

Jacob Beelar

From the original Sexton Records:

Not listed

Birth Date: June 29, 1816

Birth Place: Claiborne, Tennessee

Death Date: May 30, 1847

Cause of Death: Unknown

Burial Place: Winter Quarters, calculated grave #156 with twin boy infants

Spouse's Name: Mary Martha Cragun

Father's Name: William Beelar

Mother's Maiden Name: Margaret Hughes

Which Winter Quarters Ward or Iowa Branch was the family: Unknown

Where was the family in the 1850 U. S. Census? Listed as family #599 in District 21, Pottawattamie County, Iowa. It was written as Davis Alney and transcribed as Davis Abney. Mary and Jacob's children had the surname Cragun (Cragin).

Which Pioneer wagon train took the family west? Came west in the 1852 John B. Walker Company. She was listed as Mary Martha Cragun Beeler McOlney.

Any interesting facts or stories that might have been submitted.

Jacob Beelar and his wife Mary Martha or (Elvira) Cragun and their two children, William Riley (Beelar) and Tyresha Ann (Beelar), left their home in Indiana to go with the Saints to Utah. Jacob had a good home and was considered well to do in his day. He had land and cattle and could have become wealthy if he had stayed in Indiana instead of going to Utah. But he built a new wagon from strong hickory that grew on his farm. In fact, every part of the wagon was made with his own hands. "He had a team of young oxen. He filled his wagon with the necessary things to start a new home. When this was done, there was no room for the family and so the two children, William age 11 years and Tyresha Ann 9 years, walked with their father all the way to Winter Quarters. "The trip was not too unpleasant until they arrived at Winter Quarters. There the father, Jacob, died leaving his wife with two children and expecting another. However, when the baby was born, it happened to be twin boys and they both died at birth. Jacob's last words had been 'Don't give up the trip, Mary. I know the Lord will bless you and help you with the children in your new home.' "That winter while the Saints were waiting for the weather to break, a man named David McOlney lost his wife, leaving him with two children. These children needed a mother and Mary's children needed a father. Mary mothered them in her weakened condition and later she and David were married and they all came to Utah, settling in Big Cottonwood, now called Sugar House. They always had milk and butter, which many of the people did not have.

Mary shared these with the less fortunate ones. She was known as 'Grandma Mac.' On her 69th birthday 1887 she was honored by the sisters of the Mill Ward (Millcreek) as a grand Pioneer Lady."

([https://www.familysearch.org/photos/artifacts/20955399?p=19231353&returnLabel=Mary%20Martha%20Cragun%20\(KWJY-DHD\)&returnUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.familysearch.org%2Ftree%2Fperson%2Fmemories%2FKWJY-DHD](https://www.familysearch.org/photos/artifacts/20955399?p=19231353&returnLabel=Mary%20Martha%20Cragun%20(KWJY-DHD)&returnUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.familysearch.org%2Ftree%2Fperson%2Fmemories%2FKWJY-DHD))