

Ezra Taft Benson



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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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