

George Albert Smith

George A. Smith was born on June 26, 1817 in Potsdam, St. Lawrence County, New York to John and Clarissa Loomis Lyman Smith and a cousin of Joseph Smith, the Prophet. George A. grew very tall for his age and was bullied at school.



George A. worked on his father's farm but in 1832 was baptized a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. In 1833, his father moved the family to Kirtland, Ohio. It was in Kirtland that George A. was engaged in quarrying and hauling rock for the temple. He was a participant in Zion's Camp. In 1839, the family had moved to Nauvoo and was ordained as one of the Twelve Apostles.

On July 25, 1841, George A. married Bathsheba W. Bigler. Before leaving Nauvoo in 1846, he married other wives. His families resided in the Winter Quarters Fifteenth Ward. During that time, one of his wives and four children died and are buried in Winter Quarters Cemetery. Nancy Clements Smith, a wife, age 31 years, died of scurvy on March 27, 1847 and is buried in grave #118. John, only 9 hours old, died on April 4, 1847 and is buried in grave #124. Nancy Adelia, age 1 year, died on April 17, 1847 and buried in grave #138. Don Carlos, only 10 months old died of diarrhea on July 21, 1847 and is buried in grave #174.

George A. is recorded in the Big Pigeon Tithing Records in October 1848 and February 1849. He may have moved his families to Big Pigeon after they moved from Winter Quarters.

George A. traveled with the Brigham Young Vanguard Company in 1847 but came back to Winter Quarters to bring his families west. They joined the George A. Smith/Dan Jones Company which left Kaneshville on July 14, 1849. They arrived in the Salt Lake Valley between October 26 and 30, 1849.

In 1875, he was attacked by a severe cold, which, located in his lungs and he died on September 1, 1875 in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County, Utah Territory. He is buried in the Salt Lake City Cemetery.