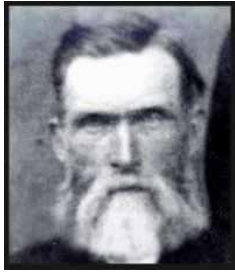


## Benjamin Gardner Curtis (Dwelling #692)



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

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

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

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

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



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

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



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

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