

Martha Bartholomew Vail (Vale) (Dwelling #666)



On the 1850 U. S. Census, dwelling #666 in Pottawattamie County, Iowa was Martha Vale, age 46; Angela, age 13; Alvira, age 11; and George, age 9. Martha Bartholomew was born on April 8, 1830 in McLean County, Illinois. She was the daughter of General Joseph Bartholomew and Christiana Pickenpaugh. She was the widow of Gamaliel Vail. He was born June 7, 1803 in Saratoga Springs, Saratoga County, New York. His parents were Gamaliel and Lucy Manning. He died on June 8, 1844.

Gamaliel and Martha had seven children, all born in McLean County, Illinois. The children were Martha, Isaac Hawk, Christiana (died as an infant), John Bartholomew (died as an infant), Angelia, Elvira, and George. The last three were listed on the 1850 Census.

Martha and her children joined the Morris Phelps Company to travel west. They left from Kanesville on June 9, 1851. Arrival in the Valley was between September 26 thru October 1, 1851.

The first winter, the family spent in Mill Creek Canyon, Salt Lake County, Utah Territory. Martha had been given a loom and she spent the winter weaving. Her son had settled in Mountainville, further south. The youngest son, George, was driving the cows to the new residence and was caught in a snowstorm and he died of exposure in 1852.

Because of Indian trouble, Martha and other women moved back to Salt Lake City. Her next move was to Franklin County, Idaho and then to Star Valley, Wyoming. All the moves took a toll on her and she passed away on March 8, 1891 in the Salt River Valley, near Thayne, Uinta County, Wyoming.