could to sustain her family. Smallpox broke out in Moroni and she worked with Dr. Clark. Nursing became her livelihood and she studied to become a midwife.

Elizabeth Curtis tombstone

# Elizabeth spent the last days of her life with her daughter, Vicena Blackham. She lived to be eighty years of age and died on May 19, 1909. She is buried in the Moroni City Cemetery.

# John Turpin (John Turfer)

# The Big Pigeon Branch Record listed John Turfer as a member. No such person could be found. The most probable person was John Turpin who appeared in Nauvoo. The Tithing Records recorded a John that could be John Turpin on March 1851. His name could not be found on the 1850 U. S. Census. However, he appears in the 1851 and 1852 Iowa State Census. On the 1851 Census, the following are listed: John, age 42; Elisabeth, age 21; Joseph L., age 2; John R., age 0; and William O. J., age 13. On the 1852 Census, the Iowa State Census, only listed the head of household, John Turpin, with 4 males and 1 female.

# John Turpin was born on December 24, 1808 in Stewart County, Tennessee. His parents were James and Nancy Ann Tatum Turpin. He married Sarah Frazier in 1838. Sarah was born on January 24, 1809 in Trigg County, Kentucky. She was the daughter of Thomas and Jane Autry Frazier.

# John and Sarah were married in 1838. They had three children: Nancy Jane, Jesse, and William O. J. or Wilford. They were probably born in Nauvoo. Nancy Jane died there as well. The couple may have divorced as John married Mary Elizabeth Travis in about 1843 and Sarah married William Sharp in about 1846.

# Mary Elizabeth Travis was born March 3, 1819 in Tennessee. She was the daughter of Thomas and Susan Malone Travis. The couple had John Riley whose death certificate said that he was born on May 3, 1844 and Joseph Leander born in about 1849 according to the 1851 Iowa Census. Joseph was probably born in Big Pigeon. His death certificate stated that his birth date was unknown. Samuel may have been born in Big Pigeon, in about 1851. There is no other further record of him, and he probably died young. There is no overland trail information for the family

# The next record of the family is the 1860 U. S. Census and they were listed in Lehi, Utah County, Utah Territory. Added to the family were Malissa J., age 6; Catherine E., age 4; and Melvina Rosina, age 2. By the 1870 U. S. Census the family had moved to Grantsville, Tooele County, Utah. John was listed as a blacksmith. Added to the family were the following: Millie J., age 7; Mary, age 5; and William, age 3.

# John Turpin died in December 1879. His death was recorded in the Mortality Index in Summit County and death was due to pneumonia. The 1880 U. S. Census enumerated Elizabeth in Ophir, Tooele County, Utah. She was listed as age 45 and a widow. Enumerated with her was a son, George Washington, age 8; her daughter, Rosa, age 2; and a granddaughter, Ida B., age 2 months.

# Elizabeth passed away on December 13, 1898. She is buried in the Salt Lake City Cemetery.

# Abishai Wyer/Ware (Abisha Wayne)

# Abishai Wyer was born to John and Susannah “Ann” Harrison Wyer on September 5, 1791 in Stephenson, Frederick County, Virginia. Not much is known about his early life but many of his ancestors came from Virginia.

# Abishai married Delilah Rogers on February 13, 1816 in Harrisonburg, Rockingham County, Virginia. Delilah was the daughter of Rhodam and Mildred Nelson Rogers. She was born in Loudon County, Virginia. Her father was a soldier in the Revolutionary War.

# While living in Harrisonburg, Abishai and Delilah had five children: Richard, Elizabeth, Rebecca, Susannah, and Robert. The couple’s children died at a very young age except Rebecca who was born January 20, 1818. In about 1824, Abishai, Delilah, and Rebecca moved to Jones Run, Harrison County, West Virginia—property owned by Delilah’s father. Here Ellender Ellen was born on December 1, 1825. Three more children were born here: Asa, Dorcas, and Meriha. The last three children died early in childhood.

# The family was converted to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in September 1836. In 1837, they left their home and moved to Kirtland, Ohio to gather with the Saints. Eventually, they moved to Nauvoo where they were baptized for some of their dead ancestors and then on to the Middle Missouri Valley.

# Abishai and Delilah are listed in the 1850 U. S. Census in dwelling #684. They are listed next to Solomon McIntosh. They are enumerated as: Absha Wyre, age 61, and Delia, age 64, both being born in Virginia. Ellender had married Richard Stubbs in Lee County, Iowa on June 21, 1843.

# A picture containing grass, outdoor, building, sitting Description automatically generatedAbishai Wyer was listed on the Big Pigeon Branch Record. It was transcribed wrong as Abisha Wayne. The Big Pigeon Tithing Record listed Abisha Wayre on July 11, 1848 and continued until July 1852.

# Abishai, and Delilah, joined the Uriah Curtis Company which left for the west on June 28, 1852. Ellender Wyre Stubbs, her husband, and two children were in the same Company.

# When they arrived in the Salt Lake Valley in September, they settled in Provo, Utah County, Utah Territory. Abishai passed away on October 25, 1853, and according to the Provo Daughters of the Utah Pioneers, he was the first person buried in the Provo City Cemetery.

Abisha Ware tombstone

# Delilah married Samuel Vincent, a widower, from England. She passed away on November 24, 1876 and is buried next to her husband.

# Big Pigeon Tithing Book (27)

# A tithing record was kept from July 1848 until about July 1852. There were names recorded that were not listed on the Branch Records. In addition, the names of Abisha Wayne was corrected to Abishai Wayre (Wyre) and John Turfer was corrected to John Turpin.

**Ezra Taft Benson**

A person wearing a suit and tie

Description automatically generatedThe Tithing Records recorded that Ezra T. Benson received items in October and November of 1848 and June 1849. Ezra T. Benson was born on February 22, 1811 in Mendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts. He was the son of John and Chloe Taft Benson. His father was a farmer and in 1817 moved the family to Uxbridge, Worcester County, Massachusetts.

A person posing for the camera

Description automatically generatedIn 1831, at the age of twenty, Ezra married Pamelia Andrus from Windsor, Hartford County, Connecticut. She was born on October 21, 1809 to Jonathan Harvey and Lucina Pearson Andrus. While they were living in Uxbridge, on September 26, 1831, a son was born, named Ezra T., he died on October 14, 1832. Another son, Charles Augustus Benson, was born on September 26, 1832 and he died on October 13, 1832.

About the year 1835, Ezra moved his family to Holland, Hampden County, Massachusetts where he entered into partnership with his wife’s eldest brother, Orrin C. Andrus, and hired a cotton factory of Elbridge G. Fuller. After losing money in the venture, he managed a hotel in the same town and was appointed postmaster for Holland. It was here a daughter, Chloe, was born in April 1835. She died with the croup at seven months old.

After a brief stay in Salem, Essex County, Massachusetts, in the spring of 1837, the family started for the western states and continued their journey until they arrived at St. Louis where they equipped themselves with goods to make the trip. They met Ezra’s father’s cousin, who living in Griggsville, Pike County, Illinois who invited them to his house until they could find a place to settle. It was here that Pamelia gave birth to a son, Charles Augustus, on July 9, 1837.

In the fall, the family moved to Lexington, McLean County, Illinois and then onto unsettled land about two miles from Lexington. Ezra and a partner laid out a town and called it Pike where they sold lots. He built a small house and cut cord wood and sold it to the steamboats.

The family stayed here but Ezra’s health failed so he moved his home to an area close to Quincy, Adams County, Illinois in 1839. Pamelia gave birth to twins, Adin Parsons and Jonathan Andrus in March 1841. They were premature and died. Pamelia and Ezra began listening to the Mormon missionaries and in July 1840 were baptized. They decided to move their home to Nauvoo where they bought a lot and built a cabin.

A person posing for the camera

Description automatically generatedWhile living among the Saints in Nauvoo, more children were born: Pamelia Emma on February 28, 1842. After serving a mission to the East, Ezra returned to Nauvoo and built a brick home. Another son was born, Harvey Andrus, on September 26, 1844. Harvey died the same day. During that year, Ezra married Pamelia’s sister, Adeline Brooks Andrus on April 27, 1844. He also married Desdemona Wadsworth Fullmer on January 26, 1846.

In 1846, when the Saints decided to leave Nauvoo, Brigham Young asked Ezra to leave with him. The Company left in February and started across Iowa. When they reached, Richardson’s Point, Van Buren County, Iowa Territory, Pamelia delivered a girl, Isabella, born March 9, 1846.

As the journey continued, Adeline had a son, George Taft Benson on May 1, 1846 at Garden Grove, Decatur County, Iowa. After reaching Mount Pisgah, the family stayed in that area until about July when Ezra was called to the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles and went to the Bluffs to meet with President Young.

Ezra’s families spent the winter in the Winter Quarters Seventeenth Ward. Albert Lutz was the Bishop and Thomas Bullock was the Clerk. When Winter Quarters was vacated, the families may have moved to Big Pigeon. Ezra had been to the Salt Lake Valley in 1847 with the Brigham Young Vanguard Company. He organized his own Company in 1849. Pamelia and her children went the Valley in that Company. They left on July 15 and arrived on October 25 thru 29.

Adeline Benson and her son went to the Valley with the Charles C. Rich Company that departed from the Elkhorn River on June 21, 1847. Ezra made other trips in 1854 and 1857.

The 1850 U. S. Census placed Ezra and his families in the Great Salt Lake, Utah Territory. By the 1860 U. S. Census, Ezra lived in Brigham, Cache County, Utah Territory. However, Pamelia was still living in Salt Lake City.

On September 3, 1869, Ezra T. Benson passed away in Ogden, Weber County, Utah Territory. Pamelia died on September 14, 1877 in Logan, Cache County, Utah Territory. Both are buried in the Logan City Cemetery.

**Levi Bracken**

A black and white photo of a person

Description automatically generatedLevi Bracken was the son of William and Mary Garrison Bracken of Conemaugh, Cambria County, Pennsylvania. He was born on March 13, 1792. When he was only two years of age his father died and then his mother took her two sons, Thomas and Levi and moved to Ohio. Her brothers and her father, Elijah Garrison, were living there. When Levi was only five years of age, his mother passed away suddenly. Levi was raised by his grandfather and uncles.

A picture containing photo

Description automatically generated

At an early age Levi fell in love with Elizabeth Clark. They were married in about 1810 in Colerain, Hamilton County, Ohio. Elizabeth was the daughter of Thomas and Anna Buck Clark. She was born on October 24, 1790 in Connecticut. While living in Colerain, five children were born—Mary Ann, Hanna Marie, James Bennett, William, and Martha Ruth

The family moved to Noble, Rush County, Indiana and had five children—Lucretia Charlotte, Matilda, Elizabeth Ann, Hannah Louisa, and Anson Miller. In addition, three more unnamed children may have been born and died there. While residing in this area, Levi was converted to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

Levi took his family to Nauvoo to live among the Saints. When the persecution came, they traveled west. As of December 31, 1846, Levi and his family were members of the Winter Quarters Twenty First Ward.

On the 1850 U. S. Census, in dwelling #674, the Brackens were listed with those in Big Pigeon. Recorded were Levi, age 60; Elizabeth, age 61; and Ann, age 20. Levi and Elizabeth also appear on the 1851 and 1852 Iowa State Censuses in the same place. The Pottawattamie County Marriage Index listed Elizabeth Ann Bracken of Big Pigeon marriage to Dabney Keele on May 11, 1851.

Levi and his family secured the necessary provisions and left with the Uriah Curtis Company in 1852 for the Rocky Mountains. He served as Captain of the Second Ten of that sixteenth immigration Company.

During the journey west, many in the Company were stricken with cholera. Levi was called to administer a Sister Mathews who was seriously ill with the disease. He realized that the disease was contagious, but he willingly went to bless a friend. He became a victim of the illness and passed away the following morning. He was buried at Loup Fork, Nebraska Territory.

Elizabeth traveled on to Salt Lake City and then later to Spring Valley, Lincoln County, Nevada and made her home with one of her daughters. She passed away on June 14, 1876 and is buried in the Spring Valley Cemetery.

**Isaac Clark**

![A person wearing a suit and tie

Description automatically generated]()An entry on February 1849 listed Bishop Clark as receiving tithing. Isaac Clark was born on May 7, 1806 in Bowling Green, Warren County, Kentucky. He was the son of Robert Clark and Ruth Moore. He was one of seven children.

Isaac married Mary Margareta Timmons in about 1835. Mary was born on May 5, 1804 in Madison County, Kentucky. She was the daughter of Stephen and Elizabeth Timmons.

After joining The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, they moved to Missouri and then Columbus, Adams County, Illinois where Catherine Ruth was born on February 1, 1838.

When the Saints left Nauvoo, the Clark’s wintered in the Winter Quarters Fifteenth Ward. He was listed as the Bishop as of December 31, 1846 with 111 members in the Ward.

After they left Winter Quarters, they moved to Big Pigeon before they joined the George A. Smith/Dan Jones Company. The Company left from Kanesville on July 14, 1849. They reach the Salt Lake Valley between October 26 and 30, 1849.

The 1850 U. S. Census enumerated Isaac and Mary in Green River, Utah Territory. Those listed are Isaac, age 43; Mary, age 45; Catherine, age 14; and William A., age 2.

The family moved to Ogden, Weber County, Utah Territory by 1851. William married Diana Herrick on June 10, 1851. The couple had one child, Isaac Lemuel Clark, born on September 10, 1853.

Isaac died on January 24, 1854 in Ogden. Mary died on December 12, 1878. Both are buried in the Ogden City Cemetery.

**Shadrach Ford Driggs**

On June 1849, Shadrick (sic) Driggs is listed in the Big Pigeon Tithing Record.

A person wearing a suit and tie

Description automatically generatedShadrach Ford Driggs was born August 28, 1813 in Ashtabula, Ashtabula County, Ohio. His parents were Urial and Hannah Ford Driggs. Most of his boyhood was spent in the vicinity of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. His father moved the family to Licking County, Ohio. There, Shadrach met Benjamin Woodbury from Connecticut who taught him how to make wagons.

A black and white photo of a person

Description automatically generatedShadrach married Eliza Elizabeth White in June 1836 Fredonia, Licking County, Ohio. Eliza was born on July 14, 1812 in Chester, Windsor County, Vermont. The couple had eleven children. The first two were born in Licking County, Ohio—Benjamin Woodbury Driggs (named after the wagon maker); and Hannah Jane.

Shadrach’s family moved to Nauvoo in 1840. His family had a house a few blocks from his father’s family. Three children were born in Nauvoo—Apollos Griffin; Isaac Ashton; and Parley Pratt. As the Saints prepared to move west, Shadrach built a two-story wagon shop. Because he provided others with wagons to move, his family did not leave Nauvoo until May of 1846.

Shadrach and his family settled in Big Pigeon. According to family history, Shadrach built a log cabin and a wagon shop there. There were three children born: Charles Barnum, Ruth, and Mark. In August of 1851, the *Frontier Guardian,* namedShadrach Driggs newspaper agent from Big Pigeon. (28)

The 1850 U. S. Census enumerated the Driggs family in dwelling #678: Shadrach, wagonmaker, age 37; Eliza, age 37; Benjamin, age 13; Jane, age 11; Apollos, age 10, Isaac, age 9; Parley, age 7; Charles, age 3; and Ruth, age 6 months. Shadrach is also listed in the 1851 and 1852 Iowa State Census.

On June 28, 1852, Shadrach’s family joined the Uriah Curtis Company in Kanesville to go west. They arrived in the Salt Lake Valley between September 29 and October 1, 1852 and settled in Kaysville, Davis County, Utah Territory. Here Eliza was born on October 11, 1852.

The family relocated to Pleasant Grove, Utah County, Utah Territory where Shadrach built a wagon shop. He continued to repair wagons and plowshares and was known to make coffins.

Eliza died on February 10, 1896 and Shadrach on October 26, 1898. Both are buried in the Pleasant Grove City Cemetery.

**George Albert Smith**

George A. Smith was born on June 26, 1817 in Potsdam, St. Lawrence County, New York to John and Clarissa Loomis Lyman Smith and a cousin of Joseph Smith, the Prophet. George A. grew very tall for his age and was bullied at school.

A black and white photo of a person

Description automatically generatedGeorge A. worked on his father’s farm but in 1832 was baptized a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. In 1833, his father moved the family to Kirtland, Ohio. It was in Kirtland that George A. was engaged in quarrying and hauling rock for the temple. He was a participant in Zion’s Camp. In 1839, the family had moved to Nauvoo and was ordained as one of the Twelve Apostles.

On July 25, 1841, George A. married Bathsheba W. Bigler. Before leaving Nauvoo in 1846, he married other wives. His families resided in the Winter Quarters Fifteenth Ward. During that time, one of his wives and four children died and are buried in Winter Quarters Cemetery. Nancy Clements Smith, a wife, age 31 years, died of scurvy on March 27, 1847 and is buried in grave #118. John, only 9 hours old, died on April 4, 1847 and is buried in grave #124. Nancy Adelia, age 1 year, died on April 17, 1847 and buried in grave #138. Don Carlos, only 10 months old died of diarrhea on July 21, 1847 and is buried in grave #174.

George A. is recorded in the Big Pigeon Tithing Records in October 1848 and February 1849. He may have moved his families to Big Pigeon after they moved from Winter Quarters.

George A. traveled with the Brigham Young Vanguard Company in 1847 but came back to Winter Quarters to bring his families west. They joined the George A. Smith/Dan Jones Company which left Kanesville on July 14, 1849. They arrived in the Salt Lake Valley between October 26 and 30, 1849.

In 1875, he was attacked by a severe cold, which, located in his lungs and he died on September 1, 1875 in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County, Utah Territory. He is buried in the Salt Lake City Cemetery.

**Benjamin Williams**

It is difficult to recreate the history of Benjamin Williams. He was born in 1811 in Ohio. Nothing is known about his parents or childhood. He married Mary Ann Gray who was born December 7, 1815. No information is available concerning her parents or childhood. They married on March 9, 1836 in Mason County, Kentucky.

There is an entry in the Big Pigeon Tithing Records under the name of Bishop Wm. Lane: “the property of Benjamin Williams deceased June 1852.” From that we assume that Benjamin Williams and his family lived in Big Pigeon before he died.

On the 1850 U. S. Census, his family was enumerated in Fremont County, Iowa Territory. Listed were Benjamin, age 39, a farmer; Mary Ann, age 33; Sarah, age 13, born in Indiana; Thomas B., age 9, born in Missouri; Bethena, age 7, born in Missouri; Armintia, age 5, born in Missouri; Robert, age 2, born in Missouri; and Zacharia, age 11, born in Iowa. FamilySearch provides an exact birth date for Zacharia Taylor as July 15, 1849 in Sydney, Fremont County, Iowa. The family probably lived in Big Pigeon before the birth of Zacharia.

Benjamin died in June 1852 in Sydney. Mary Ann remarried. She married Asa Fall. He was born on May 19, 1808 in Ohio. He was a widower. His previous wife was Agness Davis who he married in 1832 in Ohio. In the 1860 U. S. Census, the families are combined and listed as: Asa, age 52; Mary A., age 41; Amos D., age 16; Daniel W., 12; Andrew J., age 9; Robert C., age 6; Theodosia, age 2; Elias F., age 1; Thos. B., age 19; Bathania, age 17; Araminta, age 14; Robert G., age 13; and Zachariah, age 11.

Mary Ann died on August 24, 1897 in Walla Walla, Walla Walla County, Washington. Her tombstone in Mountain View Cemetery gives her birth and death date.

# Between 1870 and 1880, Asa and Mary Ann moved from Sydney, Iowa to Columbia County, Washington. Asa died on March 24, 1900 in Walla Walla. His death certificate listed his birth date as about 1809 in Indiana. It listed his father as William Fall and his mother as Catherine Gift.

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**Pottawattamie County Marriage Records 1848-1880** (29)

The Pottawattamie County Marriage Records provided the names of those that were residing in Big Pigeon and applied for a marriage license. Included in this section are the names of those not already covered in another section.

**James Benson & Almira Jordan**

James Benson, the son of Alva and Cynthia Vail Benson was born February 6, 1828 in Henricks, Johnson County, Indiana. James married Almira Melinda Jordan on December 21, 1848. Both were from Big Pigeon.

Almira was born March 1, 1828 in Pleasant, Brown County, Ohio. She was born to Nathaniel and Barbara Curtis Jordan. The couple had a son, Alva James, who was born on February 9, 1850 in Big Pigeon.

The 1850 U. S. Census listed James Benson, dwelling #665, age 22; Almira, age 22; and Alma, age 8 months. The couple went west in 1851 in an unknown company. They first settled in Springville, Utah County, Utah Territory. They had four children while living there. They relocated to Hyrum, Cache County, Utah. Their last child was born in Hyrum. Both James and Almira died in Hyrum, 1862 and 1896 respectively.

**John Lonson Child & Eliza Jane Curtis**

John Lonson Child and Eliza Jane Curtis were married at Big Pigeon on January 24, 1850. Both were from Big Pigeon. John was born October 26, 1830 in North Hammond, St. Lawrence County, New York. He was the son of Alfred Bosworth and Polly Barber Child.

Eliza Jane was born May 1, 1831 in Fountain Green, Montgomery County, Indiana. She was the daughter of Uriah and Phoebe Martin Curtis. The 1850 U. S. Census enumerated John Child, age 22 and Eliza, age 20 (dwelling #697) next to Uriah Curtis, her father (dwelling #698).

Two children were born in Big Pigeon—Sarah Ann, born November 8, 1850 and John Columbus, born March 3, 1852 before they left for the west with the Uriah Curtis Company. After coming west, the family settled in Weber County, Utah Territory. Three more children were born there—Mary Rosetta, Charles Uriah, and Lester Aaron. John died December 28, 1882 and Eliza on March 22, 1901 in Ogden, Weber County, Utah.

**Eli Curtis & Sarah Ann Barnett**

![A blurry image of a person

Description automatically generated]()Eli Curtis married Sarah Ann Barnett on January 30, 1851. Eli was the son of Benjamin Gardner and Maria Dunn Curtis. Eli was born on June 3, 1828 in Washington, Brown County, Ohio. Sarah “Sally” Ann was born on January 2, 1830 in Posey, Washington County, Indiana to Thomas and Mahala Hodge Barnett. One child was born in Big Pigeon—Jane Mariah Curtis on November 27, 1851.

The couple went with the Uriah Curtis Company. Uriah was Eli’s uncle. The Company left Kanesville on June 28, 1852.

After reaching the Salt Lake Valley, the couple settled in Springville, Utah County, Utah Territory where they had two more children. Several years later, Eli and Sarah separated. Eli married Eliza King in 1868 and Rachel Rebecca Harris in 1891. Eli moved to Levan, Juab County, Utah.

On April 27, 1898, an article in the *Salt Lake Herald* published the following: “News is just here that one of the remaining two children of Eli Curtis at Levan died this morning of scarlet fever. The mother and three children have died within nine days, and the remaining child is not expected to live.” (30) Rachel Rebecca Harris Curtis, age 26; Rebecca Curtis, age 5; Eliza, age 2, and Edwin Gardner, age 1 day died. Leroy Curtis lived and when his father Eli died in 1899, he went to live with his half-sister.

**Jesse Williams Fox, Sr. & Eliza Gibbs**

The Pottawattamie County Marriage Index listed the marriage of Jesse Fox and Eliza Gibbs on June 2, 1849. Both were listed as living in Benson’s Mill.

Jesse was born March 31, 1819 in Adams Center, Jefferson County, New York. He was the son of a farmer, Samuel John Fox, Sr. His mother was Lucy Williams. Jesse followed his father’s occupation until he was eighteen. He then attended school and from 1838 until 1844 he either attended school or taught school.

Jesse went west to Nauvoo in the spring of 1844 where he became a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. He left Nauvoo for Iowa in the Spring of 1844. His brother, David, and his wife, Caroline, had both died in the fall of 1845. The couple left four children which traveled with Jesse. One daughter, Elvira, died in route.

Brigham Young called Jesse on a mission to the Eastern States. When he returned to Iowa, he located in the Big Pigeon area. There he met a former pupil from his earlier teaching activities—Eliza Jerusha Gibbs.

Eliza was born on May 8, 1830 at Benson, Rutland County, Vermont. Her parents were Aaron and Prudence Carter Gibbs. She was born after her father died. Her mother accepted the gospel in 1834 and followed the Saints to Kirtland, Ohio. Eliza’s mother died in 1841 in Quincy, Adams County, Illinois. Eliza was only eleven years old. She probably went to Iowa with her brother-in-law, William F. Cahoon, and her sister, Nancy.

When Jesse and Eliza were married, Jesse was age thirty and Eliza was eighteen. The couple joined the Samuel Gully/Orson Spencer Company which left Kanesville on May 28, 1849 with about 100 wagons. They arrived in the Salt Lake Valley between September 22 and 25, 1849.

Jesse and Eliza established their residence in the Sixteenth Ward of Salt Lake. In May of 1850, Jesse was asked to assist William M. Lemmon as surveyor for the Church. In 1851, he was asked to help settle Sanpete County. He started teaching school in Manti but left his family in Salt Lake City. All five of his children were born there.

On March 8, 1871, Jesse married another wife—Sarah Elizabeth Foss. Sarah and Jesse had one daughter—Charlotte Jeanette Fox.

Eliza passed away on June 26, 1889 in Salt Lake City. Jesse died at the home of his second wife in Bountiful, Utah on April 1, 1894. Both are buried in the Salt Lake City Cemetery in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County, Utah.

**William Henry Head & Mary McClellan**

The Pottawattamie County Marriage Index recorded the marriage of William Head and Mary McClellan on January 17, 1850 in Big Pigeon. William was born to Anthony and Catherine Maggard Head. He was born June 29, 1824 in Huntsville, Randolph County, Missouri. His parents had seven children who were all born in Missouri. At some point they joined the Church and moved to Nauvoo where they owned property.

William’s father, Anthony, died September 25, 1843 in Nauvoo, Hancock County, Illinois. His mother, Catherine, remarried in 1847 to Elisha Whiting, Jr. When the Saints traveled west through Iowa, both Catherine and Elisha died in Mt. Pisgah in route to the Middle Missouri Valley.

Mary Jane McClellan was born August 22, 1831 in Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee. She was the third child of the twelve children of James and Cynthia Stewart McClellan.

On the 1850 U. S. Census, dwelling #1277, William, age 25 and Mary, age 18 were listed. William’s name also appears on the Big Pigeon Branch Records and on the Tithing Records.

The couple came west with an unknown company in 1851. Their first three children were born in Utah County, Utah Territory. They moved to Iron County where Henry Alvaro was born on September 30, 1859.

The 1860 U. S. Census listed the family in Cache County, Utah Territory. By 1861, when Jasper Jason was born on February 10, they had moved to Franklin, Oneida County, Idaho Territory. There they had five more children.

John died on May 3, 1891 in Preston, Franklin County, Idaho. Mary Jane married John Winters Lusk in 1896. She died on January 24, 1916 in Preston, Oneida County, Idaho.

**William Jackson Jolley & Sarepta Curtis**

A close up of a person

Description automatically generatedWilliam Jolley was born to Reuben M. and Sarah Pippin Jolley in Dresden, Weakley County, Tennessee. He was born on November 8, 1829. His parents joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in 1842 and moved to Nauvoo.

When the family was driven out of Nauvoo, they moved to Keosauqua, Van Buren County, Iowa Territory where they lived. While living there, the father, Reuben, contracted pneumonia and died in 1849. This left William’s mother with nine children.

The family moved to the Middle Missouri Valley and settled in Harris Grove, Pottawattamie County, Iowa. On April 8, 1850, William married Sarepta Curtis of Big Pigeon.

A person posing for a photo

Description automatically generatedSarepta was the daughter of Benjamin Gardner and Maria Dunn Curtis. She was born on April 9, 1830 in Washington, Brown County, Ohio.

If the Overland Pioneer Travel Records are correct, William left his bride in Big Pigeon and accompanied his mother and eight siblings and departed on June 17, 1850 for the Salt Lake Valley. He then returned to Big Pigeon to find his wife and a daughter, Sarah Marie, who was born on June 9, 1851. The three of them joined the Uriah Curtis Company which departed on June 28, 1852.

William and Sarepta first settled in Palmyra, Utah County, Utah Territory where Sarah Marie died on May 18, 1853. Reuben Gardner was born here on December 8, 1852. They then moved to Springville where William Jackson Jolley, Jr. was born in 1854. It was here, during the Indian War, that William was wounded while on picket duty.

The family moved to Payson, Utah County, Utah Territory where three children were born. They moved to southern Utah and in Leeds, Washington County, John Alma was born in 1864. Another move put them in Parowan, Iron County, where two more children were added to the family and then back to Leeds where Joseph Uriah was born in 1868 and Arminda Luella was born in 1871.

The family’s last move took them to Mount Carmel, Kane County, Utah. It was here that Sarepta died on January 9, 1889. When there was a serious drought, many left the area, William decided he was too old to leave. He married Jacobine Sorensen in 1889 who took care of him until he died on July 2, 1905.

**Dabney Uel Keele & Elizabeth Ann Bracken**

Dabney Uel Keele and Elizabeth Ann Bracken were married on May 11, 1851. Dabney was born to Richard John and Nancy Eleanor McCullough. He was born on September 15, 1826 at Bedford City, Bedford County, Tennessee. Elizabeth was born October 30, 1828 in Noble, Rush An old photo of a person

Description automatically generatedCounty, Indiana. Her parents were Levi and Elizabeth Clark Bracken. Two children were born in Big Pigeon—Elizabeth Eleanor and Richard Levi. The twins did not survive long and are probably buried in Big Pigeon.

# The 1851 Iowa State Census lists Dabney and Elizabeth. They joined the Henry Bryant Manning Jolley Company in Kanesville. They departed for the west on June 15, 1852 and arrived in the Salt Lake Valley on September 9, 1852. They settled in Utah County where four of their children were born. Then they moved to Franklin, Oneida County, Idaho Territory, where two children were born and finally their last three children were born in Pine Valley, Washington County, Utah Territory.

# Dabney died on July 21, 1902 in Thurber, Wayne County, Utah and then Elizabeth died in Delta, Millard County, Utah on July 6, 1915.

**John Winters Lusk & Mary Elizabeth Park**

John Winters Lusk was born on June 12, 1829 in Madison, Madison County, Illinois. He was the son of Samuel and Elizabeth Maria Dixon Lusk.

A person posing for the camera

Description automatically generatedMary Elizabeth Park was born in Yorkville, Gibson County, Tennessee on January 20, 1833. She was the daughter of John Miller and Matilda Stewart Park. The marriage records indicated that Mary Elizabeth was from Farmersville. They were married on May 19, 1851.

# The family joined the Daniel A. Miller/John W. Cooley Company at Six Mile Grove and left for the west on June 8, 1853. There were 282 individuals and 70 wagons in the Company. They reached the Valley between September 9-17, 1853. They went on to Provo, Utah County, Utah Territory.

The couple had one child, James Park Lusk, born in 1853. Mary Elizabeth died on November 20, 1853 in Provo, Utah County, Utah Territory. John then married Mary Elizabeth’s sister, Esther Catherine Park and they eventually had eight children.

A few years later, John married Martha Tidwell. Together they had ten children. John was a farmer and raised stock. They moved to Malad City, Oneida County, Idaho where there was plenty of food for the stock.

John died in Malad City on September 21, 1899. He is buried there.

**John Walker & Frances L. Chase**

John Walker, age 29, of Big Pigeon married Frances L. Chase, age 22 on April 27, 1850 as recorded on the Pottawattamie County Marriage Records. Some sources give the name of John Elisha Walker Randall as the husband. Whatever the case, there is no record as to what happened to John.

Frances Lucinda Chase was born on August 5, 1828 in Bristol, Addison County, Vermont. Her parents were Sisson Simmons and Dorothy “Dolly” N. Hinsdale. The 1850 U. S. Census enumerated Sisson, his wife, and six of his children living in Pottawattamie County, Iowa, and in Weber County, Utah Territory. The family must have traveled west in 1850.

By 1860, Sisson must have been attracted by the free land in Oregon. The Census listed them in Oregon City, Clackamas County, Oregon. Frances Lucinda married William Ballinger Partlow on June 28, 1857 in Oregon City. They couple had four children: James William, Richard Simmons, Anna, and Edgar Ballinger.

Frances Lucinda died on January 29, 1892. William died on November 14, 1906. Both are buried in the Mountain View Cemetery in Oregon City.

**William Steven White & Janette Reaves Head**

William Steven White was the son of Henry Harvey and Rebekah Smith White. He was born in 1824 in Underhill, Chittenden County, Vermont. He married Janette Reaves Head on April 19, 1849. Both were listed as residing in Big Pigeon.

Janette was born on June 9, 1828 in Clay County, Missouri to Anthony and Catherine Maggard Head. The couple had two children will living in Big Pigeon—Elizabeth, born in 1850 and Mariel, born in 1851.

It doesn’t appear that they went west but may have moved to Ashton, Monona County, Iowa. Three more children were born there—Catherine, Samuel and William Edgar. William died in Ashton and Janette at some point moved to Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska and died there on February 20, 1915.

**1850 U. S. Census Pottawattamie County, Iowa**

It is difficult to place those residing in Big Pigeon using the 1850 U. S. Census alone. Pottawattamie County was listed as District #21 and the settlements were not listed. However, if a name was enumerated near a family that was from Big Pigeon as proven by a previous source, those enumerated name are included here. It appears that Luke Johnson enumerated most of Big Pigeon on October 5, 1850.

**Morris Charles Phelps (Dwelling #655)**

A black and white photo of a person

Description automatically generatedMorris Charles Phelps was born on December 20, 1805 in Northampton, Hampshire County, Massachusetts. He was the first child of Spencer and Mary Kneipp Phelps. In 1807, Morris’ parents moved from Massachusetts to Painesville, Lake County, Ohio. A short time later, they moved near the town of Kirtland. Morris’s parents were among the first to settle in the area.

When Morris was 10 years of age, his parents sent him to Mentor, Ohio for 15 months of school. When he was 19, he went to live with some relatives in Lawrence County, Illinois. Morris married Laura Clark, age 17, on April 12, 1825 in Lawrenceville, Lawrence County, Illinois. On March 20, 1827, their first daughter, Paulina, was born. Shortly after that event, the family moved to Peoria, Illinois where Morris started a sawmill and a farm. Their second child, Mary Ann, was born on August 6, 1829.

A generous offer was made on the farm and sawmill and Morris sold everything and moved the family to Chicago, Illinois. While Morris returned to Peoria to finish up some of his business, Laura wrote him a letter about a new book called the Book of Mormon, translated from gold plates. Missionaries were sent to them in Chicago and they baptized Morris and Laura.

Following their baptism, Morris sold his property and moved to Independence, Missouri. Their third child, Harriet Wight was born on April 7, 1832. She was born in Lyman Wight’s tent. She was the first Mormon girl born in Independence, Missouri.

The family’s next move was to Macedonia, Hamilton County, Illinois. It was about 20 miles east of Nauvoo. They lived there for about a year and a half. During this time period Laura became a midwife and travelled constantly, being of service where needed. After constant exertion and exposure because of her midwife travels, she became ill and never recovered. She died at the age of 34 on February 9, 1842, at Macedonia and was buried at Nauvoo, Hancock County, Illinois.

Morris married again on March 27, 1842 to Sarah Thompson, age 22, a schoolteacher, in Nauvoo. She was born March 20, 1820 at Pomfret, Chautauqua County, New York. A daughter, Laura Ann, was born February 16, 1843 in Macedonia, Hancock, Illinois and died in 1844. Morris moved his family into Nauvoo in 1843 so that he could work on the temple. Their second daughter, Sara Diantha, was born February 25, 1845 and she died on February 28, 1845 in Nauvoo.

As they were driven out of Nauvoo, Sarah’s first son and third child, Hyrum Smith Phelps, was born in a wagon and was able to survive the bitter cold weather of that cruel night on the banks of the Mississippi River. They traversed Iowa and made it to the Missouri River. They wintered as members of the Winter Quarters Fifth Ward where Shadrack Roundy was the Bishop.

After leaving Winter Quarters, they moved to Big Pigeon. Martha Ann, Morris and Sarah’s daughter, born on October 18, 1848 was probably born in Big Pigeon. On February 26, 1848, Morris, age 42, married Martha Barker Holmes Moulton, age 49, in polygamy. She was born in June 1798 in Londonderry, Rockingham County, New Hampshire. She had been previously been married to James Holmes, Sr. After Martha joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, she married Henry Moulton. Sarah and Henry had one child, George Moulton. Henry died in Nauvoo in 1846.

The 1850 U. S. Census listed the family in dwelling #655 as: Morris, and LDS Clergyman, age 45; Sarah, age 30; Joseph, age 13; Hyrum, age 5; Martha, age 2; and George Moulton, age 15. George Moulton, Morris’ stepson died in 1851 in Big Pigeon.

Morris and about 79 people, in an independent company, that left Kanesville on June 9, 1851 and arrived in the Salt Lake Valley between September 26 and October 1. The family settled in Alpine, Utah County, Utah Territory.

Brigham Young asked Morris to settle the Bear Lake area. Morris went to Montpelier, Bear Lake County, Idaho Territory. Their first log cabin had a dirt floor and a sod roof. Morris later built a two-story house, became the postmaster in 1869, and was made a Church Patriarch by Brigham Young in 1873. Sarah was the first Relief Society President in Montpelier, Idaho.

In 1875, Morris made a long journey to work on the St. George temple. While there, he came down with a fever and was never able to get over it. In May 1876, Morris returned from St. George. On May 22, 1876 at age 70 he died of pneumonia at Montpelier, Idaho.

Sarah left with her son Hyrum Smith Phelps and his family for Mesa, Arizona. She lived with Hyrum the rest of her life. At age 75, she died on January 31, 1896 at Mesa, Maricopa County, Arizona Territory.

**James Holmes (Dwelling #656)**

James Holmes, Jr. was born in Londonderry, Rockingham County, New Hampshire on December 25, 1828. His parents were James Holmes, Sr. and Martha Barker. His parents divorced before he was born in 1828, and his mother Martha Barker married Morris Charles Phelps possibly at Big Pigeon on February 26, 1848.

A person with collar shirt

Description automatically generatedAn old photo of a person

Description automatically generatedJames, age 20, married Harriet Wight Phelps, age 15, on December 22, 1848 at Big Pigeon. Harriet was born on April 7, 1832 at Independence, Jackson County, Missouri and was the first Mormon baby born in Jackson County, Missouri. Harriet was the third daughter of Morris Charles and Laura Clark Phelps.

The 1850 U. S. Census listed James and Harriet and their son, Morris, living next to Morris and Sarah Phelps (dwelling #655). Morris was Harriet’s father and Sarah was James’ mother. Morris was age 1 on the Census. He was born on October 18, 1849 in Big Pigeon.

James, Harriet, and Morris traveled to Utah probably with the Morris Charles Phelps Wagon Company and arrived in the Salt Lake Valley late in September of 1851. James and his family settled with Morris Charles Phelps and his family in Alpine, Utah County, Utah Territory which was southeast of Salt Lake City. When Morris Charles Phelps was called to settled Bear Lake, Idaho Territory, James’ family went to Montpelier Creek now called Paris and built a log house with a dirt floor and sod roof.

While they were living in Alpine, the couple had five children. Their daughter, Sarah Almira was born August 12, 1864 and was the first white child born in Clover Creek which is now Montpelier, Bear Lake County, Idaho Territory. They had a total of eleven children.

When Harriet's father, Morris Charles Phelps died in 1876, James and Harriet moved into the large log house once belonging to her father. The couple moved their family to Arizona but found the land to be undesirable and they came back to Montpelier. James was a public servant and Harriet took care of the sick. Harriett Wight Phelps Holmes, died on March 19, 1893 at age 60.

James was called on a mission to the Eastern States at age 68 and was set apart in December 1897. He died on August 31, 1904, at age 76 after suffering from complications of the bowels. James and Harriet are buried in the Montpelier City Cemetery.

**Isaac Benjamin Mathis (Mathews) (Dwelling #657)**

The next three dwellings as enumerated on the 1850 U. S. Census were occupied by members of the Mathis family which was written as Mathews.

Isaac Mathis, was the son of Isham and Priscilla Jeffs Mathis. He was born in Guilford County, North Carolina on July 23,1792. In the summer of 1814, he ran away from home, made his way to Dickson County, Tennessee where he enlisted in the War of 1812 as a private in Captain Francis S. Ellis’ Company of Infantry in the Tennessee Militia. He was in the Battle of New Orleans and received his discharge on May 13, 1816.

When Isaac returned home to North Carolina, he worked on his father’s plantation. On February 22, 1822, he married Elizabeth “Betsey” Ross who lived with her parents on their plantation in the same county of Guilford, North Carolina. Betsey was born in Guilford County on March 12, 1805. She was the daughter of Andrew Jackson Ross, Sr. and Mary Ann Cummins.

Isaac’s family moved back to Tennessee and in various counties all eleven of their children were born. By the 1850 U. S. Census, the family resided in Big Pigeon. Listed are Isaac, age 56; Elizabeth, age 46; Robert, age 18; Sally, age 14; Isaac, age 12; Thomas, age 9; and Jane, age 6.

An advertisement was placed in the *Frontier Guardian* by Isaac:

“VALUABLE FARM FOR SALE.

THE undersigned wishes to sell their farm lying one mile west of Benson’s Mill, and about ten miles north-west of Kanesville. It contains 640 acres, 70 acres fenced and under cultivation, with four houses on the place. Also, a smoke house and yards for cattle. About 200 acres, of timber; and the best range in Pottawattamie for raising stock, as there are plenty of rushes and pea vines. Emigrants coming west will find it to their advantage to call and examine this farm before purchasing elsewhere. For further particulars enquire of THOS. McKENZIE, Land Agent, Kanesville, Iowa.

ISAAC MATTHEWS & SONS

Big Pigeon, September 5, 1851—3t.” (31)

In the spring of 1852, the family joined the Uriah Curtis Company and made their way to the Salt Lake Valley. Cholera broke out in the Company. The disease seemed to be very virulent. Nearly everyone who contracted died. Graves were scattered along the way. When death came, the victim was buried as quickly as possible and the Company moved on. Isaac and Betsey’s daughter-in-law was the first to die from the disease. She died on July 10, 1852. On July 22, 1852, they camped at Elm Creek near Fort Laramie in Wyoming. During this night, Isaac became very ill and before morning he had passed away.

This was a great trial for Betsey. She had lost her husband and her daughter-in-law. Now she needed to care for the little granddaughter and her large family. They arrived in Salt Lake City on October 12, 1852. They remained in Salt Lake until the following spring and then moved to Santaquin, Utah County and then later Payson, Utah County.

In the 1870’s, Betsey applied for and was granted a pension because Isaac had serviced in the War of 1812. In the 1880’s, she moved to Fountain Green, Sanpete County and lived with her daughter, Sarah Ann and her husband, James A. Holman. In the summer of 1888, one of her sons came from California to visit her and when he went home, he took her with him. They lived in San Bernardino and it was here she passed away in August 1891. She was buried at Canyon Pass, about 15 miles from San Bernardino. San Bernardino County, California.

**John Mathis (Mathews) (Dwelling #658)**

John Thomas Mathis, Sr. was the third child of Isaac and Betsey Mathis (dwelling #657). He was born in Huntingdon, Carroll County, Tennessee on September 25, 1825.    
  
He married Sarah Ann Dowdle in 1848 in Big Pigeon. Sarah was born in Franklin County, Alabama on January 31, 1828. Her parents were Robert and Sarah Ann Robinson Dowdle. She was the fifth child of nine children. Her family moved to the Middle Missouri Valley but just as they reach their destination, her father Robert died of lung fever on September 1, 1847. He was 50 years old. He was buried in grave #223 in the Winter Quarters Cemetery.

John and Sarah had their first child, John Thomas Mathis, Jr. on April 29, 1849 in Big Pigeon. On the 1850 U. S. Census their family was located next to John’s father and Sarah’s mother, Sarah Dowdle, in dwelling #660. They were listed as: John, age 25; Sarah, age 25; and Thomas, age 2. Another child, Elizabeth Julia was born in 1851 at Big Pigeon.  
  
They also joined the Uriah Curtis Company to make the trek west. They first settled in Payson, Utah County, Utah Territory where they had three children. They then moved to Provo, Utah County where the remainder of their nine children were born.

At some time, they became disaffected with the Church and moved to San Bernardino, San Bernardino County, California. Sarah died on December 3, 1908 and John died in 1910, at age 84. Both are buried in the Old Pioneer Cemetery in San Bernardino.

**Allen Mathis, Sr. (Mathew) (Dwelling #659)**

Allen Mathis was the fourth child of Isaac Benjamin and Elizabeth “Betsey” Ross Mathis (dwelling #657). He was born on September 8, 1827 in Carroll, Madison County, Tennessee. He was also the brother of John Mathis (dwelling #658).

Allen married Martha Ann Clark in Big Pigeon on September 8, 1849. Martha Ann was born in about 1830 in Alabama. Nothing is known about her heritage.

The couples’ first child, Allen Mathis, Jr., was born in 1850 in Big Pigeon and died within a few months. The 1850 U. S. Census listed Allen, age 23; and Martha, age 19.

Another child was born in Big Pigeon just before they left with the Uriah Curtis Company. Martha Elizabeth was born on April 8, 1852. The Company departed from Kanesville on June 28, 1852. After a month of travel, cholera broke out in the Company, Martha Ann was the first victim of the disease. She died on July 10, 1852. Her three-month old infant was taken care of by her grandmother, Betsey Mathis.

Allen married Anne Meredith in about 1854. She was born on September 28, 1836 in Wales. They had one child, Allen Henry, in 1855. Both father and son died in 1856 in Payson, Utah County, Utah Territory.

**Sarah Dowdle (Dwelling #660)**

A vintage photo of a person

Description automatically generatedSarah Ann Robinson was born September 24, 1800 in Grainger County, Tennessee. She was the daughter of Hughes and Elizabeth Jane Porter Robinson.

On May 27, 1818, Sarah Ann married Robert Dowdle. Robert’s parents were James and Ann Pickens Dowdle. He was born September 15, 1796 in Anderson, Anderson County, South Carolina.

Robert and Sarah Ann made their home in Franklin County, Alabama where Sarah Ann gave birth to five children: Absalom Porter; Elvira; Caroline; Martha Jane; and Sarah Ann. The next four children were born in Lawrence County, Alabama: Robert Hughes; James Pickens; John Clark; and William Franklin. The Dowdle family was getting well established in Alabama when in the early part of 1844 the Elders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Morris Phelps and William Mathers, came with a few unbound copies of the Book of Mormon which they were invited to read. Within a few days they were both baptized members of the Church and in a very short time some of the children who were old enough were baptized. The family was encouraged to join the main body of the Church in Nauvoo. They bid farewell to oldest daughters, Elvira and Caroline, who didn’t join the Church.

They were very poor but started toward Nauvoo. In September 1845, Martha Jane, age 19, contracted a lingering fever and died and was buried in Athens, Clark County, Missouri. This was a great sorrow for the family. They journeyed on to Nauvoo but found everything in turmoil. The Saints were getting ready to leave Nauvoo as soon as possible. Robert and Sarah Ann, with their children, Absolom who had married Sarah Ann Holladay in 1845, Sarah Ann, Robert Hughes James Pickens, John Clark, and William Franklin crossed Iowa and reached the Middle Missouri Valley. Fifty-year-old Robert Dowdle died on September 1, 1847 of lung fever. He was buried in grave #223 in the Winter Quarters Cemetery. After the death of Robert, two sons, Robert Hughes and James Pickens and a daughter, Sarah Ann returned to Missouri to seek work so they could earn something to support the family. They heard nothing from them for several months. John Clark and William Franklin stayed with their mother, Sarah Ann.

The conditions were deplorable but with the help of friend they survived the winter and moved back across the Missouri River and settled in Big Pigeon. Here they planted corn and potatoes.

Sarah’s daughter met and married John Mathis here in 1849.

The 1850 Census listed: Sarah, age 53; Robert, age 19; James, age 17; John, age 15; and William, age 11. Sarah met another widow, Mary Doyle (Doyal) Clark and her children, Elizabeth, born 1833 in Ohio; William, born 1831 in Kentucky; Mary, born in Illinois and Eliza, born in Illinois. Together they joined the James C. Snow Company which left on July 5, 1852 with 250 Saints and 50 wagons. Sister Clark proved to be an asset on the journey. At one time she and John, Sarah’s son, spotted some buffalo and set out to get some meat for supper. She not only killed the buffalo, but she skinned it and took the meat home, sharing it with the other Saints. They were thankful in spite of her tobacco chewing habit that she was traveling with them. It made their journey easier than if Sarah Ann had been traveling alone with her two young boys. John Clark contracted Rocky Mountain spotted fever. He became worse and he was unable to do anything on the last part of their journey. Sarah was devoted to him during his illness and did all that she could to nurse him back to health. They reached the Valley in October 1852. She was met by Absolom and Robert Hughes who had come previously. They had settled in Provo. Utah County.

James Pickens was preparing to go to Australia on a mission in the spring when he was taken sick and died on January 15, 1853. This left John Clark and his brother William Franklin as the main support for the family. Sarah Ann Robinson Dowdle died on February 15, 1875 at the age of 74. Robert took her earthly remains to Franklin, Franklin County, Idaho and laid her to rest in the Franklin City Cemetery.

**Mary Burns (Dwelling #661)**

Mary Burns was most likely Mary Glover Burns. According to the 1850 U. S. Census, Mary was born in England in about 1835. She married Miles Burns in Nauvoo, Hancock County, Illinois on April 10, 1843. Miles died between August 21-28, 1843 of typhus fever. He was 26 years old.

Miles was born on January 19, 1817 in Lancashire, England. He was the son of Thomas and Isabella Burns.

Living with her is Jared Grover, age 13. This could be Jared Glover, a sibling of Mary.

**William Ainscough (Dwelling #663)**

A person wearing a suit and tie

Description automatically generatedWilliam Ainscough was born March 18, 1818 in Eccleston, Lancashire, England to Thomas and Alice Chew Ainscough. He and his brother, Richard, were baptized by Heber C. Kimball in 1837. When their parents heard this, they told them to leave the house and never return.

In 1840, several Saints emigrated and arrived in New York. William and Richard came with them. From New York, they went to Keokuk, Iowa and then to Nauvoo. Work was obtained at a flourmill in Warsaw, Hancock County, Illinois.

Richard was caught by a mob and whipped because he would not deny that Joseph Smith was a Prophet. He died from those wounds in 1844 and was buried in Nauvoo.

A person posing for the camera

Description automatically generatedWilliam met a widow, Mary Clarke Wakefield, while living in Nauvoo. She was the widow of Thomas Wakefield who had died in 1842. William and Mary were married in Nauvoo in 1843. She had three daughters—Lucinda, Mary Elizabeth, and Jane Ruth.

Mary was born on July 7, 1817 in Wheatfield, Indiana County, Pennsylvania. She was the daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Bracken Clarke.

When the Saints were driven out of Nauvoo, William and his family settled in Ferryville, Pottawattamie County, Iowa Territory. It was here that Nephi was born on January 17, 1847. Shortly after that, the family moved to Big Pigeon. Nephi died in September 1849, probably at Big Pigeon. It was here that Lucretia was born on May 6, 1850.

The family went westward with the Uriah Curtis Company leaving on June 28, 1852. When they reached the Valley, they settled in Big Cottonwood, Salt Lake County, Utah Territory. William was a farmer and a freighter. While here, they had four more children—Mary Emelia, William Thomas, Sarah, and David William. Both Sarah and David William died and are buried in Big Cottonwood.

William then took his family to Smithfield, Cache County, Utah where they remained the rest of their lives. It was here that their last child, Cordelia Theresa, was born. Mary died on November 22, 1885 and William on November 24, 1893.

**Alva Benson (Dwelling #664)**

The 1850 U. S. Census listed Alva “Alvin” Benson as a millwright. He was born December 13, 1799 in De Ruyter, Onondaga County, New York to Benjamin Lewis and Keziah Messenger Benson. When his family moved to Indiana, he met and married Cynthia Vail on August 11, 1820 in Jeffersonville, Clark County. Cynthia was born to Gamiel and Lucy Manning Vail on February 28, 1801 in Palmer, Saratoga County, New York.

An old photo of a person

Description automatically generatedAlva and Cynthia had two children while living in Rockville, Jackson County, Indiana, David and William. William only lived one year.

Alva was a builder of sawmills. This occupation made it necessary for the family to move frequently. The couple’s first daughter, Keziah, was born in 1825 and then James was born in 1828.

In 1832, the couple joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. They joined the Saints in Clay County, Missouri in 1836. It was here that another son, Ammon, was born. During raids by Missouri mobs, Ammon passed away. By September of 1839, the family was driven out of Missouri. They went to live with Cynthia’s brother, Gamaliel, in McLain County, Illinois. They remained there for five years. Their last two children, Cynthia and George Gamaliel were born there. According to FamilySearch.org, George Gamaliel died in September of 1846 when they reached Pottawattamie County, Iowa.

An article in *The Frontier Guardian* placed Alva in Big Pigeon. From an 1849 newspaper, “The Roads in Pottawattamie county are so completely blockaded by fences that there is hardly room enough left for a passage to Heaven. It is proposed that a committee of three persons be appointed one from Carterville, one from Kanesville, and one from Big Pigeon, to examine and determine the most feasible route for a public road leading from the prairie south of Carterville through the latter place, passing through or near Kanesville and extending up the Tabernacle hollow to Little and Big Pigeon. Joseph Kelley, of Carterville, Henry Miller, of Kanesville, and Alvah Benson of Big Pigeon are appointed that committee by a number of citizens from all these places. This is destined to be one of the great thoroughfares threw (sic) this county and calls for energetic measures in relation to it; and this committee are the very men to enter into such measures; and after the work is done, the commissioners will probably sanction it. But it requires to be opened sooner than it can be done by petition. We expect that every public- spirited man will be on hand, up and doing while it is called today.” (31)

The 1850 U. S. Census listed “Alvin”, age 50; Cynthia, age 48; Lucy, age 18; Moroni, age 17; Alvira, age 11; and, Cynthia, age 8. The 1851 Iowa State Census added another child, Polly E., age 13. Living next door was David Benson (Dwelling #662), their oldest son, with his wife, Elsa Ann Curtis and their 6-month daughter, Phoebe. Elsa was the daughter of Uriah and Phoebe Martin Curtis. Two other children born to David and Elsa were probably born in Big Pigeon.

The Benson family stayed in Big Pigeon for five years. They came west with the Uriah Curtis Company which left Kanesville on June 28, 1852 and arrived in the Salt Lake Valley on September 29, 1852. There were about 260 people in the company and 50 wagons. Uriah Curtis was not only the father-in-law of David Benson, but it was he and one of the missionaries that converted the Benson family.

Alva and Cynthia and their family settled in Springville, Utah County, Utah Territory. They lived there a year and were called to Iron County to assist in establishing a settlement and building flour and sawmills. This would become Cedar City.

Alva moved his family back to Springville in 1859, then to Ogden, and finally to Cache Valley. He helped establish the settlement of Hyrum. Cynthia died in November of 1877 and Alva died there in 1882 at the age of 83. Both are buried in the Hyrum City Cemetery, Hyrum, Cache County, Utah.

**Martha Bartholomew Vail (Vale) (Dwelling #666)**

A vintage photo of a person

Description automatically generatedOn the 1850 U. S. Census, dwelling #666 in Pottawattamie County, Iowa was Martha Vale, age 46; Angela, age 13; Alvira, age 11; and George, age 9. Martha Bartholomew was born on April 8, 1830 in McLean County, Illinois. She was the daughter of General Joseph Bartholomew and Christiana Pickenpaugh. She was the widow of Gamaliel Vail. He was born June 7, 1803 in Saratoga Springs, Saratoga County, New York. His parents were Gamaliel and Lucy Manning. He died on June 8, 1844.

Gamaliel and Martha had seven children, all born in McLean County, Illinois. The children were Martha, Isaac Hawk, Christiana (died as an infant), John Bartholomew (died as an infant), Angelia, Elvira, and George. The last three were listed on the 1850 Census.

Martha and her children joined the Morris Phelps Company to travel west. They left from Kanesville on June 9, 1851. Arrival in the Valley was between September 26 thru October 1, 1851.

The first winter, the family spent in Mill Creek Canyon, Salt Lake County, Utah Territory. Martha had been given a loom and she spent the winter weaving. Her son had settled in Mountainville, further south. The youngest son, George, was driving the cows to the new residence and was caught in a snowstorm and he died of exposure in 1852.

Because of Indian trouble, Martha and other women moved back to Salt Lake City. Her next move was to Franklin County, Idaho and then to Star Valley, Wyoming. All the moves took a toll on her and she passed away on March 8, 1891 in the Salt River Valley, near Thayne, Uinta County, Wyoming.

**Isaac Hawk Vail (Vale) (Dwelling #667)**

A person wearing a suit and tie

Description automatically generatedDwelling #667 was occupied by Martha Vail’s son, Isaac Hawk. He was born on February 14, 1831 in Mclean County, Illinois. His father was Gamaliel Vail. He married Susannah Benson on June 8, 1848 possibly in Big Pigeon.

An old photo of a person

Description automatically generated

Susannah was the daughter of Jerome Messenger and Mary Rhodes Benson—in dwelling #654. She was born February 18, 1834 in Jackson, Cape Girardeau County, Missouri.

While residing in Big Pigeon, a son, George Gamaliel, was born on January 1, 1850. The family traveled with Martha and her other children in the Morris Phelps Company.

Just before the Company reached the Salt Lake Valley, George Gamaliel, passed away. The family settled in Mountainville, Utah County, Utah Territory. Another son was born there, William Vance, on April 7, 1852.

Isaac married two other women—Syble Jane Stevens on September 18, 1853 and Tyresha Ann Beeler on November 29, 1859. By the 1860 U. S. Census, Isaac was enumerated in Brigham, Cache County, Utah Territory.

Susannah left Isaac and married James Vance, Sr. on February 11, 1853. She had ten children by this marriage. She died on July 10, 1896 in Mesa, Maricopa County, Arizona Territory.

Isaac had eight other children with the other wives. He died on November 7, 1871 in Oxford, Oneida County, Idaho Territory.

**Ira Bartlett Elmer (Dwelling #668)**

# Ira was the son of John S. and Sarah “Sally” Peake. He was born August 2, 1823 in Norwich, Windsor County, Vermont.

# Ira married Eveline Elizabeth Wright on November 3, 1842 in Adams County, Illinois. Their first two children were born there—Angeline Vashti and Oliver Samuel.

# By 1850, the family was living in Big Pigeon. Listed were Ira, age 27; Evaline, age 27; Angelina, age 8; Oliver, age 4; and Melissa, age 10 months. Malissa Ella and her twin, Martha Louisa, were born November 25, 1849 and may have been born in Big Pigeon. Martha Louisa died the same day as she was born. She may be buried at Big Pigeon.

# The family left Big Pigeon with the Uriah Curtis Company which departed from Kanesville on June 28, 1852. They arrived in the Valley on September 29, 1852. The family stayed in West Jordan, Salt Lake County for a few years where Harriet and Amanda were born. The 1860 U. S. Census enumerated the family in Payson, Utah County, Utah Territory. Listed were Ira, age 37; Eveline, age 37; Oliver, age 15; Malissa, age 10; Harriet, age 7; Amanda, age 6; and Ira, age 2. Ira, Jr. was born in Payson. Ira, Sr. was listed as a cabinet maker.

# Ira took a plural wife, Sarah Selena Light on June 15, 1869. Of this union, ten children were born. Many of the children from this family were born in Panguitch or Cannonville, Garfield County, Utah Territory.

# By the 1870 U. S. Census, the family lived in Saint George, Washington County, Utah Territory. Susan Marie and Hyrum were probably born in Payson and Eveline Elizabeth in Saint George. In 1880, Sarah’s family was living in Cannonville, Iron County, Utah Territory. Eveline Elizabeth died in Panguitch on June 2, 1885.

# Eventually, the families move to Pima, Graham County, Arizona Territory and then Thatcher, in the same county. Ira became blind in about 1897 and one of his sons became the man of the house. Two years before he died, Ira became bed ridden. He passed away on June 20, 1903.

**Stephen Sylvester Sargent (Dwelling #669)**

Stephen Sargent was born May 19, 1809 in Amesbury, Essex County, Massachusetts. He was the son of Christopher and Jane “Jennie” Patton Sargent. He married Martha Louisa Elmer, the daughter of Squire and Lucy Chase Elmer. They were married in Newfane, Windham County, Vermont.

Martha Louisa was born on July 4, 1813 in Hartford, Windsor County, Vermont. The couple had two children after they had moved to Rushville, Schuyler County, Illinois. Their names were David Elmer who was born on May 11, 1842 and Moses Harry who was born on January 20, 1844. Moses lived until September 1844 and died.

The family moved to Lee County, Iowa where their next child was born. Louisa Jane was born November 17, 1845. The family moved with the Saints when they left Nauvoo and took up residence in Big Pigeon, Pottawattamie County, Iowa.

A close up of a sign

Description automatically generatedThe 1850 U. S. Census listed the following: Stephen, a wagon maker, age 40; Martha, age 36; David B., age 8; and Louisa, age 5. Another child, Henry Franklin, was born in Big Pigeon on April 22, 1852.

The family stayed in Big Pigeon until they joined the Moses Clawson Company which had departed from Keokuk, Iowa on May 16, 1853 but organized in Kanesville, weeks later. They arrived in the Salt Lake Valley on September 15, 1853.

The couple settled and remained in Payson, Utah County, Utah Territory. The 1860 and 1870, enumerated them in Payson as well. Stephen passed away on September 4, 1875. Martha remarried in 1884 to Ira Bartlett Elmer. She died on September 7, 1897 in Payson.

Sargent tombstone

**Richard Thorn (Dwelling #670)**

A person wearing a suit and tie

Description automatically generatedRichard Thorn, the son of Richard and Mary Ann Armstrong Thorn, was born June 18, 1825 in Sempronius, Cayuga County, New York. His wife was Harriet Ann Glines who he married on 13 January 1846 in Nauvoo before they were driven out. Richard is mentioned as a citizen of the Nauvoo 3rd Ward.

A person standing in front of a brick wall

Description automatically generatedHarriet Ann was the daughter of John and Maria Antoinette Matthews Glines. She was born January 21, 1828 in Churchville, Ontario, Canada.

When the family left Nauvoo for the Middle Missouri Valley, they probably settled at Thorn’s Camp. It was very close to Big Pigeon and when the area expanded it was probably known as Big Pigeon.

The couple’s first three children were probably born in Big Pigeon. Anna Maria was born on July 22, 1848; Abner was born on December 17, 1849; and Richard Henry was born on May 31, 1849. Anna Maria died on November 19, 1849 and is probably buried there.

The 1850 U. S. Census listed Richard, age 26; Harriet, age 25; and Abner age 10 months. The family went west with the Daniel A. Miller/John W. Cooley Company which outfitted from Six-Mile Grove and departed on June 8, 1853. After arriving in the Valley on September 9, 1853 they settled in Springville, Utah County, Utah Territory.

The rest of the children were born in Springville—John Alfred, Harriet Amelia, Erastus Glines, Joseph Ashel, Albert Adolphus, and Robert Adelbert. Richard died in Springville on October 4, 1907 and Harriet on April 28, 1913.

**Garrett Walls Mikesell (Dwelling #671)**

A close up of a mans face

Description automatically generatedGarrett was born May 15, 1810 in Cynthiana, Harrison County, Kentucky. He was the son of John Aylor and Catherine D. Mikesell (maiden name was Mikesell also).

![A blurry photo of a person

Description automatically generated]()Ruth Cunningham was born January 9, 1811 in Cincinnati, Hamilton County, Ohio. They married June 7, 1830 in Clark County, Indiana. Their first four children were born in Indiana—Louise Catherine, George W., Delilah, and John Cunningham. Independence was born in Quincy, Adams County, Illinois. The next three children were born as they moved to Nauvoo—Cynthia Ann; James M., and Frances Moranda.

After leaving Nauvoo, the family wintered in the Winter Quarters Twenty-Second Ward. It is here that Garrett Walls was born on April 3, 1847. The next move was to Big Pigeon and the birth of Brigham Young, Heber Kimball, and Willard Richards on April 3, 1849, January 2, 1851, and January 18, 1853, respectively.

The 1850 U. S. Census listed: Garrett, age 40; Ruth, age 40; Louisa, age 19; George, age 18; John, age 13; Independence, age 11; Cynthia, 8; James, age 6; Frances, age 4; Garrett, age 3, and Brigham, age 1. The 1860 U. S. Census enumerated the family in Silver Creek, Pottawattamie County, Iowa.

Garrett and his family didn’t come west until 1863. They left from Florence, Nebraska on June 19, 1863. They settled in Morgan County, Utah Territory and Ruth died on November 10, 1869 in Richville.

Garrett remarried on February 1, 1881 to Mary Ann Carter. Garrett died in Porterville, Morgan County, Utah Territory on April 20, 1888.

**Richard John Keele (Dwelling #672)**

Richard John was born on November 7, 1786 in Henry County, Virginia. His parents were John and Lydia Richmond Keele.

Richard married Nancy Eleanor “Ellen” McCullough on September 8, 1808 in Bedford, Bedford County, Tennessee. Nancy was born April 14, 1790 in Rockingham, Richmond County, North Carolina. Most of their children were born in Bedford County—Mary, Jacob, Elizabeth, Samuel, John, Sarah, Alexander, Richard, and Dabney Uel. The last two children, Thomas Henry and Susan, were born in Greene County, Illinois.

Richard and Ella and some of their children moved to Nauvoo and owned property. When they were driven out of Nauvoo, they settled in Big Pigeon with their daughter Sarah and son-in-law Jeremiah Bingham.

The 1850 U. S. Census listed Richard, age 63 (the writing almost made it look like Beel which was transcribed); Ellen, age 62; Thomas, age 21; and Susan, age 18. Richard’s place of birth was listed as Virginia, Ellen as North Carolina, and Thomas and Susan as Illinois. The family, except for Thomas, was listed in the 1851 Iowa State Census.

Richard and Ellen left with the Henry Bryant Manning Jolley Company which departed for the Valley on June 15, 1852. They traveled with their sons Thomas Henry, Dabney, and Samuel and their families.

The Keele’s settled in Payson, Utah County, Utah. Ellen died on November 11, 1856. The 1870 U. S. Census placed Richard in Harmony, Kane County, Utah Territory. Thomas was living there. Richard died on November 17, 1877 in Mount Carmel, Kane County, Utah.

**Hyrum Washington Mikesell (Dwelling #673)**

A person posing for the camera

Description automatically generatedA person wearing a suit and tie

Description automatically generatedHyrum Washington Mikesell was the child of John Aylor and Catherine D. Mikesell. He was born June 13, 1812. He met and married Ann Augusta Scott on February 21, 1839. Ann was born to Mathew and Mary Anne Bedford Scott on March 3, 1819 aboard a ship sailing for New York.

The following children were born to the couple: Mary Catherine, born on February 21, 1841; Amaziah, born on December 10, 1844; and Mathew Scott, born on October 9, 1845 were all born in Nauvoo. Mary Catherine died on August 1, 1842 also in Nauvoo.

The family moved to Big Pigeon after they were driven out of Nauvoo. A daughter, Sarah Jane was born there on June 11, 1849. The 1850 U. S. Census enumerated them as Hyrum, age 35; Ann, age 32; Amaziah, age 7; Mathew, age 6; and Sarah, age 1.

Another daughter, Sariah Ann, was born on October 8, 1851. Some members of the family think they may have been in Harris Grove by 1851. Hyrum is not listed in the 1851 Iowa State Census. On the 1852 Iowa State Census, Hyrum and Garrett are living next to each other.

The Allen Weeks Company left from Kanesville on July 13, 1852 and among the Company were Hyrum and Ann and four children. Ann either died the day they left or shortly thereafter, leaving Hyrum with a 7-year old, a 6-year old, a 3-year old, and a 9-month old.

Hyrum married Sarah B. Jolley in February of 1853. Together they had ten children. Sarah was the daughter of Charles Franklin and Lovisa J. Heron. She was born on December 26, 1832 in Greene County, Illinois. They resided in Salt Lake City where Hyrum died on May 8, 1883. Sarah provided for her large family and died at the age of 82 on July 19, 1914. Both were buried in the Salt Lake City Cemetery.

**James Thomas Hampton (Dwelling #675) (Thos. Hampton)**

Thomas Hampton was the son of John and Sarah Gilberts Hampton. He was born on June 5, 1824 in Toronto, York, Canada. Martha Ruth Bracken was born on January 14, 1820 in Colerain, Hamilton County, Ohio. She was the daughter of Levi and Elizabeth Clark Bracken. Thomas and Martha were married on April 3, 1843 in Quincy, Adams County, Illinois.

John Thomas was born in Quincy on November 9, 1843. Levi Martin was born across the river in Lee County, Iowa on October 30, 1845 as was George Fredrick who was born March 26, 1848. The family did not go with the main body of Saints to the Middle Missouri Valley. However, the next child, James Bennett, was born in Big Pigeon on July 22, 1850.

The 1850 U. S. Census enumerated the following: Thomas, age 26, born in Canada; Martha, age 30, born in Ohio; John, age 6, born in Illinois; Levi, age 4, born in Iowa; and George, age 3, born in Iowa. Their first child, John Thomas, died on July 29, 1850 in Big Pigeon.

The 1851 Iowa State Census listed: Thomas, age 26; Martha, age 27; Levi, age 4; George, age 2; and James B., age 6 months. Sarah Elizabeth was born on March 15, 1853. They are listed again in the 1854 Iowa State Census with 4 males and 2 females. Twins were born on July 25, 1855---Emily Jane and Lucretia Charlotte. The twins must have died as they don’t appear on the 1856 Iowa State Census. They may be buried in the Big Pigeon Cemetery.

Rockford Township on the 1856 Iowa State Census listed: Thomas, a miller, age 32, born in Canada; M. R. (Martha Ruth), age 36, born in Ohio; L. M. (Levi Martin), age 4; G. F. (George Fredrick), age 8, born in Iowa; J. B. (James Bennett), age 6, born in Iowa; and S. E. (Sarah Elizabeth), age 2, born in Iowa. Martha Ann was born on January 4, 1857 in Pottawattamie County, Iowa

Thomas contracted influenza and died March 8, 1858. He is probably buried in the Fairview Cemetery in Council Bluffs, Pottawattamie County, Iowa. After Thomas’ death, Martha decided to go to Salt Lake City. She joined an unknown Company in 1859. The 1860 U. S. Census placed Martha’s family in Payson, Utah County, Utah. It listed Martha, a seamstress, age 40; Levi M., age 14; George F., age 12; James B., age 10; Sarah E., age 7; and Martha A., age 3.

Martha married William Henry Rogers on December 1, 1865 in Salt Lake City. There is no information about William. On the 1900 U. S. Census, Martha is living in Glendale, Kane County, Utah. In the 1910 U. S. Census, she is living with her daughter who is married to Luther Ramsay. Martha Ruth died in Glendale on November 4, 1914 and is buried there.

**William Bailey Maxwell (Dwelling #676)**

William was born on March 14, 1821 in Shawneetown, Gallatin County, Illinois. He was the son of Richard and Ruthey Hodge Maxwell. His father died a year after his birth. William married the daughter of Levi and Elizabeth Clark Bracken. Lucretia Charlotte Bracken was born December 6, 1823 in Rush County, Indiana. They were married on November 26, 1840 in Lee County, Iowa.

A picture containing wall, person, indoor, headdress

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Three children were born while the couple was living in Lee County—Levi William, James Bailey, and Ruth. Ruth died within a month of her birth.

When the family traveled to the Middle Missouri Valley, William joined the Mormon Battalion and served as a Private in Company D. When he was discharged, he made his way back to Big Pigeon where his wife and two children were taken care by her parents.

On the 1850 U. S. Census, the following were listed: William B. Maxwell, age 29; Lucretia, age 26; Levi, age 10; James, age 7; Sally Barnett, age 20; and John Barnett, age 18. Sarah “Sally” Barnett and her brother John must have been living with them. Sally became the bride of Eli Curtis.

The family came west with the Uriah Curtis Company. They departed on June 28, 1852. They settled in Santaquin, Utah County, Utah Territory. Here they had another daughter, Charlotte Martha, who was born on February 15, 1862. The couple also adopted two Native American children.

William lived in polygamy and married Martha Jane Mathis and Marietta Magdalene Hamblin. These two marriages added twenty-three more children. After leaving Santaquin, the migration continued south to places like Rockville, Washington County; Spring Valley, Lincoln County, Nevada Territory; Alpine, Apache County, Arizona Territory; Pleasanton, Socorro County, New Mexico Territory; and Oaxaca, Sonora, Mexico. Lucretia died while she was in Mexico on August 23, 1893.

William moved back into the United States and spent time in St. Johns, Apache County, Arizona Territory. He passed away on August 26, 1895 in Mesa, Maricopa County, Arizona Territory.

**Chester Potter (Dwelling #677)**

Chester Potter was the second son and fourth of twelve children of David and Charlotte Osborn Potter. He was born on October 29, 1822 in Lorain County, Ohio.

The Sand Prairie Branch Records listed Chester Potter and Elisabeth Potter who was born in 1822 in England. FamilySearch.org listed a wife for Chester Potter as Elisabeth Green. The place listed was Sacramento, California with a birth date of 1832. This could be in error as Chester never made it to the west.

Chester’s mother and father, David and Charlotte, went west with the Brigham Young Company of 1848. Chester may have been living in their cabin in Big Pigeon. Elisabeth is not listed and must have died between the time they lived in Sand Prairie and Big Pigeon.

Chester died in June 1851 probably in Big Pigeon. If so, he is buried there.

# Elizabeth Maria Dixon (Dwelling #679)

# A black and white photo of a person Description automatically generatedElizabeth was born March 31, 1809 in Blount County, Tennessee. She was the daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth Brewer Dixon. She was the seventh of twelve children.

# At age 17, Elizabeth married Samuel Hugh Lusk on October 12, 1826 in McMinn County, Tennessee. Samuel was born in 1807 in Carter County, Tennessee. At some point, many of the family members moved to Greene County, Illinois. The couple had four children—Louisa Jane, John Winters, Lucretia, and Sarah Anne Elizabeth.

# A cholera epidemic broke out and Elizabeth’s husband contracted the disease and died on June 15, 1833. Elizabeth supported her family as a tailor.

# On October 4, Elizabeth married Thomas Taylor in Greene County, Illinois. He may have been an alcoholic as he didn’t treat his family very well. A daughter was born to Elizabeth and Thomas. Her name was Susannah Taylor and she was born on July 27, 1835. Thomas died in 1837 in Greene County.

# In 1841, Elizabeth joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Her oldest daughter, Louisa Jane, married at age 15, and stayed in Greene County and died at the age of 19. Elizabeth took John Winters Lusk, Sarah Anne Elizabeth Lusk, and Susannah Taylor with her to Nauvoo.

# Elizabeth left Nauvoo with her family and settled in Big Pigeon. On the 1850 U. S. Census, the family is listed as Elizabeth Taylor, age 41, born in Tennessee; John, age 21, born in Illinois; Sarah, age 17, born in Illinois; and Susannah, age 14, born in Illinois.

# John Winters Lusk married Mary Elizabeth Park in 1851 and Sarah Elizabeth Lusk married Levi Perry Bingham in 1852. In February of 1852, Elizabeth remarried. His name was Ashael Thorn.

# The Ashael Thorn’s families travel west in 1853. The Company departed from Six Mile Grove on June 8, 1853. They arrived in the Salt Lake Valley on September 9, 1853. The first winter after they arrived in the Utah Territory was spent in West Weber. The next spring, they moved to Three Mile Creek, later named Perry.

# Elizabeth joined the “Josephites,” and remained in Six Mile Grove until 1883 when she and Ashael moved to Willard, Box Elder County, Utah in 1883. Elizabeth died on May 21, 1883. Ashael died on February 10, 1897. Both are buried in the Willard City Cemetery.

# Note: Elizabeth is a grandmother of Harold Bingham Lee, eleventh President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints through her daughter Sarah Elizabeth Lusk who married Levi Perry Bingham.

**Alexander Keele (Dwelling #680)**

Alexander Keele was born in February 25, 1822 in Bedford County, Tennessee. He was the seventh child of eleven born to Richard John and Nancy Eleanor “Ellen” McCullough Keele who lived in Dwelling #672. When he was nineteen years old, he married Minerva Dixon who was seventeen years old. She was the daughter of Solomon and Sarah Burger Dixon. She was born on November 13, 1826 in Blount County, Tennessee.

Alexander and Minerva’s first child, John Wesley, was born in 1842 in Greene County, Illinois. They joined the Church and moved to Nauvoo to be with the Saints. Francis Alma and Henry Jefferson were born in Nauvoo.

When the Saints were forced out of Nauvoo, Alexander and his family moved to Big Pigeon. It was here that William Dabney was born on August 24, 1849.

The 1850 U. S. Census listed Alexander, born in Tennessee, age 28; Minerva, born in Tennessee, age 23; John, born in Illinois, age 9; Francis, born in Illinois, age 7; Jefferson, born in Illinois, age 4; and William, born in Illinois, age 1.

The family went west with an unknown Company in 1852. They settled in Payson, Utah County, Utah Territory. A son was born on December 14, 1852. His name was Alexander Keele, Jr.

On July 18, 1853, Alexander was standing guard in Payson during Indian troubles and he was shot by Chief Airopine. Minerva was left a widow with five sons. Minerva married Jeremiah Bingham, Jr. on April 5, 1855.

Minerva and Jeremiah had six children together. She died in Garland, Box Elder County, Utah on October 2, 1912. She was buried by her husband in the Payson City Cemetery.

**Richard Stubbs (Dwelling #681)**

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Richard was born July 30, 1823 in Norwich, Cheshire, England. His parents were Samuel and Sarah Shaw Stubbs. He was the fourth of ten children. Richard’s mother and brother joined the Church in England. He left England at age nineteen and arrived in Nauvoo in April of 1843.

A black and white photo of a person

Description automatically generatedRichard married Ellender Wyre on June 21, 1843 in Lee County, Iowa. Ellender was the daughter of Abishai and Delilah Rogers Wyer of Harrison County, West Virginia.

Their first child, Amanda Melvina, was born in Van Buren County, Iowa Territory as their family was forced out of Nauvoo and headed for the Middle Missouri Valley. The family settled in Big Pigeon where Richard Samuel was born on February 7, 1849 and then died on September 22, 1849. Another child was born there, Sarah Ellender, who was born on December 14, 1850.

The 1850 U. S. Census listed Richard, born in England, age 27; Eleanor, born in Virginia, age 25; and Malvina, born in Iowa, age 4. Listed with the family was William, John and Ann Stubbs, all born in England and ages 31, 17, and 15, respectively. They were Richard’s siblings.

Richard, Ellender, Amanda Melvina, and Sarah Ellender joined the Uriah Curtis Company and left Kanesville on June 28, 1852. His siblings accompanied them in the Company. They settled in Provo, Utah County, Utah Territory where they had eight more children.

Ellender passed away on January 14, 1898 and Richard on July 25, 1902. Both are buried in the Provo City Cemetery.

**Jeremiah Bingham (Dwelling #682)**

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Description automatically generatedJeremiah Bingham was listed as the agent for Big Pigeon for *The Frontier Guardian* in 1850. Jeremiah was born June 15, 1806 in Cornwall, Addison County, Vermont to Jeremiah L. and Mary Ives Bingham. Jeremiah married Abigail Harrington on February 2, 1829 in Brockville, Elizabethtown, Leeds, Upper Canada. Abigail was born January 25, 1812 in Leeds, Ontario, Upper Canada. She was the daughter of John and Charlotte Brown Harrington.

The couple had five children while living in Canada, Augustus, born 1830; Perry Calvin, born 1831; Amos Oscar, born 1832; Clarinda, born 1834, and Lucinda Abigail, born 1837. The couple moved to Illinois and about that time joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Three children were born while living in Illinois, Margaret Melvina, born 1840; Polly, born 1842; and John, born 1843. Polly and John died in Nauvoo as did their mother Abigail, leaving Johan a widower with six children. An additional child died in Nauvoo in 1845, Clarinda.

Jeremiah married Sarah Keele on February 15, 1846. Sarah was the daughter of Richard John and Nancy Eleanor McCullough Keele. Sarah was born on April 10, 1820 in Bedford, Bedford County, Tennessee. The couple had a son, Jeremiah Myron, on January 10, 1848. Another child, Abigail Aurora, was born on August 19, 1848. Depending on when the family established it residence in Big Pigeon, one or both of those of the children could have been born in Big Pigeon. The 1850 U. S. Census listed the following: Jeremiah Bingham, age 44; Sarah, age 30; Lucinda, age 13; Margaret, age 10; Jeremiah, age 3; Abigail, age 2 and, Sarah, age 6 months.

The next two children of Jeremiah and Sarah were born in Big Pigeon. Sarah Ellenor, born on April 15, 1850 and, Augustus, born on February 8, 1852. Augustus and his mother, Sarah, died on February 8, 1852. Both may be buried at Big Pigeon.

According to the Pottawattamie County Marriage Index, Jeremiah Bingham married Susan Keele on January 17, 1852. Susan was born September 15, 1832 in Greene County, Illinois. Susan was the sister of Sarah and the daughter of Richard John and Nancy Eleanor McCullough Keele. From the 1850 U. S. Census and the 1851 and 1852 Iowa State Census, there were other Bingham children living with Jeremiah. They were the children of his brother Reuben and his wife, Sarah Susannah Marks Bingham. These five children lived and traveled west with Jeremiah’s family

The family left the Kanesville area in 1853 and traveled west with the Daniel A. Miller/John W. Cooley Company. The Company consisted of 282 individuals and 70 wagons. They left Six Mile Grove on June 8, 1853 and arrived in the Salt Lake Valley on September 9, 1853. Jeremiah was a blacksmith by trade. Each night on the trail he fixed wagon wheels.

The family first moved to Ogden, Weber County and then to Payson, Utah County where he helped build a fort to protect them from the Indians. On July 18, 1853, Alexander Keele, brother-in-law of Jeremiah Bingham, was the first white man to be killed by the Indians in Payson. He left a widow and five small children. The bishop came later to Jeremiah and asked him to marry and support the widow and her family which he did. Seven children were born to Minerva Dixon Keele and Jeremiah Bingham.

While hauling gravel, Jeremiah was caught in a cave-in and suffered a broken leg from which he never fully recovered. He was an invalid, for two years, and died May 6, 1890 at Payson at the age of 84. He is buried in the Payson City Cemetery, Payson, Utah County, Utah.

# John Duncan (Dwelling #683)

# The 1850 U. S. Census listed John Duncan, born in Ireland, age 65 and Ann Duncan, born in England, age 37. No further information can be found about them.

# There was an Ann Duncan that went west with the Robert Wimmer Company which left Kanesville in July of 1852. Her age or information about her was not recorded.

# Solomon McIntosh (Dwelling #685)

# A black and white photo of a person Description automatically generatedSolomon Parks McIntosh was born August 28, 1813 in Elkton, Todd County, Kentucky. His parents were Cornelius and Sarah Davidson McIntosh. He was the fifth of six children. His father died when he was five years old. After that his mother moved the family to Illinois.

# Solomon married Mary “Polly” Latham. She was born on February 6, 1813 in Union County, Illinois. The couple had three children. Sarah Ann McIntosh was born November 27. 1837 in Hancock County, Illinois. Melinda Jane McIntosh was born October 14, 1844 in Hancock County. The next child, William Moultire was born after the Saints were driven out of Nauvoo. It may have been in Big Pigeon. Mary “Polly” and baby died. FamilySearch.org lists Winter Quarters as birth and death place but the sexton records don’t have any record of this death.

# While at Big Pigeon, Solomon met Elizabeth Jane Stump where they were married on March 9, 1851. Solomon, his two daughters and Elizabeth Jane joined the David A. Miller/John W. Cooley Company. This Company departed Six Mile Grove on June 8, 1853. Elizabeth and Solomon had three children all in Salt Lake City. None lived to adulthood. Elizabeth and Solomon separated.

# A person posing for a photo Description automatically generatedSolomon crossed the plains five times. He carried rolls of paper on a couple of occasions. He met his third wife on his last trip. Mary Elizabeth Bancroft was the widow of William Taylor. He had two children with her. She was born on February 21, 1832 in Oldham, Lancashire, England to Richard and Jane Harper Bancroft.

# According to family legend, Mary “Polly,” Solomon’s first wife, saw this widow in a dream just before she died. She told Solomon that she had seen his future wife in a dream and that he would know her when he saw her. She would be standing with her back to him and a child would be standing on each side of her. This happened when on one of Solomon’s trips across the plains. She stood by a wagon washing her hands, a child on each side of her, with her back to him just as Mary had told him.

# 

# Solomon married Mary Elizabeth Bancroft on December 21, 1860 in Grantsville, Tooele County, Utah Territory. Together they had nine children. The couple was instrumental in establishing Grantsville, Utah and Basin, Cassia County, Idaho.

# Solomon died in Basin on January 6, 1902. Mary died on November 19, 1907. Both are buried in the Basin Cemetery.

# James Britton Boren (Dwelling #687)

# A blurry image of a cat Description automatically generatedJames Boren was born on April 6, 1817 in Jonesboro, Union County, Illinois. His parents were Israel and Susannah Boren (maiden name Boren). The Pottawattamie County History states that his family moved to Tennessee for a while when he was about seven years old and then back Illinois.

# James married the sister of Solomon Parks McIntosh, Nancy Ann McIntosh. She was born December 3, 1810 in Elkton, Todd, Kentucky. She was the daughter of Cornelius and Sarah “Sally” Ann Montgomery McIntosh. She was the widow of Thomas McIntosh, Jr. and had two children, John and James. They were married on September 24, 1840 in Johnson County, Illinois.

# By 1842, the family had moved to Nauvoo, Hancock County, Illinois. This is where Susannah Boren, James’ mother, died and where Israel A. Boren was born on June 6, 1842. Their second child, Margaret Jane, was born in Davis County, Iowa while traveling to the Middle Missouri Valley on July 27, 1846.

# The family settled in Big Pigeon where their third child was born. Nancy Permelia was born on June 8, 1849. Cornelius Hale was born in September 1853 and then Laura Melinda on January 26, 1856, all in Big Pigeon.

# The 1850 U. S. Census listed James, born in Illinois, age 34; Nancy, born in Kentucky, age 40; James McIntosh, born in Illinois, age 14 (this was Nancy’s son by another marriage); Israel, born in Illinois, age 8; Margaret, born in Illinois, age 4; and Nancy, born in Iowa, age 1.

# A vintage photo of an old building Description automatically generatedJames was baptized a member of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in 1860 and was a member of the Crescent, Ward. James and Nancy Ann stayed in Big Pigeon as the plat maps of 1885 showed land owned by J. B. Boren. A drawing of the farm residence of J. B. Boren in Section 18 Hazel Dell Township was published in the Atlas. It stated that he settled on the farm in 1847. (33) Nancy Ann died on April 12, 1868. James then married Agnes Hutchison on October 1, 1868 in Pottawattamie County, Iowa.

# James died on April 6, 1902 in what became Crescent, Pottawattamie County, Iowa. Agnes passed away on January 20, 1914. They are buried in the Crescent City Cemetery.

# John S. Elmer (Dwelling #690)

# A vintage photo of a person Description automatically generatedJohn Elmer was born on September 22, 1776 in Somers, Tolland County, Connecticut. He was the son of William and Mary Kibby Elmer. He was a farmer throughout his life, but he also had the ability to split and shave shingles.

# John married the daughter of Lemuel Joseph and Joanna Ellingwood Peake. Sarah “Sally” Peake was born July 9, 1784 in Pomfret, Windsor County, Vermont. Together they had five sons and four daughters. Most of the children were born in Norwich, Windsor County, Vermont: Tryphena (1801); Cynthia (1804); Samuel Fifield (1805); Wealthy (1808); John (1810); Sarah Corina (1813); Hyrum King (1816); William Warren (1820); and Ira Bartlett (1823).

# In 1838, the family went westward. When they reached Oreton, Vinton County, Ohio, Samuel, the oldest son and the mother, Mary, died of typhoid fever. The rest of the family continued to Adams County, Illinois. Here they built a cabin and put a roof on it. When they left to work for more supplies, the cabin burned down. They managed to find work to buy clothes and live through the winter.

# On March 21, 1841, John married the widow of Seymour Brunson, Sr., Harriet Matilda Gould, who had four children. Until 1843, they lived in Harriet’s cabin. In 1843, they moved to Sand Prairie, Lee County, Iowa and started farming. Two children were born there: Jerusha Kibbe (1842) and Lucretia (1845). Lucretia died in 1846.

# On the 1850 U. S. Census, John Elmer was listed as John, age 70; Harriet, age 48; Louis Brunson, age 20; Seymour Brunson, age 13; and Jerusha, age 8. They were residents of Big Pigeon.

# John, Harriet, and Jerusha traveled to the Valley with the John Glover Smith Company. The Company left on May 1, 1851 from Kanesville. They reached the Salt Lake Valley on September 15, 1851.

# The family settled in Payson, Utah County, Utah Territory. On the 1860 U. S. Census, John was listed as Jno Elmore, age 84, shingle maker and Harriet, age 60. John died on February 11, 1871. Harriet died in Fillmore, Millard County, Utah on July 31, 1879.

**Sarah Nelson (Dwelling #691)**

Sarah Nelson is actually Sarah ‘Sally” Ann Montgomery McIntosh, the wife of Cornelius and the mother of Solomon Parks (dwelling #685) and Nancy Ann McIntosh (dwelling #687). She was born June 15, 1789 in South Carolina. She was the daughter of Davison and Nancy Montgomery.

On September 20, 1817, Barnabas Smith sold Sally McIntosh and her five children, John A., Malinda T., Nancy, Solomon P., and William C., heirs of Cornelius McIntosh, deceased, 35 acres on the waters of Whippoorwill, for 30 dollars. Sally signed with an “X”. The very same day, Sarah D. McIntosh sold the land to James Conyers for $100. It has been suggested that Sarah may have paid off a mortgage and then sold the land. At that time, her children were from one year to eleven years in age.

Sarah McIntosh married on Thomas Nelson on March 12, 1818. In 1820, the Todd County, Kentucky Tax Lists revealed Thomas Nelson’s family was as follows: 2 1 0 0 1 / 1 2 0 1 1. This means there were 2 males under 10, 1 male 10-16, 1 male 26-40; 1 female under 10, 2 females 10-16, 1 female 18-26, and 1 female 26-45. Very probably Thomas and Sarah were both widowers when they married. Thomas Nelson was at least 26 years old and may have been as old as 45; Sarah Montgomery McIntosh Nelson was the female in the 26-45 year range as she would have been 31 in 1820 and the female 45 and over may have been her mother-in-law—Nancy M. McIntosh Larue.

There is a Sally Nelson in the 1830 census of Union, Illinois with 1 male 10-14, 1 male 15-19, 1 female under 5, 1 female 40-49, and 1 female 60-69. That would be William Carrol/Carl McIntosh, Solomon Parks McIntosh, Margaret Floranza Nelson, Sarah Nelson, and, Nancy M. McIntosh Larue, Sarah’s mother-in-law, because there is a Nancy Larue in Union County, Illinois in that period who was a member of the congregation of Nimrod McIntosh, Minister.

Sarah “Sally” Nelson may have died after the 1850 U. S. Census was taken. She didn’t appear in any of the Iowa State Census Records nor in the 1860 U. S. Census. If so, she is probably buried at Big Pigeon.

**Benjamin Gardner Curtis (Dwelling #692)**

An old photo of a person

Description automatically generated

Benjamin Gardner Curtis was the son of Joseph and Elsa Diadama Brockway Curtis. He was born December 6, 1802 in Stephentown, Rensselaer County, New York. He married Maria Dunn on March 24, 1825 in Brown County, Ohio.

Maria was born March 20, 1808 in Franklin, Brown County, Ohio. She was the daughter of Henry Prickett and Nancy Ann Pindell Dunn. The couple’s first four children, Polly, Eli, Sarepta Lorinda, and Uriah Eugene, were born in Washington, Brown County, Ohio. The next three children, Levi, Nancy Louisa, and Sarah Maria were born in Tippecanoe County, Indiana.

Sometime after 1840, Gardner, the name he went by, moved to Nauvoo, Hancock County, Illinois. The next two children were born in Nauvoo—Joseph Henry and Maria Jane. While living in Nauvoo, two children died, Polly and Maria Jane.

Gardner did not leave Nauvoo with the main body of the Saints. He stayed in the city through the Mormon War in September 1846. He was severely beaten at the hands of the anti-Mormon mob.

The 1850 U. S. Census placed the family in Big Pigeon. Listed are Gardner, age 47; Maria, age 43; Eli, age 21; Uriah, age 18; Levi, age 16; Nancy, age 13; Sally (Sarah), age 10, and Henry, age 7. While living in Big Pigeon, Elvina, their last child, was born on March 1, 1851. Unfortunately, Elvina died in 1852 and is probably buried in Big Pigeon.

A person posing for a photo

Description automatically generatedWhile in Big Pigeon, the couple’s daughter, Sarepta Lorinda, married William Jackson Jolley on April 25, 1850. The marriage was listed in the Pottawattamie County Marriage Index. Sarepta was born April 9, 1830 and William was born November 8, 1829 in Dresden, Weakley County, Tennessee to Reuben Manning and Sarah Pippin Jolley. Sarepta and William had a daughter name Sarah Marie while in Big Pigeon. She was born on June 9, 1851.

![A blurry image of a person

Description automatically generated]()Gardner and Maria’s son, Eli Curtis. was also married while residing in Big Pigeon. Eli was born June 3, 1828. His wife, Sarah Ann Barnett was born January 2, 1830 in Posey County, Indiana. She was the daughter of Thomas and Mahla Hodge Barnett. They were married on January 13, 1851.

The 1852 Iowa State Census listed Gardner with the other residents of Big Pigeon. Like many of the other residents of Big Pigeon, Gardner’s family, along with William and Sarepta Jolley’s family went west with the Uriah Curtis Company. They arrived in the Salt Lake Valley on September 29, 1852.

Gardner and Maria settled in Springville, Utah County, Utah Territory. Gardner died on September 9, 1867 and Maria on April 8,1871. Both are buried in the Springville Cemetery.

**Mary Smith (Dwelling #693)**

Mary Pears Smith was born on July 26, 1795 in York, Yorkshire, England. Her parents were John and Margaret Burton Pears.

Mary married William Smith on December 9, 1822 in Bradford, Yorkshire, England. William was the son of Richard and Mary Alice Hawkins Smith. He was born on September 9, 1799 in Stafford, Staffordshire, England. To this union were born five sons: Thomas Pears Smith, Richard Pears Smith, Charles Pears Smith, William Pears Smith, and John Pears Smith. They had one daughter who died at birth.

The 1841 England Census listed William Smith born about 1801, age 40, who lived in Leeds Town, Leeds Borough, Yorkshire, England. Also listed were Mary, age 40; Thomas, age 15; Richard, age 11; Charles, age 8; William, age 6; and John, age 4.

William Smith was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in England in about 1848. William and Mary, with their children, decided to join with the Saints in America. At that time, they were living in Bradford, Yorkshire, England. They sailed from Liverpool, England on September 5, 1849 on the ship "The City of Berlin."

William became very ill with cholera, which spread very rapidly among the passengers on ship. When only sailing for twelve days, William became very ill and passed away on September 17, 1849. Large pieces of coal were tied to his feet, and he was put onto a board and slid into the ocean for burial. Of the 253 Saints traveling on the ship, 56 died.

The 1850 U. S. Census, placed Mary, a widow, and her children in Big Pigeon. The family was enumerated as Mary Smith, age 55; Richard, age 20; Charles, age 16; John, age 13; and William, age 11.

**Alfred Bosworth Child (Dwelling #694)**

A black and white photo of a person

Description automatically generatedAlfred Bosworth Child was the son of Mark Anthony and Hannah Benedict Child. He was born on November 15, 1796 in Milton, Saratoga County, New York. He married Polly Barber on March 19, 1817 in Greenfield, Saratoga County, New York.

An old photo of a person

Description automatically generated

Polly Barber was the daughter of Ichabod and Anna Deake Barber. She was born on March 30, 1798 in Greenfield, Saratoga County, New York. Albert and Polly were members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. They sold their farm and possessions and followed the Saints to Kirtland, Ohio and then to Missouri and finally to Nauvoo.

The couple had twelve children. The first three children, Ichabod, Mary, and Joseph died the same day they were born. Their fifth child, Mark Alfred, joined the United States Army at Fort Leavenworth, Missouri at age twenty-one. We fought in the War with Mexico and was one of General Kearney’s staff. He was short in the neck and in the foot. He was discharged at the end of the war. After recovering from his wounds, he went to California during the gold fever. He purchased a ranch and raised cattle and horses. A band of Indians came and drove off several head of cattle and horses. Going after the Indians proved fatal as he and others were killed. He was twenty-four years old.

On the 1850 U. S. Census, the family was living in Big Pigeon. Listed were Alfred, age 53; Polly, age 52; Warren, age 15; and Orville, age 13. The twelfth child, Asa Thomas died on March 8, 1847 possibly in Big Pigeon.

A drawing of a person

Description automatically generatedJohn Lonson Child was born on October 26, 1830 in North Hammond, Saint Lawrence County, New York. He was the eighth of the twelve children. The Pottawattamie County Marriage Index indicated that he married Eliza Jane Curtis, the daughter of Uriah Curtis, on January 24, 1850. Both were from Big Pigeon. The 1850 U. S. Census placed them very near his and her parents. John was age 22 and Eliza, age 20. The couple’s first child, Sarah Ann, was born November 8, 1850 and their second, John Columbus, was born March 3, 1852. Both were probably born in Big Pigeon.

**Myron Barber Child (Dwelling #695)**

A person wearing a suit and tie

Description automatically generated

Living next to John Lonson Child on the 1850 U. S. Census was Myron Barber Child, his brother. Myron Child was born November 24, 1825 in Hammond, St. Lawrence County, New York. His parents were Alfred and Polly Barber Child (dwelling #694). He was the sixth of twelve children. The first three children died at birth.

A picture containing music, brass

Description automatically generatedWhen Myron was thirteen, his family heard the gospel of Jesus Christ and joined the Church. After joining the Church, the family sold its belongings and moved to Kirtland, Ohio. Following the Saints, the family went to Missouri and then onto Lee County, Iowa.

At the age of 21, Myron married Emeline Elmer on February 14, 1846. She was the daughter Squire and Lucy Chase Elmer and the sister of Martha Louise Elmer Sargent (dwelling #669). Emeline was born on July 12, 1829 in Hartford, Windsor County, Vermont.

Myron and Emeline’s first two children were born in Lee County, Iowa. William W. was born on February 26, 1848 and Asa Lonson on December 9, 1849. By 1850, the family had moved to Big Pigeon. The 1850 U. S. Census listed Myron, age 25; Emaline, age 22; William, age 2; and Asa, age 10 months. The family came to the Salt Lake Valley in an unknown company in 1851.

Their third child was born in Ogden, Weber County, Utah Territory. Alfred Bosworth was born on July 9, 1852. The couple had a total of eleven children. They lived in Riverdale, Weber County the rest of their lives. Myron died on June 16, 1896 and Emeline on May 10, 1899. They are both buried in the Ogden City Cemetery.

**William Elmer (Dwelling #696)**

A close up of a person

Description automatically generatedWilliam Elmer was the son of John and Sarah “Sally” Peake Elmer. He was born on September 16, 1820 in Norwich, Windsor County, Vermont. He had four brothers and four sisters.

As the family started west in about 1838, they traveled through Ohio where the mother, Sarah “Sally” and her son, Samuel, died of typhoid fever. The rest of them continued to Adams County, Illinois. Land was procured and a log cabin begun. Short on supplies, the men traveled to obtain them. While away, there was a fire that took their cabin and belongings. William’s father, John, married the widow of Seymour Brunson and the family moved into her house.

A person posing for the camera

Description automatically generated

In 1843, land was obtained in Lee County, Iowa and they started to farm the land. It was here that William met and married Hannah Polina Child on March 26, 1846. Hannah was the daughter of Alfred Bosworth and Polly Barber Child (dwelling #694) and sister of Myron Barber Child (dwelling #695). She was born on January 24, 1828 in North Hammond, St. Lawrence County, New York.

The couple’s first child, John Samuel, was born on October 13, 1847 in Lee County, Iowa. The family then established itself in Big Pigeon. Here, Mark Alfred was born on December 16, 1848 and William Warren was born on November 22, 1850.

The 1850 U. S. Census enumerated the following: William, age 30; Hannah, age 22; John, age 3; and Mark, age 2. They traveled west with the Uriah Curtis Company that departed on June 28, 1852 from Kanesville.

They settled in Weber County, Utah Territory. Hannah had total of twelve children. William took a second wife, Mary Ann Gheen, and she had four children. The family farm was in Marriott, Weber County. William was called upon frequently to help with Indian trouble and to help rescue the Martin Handcart Company. He was commissioned a Colonel by the Governor of Utah.

William died on December 14, 1894. Hannah’s death followed three years later, May 22, 1897.

**Uriah Curtis (Dwelling #698)**

A blurry photo of a person

Description automatically generated

Uriah Curtis was a younger brother of Benjamin Gardner Curtis. He was born on May 5, 1805 in Stephentown, Rensselaer County, New York. He married Phoebe Martin on January 20, 1825 in Pleasant, Brown County, Ohio.

Phoebe was born May 7, 1806 in Pleasant, Brown County, Ohio to Fielding and Anna Hall Martin. The couple had two children that were born in Brown County, Elsa Ann and Erastus. The family then moved to Indiana where two more children were born, Elia Jane and Lehi. While they were living in Indiana, they joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

The Curtis family moved with the Saints to Clay County, Missouri. Two more children were born, Uriah Martin and Mary Malinda. Because of the persecution in Missouri, the family moved to Golden Point, Hancock County, Illinois. It was there that their last child was born, Emeline Phoebe Curtis.

The 1850 U. S. Census placed the Curtis family in Big Pigeon. Listed were Uriah, age 45; Phoebe, age 44; Lehi, age 18; Uriah, age 14; Mary, age 11; and Emaline, age 5. Uriah is also listed on the 1851 Iowa State census.

In 1852, Uriah was asked to be the Captain of the sixteenth emigrating company. It consisted of roughly 260 individuals with 50 wagons when it began the journey from Kanesville, Iowa.  Members of the company arrived in the Salt Lake Valley between 29 September and 1 October 1852.

Uriah’s family settled in Springville, Utah County, Utah Territory. The death notice for Uriah appeared in the November 4, 1863 issue of the *Deseret News.* He died of lung fever after being ill for nine days. The notice states, “Mr. Curtis has been a faithful laborer in the vineyard of the Lord for many years and will be remembered by many. He died in the faith of a glorious resurrection, leaving a large family and many friends to mourn his loss.” (34)

**Elizabeth Barnum (Dwelling #699)**

A vintage photo of a person

Description automatically generatedElizabeth Thorn Barnum was born May 27, 1810 in Clinton, Duchess County, New York. She was the daughter of Richard and Mary Anner Armstrong Thorn.

Elizabeth married Charles Barnum on January 25, 1831 in Mount Morris, Livingston County, New York. Charles was born on August 11, 1809 in Sharon, Litchfield County, Connecticut. He was the son of Thomas Stevens and Margaret Gay Barnum.

Two children were born in Livingston County, New York, Alfred and Eliza. The family then moved to Nauvoo, Hancock County. Another child was born in Nauvoo, Mary Elizabeth was born on September 15, 1843.

While in Nauvoo, both Elizabeth’s husband Charles and son, Alfred, died. This left her alone to travel to the Middle Missouri Valley. They were good friends with the Curtis family. They settled in Big Pigeon near them.

Uriah Curtis took Elizabeth for his second wife on January 7, 1848. The 1850 U. S. Census listed Elizabeth living next to Uriah but using the Barnum name. Enumerated were Elizabeth, age 40; Eliza, age 13; and Mary, age 7.

Elizabeth’s family traveled west with the Uriah Curtis Company. Just before they left for the west, Uriah’s son, Lehi, married Elizabeth’s daughter, Eliza on June 6, 1852. Uriah and Elizabeth had one child named Harriet Ann Curtis who was born March 22, 1853 in Salt Lake County, Utah Territory.

By the 1870 U. S. Census, Elizabeth was 60 years old and lived with Levi and Eliza and their family in Hyrum, Cache County, Utah Territory. The 1880 Census listed Elizabeth in Hyrum City again but with her daughter Harriet and her husband, W. J. Mann.

The Mann family moved to Shelly, Bingham County, Idaho before the 1900 U. S. Census. Elizabeth was still living with them and listed as age 90. She died there on March 7, 1902.

**Joseph Alva Rooker (Dwelling #700)**

Joseph Rooker was born on January 22, 1818 in Granville, Delaware County, Indiana. His parents were John L. and Dolly Torbet Rooker.

Joseph married Emeline Samantha Jordan on November 1, 1840 in Granville, Delaware County, Indiana. She was born on May 6, 1825 in Pleasant, Brown County, Ohio. Nathan and Barbara Curtis Jordan were her parents. Barbara was the sister of Benjamin Gardner Curtis (dwelling #692) and Uriah Curtis (dwelling #698).

Not much is known about their lives before their marriage. It is not clear whether the family went to Nauvoo. Their first two children, Barbara Elsie and Almira Larue, were born in Tippecanoe County, Indiana. Barbara only lived 3 years.

The couple was in Big Pigeon by the birth of their third child, William Edward. He was born on October 8, 1846. Joseph was a member of the Brigham Young Vanguard Company to the Great Salt Lake Valley in 1847. He returned to Big Pigeon and another child was born on Christmas Day in 1848. He was called after his father, Joseph Alva Rooker. Another daughter, Lucy Ann, arrived on July 24, 1851.

The Uriah Curtis Company departed from Kanesville on June 28, 1852 for the Salt Lake Valley. Joseph, Emeline, and four children were among that Company. Eight more children would be added to the family. Three were born in Utah, Eliza Emeline, Cynthia Elizabeth, and Sarah Jane. However, the 1860 U. S. Census placed them in Washington, Alameda County, California. The rest were born in California—Jessie Eva, Isaac, George Nelson, and Ida Louise.

Temporarily the family was found in Oregon at Linkville, Lake County, according to the 1880 U. S. Census. By 1900, as listed, in the U. S. Census they had moved to San Luis Rey, San Diego County, California.

Joseph Alva Rooker, Sr. died on November 12, 1901 in Oceanside, San Diego County, California. Emeline died at the same place on May 1, 1906. They are buried at the Odd Fellows Cemetery, Fallbrook, San Diego County, California.

**Lorenzo Dow Driggs (Dwelling #701)**

Lorenzo’s parents were living in Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania when he was born on March 14, 1822. His parents were Urial and Hannah Ford Driggs. Lorenzo’s brother, Shadrach, was also living in Big Pigeon (dwelling #678).

Lorenzo’s family traveled from Pittsburgh to the Mississippi River, and then to Nauvoo. Urial bought a piece of land at Upper Nauvoo, where they built a home overlooking the Mississippi River and the Nauvoo Temple site. They planted a garden and raised crops to provide food for themselves. Urial assisted his sons, Shadrach and Lorenzo, both being wagon makers by trade, in building wagons to supply the people as they left Nauvoo.

Lorenzo married the sister of Shadrach’s wife. Her name was Malinda White, the daughter of Henry Harvey and Rebeckah Smith White. Melinda was born September 5, 1828 in Underhill, Chittenden County, Vermont. The couple was married in Nauvoo on November 10, 1845.

By the time the families were ready to leave, the seasoned wood was used up, so they gained permission to make their own wagons out of abandoned carts used during the temple construction. It was late May 1846 when they took what few possessions they could load into the covered wagon and crossed the Mississippi River to begin their move to the West. Urial and Hannah were 68 years old and their health was failing. The wagon train made their camp on the west side of the Mississippi River where Urial’s health failed him and he became bedridden. One morning while the company was breaking camp, word came that Urial could go no farther. His children gathered around, and he gave them a father’s blessing, and asked them to remain true to the faith and take care of their mother. He passed away on September 14, 1846, in Van Buren County, Iowa. That day the company remained in camp while Shadrach, Lorenzo, and Starling, his sons, fashioned a coffin from a log grove near a large walnut tree.

Hannah decided she would not able to make another long journey to the Salt Lake Valley. The children deemed it best that she remained in Big Pigeon. Hannah passed away in February of 1848 as did her daughter, Hannah. They are both buried at Big Pigeon.

Lorenzo and his wife, Malinda White and their children, also stayed in Iowa. Harvey was born on September 30, 1846 and Don Carlos was born on June 30, 1848 at Big Pigeon. The 1850 U. S. Census enumerated the following: Lorenzo, age 28; Malinda, age 25; Harvey, age 4; and Carlos, age 2. Rebecca White, Malinda’s mother was also living with them. A few weeks after the census was taken, Jeremiah was born on October 22, 1850. He died on August 28, 1852 in Harrison County.

By 1853, the family had moved to Little Sioux, Harrison County, Iowa. Four more children were born there, Lorenzo Dow, Jr.; Charles Aaron; Caroline; and Harrison A. Lorenzo died on January 13, 1880 at the age of 57. Malina lived to be 79 years of age and died on May 7, 1906. Lorenzo, Malinda, Harvey, Lorenzo Dow, Jr., Caroline, Harrison A., and Jeremiah are buried in the Fountainbleau Cemetery in Harrison County.

**Isaac Ashton (Dwelling #702)**

A person wearing a suit and tie

Description automatically generatedIsaac Ashton was born in Hampshire County, Virginia on July 4, 1811. He was the son of Joseph and Mary Kerrick Ashton. When Isaac was yet a child the family removed to Muskingum County, Ohio, then in the wilderness, where, sometime thereafter, his father died. Four years after his death, Mary and her family removed to Licking County, in Ohio where she, eventually, died. In the fall of 1832, Isaac Ashton was united in marriage, in Licking County, Ohio, with Ruth Driggs, the daughter of Urial and Hannah Ford Driggs. She was also the sister of Shadrach Driggs (dwelling #678) and Lorenzo Driggs (dwelling #701). In about 1839, the family moved to Nauvoo, Hancock County, Illinois. Ruth died there.

Isaac then met and married Abazail “Abigail” White. She was the daughter of Henry Harvey and Rebeckah Smith White. Her sisters were Malinda White who married Lorenzo Dow Driggs and Eliza Elizabeth White who married Shadrach Ford Driggs. They were married on September 7, 1842. Their first daughter, Caroline, was born on July 2, 1843 and their first son, Henry B., on November 4, 1845 in Nauvoo.

In the spring of 1846, Isaac located in Farmington, Van Buren County, Iowa and went to work in a sawmill. Soon sending for his family, he made his home there for about a year, after which he moved to Big Pigeon, Pottawattamie County, where he took up his residence with his family. Another daughter, Mary was born and died in 1847.

In the spring of 1848, Isaac entered the service of the United States Government, assisting in the removal of Ft. Kearney to Grand Island, in the Platte River, and was thus engaged for five months. Returning to his home, he was engaged in farming at Big Pigeon. Stephen was born October 11, 1849.

In the fall of 1850, reports of the country north of that point pleased him, he came to what is now Harrison County, and located at what is now Little Sioux, with the intention of making it his home.  
  
In December, 1851, Isaac was hired to take some supplies north. The trail led him through Monona County, and when he arrived at the beautiful grove on what is now section 32, Ashton Township, he thought it the loveliest spot that he had seen. He cut four logs and laid the foundation of a cabin to stake his claim. He moved his family in February 1852, and it became known as Ashton’s Grove. He made his home there for many years and added four more children to his family, Malinda, said to be the first white child to be born in Monona County, Ella Ida, Isaac, Jr. and Bion. As settlers located around him, he became one of the prominent men of the county. In 1856, he erected, at the once promising village of Ashton, a hotel, which he ran for some years.

Having disposed of all his land interests in Monona County, Isaac, in his later years, moved to Little Sioux, Harrison County, Iowa. It is here that he died on May 26, 1898. Abazail had preceded him in death on February 5, 1896 at the age of 76 years. Isaac and Abazail are buried in the Fountainbleau Cemetery, Harrison County, Iowa.

**John William Cooley (Dwelling #703)**

A person with collar shirt

Description automatically generatedJohn Cooley was born November 25, 1811 at New Haven, Oswego County, New York. He was the son of Daniel and Mary Butler Cooley. He was the third child of four. A sister, Mary Ann, who later married a William Francis Liddle, was born June 6, 1807 at Pana, Oneida County, New York. There was also a brother, Charles Rensselaer and a sister, Lucy Ann.

John embraced the Gospel of Jesus Christ and join the Church in 1838 on November 12 and was ordained an Elder the same day. He moved to Kirtland, Ohio in 1840 and then to Nauvoo.

John married Hannah Gould, the daughter of Seth Burr and Hannah Sagers Gould. She was born January 10, 1815 at Cramahe, Newcastle, Northumberland County, Upper Canada. To this union was born one daughter, Gennette, on December 20, 1836 in Upper Canada and one son, John Rancler, in 1843. Hannah died March 15, 1843 in Cincinnati, Hamilton, Ohio.

An old photo of a person

Description automatically generatedJohn and his daughter and son traveled to Nauvoo where his son died. He then went onto Big Pigeon where he met and married Susan Jane Hunt in 1849. Susan was the daughter of David Durham and Nancy Davis Hunt. She was born on January 10, 1836 in Granney, Northumberland County, Upper Canada. The couple had two children, Maryetta, born September 8, 1850, and Samuel William, born on August 5, 1852 in Big Pigeon.

In a letter written to President Brigham Young by Ezra T. Benson dated March 16, 1852, John was listed as Captain of the First Big Pigeon Branch which consisted of two-hundred-thirty souls. They were reported as being perfectly united and all going to the valley that season and taking their poor with them. On April 7, 1852, he was reported to have addressed a conference in the Big Pigeon Tabernacle, and on April 14, 1852, he was listed as being a member of the Thirtieth Quorum of Seventies and residing in Pottawattamie County, Iowa.

The Daniel A. Miller/John W. Cooley Company departed from Six Mile Grove on June 8, 1853. There were about 282 people in the Company. During the night of July 9, 1853, while camped at Shepherd’s Creek, John’s son, Samuel William died. A board was placed at the head of the grave with the following inscription: “S.W. Cooley, age 11 months, son of J.W. Cooley.” The Company arrived in the Salt Lake Valley September 9, 1853. Besides his family, his mother, Mary A black and white photo of a person

Description automatically generatedButler Cooley, made the journey.

Susan Jane Hunt bore four more children while living in either Salt Lake County or in Grantsville, Tooele County. Later he married Nancy Johanna Penelope Hunt, who bore him eight children. Nancy was Susan Jane’s sister.

John may have operated the first store in Grantsville. It was just west of the old adobe church-schoolhouse building. Quite a variety of dry goods and most staple groceries were carried in the small store. There was also a hotel for travelers that was run by Susan Jane.

The citizens of the community early realized the need of a sawmill. One was started at Fishing Creek, but John soon opened one up in North Willow Canyon. This was operated by waterpower. This mill soon became more popular because of its accessibility to timber, which cut down the expense of handling and hauling of the timber.

In 1897, John moved to Basin, Cassia County, Idaho to live with one of his daughters. He died on November 18, 1898 and is buried there. Susan lived with a son in Montello, Elko County, Nevada when she died on April 22, 1908 and is buried there. Nancy remained in Grantsville where she died on September 29, 1909 and is buried there.

**James Nelson (Dwelling #704)**

James Nelson was born June 15, 1793 in Orange, Sampson County, North Carolina. He was the son of Thomas Burton and Martha Price Williams Nelson. His parents may have moved the family to Illinois where the father, Thomas Burton, died in 1846 in Jefferson County, Illinois.

James married Rebecca Clover on December 21, 1826 in Monroe County, Illinois. Rebecca was the daughter of Jacob and Catherine Harness Clover. She was born on March 12, 1809 in Monroe County.

There is no evidence that the couple had children. Rebecca is not listed on the 1850 U. S. Census nor the 1851 Iowa State Census with James. Rebecca may have died in 1829 in Monroe County, Illinois

James went west in an unknown company in about 1852. He settled in Fountain Green, Sanpete County, Utah Territory.

In the early hours of the morning of October 1, 1853, the San Pitch Utes attacked and killed four men, William Reed, James Nelson, William Luke, and Thomas Clark, as they were encamped at Uinta Springs, near the head of Salt Creek Canyon. The men were driving two ox-drawn wagons filled with wheat to Salt Lake City as the advance party of a larger group headed by Isaac Morley.

Morley had warned them against camping at Uinta Springs. Instead they were to camp on the San Pitch River and wait for the arrival of the main group. William Luke, an immigrant from Manchester, England, was anxious to go see his three sons, who had recently arrived from England, and may have encouraged the group to hasten its journey. When Morley's group arrived at the camp, they found the four men dead. The wagons were emptied of their grain and the bodies were loaded for transport to Nephi, Utah.

**John Winn (Dwelling #705)**

John Winn was the son of Minor and Nancy Wilson Winn. He was born January 29, 1824 in Rockcreek, Bedford County, Tennessee.

A person looking at the camera

Description automatically generatedJulia Ann Akes was born June 5, 1827 in Carinville, Macoupin County, Illinois. She was the daughter of Peter and Susannah Harris Akes.

Both John and Julia Ann’s families had joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and migrated to Nauvoo, Hancock County, Illinois to be with the main body of the Church. John and Julia Ann were married there on March 7, 1844.

After the death of Joseph Smith, James Emmett decided that he should lead a company to North Dakota where there was land to homestead. John’s family decided to follow him. Emmett turned out to be a cruel taskmaster and the company was now in a deplorable condition. John had discovered some honeycombs and brought it back to camp. Emmett had heard about it and had ordered that John be shot because he didn’t turn it into the commissary.

Emmett nor his son could carry out the execution so instead he ordered that John, Julia Ann, James Wilson (John’s cousin) and his wife, Elizabeth be left in the wilderness without supplies to die. After several days, the two men saw a band of Indians and ran to catch them. The couples related their stories and the Indians were ready to take revenge until Julia Ann, who was pregnant, pleaded that the company not be killed.

As they were fed and then slept, the Indians quietly left them in a wickiup. When they awoke, they found the Indians gone but had left them supplied with the two ponies and a pack horse and supplies.

With the generosity of the Indians, the two couples were able to make it back to Nauvoo. John Winn made a vow that he would help his Indian brothers from that time on if every he had the occasion.

John and Julia Ann’s first child, Lucretia Christine was born there on March 27, 1845 in Nauvoo. Another child was born on February 26, 1846 which they named James Thomas Winn. He was probably born in Nauvoo.

The family then crossed Iowa and settled in Big Pigeon. Another child was born, Mary Jane, on April 22, 1849.

The 1850 U. S. Census listed John, age 26; Julia Ann, age 24; Lucretia, age 5; and Mary, age 1. Another child was born on August 30, 1851 before they left for the west. His name was Minor Winn.

The family joined the Henry Bryant Manning Jolley Company which departed from Kanesville on June 15, 1852. John’s father and mother were also in that Company. They arrived in the Salt Lake Valley on September 9, 1852. They traveled further to settle in Richmond, Cache County, Utah. It was here that Julia Ann passed away in 1853.

John married twice more. Elizabeth Caroline Pugh and Eliza Ann Stephenson became his wives. Elizabeth bore nine children and Eliza seven.

By 1870, John and his families had moved to Beaver County, Utah Territory and by 1880 to Oneida County, Idaho Territory. He died on February 5, 1899 in Richfield, Sevier County, Utah and is buried there.

**Minor Winn (Dwelling # 706)**

Minor Winn was born December 17, 1798 in Abbeville, Greenwood County, South Carolina. His parents were Minor Winn and Rachel Cook. In 1820, he married Nancy Wilson. Nancy was the daughter of James Wilson and Ellender Shelfer. She was born in Trenton, Jones County, North Carolina or Tennessee on December 27, 1798.

Minor and Nancy had nine children, eight of which were born in Bedford County, Tennessee. The family moved from Bedford, Tennessee to Illinois after they joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. They started for Missouri, but troubles which came upon them, changed their course to Adams County Illinois. Minor owned property in St. Albans which was south of Nauvoo. Their last child, Alma Winn, was born on April 4, 1837 in Albion, Edwards County, Illinois.

After traveling with the Saints through Iowa in 1846, their son, Dennis Wilson Winn, born December 11, 1826, enlisted as a Private in Company A in the Mormon Battalion. James Franklin Winn, born July 26, 1822, died on September 8, 1847 in Stillwell, Hancock, Illinois.

Some of Minor’s children, Thomas, Elias, John, and Alma were listed as members of the Macedonia, Iowa Branch. By the 1850 U. S. Census, Minor was living next to John Winn (dwelling #705). Listed were: Minor, age 50; Nancy, age 52; Thomas, age 21; Elias, age 19; Jane, age 17; Alma, age 14; and Mary, age 12.

Minor and his family joined the Henry Bryant Manning Jolley Company which departed from Kanesville on June 15, 1852. Listed among the Winn family were: Minor, age 53; Nancy, age 53; Thomas Green, age 22 and his wife Phoebe Jane Orton, age 20; John, age 28 and his wife Julia Ann Akes, age 25 and their children Lucretia Christine, age 7; James Thomas, age 6; Mary Jane, age 3; and Minor, an infant; Elias Stillwell, age 20; Jane, age 18; Alma, age 16; and Mary, age 23.

After their arrival in the Valley, they were sent to Fort Alpine and then Miles and Nancy went to Summit, Iron County, where Nancy died. Miles then went to Richfield, Sevier County where he died on February 19, 1877.

**Summary**

As the biographies are examined, the lives of the people are woven together in various ways. Of the approximately 50 families enumerated in the 1850 U. S. Census in Big Pigeon, seventeen of the head of households were from the Southern States.

Families seemed to travel together as they joined Overland Travel Companies. Seven Overland Trail Companies were organized with Captains who resided in Big Pigeon. They were: George A. Smith/Dan Jones Company, departed July 14, 1849; Ezra T. Benson Company, departed July 15, 1849 Aaron Johnson Company, departed June 8, 1850; Morris Phelps Company, departed June 9, 1851; William Lane Company, departed June 24, 1852; Uriah Curtis Company; departed June 28, 1852 and finally Daniel A. Miller/John W. Cooley Company departed June 8, 1853. The largest number of Big Pigeon residents traveled with the Uriah Curtis Company, 111. Forty-eight residents traveled with the Miller/Cooley Company. The rest of the residents that continued west were divided among the other Companies and some were not recorded.

A mystery remains. Who is buried at Big Pigeon in 1849 with the initials W. W. and J. W.?

A stone was found by the owners of the property that has been preserved that bears that information. Even with the research done, those individuals have not been identified. Since they died in 1849, their deaths preceded most of the records that are available.

**A picture containing ground, outdoor

Description automatically generated**

**Big Pigeon Births**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Father** | **Mother** | **Birth Date** |
| Harvey Driggs | Lorenzo Driggs | Malinda White | 30 Sep 1846 |
| William Edward Rooker | Joseph Alva Rooker | Emeline Samantha Jordan | 8 Oct 1846 |
| William Moultire McIntosh | Solomon Parks McIntosh | Mary ”Polly” Latham | 1847 |
| Mary Ashton | Isaac Ashton | Abazail ”Abigail” White | 1847 |
| Don Carlos Johnson | Aaron Johnson | Jane Scott | 1 Jul 1847 |
| Mary Eliza Johnson | Aaron Johnson | Mary Ann Johnson | 9 Jul 1847 |
| Aaron Moroni Johnson | Aaron Johnson | Sarah Mariah Johnson | 10 Aug 1847 |
| Martha Huff | Henry Huff | Mary Magdalena Wiekel | 2 Sep 1847 |
| John Stephen Benson | Jerome M. Benson | Mary Rhoades | 1848 |
| Mary L. DeForest | Josiah Lobdel DeForest | Mary A. Collins | 1848 |
| Wilkinson Hewitt, Jr. | Wilkinson Hewitt | Margaret Grinder/Calhoun | 1848 |
| Jeremiah Myron Bingham | Jeremiah Bingham | Sarah Keele | 10 Jan 1848 |
| Jane Caroline Loveless | James Washington Loveless | Matilda Elizabeth McClellan | 25 Mar 1848 |
| Jennett Phoebe Benson | David Benson | Elsa Ann Curtis | 19 Jun 1848 |
| Don Carlos Driggs | Lorenzo Driggs | Malinda White | 30 Jun 1848 |
| Anna Maria Thorn | Richard Thorn | Harriet Ann Glines | 22 Jul 1848 |
| Abigail Aurora Bingham | Jeremiah Bingham | Sarah Keele | 19 Aug 1848 |
| John Oscar Loveless | John Loveless | Rachel Mahala Anderson | 30 Aug 1848 |
| Martha Ann Phelps | Morris Charles Phelps | Sarah Thompson | 18 Oct 1848 |
| Mark Alfred Elmer | William Elmer | Sarah “Sally” Peake | 16 Dec 1848 |
| Joseph Alva Rooker, Jr. | Joseph Alva Rooker, Sr. | Emeline Samantha Jordan | 25 Dec 1848 |
| Joseph Leander Turpin | John Turpin | Mary Elizabeth Travis | 1849 |
| Mary Jane Ewell | William Fletcher Ewell | Mary Lee Bland | 5 Feb 1849 |
| Richard Samuel Stubbs | Richard Stubbs | Ellender Wyre | 7 Feb 1849 |
| Louisa Lula Greene | Evan M. Greene | Susan Kent | 18 Apr 1849 |
| Mary Jane Winn | John Winn | Julia Ann Akes | 22 Apr 1849 |
| John Thomas Mathis, Jr. | John Thomas Mathis, Sr. | Sarah Ann Dowdle | 28 Apr 1849 |
| Nancy Permelia Boren | James Britton Boren | Nancy Ann McIntosh | 8 Jun 1849 |
| Jerome Messenger Benson, Jr. | Jerome M. Benson | Mary Rhoades | Jul 1849 |
| Robert Ashmore Campbell | Robert Campbell | Amelia Delilah Mikesell | 28 Jul 1849 |
| William Dabney Keele | Alexander Keele | Minerva Dixon | 24 Aug 1849 |
| William Lorenzo Johnson | Aaron Johnson | Mary Ann Johnson | 17 Sep 1849 |
| Jane Benson | David Benson | Elsa Ann Curtis | 6 Sep 1849 |
| Stephen Ashton | Isaac Ashton | Abazail ”Abigail” White | 11 Oct 1849 |
| Malissa Ella Elmer | Ira Bartlett Elmer | Eveline Elizabeth Wright | 25 Nov 1849 |
| Martha Louisa Elmer | Ira Bartlett Elmer | Eveline Elizabeth Wright | 25 Nov 1849 |
| Abner Thorn | Richard Thorn | Harriet Ann Glines | 17 Dec 1849 |
| Allen Mathis, Jr. | Allen Mathis, Sr. | Martha Ann Clark | 1850 |
| Elizabeth White | William Steven White | Janette Reaves Head | 1850 |
| Allen Mathis, Jr. | Allen Mathis, Sr. | Martha Ann Clark | 1850 |
| George Gamaliel Vail | Isaac Hawk Vail | Susannah Benson | 1 Jan 1850 |
| Eugene Huff | Henry Huff | Mary Magdalena Wiekel | Feb 1850 |
| Alva James Benson | James Benson | Almira Melinda Jordan | 9 Feb 1850 |
| Josiah Lobdel ”Joseph” DeForest | Josiah Lobdel DeForest | Mary A. Collins | 1 Mar 1850 |
| Helen Johnson | Aaron Johnson | Sarah Mariah Johnson | 12 Apr 1850 |
| Sarah Ellenor Bingham | Jeremiah Bingham | Sarah Keele | 15 Apr 1850 |
| Lucretia Wakefield | William Ainscough | Mary Clarke Wakefield | 6 May 1850 |
| Aaron Johnson, Jr. | Aaron Johnson, Sr. | Jane Scott | 22 May 1850 |
| Cynthia Angeline Loveless | James Washington Loveless | Matilda Elizabeth McClellan | 14 Jul 1850 |
| James Bennett Hampton | James Thomas Hampton | Sarah Gilberts | 22 Jul 1850 |
| Mary Ann Bigler | Jacob G. Bigler | Amy Lorette Chase | 24 Jul 1850 |
| Maryetta Cooley | John William Cooley | Susan Jane Hunt | 8 Sep 1850 |
| Jeremiah Driggs | Lorenzo Driggs | Malinda White | 22 Oct 1850 |
| Phoebe Keziah Benson | David Benson | Elsa Ann Curtis | 8 Nov 1850 |
| Sarah Ann Child | John Lonson Child | Eliza Jane Curtis | 8 Nov 1850 |
| William Warren Elmer | William Elmer | Sarah ”Sally” Peake | 22 Nov 1850 |
| Sarah Ellender Stubbs | Richard Stubbs | Ellender Wyre | 14 Dec 1850 |
| Charlotte Lucretia Loveless | John Loveless | Rachel Mahala Anderson | 15 Dec 1850 |
| Samuel Turpin | John Turpin | Mary Elizabeth Travis | 1851 |
| Archibald R. Hewitt | Wilkinson Hewitt | Margaret Grinder/Calhoun | 1851 |
| Elizabeth Eleanor Keele | Dabney Uel Keele | Elizabeth Ann Bracken | 1851 |
| Richard Levi Keele | Dabney Uel Keele | Elizabeth Ann Bracken | 1851 |
| Mariel White | William Steven White | Janette Reaves Head | 1851 |
| Elizabeth Julia Mathis | John Thomas Mathis, Sr. | Sarah Ann Dowdle | 1851 |
| George Moulton | Henry Moulton | Martha Barker | 1851 |
| Elvina Curtis | Benjamin Gardner Curtis | Maria Dunn | 1 Mar 1851 |
| Sarah Marie Curtis | William Jackson Jolley | Sarepta Lorinda Curtis | 9 Jun 1851 |
| Lucy Ann Rooker | Joseph Alva Rooker | Emeline Samantha Jordan | 24 Jul 1851 |
| Minor Winn | John Winn | Julia Ann Akes | 30 Aug 1851 |
| Sariah Ann Mikesell | Hyrum Washington Mikesell | Ann Augusta Scott | 8 Oct 1851 |
| Jane Mariah Curtis | Eli Curtis | Sarah Ann Barnett | 27 Nov 1851 |
| Augustus Bingham | Jeremiah Bingham | Sarah Keele | 8 Feb 1852 |
| John Columbus Child | John Lonson Child | Eliza Jane Curtis | 3 Mar 1852 |
| Henry Franklin Sargent | Stephen Sylvester Sargent | Martha Louisa Elmer | 22 Apr 1852 |
| Richard Henry Thorn | Richard Thorn | Harriet Ann Glines | 31 May 1852 |
| Samuel William Cooley | John William Cooley | Susan Jane Hunt | 5 Aug 1852 |
| Cornelius Hale Boren | James Britton Boren | Nancy Ann McIntosh | Sep 1853 |
| Laura Melinda Boren | James Britton Boren | Nancy Ann McIntosh | 26 Jan 1856 |

**Big Pigeon Marriages**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Bride** | **Groom** | **Marriage Date** |
| Mary Magdelena Wiekel Huff | Pleasant Ewell | 1847 |
| James Washington Loveless | Matilda Elizabeth McClellan | 9 Mar 1847 |
| John Loveless | Rhoda Sanford Lawrence | 21 Nov 1847 |
| Sarah Ann Dowdle | John Thomas Mathis, Sr. | 1848 |
| Elizabeth Thorn Barnum | Uriah Curtis | 7 Jan 1848 |
| Martha Barker |  | 26 Feb 1848 |
| Martha Bartholomew | Jerome M. Benson | 14 Apr 1848 |
| Mary Cartwright | Jerome M. Benson | 14 Apr 1848 |
| Wilkinson Hewitt | Margaret Grinder/Calhoun | 19 May 1848 |
| Susannah Benson | Isaac Hawk Vail | 8 Jun 1848 |
| Almira Melinda Jordan | James Benson | 21 Dec 1848 |
| Susan Jane Hunt | John William Cooley | 1849 |
| Elizabeth Tennant Wade Gibson | Levi Hezekiah Murdock | 25 Jan 1849 |
| Janette Reaves Head | William Steven White | 19 Apr 1849 |
| Eliza Jerusha Gibbs | Jesse Williams Fox, Sr. | 2 Jun 1849 |
| Martha Ann Clark | Allen Mathis, Sr. | 8 Sep 1849 |
| Mary McClellan | William Henry Head | 17 Jan 1850 |
| Eliza Jane Curtis | John Lonson Child | 24 Jan 1850 |
| Frances Lucinda. Chase | John Walker | 27 Apr 1850 |
| Sarepta Lorinda Curtis | William Jackson Jolley | 28 Apr 1850 |
| Sarah Ann Barnett | Eli Curtis | 13 Jan 1851 |
| Elizabeth Jane Stump | Solomon Parks McIntosh | 9 Mar 1851 |
| Elizabeth Ann Bracken | Dabney Uel Keele | 11 May 1851 |
| Mary Elizabeth Park | John Winters Lusk | 19 May 1851 |
| Sarah Elizabeth Lusk | Levi Perry Bingham | 1852 |
| Susan Keele | Jeremiah Bingham | 17 Jan 1852 |
| Elizabeth Maria Dixon Lusk Taylor | Ashael Thorn | Feb 1852 |
| Lucy Benson | John Gill Wilson | 3 Jun 1852 |
| Eliza Barnum | Lehi Curtis | 6 Jun 1852 |

**Big Pigeon Deaths**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Father** | **Mother** | **Death Date** |
| William Moultire McIntosh | Solomon Parks McIntosh | Mary “Polly” Latham | 1847 |
| Mary “Polly” Latham McIntosh | Cornelius McIntosh | Sarah Davidson | 1847 |
| Mary Ashton | Isaac Ashton | Abazail ”Abigail” White | 1847 |
| Hannah Driggs | Lorenzo Dow Driggs | Hannah Ford | 1847 |
| Hannah Ford Driggs | Thomas Ford | Hannah Rowlandson | Feb 1848 |
| Asa Thomas Child | Alfred Bosworth Child | Polly Barber | 8 Mar 1847 |
| Mary Eliza Johnson | Aaron Johnson | Mary Ann Johnson | 15 Apr 1848 |
| William Fletcher Ewell | Pleasant Ewell | Barbara Ann Fauber | 22 Dec 1848 |
| Mary Huff | Henry Huff | Mary Magdalena Wiekel | 1849 |
| Sarah “Sally” Ann Montgomery McIntosh Nelson | Davison Montgomery | Nancy | 1849 |
| Nephi Ainscough | William Ainscough | Mary Clarke Wakefield | Sep 1849 |
| Jane Benson | Alva Benson | Elsa Ann Curtis | 6 Sep 1849 |
| Richard Samuel Stubbs | Richard Stubbs | Ellender Wyre | 22 Sep 1849 |
| Aaron Moroni Johnson | Aaron Johnson | Sarah Mariah Johnson | 22 Oct 1849 |
| Anna Maria Thorn | Richard Thorn | Harriet Ann Glines | 19 Nov 1849 |
| Martha Louisa Elmer | Ira Bartlett Elmer | Eveline Elizabeth Wright | 25 Nov 1849 |
| Helen Johnson | Aaron Johnson | Sarah Mariah Johnson | 12 Apr 1850 |
| John Thomas Hampton | James Thomas Hampton | Sarah Gilberts | 29 Jul 1850 |
| Eugene Huff | Henry Huff | Mary Magdalena Wiekel | 1851 |
| Chester Potter | David Potter | Charlotte Osborn | Jun 1851 |
| Wilkinson Hewitt | James Hewitt | Elizabeth Webb | 16 Jul 1851 |
| Elvina Curtis | Benjamin Gardner Curtis | Maria Dunn | 1852 |
| Sarah Keele Bingham | Richard John Keele | Nancy Eleanor McCullough | 8 Feb 1852 |
| Augustus Bingham | Jeremiah Bingham | Sarah Keele | 8 Feb 1852 |