Freeman, John (1804-1871)

Birth of John Freeman

About eight years after the arrival of Arthur and Nancy Malone Freeman in Kentucky, the Freemans produced one last child, John Freeman. He was born September 6th, 1804. Family group records submitted to the LDS Church give varying locations as his birthplace, but current evidence indicates that John was born in Lincoln County, Kentucky. In later life John affirmed that he had been born in "Lincoln County, Kentucky,"[1] and an 1804 entry in the Lincoln County, Kentucky Tax Book gives evidence that Nancy Freeman--John's mother—was living in that county at the time and listed her household to include **"1 free male over 16 years [brother in law Hamlin?] and 1 horse."**

Death of parents

John's father died shortly before, or relatively soon after John's birth, somewhere between 1803-1804. The fact that Nancy Freeman is listed as head of household in the Lincoln Co. Tax Book of 1804 gives support to that early death date for Arthur. No burial or grave site record has been found for Arthur.[2]

John's mother, Nancy, now a widow, had brothers and sisters living in and near Montgomery County, Tennessee in addition to her daughters, Martha, who married Wiley Mallory and Elizabeth, who married John Garner. Consequently, she moved to Tennessee where she met and was courted by Moses Oldham Sr. On September 28th, 1807, Nancy married Moses in Montgomery County.[3] Unfortunately, her marriage to Oldham proved to be short-lived since Nancy died within a few years of the marriage date. However, Nancy was apparently still alive when her father died September 20, 1810, leaving a will as abstracted below:

> ***Will of George Malone: Wife Lucy.*** **[Malone's first wife had died some 34 years previously]**
> ***Sons: Booth, John George, William, Robert, James, Lewis, Miles.***
> ***Daughters: Elizabeth Lanier, Wilmoth Hutchinson (her husband Richard), Sally Bugg, Mary Vaughan, Patsey Lanier, Nancy Odum [Oldham]. [emphasis added]***
> ***Executors: Son James Malone and son-in-law John Bugg.***
> ***Witness: A. Malone. Thos. Steagall, Claiborne Malone, Asa Gresham, William Murrel.***
> ***Estate inventory was carried out in 1811;***
> ***Brunswick Co. Va. Will Book 7 pp 459, 529, 1811: George Malone Estate Inventory.***

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[1] Many, many Family Group Sheets for John Freeman have been submitted to the LDS Church. Multiple discrepancies appear as to the birthplace of John Freeman. Webb indicates that John Freeman was born in Shelbyville, not Lincoln. I shall refer to this entry as Shelbyville. Accordingly, John Freeman's place of birth is listed as Shelbyville, Lincoln, KY, (Webb, Crandell), Lincoln, Shelby, KY (Richards, Woolford, Bangartar), Lincoln or Brunswick, Shelby, KY (Smith, Farr, Gardner), Brunswick, Lincoln, KY (Cropper).

When John received his Patriarchal Blessing in 1854 he informed the patriarch that he was born in Lincoln Co., Kentucky.

[2] One AncestryInstitution.com document states that Arthur Freeman died in Shelby, Kentucky, in 1803 at age 41. However, no source is listed for that information.

[3] Montgomery County, Tennessee Wills, Inventories, Guardian and Bond Books (FHL #0024772), Item 4, Vol. A. 1797-1810, Book 21, p. 401.

John Freeman: an orphan

Speakman indicates that Nancy died some time prior to April 19, 1811, the date when John Garner, husband of her daughter Elizabeth,[4] was appointed guardian of six and one-half year old John and his sister Nancy, "orphans of Arthur Freeman, dec." at Clarksville, Montgomery County, Tennessee.[5] Nancy chose John Garner as her guardian, so she would have been at least 14 years of age. Speakman added:

> **Frequently orphans were shuttled between close family members or persons willing to care for them and/or use their labor without a formal guardianship. It's a puzzle why John's older married sisters, Agnes Sissel, or Martha Mallory, who were living in the area, as well as Freeman and Malone relatives didn't assume the guardianship when John's brother-in-law relinquished it."[6]**

Speakman also mentions that in 1811 when John Freeman became a ward of his brother-in-law, he experienced two terrifying earthquakes that took place in that area; they were the largest ever recorded in the continental USA. The earthquakes occurred 16 Dec 1811 and 7 Feb 1812 on the New Madrid fault and were in the magnitude of 7.0+. Over 1,000 aftershocks were recorded and the earthquake was felt throughout a 50,000 square mile area. One account gave this description:

> **On the 16th of December, 1811, about two o'clock, a.m., we were visited by a violent shock of an earthquake, accompanied by a very awful noise resembling loud but distant thunder, but more hoarse and vibrating, which was followed in a few minutes by the complete saturation of the atmosphere, with sulphurious vapor, causing total darkness.**
>
> **The screams of the affrighted inhabitants running to and fro, not knowing where to go, or what to do —the cries of the fowls and beasts of every species —the cracking of trees falling, and the roaring of the Mississippi — the current of which was retrograde for a few minutes, owing as is supposed, to an irruption in its bed — formed a scene truly horrible.[7]**

A second guardian

Five years later, on July 18, 1816, Connaway [Conway] Oldham, the son of John's stepfather Moses Oldham Sr., was appointed the next guardian of John Freeman who was twelve years old at the time.[8]

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[4] John Garner married Elizabeth Freeman 24 July 1810 at Montgomery County, Tennessee. Brunswick County, Virginia Deed Book 1803-1812 (FHL #0030649) Book 21, p. 402.

[5] Brunswick County, Virginia Deed Book 1803-1823 (FHL #0030649) Book 21, p. 269-70 (36

[6] Elaine Speakman, John Freeman sketch, updated October 2011, p. 1. (Copy in possession of present writer.)

Also, several of John's second or third cousins on his father's side made their way to Tennessee, but probably after John became an adult. John's uncles—Arthur, Thrower, James and John, sons of Henry Freeman, Hamlin's brother, eventually made their way to Henry Co. TN where they were living when our John purchased lands in Calloway Co. KY, just across the state line. In other words, our John Freeman had multiple relatives living within a 100 mile radius of where he established residence.

[7] wikipedia.org/wiki/1812_New_Madrid_earthquake

[8] Montgomery County, Tennessee Wills, Inventories, Guardian and Bond Books (FHL #0024772) item 5, Vol B, 1811-1818, p. 269 (383)

In October of 1816 John's former guardian, his brother-in-law John Garner, submitted expenses for executing his former guardianship[9]:

Agreeable to an Order of Court to us directed to Settle with John Garner Guardian of John Freeman and he produced the following vouchers to wit:

#1 Amount of schooling said Orphan	**$31.00**
#2 Expenses traveling to North Carolina	**50.**
To expenses of Records	**4.**
#3 To money collected for said orphan	**70.00**
Balance due said guardian	**14.00**

We examined above account find it to be correct.
Given under our hands and seals this 24 of Oct. 1816.
Rendered Oct. Term 1816
Barney Duff, J. P.
V. P. Vaughn, J. P.[10]

Two items are of particular interest. First is a charge of $31 for John's education. Since he wasn't taught to read and write, one questions the validity of the voucher. Also, $50 is requested as expenses for travel to North Carolina on John's behalf. It is unknown why John Garner needed to travel to North Carolina to settle affairs for John since the Freemans left that area many years previous.

John begins his life as an adult: Calloway County, Kentucky

At age 21, John Freeman appears in the Calloway County, Kentucky Tax books[11] of 1825 to 1836. (The tax books for 1830 and 1832 are missing).

Calloway County was part of Andrew Jackson's "Purchase of 1818" from the Chickasaw Indian Tribe.[12] There exists a highway called "The Purchase" in Calloway County today. The County was formed in 1821--just about the time John Freeman and several of his current and future relatives moved to the area. In 1840, some 5 years after Freeman's sojourn there, the county had a population of 9,794. There were three towns: Murray, New Concord and Wadesborough. Murray, the County seat, boasted of ***"a handsome brick courthouse and jail, a Christian church, four stores, two taverns, three lawyers, three doctors, five mechanics' shops, with 200 inhabitants."*** New Concord--the town closest to where John lived-- was a small village in the southeastern part of the county, containing "***two doctors, one store, one tavern, a few mechanics' shops, with 60 inhabitants."***

[9] Montgomery County Tennessee Wills... (FHL #0024772) Item 5, Vol B, 1811-1818, p. 179 (383)
[10] Montgomery County, Tennessee Wills Inventories, Guardian and Bond Books (FHL#0024772) item 5, volume B, 1811-1818, p.279 (383).
[11] Calloway County, Kentucky Tax List 1823-1875 (FHL #0007908)
[12] Andrew Jackson and former Kentucky governor Isaac Shelby purchased the land in 1818. The Jackson Purchase included the area of west Tennessee and southwestern Kentucky, between the Tennessee and Mississippi rivers.

Marriage

According to family records John Freeman married Nancy Beal Smoot, daughter of George and Nancy Rowlett Smoot, February 9, 1826. He was 22 and she, 19. In all likelihood they were married in the home of Nancy Beal's mother, Ann, and stepfather, Levi Taylor, who lived near Paris, Henry, Tennessee, but no marriage record has been found.[13] However William Rowlett, a Smoot relative, may have officiated at the marriage since in 1823 he was appointed to perform marriages in Calloway Co.[14]

Nancy B. Smoot came from a somewhat distinguished family. Her father, George, possessed land in Culpepper County, Virginia, that he sold in 1793. Shortly thereafter, in company with his father he migrated to Franklin County, KY. There he met Ann Rowlett, the daughter of William Rowlett and Jemima Owen, owners and managers of a large tobacco plantation. George and Ann were married in 1805 and Nancy Beal--John Freeman's future wife-- was born two years later, February 24, 1807. George was described as a physician and attorney. He presumably died in 1823 or 1824 after seven children were born to him and Ann.[15]

Nancy's mother, Nancy Ann Rowlett, came from equally or more famous ancestors. She had an uncle who served as aide-de-camp to Gen. William Henry Harrison, later president of the United States. He--the uncle-- died gloriously in battle and had a county in Kentucky named after him.

The Rowletts moved to Calloway County in 1819--one year after Jackson purchased the land from the Chickasaw Indians. Nancy's father was appointed County Commissioner in 1823 and one son was given a contract by the Kentucky Legislature to survey the Jackson Purchase, including Calloway County.[16] There was even a Rowlett Post Office in Calloway County.

After the death of her husband, Nancy Ann Rowlett Smoot remarried. She was 37 years old and a widow with six living children. She must have been a remarkable woman to attract Levi Taylor. Levi was 23 years old (15 years Ann's junior) when they married March 10, 1825. He was not many years older than Ann's oldest children. As was stated earlier, a daughter, Nancy Beal, married John Freeman less than a year later, in February of 1826. Nancy B. was 19 years old at the time.

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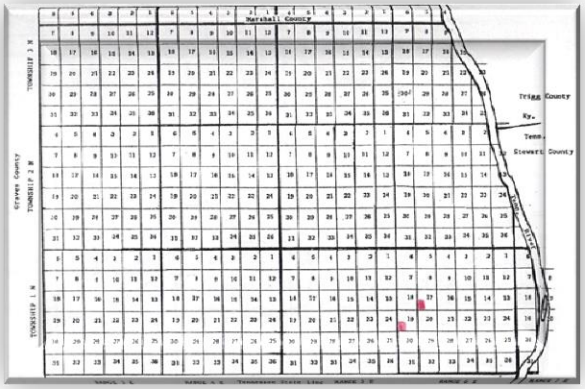
[13] Marriage records for Montgomery County, Tennessee, where John supposedly grew up, Calloway County, Kentucky, where he was living in 1825 and again in 1827-1837, or Henry County, Tennessee where his wife supposedly lived, don't begin soon enough. The Henry County, Tennessee, tax list that could have helped verify that county as the marriage place doesn't start until 1827.

[14] History of Calloway County (FHL #976.9, A1, #28, p. 2. (endnote #11 in Speakman's sketch of John F.)

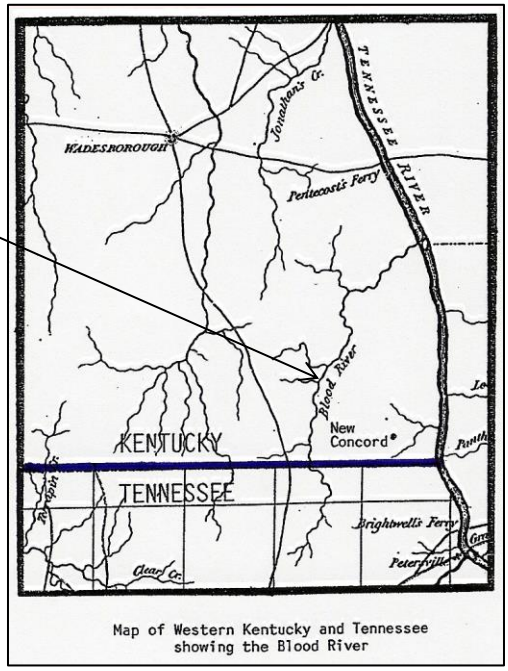
[15] Quoted from Berlin. Archibald F. Bennett, "Abraham O. Smoot, Pioneer," The Instructor, LXXIX, September 1944, p. 409. Other Smoot family sources, however, imply that Geo. Smoot didn't die, but was placed in a mental institution. (Loretta D. Nixon, Abraham O. Smoot, Provo: BYU Press, 1994, p. 53). For more information on George Smoot, readers should read Nixon's book, pp. 51-56).

[16] Chas. A. McCuiston, "History of New Concord, " History of Calloway County-1931. (Single page provided by Loretta Nixon, Mapleton, Utah.)

John Freeman's two land purchases are located in the Blood River area.



John Freeman's two parcels of land are shown in red.



Map of Western Kentucky and Tennessee showing the Blood River

Land to farm

John received from the State of Kentucky a grant of 160 acres on the Blood River near New Concord in Calloway County 7 November 1831,[17] paying $40, or 25 cents per acre, and another 160 acres 18 January 1834, again paying 25 cents per acre or $40[18] and signing both deeds with an "X".[19] The latter quarter section adjoined directly north of Willie Mallory, one of his brother-in-law's quarter sections. Additional relatives owned other nearby parcels, as shown on the parcel map to the left. (The Rowletts were relatives of John's wife and Mallory, Garner and Oldham were extended family of John's deceased mother).

John may have settled on the land before receiving the land patents. The NE quarter section near John's first land grant was farmed by his brother-in-law and former guardian, John Garner. John's latter quarter section adjoined the land directly north of his brother-in-law Wiley (Willie) Mallory's quarter section, so family was near.

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[17] John Freeman, for the consideration of $40 was granted the South West Quarter of Section 17, Township One Range Six East containing 160 acres. Dated 6 November 1831. Kentucky Land Grants West Tennessee River (FHL #027867) Book 5, p. 353, #3746

[18] John Freeman for the consideration of $40 was granted the SW Quarter in Section 19, Township One, Range Six East, containing 160 acres. Dated 7 November 1831. Kentucky Land Grants W. Tennessee River (FHL#0272866) 1830-1832 Book 3, p. 103, #1862

[19] Speakman writes***: "Schooling seems to have been meager for John but that wasn't unusual for frontier Kentucky and Tennessee. Schools were usually by subscription requiring parents to pay a tuition and then only the bare essentials of reading, writing and arithmetic were taught, sometimes poorly as teachers didn't have to have any particular qualifications to be in the classroom. . . . in the 1860 Utah Census it was indicated that John could not read or write. By the 1870 Census he still could not read but he could write."*** (Speakman, updated, p. 1)

John's other sister, Agnes, and her husband, Jarrard Sissell, were living in Stewart County, TN, just east of Calloway Co. KY. (The Tennessee River separates the two counties.) So John, although an orphan, was surrounded by extended family.

Freeman children

The 1830 Calloway County, Kentucky Census of John Freeman's family, lists 3 children members of his family. However, it erroneously lists the children as males.

Adeline Cassandrea[20] was born in Paris, Henry Co., Tennessee, 22 Nov 1828.[21]
Elizabeth Caroline was born 15 Dec 1829, in Calloway Co. KY.
Nancy Ann was born 25 Dec 1830, also in Calloway Co. KY.

Two more children were born before the pivotal year of 1835:

William Hamlin (sometimes spelled "Hamblin"), Dec. 25, 1832
Martisha, Feb. 24, 1834.[22]

1835: A life-changing year in the Freeman family: Mormonism

It is at this point in the lives of John and Nancy B. Freeman when they came in contact with missionaries of the recently organized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. As was happening all across the frontier, the first three decades of the 19th century witnessed a strong revival movement. Into this setting in 1834 two Mormon elders went to Kentucky. They were Warren Parrish and David Patten. Soon they were joined by Elder Wilford Woodruff, a young, inexperienced nineteen-year old embarking on his first Church mission. In 1835 these Mormon missionaries became acquainted with the Taylor family. A short time later, the Taylors and Smoots were baptized by Elders Patten and Parrish, on March 22, 1835. It is not known if Nancy Beal Smoot Freeman was baptized at that time or at a later date.

It is interesting to note that Wilford Woodruff became a frequent visitor in the homes of the Taylors and the Freemans. He was a guest in the Taylor home on 50 separate occasions, plus spending three full weeks with them. (It should be remembered that A.O. Smoot, Nancy's 20 year old brother, became a close friend of Elder Woodruff and accompanied him in certain missionary experiences). Listed below are several entries from Wilford Woodruff's 1835-1836 journal:

June 16th [1835] **preached at Bro. Taylor's home [Nancy Freeman's step-father] and then rode to Mr. John Freeman's home, a distance of 5 miles.**

[20]Some family records list "Cassandrea" or "Cassandra" as Adeline's middle name. However, no documentation of the middle name has ever surfaced.
[21] Henry Co. is located just across the State line from Calloway Co., Ky. Whether the Freemans had moved briefly to Henry Co.--Nancy's mother lived there-- is not known.
[22] Both William and Martisha were born in New Concord, Calloway, KY.

July 16th	**rode to Bro. Taylor's, spent the day in writing. 17th rode to Mr. Freeman's; preached at his house, 7 miles.**
18th	**rode to Bro. S. Smith's 2**
22nd	**rode from Wadesborough to Mr. Freeman's on Bloody, Ky. distance 24 mi. Next day rode to Bro. Levi Taylor's distance 4 miles, next day commenced studying Kirkham's English Grammar at Bro. Taylor's and there spent a week.**
Jan 1, 1836	**Spent day at Levi Taylor's.**
28th	**Preached at Steven Brady's and rode to J. Freeman's, 14 miles**
Mar 9	**rode to Steven Boyd's and preached at his house and then rode to John Freeman's distance 14 miles.**
[April] 19th	**rode to Bro. Taylor's on Bloody. David Patten had arrived at Col. Copland's 8-10 miles from Bro. Taylor's. Rode to Bro. Freeman's and from there to John Rowlett's. [= Nancy's grandfather]**
Aug. 26	**I spent the day writing at Bro. Taylor's**
Aug. 27	**Rode to John Freeman's and then returned to Brother Taylor's, a distance of 9 miles.**
Oct 1836	**[Apparently, Wilford Woodruff was about ready to end his mission. He mentions that on the 12th he]** ***"retired in company of Abraham O. Smoot to the banks of the Bloody River to spend some time in prayer and praise to God and to do the duty required of all Elders of Israel whose testimony is rejected by this generation, preaching the gospel and bearing their testimony of His grace. After we had cleansed our bodies with pure water and also with strong drink or spirits, this not by commandment, but from choice, we according to commandment cleansed our hands and feet and bore testimony unto God against the Benton Co. mobs and also against Harris and many others who had rejected our testimony. We enjoyed a solemn spiritual and interesting season.*** ***We retired from the water and the Spirit of God and spent the night for the last time at Bro. Levi Taylor's and Sister Taylor's and the brethren and sisters."***

The above entries don't make for the most scintillating reading. However, they do establish several important facts:

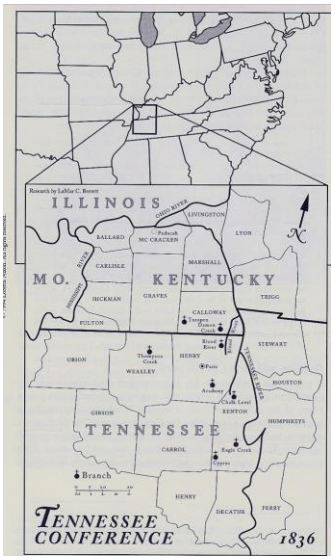
#1 Wilford Woodruff visited the Freeman family on many occasions. In fact, he was in the Freeman home on April 19th, 1836, just four days after the birth of John Woodruff Freeman.[23]

#2 Many of the persons mentioned in Woodruff's journal were related to the Freemans through Nancy Beal Smoot Freeman and lived in close

[23] It is interesting to note that in his journal entries, Woodruff refers to a "Mr. Freeman" or "J. Freeman in July 1835 but by April 19th, 1836 the entries have changed to "Bro. Freeman's." However, evidence indicates that John Freeman did not join the Church until 1844, although his wife was baptized in 1835.

proximity to the Freemans. This would include the Rowletts, the Taylors, the Smoots, the Smiths, the Mallorys and others.

#3 The teachings of the Mormon missionaries were accepted by many of the people mentioned in Woodruff's journal. On February 1, 1836 he recorded that there were four branches of the Church thriving in that area:



Map showing the various branches of the LDS Church in the Tennessee-Kentucky area in 1835-36

Academy Branch (Henry Co. Tenn. 8 members),
Blood River Branch, (Henry Co. Tenn. 11 members)[24]
Terrapin Branch (Calloway Co. Ky., 31 members)
Daman Creek Branch, Calloway Co., Ky. 8 members.)

Bound for Zion: Far West, Missouri

John Woodruff Freeman was the last child to be born to the Freeman family in Calloway County. Early in 1837 the Freemans moved from Kentucky to Missouri, the gathering place for eager Mormon converts. John sold the last of his 160 acre pieces of land to a Mr. Fakes just prior to the family leaving for Missouri. This grant, adjoining Mallory's land on the north, was sold by Fakes to John's brother-in-law Wiley Mallory two years later for the original purchase price.[25]

Trek to Missouri

Nancy Freeman's younger brother, A.O. Smoot, was instructed to lead the group of Blood River Saints to Zion.[26] Smoot accompanied the Kentucky group as far as the Ohio River, then returned to Calloway Co., Ky., to continue the missionary effort. Shortly thereafter, he set off again for Missouri, this time with a new group of believers. An entry in Smoot's journal indicates that

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[24]Woodruff recorded the names of the Blood River Branch in his journal: Ann and Levi Taylor, **Nancy Beal Freeman,** Samuel and Martishia Smoot Smith, Jemima Smoot and A.O. Smoot. Seven of the ten members of the Blood River Branch were Nancy's immediate family. (Abraham Smoot, p. 60)

[25] John Freeman to John Fakes for the consideration of $200 granted and sold the SW quarter of Section 19, Township One, Range Six East, lying on the water of the Blood River, containing 160 acres. Dated 15 Feb 1837. Recorded 8 Mar 1837. Calloway Co. KY Deed (FHL#0321413) Book B, p. 416

[26]In his journal A.O. Smoot recorded the following: ***"On the 21st* [February 1837] *left our homes and set our faces toward Zion like a flint. The company consisted of Levi Taylor, Samuel Smith and John Freeman and their families. Brother Reed Smoot and myself, making in all the total of 17."*** Abraham Owen Smoot, p. 68.

when he arrived in Missouri in May of 1837, he spent the first few nights at the home of John Freeman, on Shoal Creek, in Far West County.[27] This gives evidence that John Freeman had already arrived in Missouri previously, possibly as early as March of 1837.

Life in Missouri

Initially, life in Daviess and Caldwell Counties, Missouri, was good for the Freemans and other Mormon settlers. They really felt like they had arrived in Zion. A May 1838 article in the Elders' Journal describes the following:

> **Large bodies of land have been and are now putting [being put] under cultivation. We might venture as assertion on this point, and that without the fear of contradiction . . . [say] no part of the world can produce a superior to Caldwell County.**
> **. . . The Saints here are at perfect peace with all the surrounding inhabitants, and persecution is not so much as once named among them. Every man can attend to business without fear or excitement or being molested in any wise . . . Hundreds of acres of corn have been planted already in our immediate neighborhood and hundreds of acres more are now being planted. The crops of wheat are very promising and the prospect is that we will have an abundant harvest.[28]**

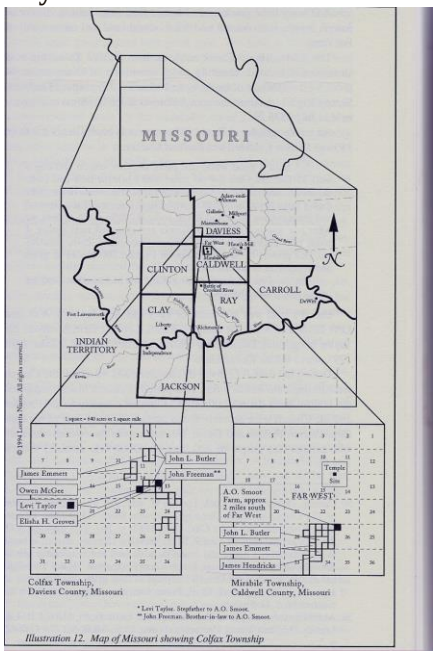

Illustration 12. Map of Missouri showing Colfax Township

When the Freemans, Taylors and others arrived in Missouri, they were in relatively good financial condition. According to Daviess County Deed records, Ann and Levi Taylor gave power of attorney to their son, A.O. Smoot, which included possession of a number of slaves who were mentioned by name: Ned, Peter, Dick, Larkin, Clara, Charlotte, Easter and Kate.[29] The group of Smoot relatives had adjoining home sites. The Freeman and Taylor properties were about 14 miles from Far West, (actually in the SW corner of Daviess County).

Birth of another son.

On 7 Jun 1838 another child was added to the Freeman household. He was given the name of Columbus Reed. From all available evidence, he was born at Shoal Creek, near Far West, Caldwell Co., Missouri. This information contradicts certain entries made on various Freeman family group sheets regarding the child's birthplace. Several compilers have indicated that he was born in Jackson, Breathitt, Kentucky, or in Jackson Co., Missouri. Since the family was nowhere near Kentucky on the given date, that particular birthplace information is in clearly in error. Even the assertion that Columbus Reed may have been born in Jackson Co. Missouri, as

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[27] Smoot states: **"*On May 30, 1837 arrived at John Freeman's on "Shool* [Shoal] *Creek*."** Speakman adds: "According to the Caldwell County Deputy Clerk, 'Unofficially there was a place called Walkers Ford. It is in the west part of Caldwell County, probably Mirabile Township.'" Speakman endnote #25 (Recorder of Deeds, Caldwell Co., Kingston, Missouri; letter 7 May 1979,

[28] Abraham O. Smoot, p. 77.

[29] Document in possession of Richard S. Nixon, Mapleton, Utah.

other family group sheets indicate, is unsupported. The only sure information we have is that John Freeman left Kentucky in February of 1837 and acquired a lot in in vicinity Far West. By June of 1838, the Freemans were apparently well settled at Shoal Creek, near Far West, MO. – but in either Caldwell or Daviess County, not Jackson County.[30]

Dissension, then Expulsion

Whatever the cause, the idyllic situation that greeted the Freemans on their arrival and during their first year's residence in Missouri soon deteriorated. Within but a few short months of the arrival of Joseph Smith and other Church leaders in March- June of 1838, Governor Boggs issued his famous Extermination Order. Mormons were ordered to leave Missouri by the end of the year [1838] or face a death penalty.

Many of the Mormons first fled to Diaman where they sought temporary refuge. Later, the local authorities ordered the Mormons to go to Caldwell Co. and stay there during the winter, then leave the state.

We do not know when the Freemans left Missouri, but the Taylors sold their land--at a tremendous loss-- and left the state in March of 1839.[31] The Taylors, Smoots and probably the Freemans began the trek through eastern Missouri to Illinois where they hoped they would be safe from the mobs. According to family accounts, as they were crossing the Mississippi River, the ferry on which Levi and Ann Taylor had their belongings overturned and everything was lost in the river. Only Ann's bible floated to the surface and was rescued.[32]

Next home: Johnson County, Illinois.

Although the Taylors moved initially to Nauvoo, the Freemans appear to have gone immediately to Simpson Township, Johnson County, Illinois. Why there instead of the more accepted gathering place, Nauvoo? We have no definitive explanation, but perhaps the Freemans felt more comfortable in an area not far distant from Calloway County, Kentucky. It is as if they were equidistant from where others in John's family lived and Church headquarters. The Garners and Mallorys were still in Calloway County, KY and the Sissels were across the Tennessee River in Stewart County, TN. In addition several Smoot relatives lived in close proximity in Illinois.

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[30] Speakman, in checking her notes, agrees that Caldwell Co. is the most logical, defensible birthplace for Columbus Reed.

[31] Speakman notes that no record has been found that details how and when John Freeman sold his land in Missouri.

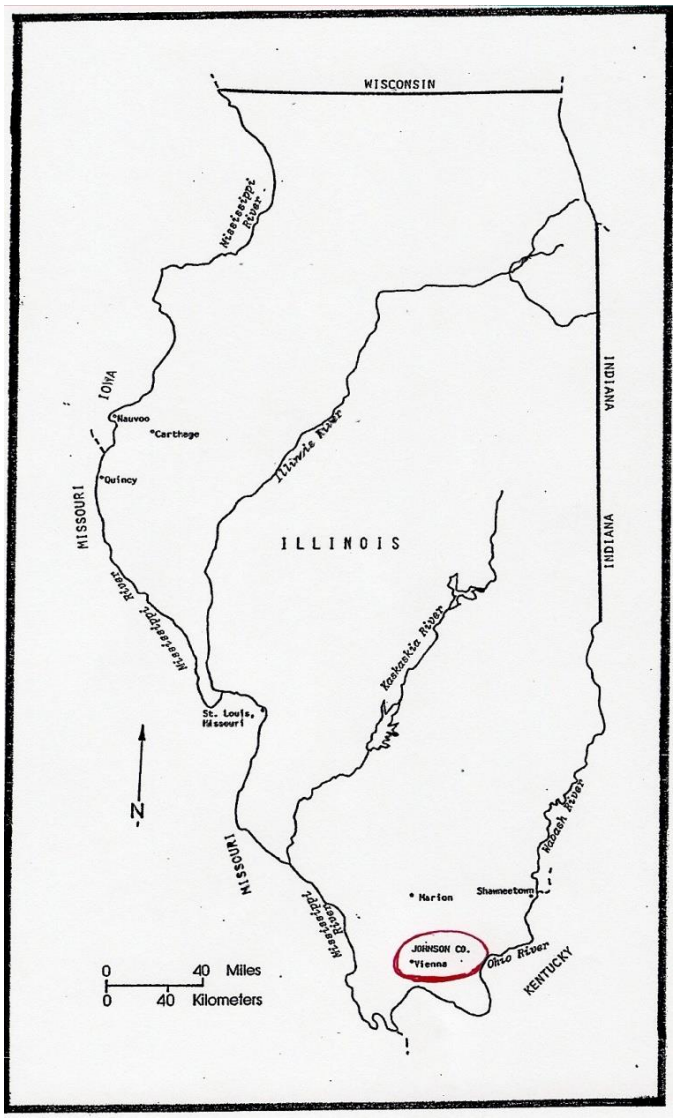
In Mormon Redress Petitions, an Elisha Groves deposed the following**: *".. on the 16th day of November in the year of our Lord 1838 Judge Vinson Smith and others came to my house and ordered myself and family Levi Taylr David Osborn & others to Leave our possessions which we had bought of Government and payed our money for the same saying we must within three days leave the County or they would take our lives…"*** (p. 223)

[32] Andrus, p. 37. Andrus states that the Taylors first moved to Nauvoo but later went down to the southern tip of Illinois, in Marion, Johnson Co.

It appears that Nancy's brother, Reed Smoot, and his wife Eliza Thomas, the Taylors and Wash Thomases stayed but a short time in Nauvoo and then relocated first to Marion[33] and then later to Simpson Township about 1840, near where the Freemans had settled.[34]

"Three families moved from Nauvoo to Marion, Illinois--Levi Taylor's, Reid Smoot's and Wash Thomas's. The three families lived around Marion for a time, and then all of them made arrangements for their farms in Johnson County. Reid Smoot's wife was Eliza Thomas, daughter of Wash [Henry] Thomas.

Great great-grandfather Levi Taylor, and his wife Ann, purchased the Rushing farm from the U.S. Government, the land grant being made out at Shawneetown, Illinois. It was signed by President Zachary Taylor August 15, 1849. . . . This land is located approximately 4 miles NW of Simpson, Illinois, and 10 miles NE of Vienna, Illinois, which is the county seat of Johnson County. For many years this land remained with the heirs of Levi and Ann Taylor, being handed down from one generation to another."[35]



1840 Census

The Freeman family is listed in the 1840 Census of Johnson County Illinois. The record shows that living with John and Nancy were seven children, 3 boys and 4 girls. The census figures may be explained in the following way:

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[33] According to Smoot family tradition, the reason why the Taylors left Nauvoo was because they didn't want their daughter, Sinderella Melvina Taylor, to feel obligated to marry into polygamy. This may not be accurate since in 1840 the doctrine of plural marriage was not widely known nor practiced in the Church.

[34] This Reed/Reid Smoot stayed the rest of his life in southern Illinois. He never went to Utah with other members of the LDS Church. Levi and Ann Taylor also ended up staying in the same locality as their son Reed. Ann Taylor died in Illinois in 1871 and Levi in 1884.

[35] Abraham Smoot, pp 308-309

Males

Under 5 (1) Columbus R., age 2

5-9 (2) Wm. H., age 8,
John W. age 4

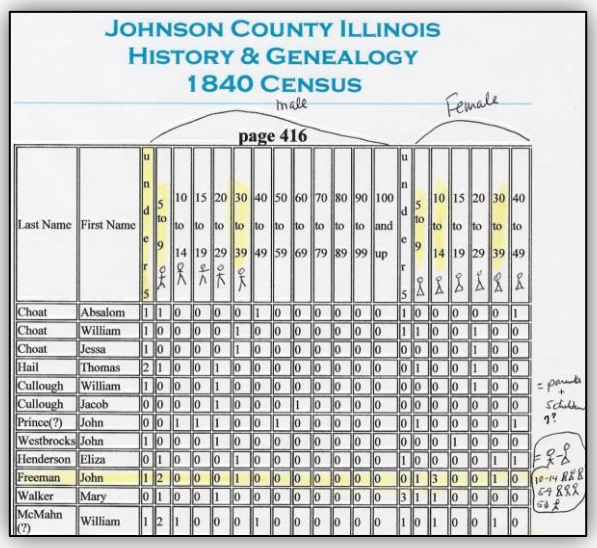
30-39 (1) (father)
John Freeman, age 36

Females

5-9 (1) Martisha, age 6

10-14 (3) Adeline, age 12
Caroline, age 11,
Nancy, 10

30-39 (1) (mother)
Nancy B., age 33.


JOHNSON COUNTY ILLINOIS
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male Female

Last Name	First Name	under 5	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 19	20 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49	50 to 59	60 to 69	70 to 79	80 to 89	90 to 99	100 and up	under 5	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 19	20 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49
Choat	Absalom	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Choat	William	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
Choat	Jessa	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Hail	Thomas	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Cullough	William	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Cullough	Jacob	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Prince(?)	John	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Westbrocks	John	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Henderson	Eliza	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Freeman	John	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	1	0
Walker	Mary	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	1	0	0	0	0
McMahn (?)	William	1	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0

More children

On September 27, 1840 a fifth daughter--and eighth child-- was born into the Freeman family. They named her Margaret Phoebe in honor of the wives of Wilford Woodruff [Phoebe] and [Abraham] Owen Smoot [Margaret.][36] An account written much later by Joseph W. Damron, a son of Margaret Phoebe, adds the following: ***Mother was born in Illinois, the nearest city was Vienna in Johnson County. Her parents lived 3 or 4 miles from Vienna, date Sep 27th, 1840.***

Approximately two years later, in February of 1843, Nancy B. gave birth to a set of twins. They were named Levi and Jemima.[37] Several family group sheets list the twin's birthplace as "Keg Creek, Johnson, Illinois," but the Keg Creek part is an error, unless there are two Keg Creeks. A Keg Creek exists in Iowa, not far from Winter Quarters where another Freeman child would be born in 1846, but the Freeman family was nowhere near that area in 1843. The girl twin, Jemima, was named after her great-grandmother, Jemima Rowlett, Ann Taylor's mother. One of the twins, Levi, would live only 3-4 years, but Jemima grew to adulthood, eventually dying in childbirth in her early twenties.

Church involvement, John's baptism.

Although the Freemans were not living in Nauvoo, they apparently maintained communication with the main body of the Church. In September 1841 they were visited by Nancy's brother, A.O. Smoot, and his wife.[38] This same brother visited again June 30th, 1842.

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[36] Andrus, p. 54

[37] Andrus, p. 54.

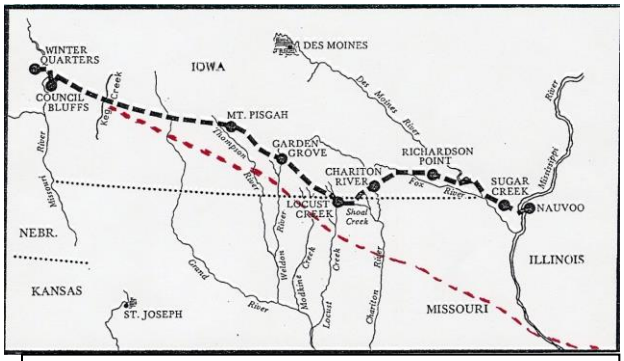
[38] "A.O. and Margaret [Smoot] remained about a week in Williamson County [with his mother and step-father], stopping next at the home of John Freeman, his brother-in-law, in Simpson Township, Johnson County, Illinois." A.O. Smoot, p. 117.

According to family tradition, John Freeman was baptized in 1844--during the family's sojourn in southern Illinois. There is no official record of his baptism at that time, or even of there being a branch of the Church in Johnson County. Why John waited ten years after his wife's conversion, and endured the Missouri tribulations before being baptized, is a mystery.

On the move again: Iowa, Missouri and points west.

As was stated previously, although Johnson County is more than 250 miles from Nauvoo, the Freemans must have maintained communication with loved ones closer to the headquarters of the Church. By some means, they were made aware of the planned mass exodus from Nauvoo in the winter of 1846. The first group to leave Nauvoo began their journey in February, the middle of winter. Their trip was the hardest undertaken by any of the pioneer groups. They battled snow, freezing cold, rain and muddy trails for more than three months. By the time they reached Winter Quarters, on the west side of Iowa, in June of that year, they had exhausted their supplies and energy.

It appears that John and Nancy arranged their plans to go west so that they would meet up and travel with the movements of the Nauvoo groups. Consequently, they must have left southern Illinois about the same time the first saints left Nauvoo, in February or March of 1846. We know that they eventually joined the company headed by Parley P. Pratt.



The red line indicates possibly the route the Freemans traveled to catch up with the Nauvoo saints.

It must have been a difficult decision for John and Nancy to leave southern Illinois and some of their family. Nancy's mother, father-in-law and brother decided to stay put. In addition, one of the Freeman daughters, Nancy Ann, age 16, got married in January of 1846--probably within weeks of the time her parents left the area.[39]

In summary, when the Freemans left southern Illinois they had a large family of young children ranging in age from Adeline, 18, to Levi and Jemima, age 3. Nevertheless, the Freemans must have felt a prompting to follow the saints, so in the winter or early spring of 1846, they and nine--possibly even ten[40] of their ten children began the journey west.

Adeline Cassandrea F. age 18

[39] Nancy Freeman was only 16 years old when she married Edmund F. Hide (Hyde) in Johnson Co, Illinois 1 Jan 1846. The Hide family was back in Johnson County by 1850, but must have been with or near the Freeman family in Andrew Co., Missouri, as their family records show two children as having been born in Missouri prior to 1850. (Speakman, p. 4) The marriage license (Johnson Co. Illinois Marriages (FHL#0964808) p. 242) for Nancy indicates the bride's given name as Mary Ann, but the 1850 Johnson Co. Illinois Census (FHL#0007685) lists her as Nancy A. (Speakman, endnote #30)

[40] It is only conjecture, but perhaps Nancy and her new husband also made the trek west with Nancy's family in 1846. They either left Illinois when John and Nancy did, or joined up with them later in Andrew Co. MO.

Elizabeth Caroline	**age 17**
Nancy Ann	**age 16**
William Hamblin	**age 14**
Martisha	**age 12**
John Woodruff	**age 10**
Columbus Reed	**age 8**
Margaret Phoebe	**age 6**
Levi	**age 3**
Jemima	**age 3**

Child #11

Apparently Nancy Freeman began the trek westward in a state of advanced pregnancy. They were in Parley P. Pratt's Company July 3, 1846 when a daughter, Rosaline Beal, was born, near present day Council Bluffs. The Journal History records the following:[41]

> ***Friday, July 3,*** **[1846]** ***Elder Heber C. Kimball, President Brigham Young and Willard Richards started at nine a.m. . . . for Mount Pisgah.*** **[They were heading back east, from Kanesville or Winter Quarters.]** ***About five p.m. the President's party passed several small companies traveling, total one hundred and eight wagons. The party*** **[Brigham's]** ***encamped and stayed with Ebenezer Brown and John P. Barnard. They conversed about enlisting*** **[i.e. recruiting men for the Mormon Battalion]** ***till near midnight.***
>
> ***In the main camp, near the Missouri River, Nancy B., wife of John Freeman, was delivered of a daughter.***

The Mormon camp where this baby was born was in Pottowattamie County, near Kanesville (now Council Bluffs) on the east bank of the Missouri River. The July 4th entry in the Journal describes in great detail a terrible summer storm which hit the encampment that day, including thunder, lightning, rain and a terrific wind which blew tents over and caused more misery for the saints. Nancy and her newborn daughter simply had to brave the weather as best they could.

Death of two children.

It should be remembered that the original plan was for the first company of pioneers to travel to the Great Basin that first summer of 1846. However, the siphoning off of 500 men for the Mormon Battalion, coupled with the poor condition of the saints and their animals, prompted Church leaders to postpone the departure of the first group until the following year, 1847. Meanwhile, conditions in Winter Quarters and other Mormon encampments couldn't have been less favorable:

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[41] Journal History 3 July 1846. Also, an entry in the diary of Patty Sessions [a midwife] corroborates the information. ***"Friday 3. Br. Freeman came after me. I went back 3 miles where Br. Parley camped, put his wife to bed with a daughter. Pd. 2.00."*** Diary of Patty B. Sessions, 1795-1892

> **Life in Winter Quarters was anything but pleasant. Many families lived out of their wagon boxes. Others had homes composed mostly of logs with dirt or board floors. . . . . Between September 1846 and 1847 sexton burial records list 286 deaths. The accrued death rate for the Winter Quarters population comes to 82 per thousand. That is catastrophic. The most deprived third world regions in the 20th century rarely reach 50 per thousand death rate.[42]**

The Freemans were no less affected than many others. It appears that John and Nancy lost <u>two</u> children during the Winter Quarters experience: Rosaline, the new baby, and Levi, one of the twins. Winter Quarters death records list the death of only one of the two children. The reason why the death data was not more accurate for Levi and Rosaline may be attributed to the conditions and quantity of those dying at the time. Maureen Ursenbach Beecher wrote the following about the situation:

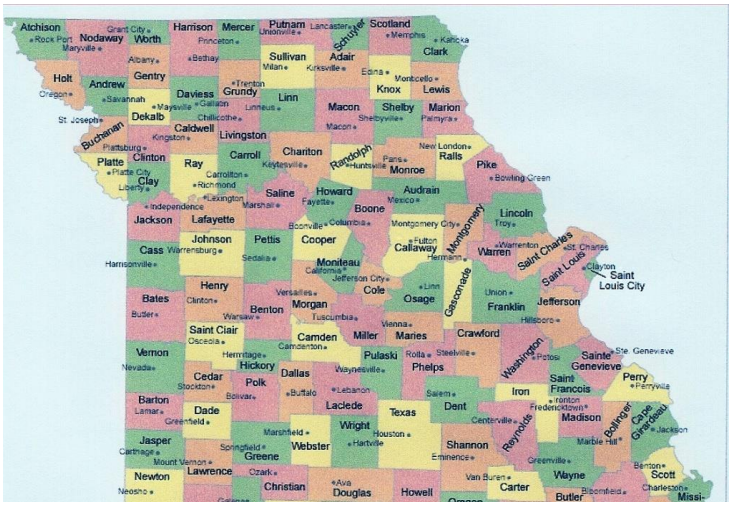
> **Even the rituals of death and burial became less absorbing of time and concern at Winter Quarters than in settled America. Archibald Gardner recorded that "when little Janet died [there was] so much sickness that care of the living left no time for mourning the dead--the baby [was] laid away hurriedly and unceremoniously."[43]**

The mass grave marker in the Winter Quarters Pioneer Cemetery in present-day Florence, Nebraska, contains a brief mention of one of the Freeman children: *A.O. Smoot's sister's child (Freeman)"*[44]

It is not known exactly where the Freemans lived during their stay in Winter Quarters, nor how long they stayed there.

Andrew County, Missouri

Fortunately, the Winter Quarters condition did not last long. Government agencies wanted the Mormons off Indian lands so by March of 1848 most of the saints had either begun the long trek west to the Great Basin, or had moved east, back across the Missouri River to Kanesville, or had sought lodging and employment elsewhere. John Freeman was one of the latter group.



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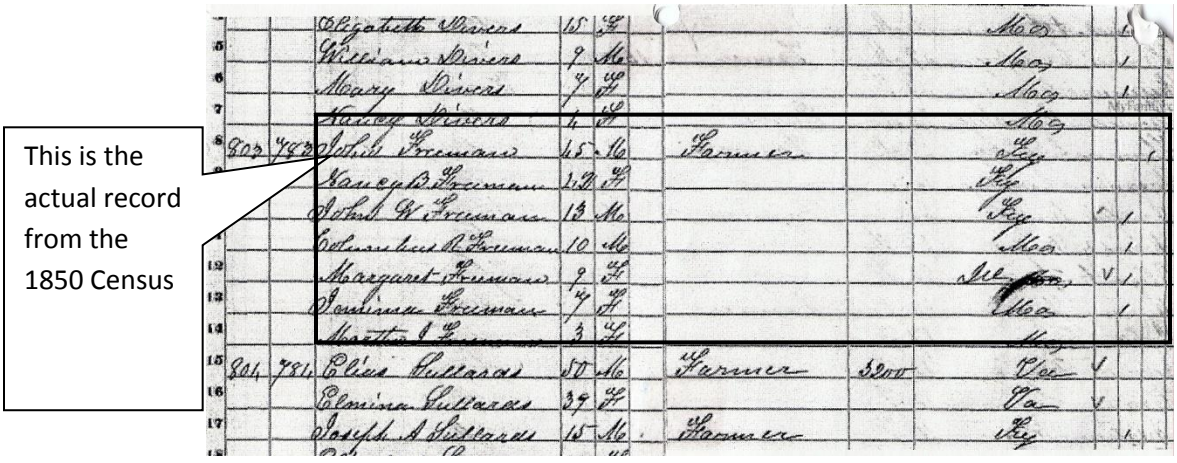
[42]Richard E. Bennett, <u>And Should We Die: Mormons at the Missouri, 1846-52</u> (Univ. of Oklahoma Press, 1987)

[43]Maureen U. Beecher, "Women in Winter Quarters," <u>Sunstone</u> July/August 1983, p. 13.

[44] Rosaline lived 9 months, apparently dying April 29, 1847. It is believed that she was buried in the NW corner of the Burial Grounds at Winter Quarters. A letter written 8 December 1979 from the Church Historian's Office to Elaine Speakman quotes from a pioneer record: **"A.O. Smoot's sisters [sic] child not reported to me died 29 Apr 1847 of consumption, grave #144. (Note: this would not be one of Martisha Smoot Smith's children. It was either a Peck, or a Freeman baby.)"** Burials in the Burial Ground at Winter Quarters, N.W. corner 1846-48" (943, A1, #117) p. 11. (Speakman endnote #32) No information has been found regarding the death and burial of the other Freeman child, Levi.

As with some others, John and Nancy chose to move southward into northern Missouri to farm for several years until they could save enough money to outfit themselves for the long journey to the Salt Lake Valley. The census taken on November 19, 1850 for Jefferson, Andrew County, Missouri includes the Freeman family:



This is the actual record from the 1850 Census

Ironically, Andrew Co., where the Freemans lived from 1847-51, is not far removed from Daviess and Caldwell Counties from which they were ejected in 1839

The information on the Census record needs to be explained. The 3rd column gives the person's name. The 4th & 5th columns give the age and sex. The 6th column gives the head of household's occupation, in this case, "Farmer." The 7th column lists the place or state of origin. The final 3 columns indicate "Marital Status," "School this year" and "Can't read or write." The main information about the Freemans that appears in the Census for Jefferson, Andrew, Missouri, is summarized below:

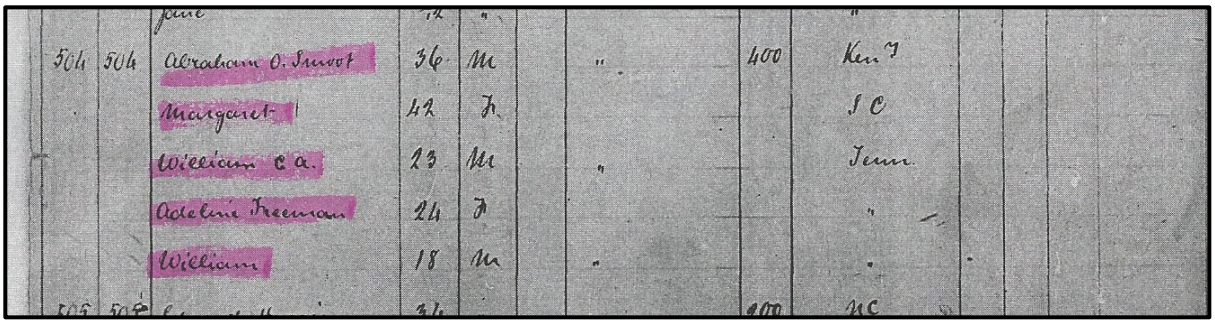
Name	Age	Place of Birth	Ability to read/write
John Freeman	**45**	**KY**	**No**
Nancy B. Freeman	**42**	**KY**	**Yes**
John W. Freeman	**13**	**KY**	**Yes, in school**
Columbus R. Freeman	**10**	**Mo**	**Yes, in school**
Margaret Freeman	**9**	**Ill**	**Yes, in school**
Jemima Freeman	**7**	**Ill**	**Yes, in school**
Martha Freeman	**3**	**Mo**[45]	

Curiously, only the five youngest children were listed in the 1850 Census. What happened to the other seven? We know that Nancy had married; consequently she would be listed, with her husband, separately. Levi and Rosaline died in Winter Quarters. That leaves four: Adeline, Caroline, William and Martishia. The oldest son, William Hamlin, definitely crossed the plains

[45] One final child was born to the Freeman family in February of 1848, in Andrew Co. Missouri. The name given to her was Martha Jane.

in 1849 at age 16 in the Allen Taylor Company. [46] Abraham O. Smoot met this nephew in Green River, Wyoming, and took him to the Big Cottonwood area south of Salt Lake, the area where A.O. had settled.

Exactly when Adeline and Caroline crossed the plains is unknown. They do not figure in the lists of pioneers available through the Church History site. However, Speakman and Andrus have documented that Caroline was married in Salt Lake City in March of 1849, and the 1850 Utah census shows that both William and Adeline were living in Cottonwood with A.O. Smoot.[47]



504	504	Abraham O. Smoot	36	M			400	Ken[y]
		Margaret	42	F				S C
		William C a.	23	M				Tenn
		Adeline Freeman	24	F				"
		William	18	M				.
505	505		31				400	NC

Given Caroline's early spring marriage date it would seem to indicate that she arrived in the Valley in the late summer of the previous year.

That leaves only daughter #5, Martishia unaccounted for.[48] Why she was not mentioned in the census we do not know. However, she was listed with the family as part of the David Lewis Company that crossed the plains a year after the census was taken.

John Freeman and family remained in Andrew County, Missouri, until the spring of 1851.[49] A William McIntosh made an interesting journal entry some two years earlier in which he mentioned John Freeman:

> ***. . .The Captain and Scofield who had chartered the boat, made it up between them to land the people at Savannah landing June 3, 1849, and would not take them any further. On the 4th I went out on the road that led to Savannah. I overtook a man hauling a load of goods to Savannah. He asked me if I would not come up and ride a while. I told him I would for I did not feel very well. I asked if he knew where I could get a house to rent and get into some business for a while. I found he was one of the brethren and that he lived close by. His name was John Freeman. I rented the house right away and hired <u>Brother Freeman</u> to move us on***

[46] Some say he traveled with the Enoch Reese Co. Actually, the name of the company in the Overland Pioneer Records is the Allen Taylor Co. Enoch Reese was captain of a portion of that company and perhaps Wm. H. Freeman was assigned to his group.

[47] Andrus, p. 58

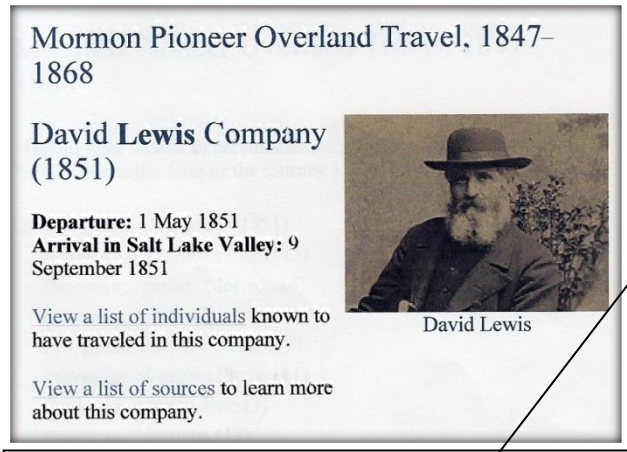
[48] Martishia was probably named after her Aunt Martishia Smoot Smith, Nancy Freeman's sister.

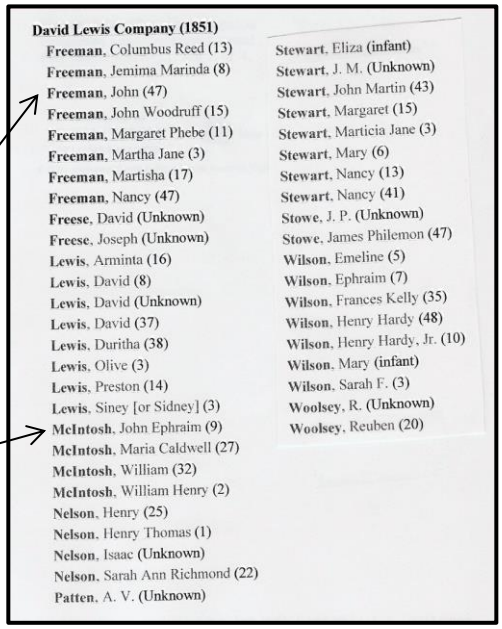
[49] Speakman received the following information about the location of the Freeman dwelling in Andrew County: ***". . . it would seem that your John Freeman was living in the south part of Andrew County, in Jefferson Township. I read this sort of 'between the lines' and thinking about the names of the people that appear on the same page. They are Jefferson Township names. . ."*** Letter from Andrew County Historical Society, Savannah, Missouri, dated 29 Jan 1980

the morrow. Only <u>Brother Freeman's</u> folks were very friendly to us. The people were afraid to come near us. They thought we had Cholera . . . (emphasis added)[50]

The Big Move: Utah bound!

It appears that John and Nancy's effort to earn money to outfit themselves fell short. They eventually appealed to the Perpetual Emigrating Fund that the Church had set up to aid saints who wanted to go to Utah, but financially were not in a position to do so.





Notice that the Freeman family of eight traveled with the McIntosh family of four

Consequently, in approximately April of 1851 John Freeman and others in the Andrew Co. area settled their affairs and left for Council Bluffs, the staging point for Mormon wagon trains. The same William McIntosh whom Freeman had earlier befriended, journeyed with John and Nancy and their children:[51]

> **. . .We took our journey in company with Brother Freeman for the valley May 1, 1851. We traveled through mobicrat [sic] country unmolested. We traveled to Council Bluffs where we were detained a long time waiting for companies enough to be organized to be able to travel through Indian Country. Unorganized, a small company of us crossed the Missouri River and camped near Winter Quarters.**

Andrew County, Missouri is not more than 50-100 miles from Council Bluffs. The Freemans as well as the McIntoshes were part of a Perpetual Emigrating Company captained by John G.

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[50] <u>Diary of William McIntosh, 1857-1898</u>, condensed typescript of diary in possession of Barbara Ann Johansen, Mt. Pleasant, Utah.

[51] <u>Diary of William McIntosh</u>, cited previously

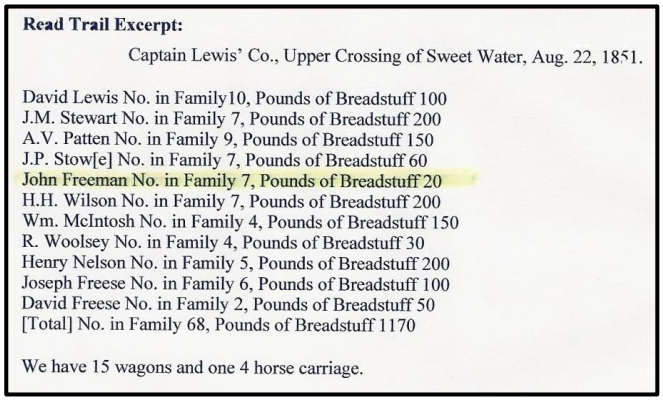
Smith. David L. Lewis was Captain of Ten.[52] His was a small company, comprised of only 46 individuals.[53] Of those 46 only 13 were above the age of 20 and only 8 were men.

Accounts of the 1851 trek to Utah

We don't have extensive records of the arduous journey across the plains by the Freemans and the David Lewis Company. Concerning source documents we are aware of only three: a) a trail report by J.M. Stewart, a member of the Company, b) the personal journal entries of William McIntosh, and c) a trip summary written much later by the son of Margaret Phoebe Freeman. (She was eleven years old when she crossed the plains.)

a) Trail Report

A trail report written at the Sweetwater River, some 200 miles from Salt Lake and with still a month to go in the journey, indicates that the Freeman family was nearly out of supplies. They had only 20 lbs. of "breadstuff" with which to feed a family of eight. One can only assume that either relief wagons reached them from Church headquarters, or that the other travelers, such as the McIntoshes, shared their modest supplies.



Read Trail Excerpt:

Captain Lewis' Co., Upper Crossing of Sweet Water, Aug. 22, 1851.

David Lewis No. in Family10, Pounds of Breadstuff 100
J.M. Stewart No. in Family 7, Pounds of Breadstuff 200
A.V. Patten No. in Family 9, Pounds of Breadstuff 150
J.P. Stow[e] No. in Family 7, Pounds of Breadstuff 60
John Freeman No. in Family 7, Pounds of Breadstuff 20
H.H. Wilson No. in Family 7, Pounds of Breadstuff 200
Wm. McIntosh No. in Family 4, Pounds of Breadstuff 150
R. Woolsey No. in Family 4, Pounds of Breadstuff 30
Henry Nelson No. in Family 5, Pounds of Breadstuff 200
Joseph Freese No. in Family 6, Pounds of Breadstuff 100
David Freese No. in Family 2, Pounds of Breadstuff 50
[Total] No. in Family 68, Pounds of Breadstuff 1170

We have 15 wagons and one 4 horse carriage.

b) McIntosh Journal

William McIntosh made the trek with his wife and two children. He seems to have been better prepared than the Freemans. In his journal he makes the point that their early start--they left Council Bluffs May 1st, 1851, the first company of the season--exposed them to more rainfall and muddy roads than companies who left later:

> **We got organized. John Smith was captain of Hundred. David L. Lewis was Captain of Ten. We traveled till we came to the Horn [Elk Horn River]. We found its waters So wide and that we could not Fourd it. We remained thare for Several days to see if waters would fall but it rather increased. We did not have money enough to pay our Ferreage therefore we concluded we would go up the Horn till we could Foard it. Consequently we took our**

[52] David Lewis Company, 1851, Perpetual Emigrating Fund, General Files, 1849-1898, reel 1, box 1, folder 4
[53] This number results from adding all the individuals listed in the Company roster. However, a trail report of Aug. 22, 1851, lists 68 people in the Company.

journey and traveled many dayes without seeing much prospects of crossing the Horn until we became weary.

. . . we all arrived Safe on the Plat And then we gourneyed a long with bitter courage. . . . in consequence of our long trip round the Horn Some ware out of previsions. Shortly after we left Larimee we had enough and some to Spare.

...we got tired of traveling in so large a company and Some eight or ten wagons of us with Captain David L. Lewis and Set out for the Vally. We Met a good Many of our brethren going out to meet the Companies with flour and vegetables &cc we traveled with very good Success. We arrived in GSL City September the 9th 1851

McIntosh, William, Reminiscences and diary 1857-1898, 19-23

c) Margaret Phoebe Freeman recollection:

. . . When the prophet was killed the Saints all left Illinois. Mother [Margaret Phoebe Freeman] was 12 years old and walked most of the way across the plains. While walking one day, she stepped in a hole in the road and she could not extricate her foot. She was wearing low-topped heavy shoes, and in the effort to get her foot out of the hole, she lost her shoe, and she heard it drop for some distance and she never got the shoe, and wept bitterly over the loss.

Her uncle, Samuel Smith, died and was buried on the plains the year before and they found his grave marked left when he was buried. Mother waded many small streams.

The Co. was separated from the Main Co. and were lost and traveled for more than a month through sand and rocks with no road, and when the main road was found again there was great rejoicing. The main company reached S.L. City in July, but on account of getting lost, Mother's Co. did not reach the Valley until Sep. 1852. [error: it was 1851] Many valuable articles were unloaded and left while the Company was lost. Uncle William [William Hamlin Freeman] and Aunt Adeline [Adeline Freeman] came ahead of the rest of the family and were living with Uncle A.O. Smoot. He was then living at Cottonwood, and Mother was baptized there by Uncle Smoot and Bp. Wright. Capt. Smith was in charge of the Co.

Another, slightly different version of Margaret's trek was written by Lizzie Dobson.

When she [Margaret] was nine years old she crossed the plains, coming to Utah in 1849.[54] She walked most of the way. She and some of the other children would go for miles playing "Hippity Hop to the Barber Shop." Capt. Smith was at the head of a company of fifty wagons which were divided into companies of twelve wagons; David Lewis was their Captain. Their company lost their way trying to find a short cut to Utah. They went around the [Elk] Horn River, and it took them five months instead of three. While they were en route, she and some children were running to catch up with the wagons, when she stepped in a prairie dog or badger hole, and lost a shoe which she was unable to find, so she had to go without shoes the rest of the way. During one of the times they were camped to wash their clothes, there was a child drowned. They also had a stampede, and one woman was hurt very badly, which left her crippled the rest of her life. The company suffered much for food; they were put on rations. One of their oxen died, and they had to put one of the cows in its place.[55]

[54] This first sentence contains two apparent errors. Margaret was 11 years old at the time and she crossed the plains in 1851, not 1849.

[55] 1 pg. sketch of Margaret Phoebe Freeman Damron, by Lizzie Dobson, obtained from Elaine Speakman

Arrival, rebaptism, first lodgings in Utah

Upon their arrival in Utah, one of the first things John and Nancy did was to get rebaptized--following a custom of the time. They were rebaptized on September 16, 1851, a scant week after their arrival. For John and Nancy it was the second time, but according to the record, their sons William Hamlin, John Woodruff and Columbus Reed were also baptized that same day--it being the first time for the three boys.[56]

John and Nancy were fortunate in that they already had family in the Valley. Their son, William Hamlin, had arrived in 1849. Also, a daughter, Caroline, had married Charles Hall in Salt Lake City on March 29, 1849.[57] Even their oldest daughter, Adeline, either arrived about the same time or earlier. Adeline married Charles Webb one year later, in September of 1852. Also, many members of the Smoot family had arrived as early as 1847 and were reasonably well established in the Valley. Nancy's brother, A.O. Smoot, had a place in South Cottonwood Ward and that is where the Freemans were first given lodging. [58]

Fort Herriman: 1851-57

The Freemans stayed only briefly with their Smoot relatives in Cottonwood. Within a short time, they resettled in Fort Herriman, about 20 miles southwest of Salt Lake City.

Thomas Butterfield "discovered" Herriman in 1851. The next spring three additional families joined him: Henry Harriman, John J. Stocking and Robert C. Petty. In 1853 Brigham Young asked for volunteers to strengthen the new settlement and among those willing to go were John and Nancy Freeman and their son, William Hamblin Freeman.[59] The latter eventually married daughters of two of the founding fathers, Stocking and Butterfield, and worked with the father of Angeline Stocking in building and

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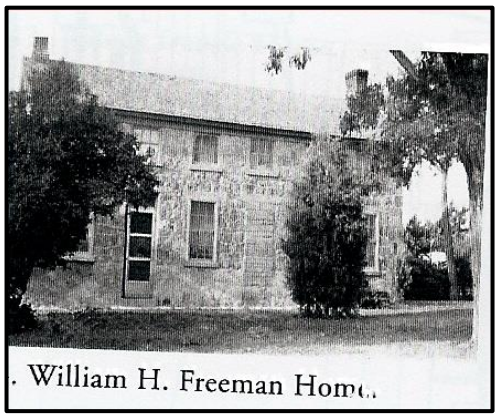
[56] Salt Lake Stake Records, Church Historians Office, (WR f) part 2, p. 29 (Speakman, endnote #41)

[57] However, Caroline and Charles had already left the Salt Lake Valley by the time the rest of the family arrived. Caroline and Charles were called to the "Iron Mission" and left Salt Lake in December of 1850 and arrived in what came to be called Parowan January 10, 1851. This was nine months before John and Nancy's arrival in Utah.

[58] **". . .arrived in Salt Lake City in 1851, settled in South Cotton Wood Ward . . "** Genealogy of John Woodruff Freeman, Washington, June 6th 1872. St George Stake, Church Historian's Office (WR f) p. 2 Item #1 Melch. Ptd. Gen Rec. H.P. 1862-1904, p. 128

[59] Herriman Utah Ward Manuscript History Record, Church Historian Office, (CR, mh, 3773)

settling the town.[60] William Hamblin never left Herriman. He stayed there, built a fine home and was the father of 24 sons and daughters.[61]


. William H. Freeman Home

Patriarchal Blessings

It was while John and Nancy were living in Fort Herriman that they received their patriarchal blessings, on October 30, 1854.[62]

Fort Herriman Oct. 30th, 1854
No. 227 Patriarchal blessing by I. Morley on the head of John Freeman, son of Arta [Arthur] and Nancy Freeman, born Sept 6th 1809, in Limon Co., Kentucky.

Br. John, in the name of the Lord Jesus, I place my hands upon thy head and I place the seal of a Father and Patriarch upon thee, which shall be a principle and everlasting seal to comfort thy heart, for thou has been snatched as a hand from the burning and enclosed by the arms of mercy in the arms of a crucified Redeemer. Thou art brought into the light and liberty of the everlasting gospel through the merits of Christ's blood. Everlasting blessings shall follow thee by reasons of yielding obedience to the requirements of the everlasting gospel.

Thou art endud [endowed] with independency of mind that will require watchful care; by reason of thy agency, thou art brought under responsibility to thy Creator. Thou wilt obtain great things if thou wilt frequently arrest thy mind upon Christ's kingdom. By so doing thou shalt obtain knowledge of government of ruler of elected which will give thee power over every influence which does not proceed from the fountain of light. Thou wilt be brought to great attainment by experiencing the contrast. No man can appreciate the blessings of health or of liberty without experiencing the opposite. Thou shalt be blessed in thy labors in this kingdom for thou has forsaken many blessings to obtain the crown.

Thou art a descendant from Jacob and thy blessing will consist in flocks and herds, and when thou art mature upon the principles of the Priesthood, thy counsels shall be ever by those who love and honor the truth. Thy attainments shall be great upon the principle of faith for thou hast the gift to connect testimony whereby thy mind is convinced of fact. It shall become a great blessing to thee in thy future prosperity in life and in its attainments and spirited gift. For thou shalt be gifted in discernment and in exposing evils that do or may exist among thy brethren. There are many blessings in future for thee to enjoy and attain to that had never as yet entered thy heart of thy thoughts. Therefore, my son, let thy heart, thy spirit, and thy desires cling to the Priesthood and thou shalt partake of the fruit of the tree of life.

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[60] Herriman...A Few Moments in Time, p. 4-6 (Historical brochure prepared by the Herriman Historical Committee)
[61] William Hamblin had a condition that U. of Utah medical researchers called "Freeman's Syndrome." This is a genetic disorder and those afflicted with it are very short (less than 5 feet tall) and bow-legged. It appears that the Syndrome began with at least one of the offspring of John and Nancy Smoot, their son, William Hamblin. Not all William's children inherited the condition and only those who manifest the disorder can pass it on to some of their offspring. Family sources indicate that some of William's children with the condition chose not to have children of their own-- to avoid passing on the problem.
[62] Patriarchal Blessings, v. 15, p. 180- #227, 228, Church Historian's Office. The copies the present writer received in 2007 were nearly undecipherable, but Elaine Speakman was able to provide the above transcription.

I rectify [ratify?] this seal by virtue of the Priesthood in the name of the Father and the Son and Holy Ghost, even so, Amen and Amen.
A L M, Scribe and Recorder

Fort Herriman Oct. 30th, 1854
No. 228 Blessing by I. Morley on the head of Nancy B. Freeman, daughter of George and Nancy Smoot, born Feb. 24th, 1806, in Owen Co., Kentucky.

Sister Nancy B., by the authority of the holy Priesthood, we lay our hands upon thy head and we place the seal of the Father upon thee and this shall be a principle to comfort and enlighten thy mind, for the blessings of the Priesthood are everlasting to those who live to enjoy them. The Lord has blessed thee and accepted thine offerings in the water of baptism. For this act of obedience, thou has become a legal heir to the Priesthood and thou has a right to obtain equal blessings with the Daughters of Abraham. The Lord has suffered thee to pass trials and privations that he might test thy love and thy loyalty, and for thy faithfulness in thy covenants, he will bless thee with life and he will direct thy steps by his counsels, whereby thy mind will become enlightened upon principle, and thou shalt rejoice in the covenants of promise and share in the blessings of the Priesthood in common with thy Partner. Thou shalt be blessed of the Lord as a Mother in Israel. Therefore, let the spirit of patience become a monitor in thy mind and thou shalt have power over every embarrassment and besetment, for thou has a disposition of independency of spirit, yet thou shalt have power to bring it into subjection to the law of Christ. Thy walk has been examplory before thy family and thy labors have been extended to the utmost of thy ability for their good. Therefore, my daughter be comforted under this seal for thy children and children's children will honor thee and become thy blessing in declining years. Thou has the blood of Ephraim and art a legitimate heir to the
Priesthood which Priesthood will rest upon thy posterity while they remain upon the earth. Thou shalt be exalted with thy Partner, be crowned with thrones and dominions. It shall be thy privilege to live until thou art satisfied with life and see the Saints seated upon their inheritances in Zion. And in the morning of the first resurrection, thou wilt be brought forth and reign with the Savior one thousand years. I rectify [ratify?] this seal by authority of the Holy Priesthood in the name of the Father and of the Son and Holy Spirit, even so, Amen and Amen.
A L M, Scribe and Recorder

1851-1857

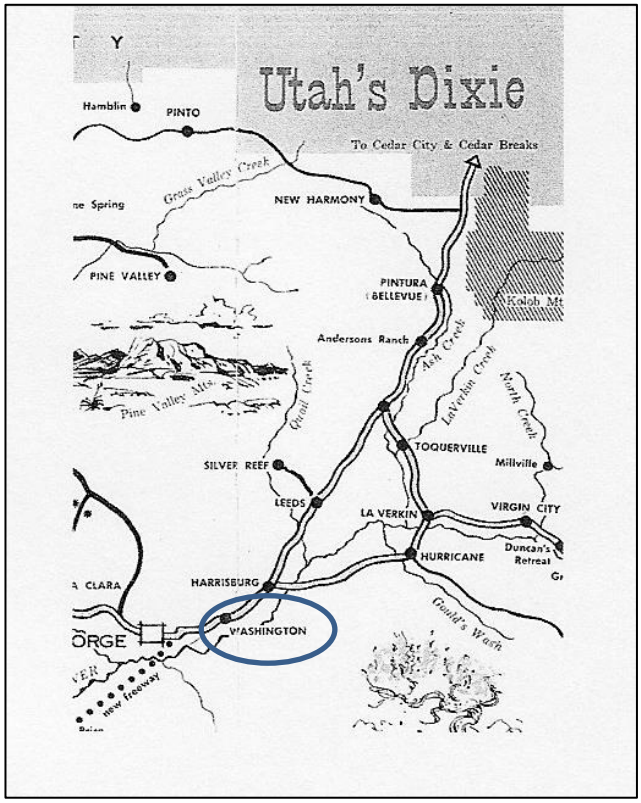
The exact movements of John and Nancy Freeman between 1851-1857 are not completely clear. We know they moved to Fort Herriman and were there in 1854, and supposedly again in 1857 when they were called to colonize southern Utah. However, Speakman has found evidence that in May of 1854 John Woodruff Freeman was a deacon and was living in Parowan with his sister, Caroline, and brother-in-law, Charles Hall.[63] Also, Jesse N. Smith noted in his journal that "*John Freeman and two daughters joined our company at Paragoonah en route to Salt Lake Valley 10*

[63]Parowan Ward Census May 1854. Parowan, Utah, Ward Records, Church Historian's Office (CR mh 6675)

February 1856."[64] Finally, Andrus indicates that the 1856 census listed the Freeman family -- both John Freeman and his son, John Woodruff Freeman-- in Paragonah. [65]

The above references show that the Freemans may have spent most of their time at Herriman, but they also made frequent trips south to visit family.[66]

The Call to the Cotton Mission



Brigham Young was a far-sighted individual. Immediately after arriving in the Valley, he sent out exploring parties to determine the quality of the surrounding areas in order to ascertain which were most suitable for eventual colonization by the large number of saints that would eventually arrive in the Valley. As a consequence of the first explorations, the Iron Mission was established near present day Cedar City early in 1851. Two of John and Nancy daughters, Caroline and Adeline and their spouses were called to that mission. (The Iron Mission was located only about 45-60 miles north of the soon-to-be organized "Cotton Mission.")

In 1852 John D. Lee wrote to Brigham Young about the area of Washington-- some 45 miles south of Cedar City-- that he had recently explored. ***"There we can raise cotton, flax, hemp, grapes, figs, sweet potatoes, fruits of almost every kind-- I could scarce content myself to stay [in Parowan] until another fall.***[67]

In view of such a favorable report and in a desire to further develop the southern corridor to the ocean, in the 1857 April Conference of the Church Brigham Young called 28 families to join a group of 10 families that had been called 2-3 months earlier, to go to the area currently known as Washington, Utah, to establish a "Cotton Mission" Included on the list was **"John Freeman, from Ft. Herriman**."

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[64] Journal of Jesse Nathaniel Smith, The Life Story of a Mormon Pioneer 1834-1906 (Jesse N. Smith Family Association: Salt Lake City, Utah) p. 23. Speakman suggests that the sisters may have been there to help Caroline after the birth of a child January 20, 1856.

[65] Andrus, p. 60

[66] The children and families of John and Nancy were very close. Sons-in-law Charles Young Webb and Charles Hall were among the original pioneers of Paragoonah in 1851 and son Columbus Reed eventually settled in that area for a time. Speakman, p. 4

[67] Under Dixie Sun, p. 234

There is some confusion as to whether the call to go to Dixie was issued to John Freeman, the father, or to John Woodruff Freeman, the son. The above reference is apparently taken from the 1857 Conference minutes. However, the manuscript history of the St. George Stake and Bleak's Annals of the Southern Utah Mission mention only John Woodruff Freeman.[68] It may be that the father was called, and that his 21 year old son, along with others in the family[69], accompanied the father as he traveled south to establish a new home.

Regardless of which Freeman received the original call, once the family arrived in Washington, John Freeman's sojourn in that area seems to have been very brief.

> There are 38 heads of families listed in the Manuscript History of the St. George Stake and in Bleak's Annals of the Southern Utah Mission, Book A., as having come to Washington in the first companies. . . .The names of the first settlers follow: Robert Dockery Covington, James B. Reagan, Harrison Pearce, William Rufus Slade, Joseph Smith, William Hawley, John Couch, Sr., John Couch, Jr.;, John Mangum, James B. Wilkins, Alfred Johnson, John W. Freeman, William H. Crawford, Umpsted Rencher, James B. McCullough, Balus Spouse, James Richie, Samuel Adair, Oscar Tyler, George Spencer, Jr., J. Holden, Joseph Adair, Joseph Hatfield (or Hadfield), William Dameron, Preston Thomas, William Fream, George Adair, Newton Adair, John Clark, Thomas W. Smith, Simes B. Matheny, Stephen and William Dugus (or Duggins), William J. Young, Enoch Dodge, John Price and Robert Lloyd. (Under Dixie Sun, p. 235) (emphasis added)

Researchers have discovered three historical entries that mention a "John Freeman" in early Washington records. The first is in reference to a committee that was selected to draft a resolution in support of Brigham Young's efforts during the Utah War that took place the first year of Washington's colonization. Larson, author of Red Hills of November, seemed to feel this referred to John Woodruff, not his father.

> **"A committee of five, consisting of James D. McCullough, James B. Woodward, John W. Freeman, John Wesley Clark, and Foster Curtis was appointed to draw up resolutions of approval" [The document, however, was later signed by "John Freeman."[70]] [emphasis added]**

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[68] Speakman is of the opinion that the original call was to John Freeman, the father. Her reasoning is as follows: **"Some histories say that the call was to John Woodruf Freeman, son of John Freeman, but John Woodruff was commonly called "Wood" or "Woodruff." I think the fact that John and Nancy Beal were sealed 2 Apr 1857 would indicate they were leaving Herriman and the opportunity to obtain their further spiritual blessings."** (Speakman, updated, p. 13, endnote #50) Also endnote #52 Endowment House Sealing (FHL#0183359) Book C, p. 152, #975

[69] We know that a daughter, Jemima, eventually married a local Washington Co. boy in 1864. The marriage took place in Parowan. (Speakman footnote 48: ***Thursday Apr 9, '63. Married at Parowan City at the house of John Freeman, Jemima Marinda*** **[sic]** ***Freeman to Francis Marian Jolly*** **[sic: Jolley]** ***of Washington Co. by Calven C. Pendleton. Wm. Marsden, Clk.*** Parowan, Iron, Utah Ward Record (FHL #0179951) p. 80)

[70] To add to the inconsistency and confusion, we might add that in 1850 John Freeman was reported as illiterate. Consequently, unless he had learned to write in the ensuing seven years, he either didn't sign the document, or signed with an "X," or the committee member was not John Freeman, but rather his son, John Woodruff Freeman.

The second mention of John Freeman is an excerpt from Amasa Lyman's journal in which he indicates that he solemnized two marriages in the home of a John Freeman.

> **"April 1858, 2nd Friday "Preached to the people of Washington, and solemnized two marriages. . ."**
>
> **Amasa M. Lyman Journals, Church Historian's Office, (Ms f 520) p. 62.**

> **"Amasa Lyman solemnized marriages 2 April 1858 at <u>John Freeman's house</u>, Washington" (emphasis added)**
>
> **Endowment House Sealings (FHL #)183395) Book C, p. 316 (cited by Speakman)**[71]

Finally, the 3rd citation relates to the colonization of Pine Valley in which a John Freeman is mentioned.

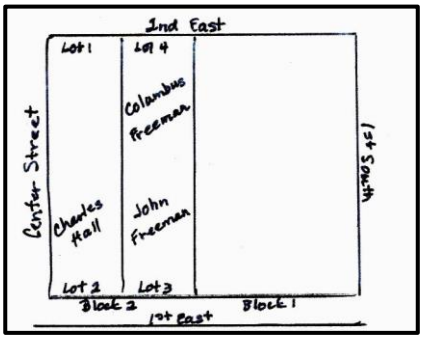
> **"Quite a number of the original settlers of Washington went to Pine Valley and neighboring Grass Valley. Among these were the Hawley brothers, William R. Slade, Robert R. Lloyd, Joseph Hadfield, and Umpstead Rencher; later from Washington came <u>John Freeman</u>, George Spencer, and James Matthews."**[72] **(emphasis added)**

Speakman is not entirely convinced that the Pine Valley John Freeman is our ancestor. Her hesitance is due to the fact that Pine Valley was at first only a lumber camp. It wasn't settled until 1859--the year John Freeman is shown as clearly living in Parowan.[73]

In summary, there exists some confusion as to which Freeman is being referred to in the above citations and perhaps elsewhere. The bottom line is that we do not know exactly how long John and Nancy Freeman lived in the Washington, Utah, area--or if they ever arrived in the first place!

Next home: Parowan

Our next documented indication of John and Nancy's residence is in 1859--two years after the founding of the Washington settlement. John recorded ownership of a parcel of land in Parowan, located on block 2, lot 3, which is just across the street east from the present County Court House. Son-in-law Charles Hall lived on the lot north of



One additional note in favor of the latter argument--that it was John W. appointed to the committee-- was an entry in John D. Lee's diary in which he appointed <u>John Woodruff Freeman</u> to be captain of a group of 14 wagons that were being sent to Salt Lake to evacuate saints facing Johnson's Army. <u>Red Hills of November,</u> p. 28-30.

[71] Speakman, footnote 44

[72] <u>I was called to Dixie,</u> p. 55

[73] In <u>Under Dixie Sun</u>, pp. 180-185, it states that ***a "John Hawley built the first real house in 1859."*** (p. 183) ***"Shortly after the first four families moved from Washington to Pine Valley* [1859?] *they were followed by others <u>John Freeman,</u> George Spencer and James Mathews. It seems that in the first five years [1855-1860] of its history, Pine Valley was nearer a lumber camp than a town."*** (p. 184) (emphasis added)

John, and son Columbus Reed lived directly east. John also owned ½ acre in Chimney Meadows.[74]

As indicated previously, daughter Jemima Marinda--the twin who survived Winter Quarters where her twin brother died-- married Francis Marion Jolley of Washington County, Utah, April 9th, 1863 in her father's home at Parowan.[75] A son, John Reuben Jolley, was born December 25, 1863, but unfortunately Jemima, age 21, died less than a month later, on January 16, 1864 at Parowan.[76] She was buried in the Parowan City Cemetery.[77] Jemima's husband had other plural wives so John and Nancy raised Jemima's son, John Reuben.

1860 Parowan census

The 1860 census lists John Freeman as living in Parowan with his wife and three of their children. The actual census reads:

"Jno Freeman, 55, M, Farmer, Real Estate: $40, Personal Estate: $450, b. KY, cannot read nor write,

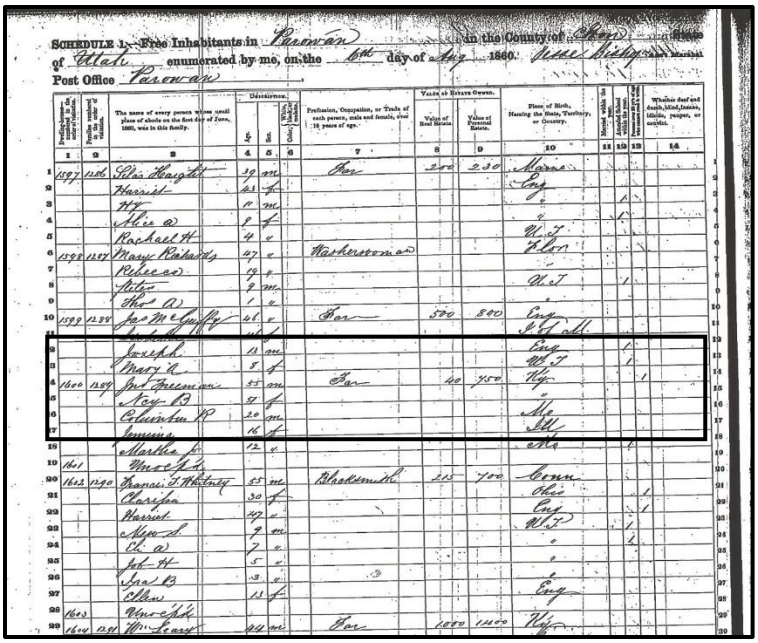
Ncy B. 51, F,

Columbus R, 20, M, b. Mo.

Jemima, 16, F, b. Ill.

Martha J. 12, b. Mo."

Speakman also found a mention of John Freeman speaking in church at Parowan Sunday March 15, 1863.



SCHEDULE 1.—Free Inhabitants in Parowan in the County of Iron State of Utah enumerated by me, on the 6th day of July 1860. Jesse Bishop Assistant Marshal
Post Office Parowan

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
1197	1156	Silas Haught	19	m		Far	200	230	Maine					
		Harriet	21	f					Eng					
		Hy	11	m					"					
		Silas A	9	f					"					
		Rachael H	4	f					W.T.					
1198	1157	Mary Richards	27	f		Washerwoman			Ill					
		Rebecca	14	f					"					
		Silas	9	m					W.T.			1		
		Thos A	1	m					"					
1199	1158	Jos McGaffey	41	m		Far	500	800	Eng					
									S.C.					
		Joseph	11	m					Eng			1		
		Mary A	5	f					W.T.			1		
1200	1159	Jno Freeman	55	m		Far	40	450	Ky				1	
		Ncy B	51	f					"					
		Columbus R	20	m					Mo					
		Jemima	16	f					Ill					
		Martha J	12	f					Mo			1		
1201		Mary J												
1202	1160	Francis T Whitney	55	m		Blacksmith	215	700	Conn					
		Clarissa	30	f					Ohio			1		
		Harriet	17	f					Eng			1		
		Myra L	9	m					W.T.			1		
		Ch A	7	f					"					
		Jed H	5	f					"					
		Sara B	3	f					"					
		Ellen	11	f					Eng					
1203		Mary Ann												
1204	1161	Wm Terry	44	m		Far	1000	11400	Ky					

[74]Speakman, footnote 46: Book 2 or B. Lot 3, Block 2, Plat B, Parowan City Survey 14 rods square. Lot N 58. 11 August 1859, recorded 25 August 1859; Chimney Meadows survey; ½ acre; Parowan City Survey, 1 January 1860, recorded 10 Jan 1860

[75]Speakman, footnote 48: Thursday Apr 9, '63. Married at Parowan City at the house of John Freeman. Jamima [Jemima] Marinda Freeman to Francis Marian [Marion] Jolly of Washington Co. By Calven C. Pendleton. Wm Marsden, Clk. Parowan, Iron, Utah Ward Record (FHL #0179951) p. 80

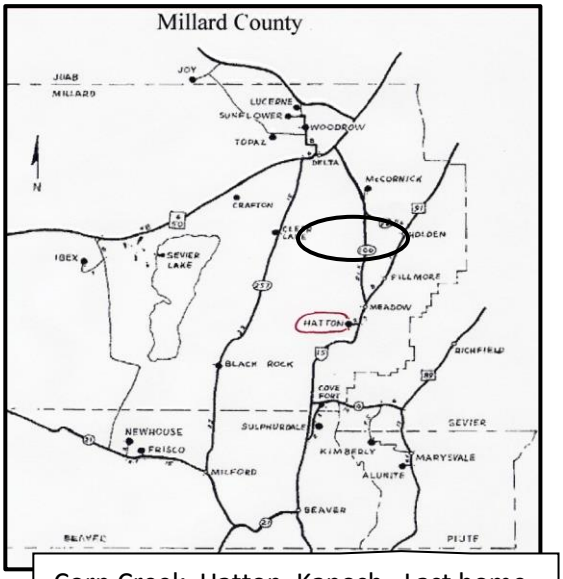
[76] Speakman, footnote 49: Jemima Marinda Jolly of Washington Co. died in Parowan the 16 day of Jan. 1864. Wm. Marsden Clk. Jemima Marinda Jolley died 16 Jan 1864 age 21 years. Wife of Francis Marion Jolly.

[77] Speakman, footnote 50: "In block 8, Lot 6, grave 1, we show Jemima Jolly. Died Jan. 16, 1864 as infant. [?] Father's name John Freeman, Mother's name Nancy B. Smoot. Letter, Parowan City Clerk, Parowan, Utah 84761, January 8, 1985. The writer of this sketch has visited the gravesite. It is not marked by a headstone.

Final Home: Kanosh

According to Speakman, some of the Freeman families left Parowan in 1864-65, to resettle in Corn Creek, later named Hatton.[78] Corn Creek, Hatton and Kanosh are basically the same town,[79] with small differences in distance between them. An internet site lists Hatton as a "semi-ghost town." It adds:

> ***There is not much at Hatton. This is the only old house still standing in the old farming community. There are still a few people who live here. In the 1850s a small group of LDS farmers settled the land under the direction of Brigham Young. In 1870 it was discovered that the land was more fertile just a few miles south. Most families moved south to the location that became Kanosh. Only a couple of families remained in Hatton. Hatton is located about 2.5 miles north of Kanosh and then about 1 mile west.***[80]



Corn Creek, Hatton, Kanosh. Last home of John Freeman

As stated earlier, Columbus Reed's family and son-in-law Charles Hall & family moved to the Corn Creek/Kanosh area in 1864-65. Columbus Reed's son, John Levi, was born at Corn Creek in March of 1865. Evidence shows that Charles Hall was at Corn Creek in 1866, as well as Thomas Charlesworth [Martha J. Freeman's husband.][81]

About that time, Brigham Young suggested that the people at Corn Creek move farther up the creek to take advantage of the more fertile soil and to avoid the early frosts. The new settlement was named Kanosh, after Chief Kanosh. By the spring of 1868 Columbus Reed --commonly known as "Tump", had built a home at Kanosh.

1870 Census

The 1870 census indicates John Freeman was living at Kanosh. [82] In addition, four of their married children were living in that same town: Charles and (Elizabeth) Caroline Hall,

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[78] Jesse N. Smith noted May 30, 1866 that he ". . .stayed at Columbus Freeman's;" June 2 ". . .accompanied by . . . C.R. Freeman . . . set out on horseback for Richfield. Followed a brushy trail up Corn Creek Canyon. . .;" June 8 ". . .Reached Corn Creek, again stayed at Freeman's," June 9 "C.R. Freeman and Charles Hall furnished Bro. West and me two little mares . . " Journal of Jesse Nathaniel Smith, The Life Story of a Mormon Pioneer 1834-1906, (Jesse N. Smith Family Association: SLC, Utah) p. 178-69. (Speakman, endnote 52)

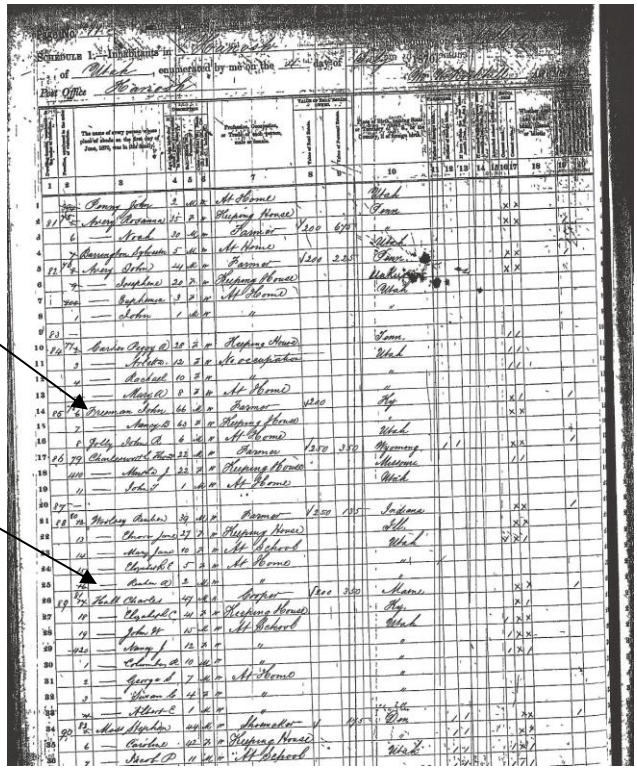
[79] Corn Creek/Kanosh is some 15 miles south of Fillmore. History records that Corn Creek is where the Fancher wagon train--later massacred in the Mountain Meadow Massacre-- was accused of poisoning a spring which caused the death of several Indians. This accusation was later found to be without merit.

[80] http://www.chinfat.com/ghosttowns/Hatton.html.

[81] Milestones of Millard, 100 Years of History of Millard County, D.U.P. of Millard County (Art City Publishing Co: Springville, Utah) p. 341.

Columbus Reed and Clementine Freeman, Joseph A. and Margaret Phoebe Damron, and Thomas and Martha Jane Charlesworth.

The Census report, shown to the right, shows John Freeman, his wife Nancy and John R. Jolly, age 6. (He was a grandson, the child of Jemima Freeman Jolly who died shortly after the birth of her son.)



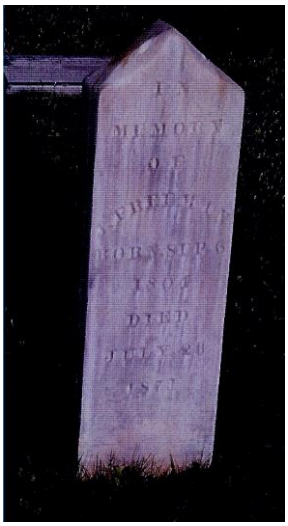
On the same page appears the census data for Charles Hall, who was married to one of John Freeman's daughters, Elizabeth Freeman.

On the next page of the 1870 Kanosh Census, Columbus R. Freeman and family are listed:

Freeman, Columbus R 32 M W
Farmer $250 250
Missouri, cannot read nor write
Lydia C 27 F W Keeping house
Ky cannot read nor write
Malcolm S 6 M W At school Utah
John L. 5 M W At home
Lydia 3 F W
Emma E 1 F W

Death of John Freeman

John Freeman died July 23, 1871 at Kanosh, Utah of causes unknown. An impressive sandstone shaft marks his grave in the Kanosh Cemetery.[83] He was 67 years old at the time of his death.



John Freeman grave marker

[82] Kanosh, Millard, Utah 1870 Census (FHL # 0553110) p. 11
[83] Kanosh, Millard, Utah Cemetery gravestone inscription. Visited personally by Elaine Speakman

Death of Nancy Beal Smoot[84]

After the death of her husband, Nancy B. first went to Washington, Utah, to the house of her son, Wood. She received a second patriarchal blessing there March 7, 1873.

Washington, March 7, 1873

__ A Blessing on the Head of Nancy Beel Freeman daughter of George & Nancy Smoot, Born in Kentuckey Feb. 24, 1806.

Nancy the beloved of yr Father. I place my hands upon yr head & in the name of Jesus I Seal upon you a Fathers Blessing thou art a true Israelite in deed in whom there is no guile yr Father doted much upon you when you was in his presence. He gave you yr name and he told you to Come to this Earth and he would have a body prepared for you. He told you that you would never Sin against him, and that you would be true to yr body & to yr Covts [Covenants] He said that you would become a Mother in Israel that you would have a Husband & be one with him and that your seed would be blest & never suffer for bread. And when the fulness of the Gospel would reach your Ears it would be glad tidings of Great Joy unto you. And the Holy Ghost will witness unto you of Jesus your Brother & your Fathers then you will know for yrself that they do live. That they rule in the Heavens above and on this Earth their footstool. You will labor & live for Zion & in Zion you will have yr Great Reward you will have a Mansion prepared for you in your Fathers Kingdom & you will have it dedicated and Consecrated for the Son of God to Come & dine with you they will touch you with a Holy touch and you will know them by name, they will talk with you about many things you will understand & comprehend all things they will tell you, they will acquaint you of your dead they will give you their names that have received the gospel & their ages & Birth places and they will be glad tidings of Great Joy unto you. You will go to the Centre Stake and enter into the house of the Lord and you will assist in Redeeming yr dead. There you will be blest with the blessings of Eternal life. You will have yr lamp trim'd & burning from this time hence forth & for Ever.

These blessings I seal upon your head because you are worthy to receive all things, if obedient to the Voice of Eternal life, and you shall dwell in our Father's Kingdoms. This I do in the name of the Father Son and Holy Ghost Amen.

[84] One story that has been passed down about Nancy B. affirms that she smoked a corncob pipe all her life. It is also remembered that she complained that the tobacco grown in Utah was far inferior to that which she used to grow in Kentucky and Illinois.

By the time of the 1880 census, Nancy had moved back to Millard County and was living with her daughter, Margaret, and son-in-law Joseph W. Damron in Deseret. (Her grandson, John R. Jolley, was also shown in the census as living with his aunt and uncle Damron at that time.)

Finally, on July 6, 1891. Nancy Beal Smoot Freeman died in Fort Herriman--where her oldest son, William Hamlin, lived. She was 84 years old. Nancy outlived her husband by 20 years. Her gravesite is next to her son, William's, and those of his two wives, in the Herriman City Cemetery.[85]

Family scatters after John's death

Within a few years of the death of John Freeman many of his sons and daughters were either called to move elsewhere, or moved of their own accord. Charles Hall and sons built a boat to ferry the "Hole in the Rock" pioneers across the Colorado River. The ferry, later moved from its original site, became known as Hall's Ferry. In subsequent years the Halls settled in Arizona as did the Webbs.

John Woodruff Freeman lived for 20 years in Washington, Utah, where he became the second bishop of the Washington Ward. In 1877 he was called to colonize in Arizona and ended up spending the remainder of his life in Snowflake, Arizona.

Columbus Reed (Tump), unfortunately, was involved in the Mountain Meadow Massacre. Many years later, he joined his brother, Wood, when they were called to settle in Arizona, but after a year or so, they left the area they originally had been sent to colonize in the Tonto Basin. They divided their cattle and Tump went south to the Safford area, while Wood went east to Snowflake.[86]

[85] A new grave marker was placed in the Herriman Cemetery in memory of Nancy Beal Freeman in April 1990, just one year short of a century after her passing.

[86] A contradiction exists between the accounts of at least two family historians. The above is from a sketch of John Woodruff Freeman that was prepared by Lucille Birdno Freeman. However, Speakman has found evidence that Columbus Reed Freeman may have been in Kanosh at late as 1879-80. He is listed in an 1879-1880 Salt Lake City, Utah, Directory as "Freeman, C.R., Dentist at Kanosh." (FHL#1377409) item 4, 1879-18809, p. 362.