

Arvin Weeks

From the original Sexton Records:

Name: Arvin Weeks

Age: 2y; 10m; 10d

Relationship: Son of William & Caroline Weeks

Deceased: April 18, 1847

Disease: Scurvy

Birth Place: Nauvoo, Hancock Co., Il

Birth Date: June 8, 1845

Grave No. 139

Birth Date: June 8, 1845

Birth Place: Nauvoo, Illinois

Death Date: Apr. 18, 1847

Cause of Death: Scurvy

Burial Place: Winter Quarters grave #139

Father's Name: William Weeks

Mother's Maiden Name: Caroline Matilda Allen

Which Winter Quarters Ward or Iowa Branch was the family:

Where was the family in the 1850 U. S. Census? Unknown

Which Pioneer wagon train took the family west? Isaac M. Stewart Co, left Kanessville, Iowa Jun. 19, 1852, arrived Aug. 28

Any interesting facts or stories that might have been submitted.

-William was the chief architect for the Nauvoo temple. Joseph Smith and he had a little argument about whether the temple was tall enough for circle windows. William said that round windows on a building as short as the temple was against the rules of architecture. But Joseph insisted that he had seen the finished product through revelation and that it was magnificent. (History of the Church, Vol. 6, pp. 196-97).

-Together William and Caroline had 11 children. Seven of those eleven died very young. (William Weeks, Architect of the Nauvoo Temple, J. Earl Arrington, p.1, emailed)

-William and his family left the church shortly after Arvin's death. Arvin was the 5th of their 6 children to die. The church leaders repeatedly contacted William asking him to return. The family did winter with saints but left early in 1848 for the East. Brigham Young had a message

given to William that he would “have no peace of mind until he came to the valley and made restitution for the wickedness had committed.” (emailed source). Brigham later sent a message to William saying that the Saints did not need him in order to build a temple. Apparently, William had told them they could not. It is likely that the Salt Lake temple was delayed for several years by the loss of William. William took the original plans for the Nauvoo temple with him when he left. He and Caroline were excommunicated at October general conference. (William Weeks, Architect of the Nauvoo Temple, J. Earl Arrington, emailed)

-William attended church meeting in Wisconsin and was re-baptized after his excommunication. In 1852 he was working at a sugar mill and chapel in Provo. Even though William lived in Utah when the Salt Lake temple ground breaking ceremony took place his architecture skills were not called on. His children were not aware of any frustration on their father’s part about not being a temple architect though. (William Weeks, Architect of the Nauvoo Temple, J. Earl Arrington, emailed)

-William and his family helped settle San Bernardino in 1857 but when Brigham Young recalled the Saints from California the Weeks family remained. William lived in California until his death in 1900. William eventually bought cows and went into the dairy business. His children were not raised in the church. (William Weeks, Architect of the Nauvoo Temple, J. Earl Arrington, emailed)

-Despite leaving the LDS church William never returned to his Quaker faith from his childhood. The Nauvoo temple was easily the height of his career as an architect. (William Weeks, Architect of the Nauvoo Temple, J. Earl Arrington, emailed)