

John Jasper Loveless (John Loveless)



John Loveless was born in Colerain, Ross County, Ohio on June 24, 1807. His parents were Joseph and Dorothy Rogers Loveless. He grew up on a farm where he worked hard and had little time for formal education.

John married Rachel Mahala Anderson when he was nineteen years old on January 25, 1826. Rachel was born August 26, 1805 to James and Priscilla House Anderson. She was born in Hampshire County, Virginia but was living in Perry, Fairfield County, Ohio when they were married.

John and Rachel's first child, Sarah Ellen, was born in 1827 in Pickaway County, Ohio. Their second child, James Washington, born in 1828 was in Fairfield, Ohio. In 1829, the family moved from Ohio to Fountain County, Indiana on the Wabash River near Attica. He obtained a farm and continued the farming vocation. Their second son, third child, was born on June 1, 1831, Joseph J. Loveless, in Fountain County, Indiana.



Two Mormon Elders, Simeon Carter and Solomon Hancock, contacted the family in July 1831 and John was baptized. The Elders remained in the area four or five days and built up a Branch of some thirty members. After visiting Jackson County Missouri, Simeon Carter returned to John's home and found him as he described, "prostrated with a burning fever of five days standing; he prayed with me, and administered to me, and I was immediately healed, arose and joined with in returning thanks to God." John explained that this was the first miracle that he had witnessed in the Church and in about two weeks his wife was baptized.

In 1833, the entire Branch moved to Jackson County, Missouri. About the first of November the Church was compelled to leave by the mob. Their third son, Nephi Anderson Loveless, was born on September 11, 1833 in Jackson County, Missouri. From this expulsion the family went to Lafayette County, where on March 8, 1835, their fourth son was born, John Thomas Loveless.

In October 1837, John and his family moved to Caldwell County where the Saints were gathering. On August 1, 1836, Mary Elizabeth, was born. In the fall of 1838, the mob arose, and they were expelled from the State of Missouri and compelled to sign over all property by force of arms. In March 1839, they located in Adams County, Illinois and again began farming. On September 1, 1839, Parley Pratt Loveless was born and then on February 15, 1841, Rachel Pricilla Loveless was born.

In the spring of 1842, the family moved to Hancock County, Illinois, six miles east of Warsaw, where John bought a farm and again went into farming. On January 6, 1843, the sixth son, William Duncan Loveless was born. Hyrum Smith Loveless was also born there on May 16, 1845. While in Nauvoo, John married a widow, Sarah "Sally" Corina Elmer, before they left.

John and his families arrived on the west side of the Missouri River in June 1846. He described the conditions, "I witnessed scenes of suffering, destitution's and heart rending distress that would have melted the heart of adamant and made a demon shed tears of blood and cause a man, yes even

a man of God to curse and call upon God to curse and swear eternal vengeance against the perpetrators of all this horrid misery.”

John settled in or near Big Pigeon and resumed farming. Here Rachel and John had two more children, John Oscar, born August 30, 1848 and Charlotte Lucretia, born December 15, 1850.

John married another widow, Rhoda Sanford Lawrence. Her husband, John Lawrence, had died at Winter Quarters on December 13, 1846. Three of her children had also passed away while at Winter Quarters. Angelina Elizabeth was almost 4 years old and was buried in grave #34 and Rhoda Almira was 7 months old and was buried grave #36, both at Cutler's Park. John Lawrence, Sr., age 43 years, was buried in grave #39 and John Lawrence, Jr, age 14 days, was buried in grave #99 at Winter Quarters

On the 1850 U. S. Census, John and Rachel (Mahala) and eight children are listed. Living next to them is James (James Washington), their son, and his wife, Matilda Elizabeth McClellan, and daughter, Caroline (Jane Caroline). James and Matilda were most likely married at Big Pigeon. Jane Caroline, born March 25, 1848, and Cynthia Angeline, born July 14, 1850, were probably born there.

The families joined the John G. Smith Company in 1851. The Company departed May 1, 1851 from Kaneshville and arrived in the Salt Lake Valley in September 1851. John took his families and settled in Payson, Utah County, Utah Territory. John remained there for the rest of his life. He passed away on December 6, 1880. Rachel died on October 25, 1891.