

Jacob George Bigler (Jacob G. Bigler)



Jacob George Bigler was born on his parent's, Mark and Susannah Ogden Bigler, plantation in Shinnston, Harrison County, Virginia. The date was April 4, 1813. Jacob grew up working on the plantation and raising animals. His father became a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints after he heard the missionaries. Jacob and his father traveled to Far West, Missouri to meet the Prophet Joseph Smith and after speaking with him, he was thoroughly convinced that the Church was true and was baptized while there.

Jacob purchased a farm in Far West and left to go back to Virginia to sell the plantation and move the family. Because of the extermination order given by Governor Boggs, the family had to move again this time to Quincy, Illinois. His father, Mark, joined his family but passed away suddenly in September of 1839. His estate was settled, and the family relocated to Nauvoo, rendering help to Joseph Smith family's move.

While in Nauvoo, Jacob married Mary Ann Boggess on March 25, 1841. She was born to Alonzo and Katherine Eleanor Stringer Boggess on July 31, 1822 in Harrison County, Virginia. The couple's first child, Alonzo Harrison, was born April 14, 1842. Unfortunately, the baby died the same day. Mary Ann contracted the ague fever and died on October 27, 1842.

Two years later, Jacob married Amy Lorette Chase on June 18, 1844 in Nauvoo. Amy was the daughter of Abner and Amy Scott Chase and was born on November 7, 1822 in Lincoln, Addison County, Vermont. Their first child, David George, was born in Nauvoo on February 8, 1846. Shortly after the birth, the family was forced out of Nauvoo and made the trek to Winter Quarters in the Nebraska Territory.

Jacob served as a Counselor of the Winter Quarters Fifteenth Ward, under Bishop Isaac Clark. Jacob's mother, Susannah Ogden Bigler, died of consumption on May 14, 1847 and is buried in grave #100 in the Winter Quarters Cemetery.

On the 1850 U. S. Census, Jacob is listed as the overseer of the poor. He was age 37 and in dwelling #103. Amy was listed as Anna, age 27; David was 4; and Jacob was 1. On the 1851 Iowa State Census, another child was listed, Mary Ann, who was born on July 24, 1850 probably in Big Pigeon.

Jacob placed an advertisement in *The Frontier Guardian* on August 6, 1850 which read, "CATTLE WINTERED ON THE RUSHES. Jacob Bigler will take any number of cattle upon the rushes, to winter, for seventy-five cents per head, commencing the 15th of October, and keeping them on the rushes until the first of April. Any persons wishing cattle wintered will find this to be advantageous to them, as the best of care will be taken of the cattle. Persons having cattle wintered are expected to assist in driving them there and assist in driving them down."

It is not clear when Jacob's family lived in Big Pigeon. However, he listed Big Pigeon as a place of residence on the Tabernacle Post Office Petition. He migrated west with the either the

Benjamin Gardner Company or the William West Lane Company in 1852. His family settled in Nephi, Juab County, Utah.

Jacob served as a Bishop, participated in the Black Hawk Indian War, served as a State Legislator, appointed President of the Juab Stake, and was elected Mayor of Nephi. He also served in the European and Ireland Mission. He died at the age of 94 in Nephi.