

John Turpin (John Turfer)

The Big Pigeon Branch Record listed John Turfer as a member. No such person could be found. The most probable person was John Turpin who appeared in Nauvoo. The Tithing Records recorded a John that could be John Turpin on March 1851. His name could not be found on the 1850 U. S. Census. However, he appears in the 1851 and 1852 Iowa State Census. On the 1851 Census, the following are listed: John, age 42; Elisabeth, age 21; Joseph L., age 2; John R., age 0; and William O. J., age 13. On the 1852 Census, the Iowa State Census, only listed the head of household, John Turpin, with 4 males and 1 female.

John Turpin was born on December 24, 1808 in Stewart County, Tennessee. His parents were James and Nancy Ann Tatum Turpin. He married Sarah Frazier in 1838. Sarah was born on January 24, 1809 in Trigg County, Kentucky. She was the daughter of Thomas and Jane Autry Frazier.

John and Sarah were married in 1838. They had three children: Nancy Jane, Jesse, and William O. J. or Wilford. They were probably born in Nauvoo. Nancy Jane died there as well. The couple may have divorced as John married Mary Elizabeth Travis in about 1843 and Sarah married William Sharp in about 1846.

Mary Elizabeth Travis was born March 3, 1819 in Tennessee. She was the daughter of Thomas and Susan Malone Travis. The couple had John Riley whose death certificate said that he was born on May 3, 1844 and Joseph Leander born in about 1849 according to the 1851 Iowa Census. Joseph was probably born in Big Pigeon. His death certificate stated that his birth date was unknown. Samuel may have been born in Big Pigeon, in about 1851. There is no other further record of him, and he probably died young. There is no overland trail information for the family

The next record of the family is the 1860 U. S. Census and they were listed in Lehi, Utah County, Utah Territory. Added to the family were Malissa J., age 6; Catherine E., age 4; and Melvina Rosina, age 2. By the 1870 U. S. Census the family had moved to Grantsville, Tooele County, Utah. John was listed as a blacksmith. Added to the family were the following: Millie J., age 7; Mary, age 5; and William, age 3.

John Turpin died in December 1879. His death was recorded in the Mortality Index in Summit County and death was due to pneumonia. The 1880 U. S. Census enumerated Elizabeth in Ophir, Tooele County, Utah. She was listed as age 45 and a widow. Enumerated with her was a son, George Washington, age 8; her daughter, Rosa, age 2; and a granddaughter, Ida B., age 2 months.

Elizabeth passed away on December 13, 1898. She is buried in the Salt Lake City Cemetery.