

Robert Campbell



Robert Campbell was born in Cambridgeshire, England on March 31, 1810. His parents were John and Susannah Staples Campbell. He was the eldest of twelve children. At age three, he was afflicted with a severe disease which caused a rheumatic problem that settled in his right foot. At age seven, his left foot was also deformed. Even though he had surgeries, he demonstrated a chronic lameness. He immigrated to the United States with his brother. While living in New York, he was converted to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in 1838.

He moved to Nauvoo, Illinois, in about 1842 and met his wife there. He was married to Amelia Delilah Mikesell on August 23, 1844. Amelia was born on July 27, 1813 in Liberty, Montgomery County, Ohio to John Aylor and Catherine Mikesell.

Robert and Amelia had their first child in Mount Pisgah, Iowa Territory. The couple was on their way west from Nauvoo. Their daughter, Catherine, was born on January 23, 1847.

Robert signed the Tabernacle Post Office Petition and listed Big Pigeon as one of his residences. His son, Robert Ashmore, was probably born there on July 28, 1849.

The Campbell family started their trek west with the Edward Hunter Company. Robert was the clerk of that Company. It consisted of 261 individuals and 67 wagons. It was organized near Twelve Mile Creek close to the Missouri River. It departed on June 29, 1850 and reached the Salt Lake Valley on October 13, 1850. Martha Spence Heywood, a person on the wagon trail, wrote the following about Sunday, August 18, 1850, "Instead of enjoying ourselves by having a good meeting as we proposed and expected that Brother Hunter's division would have met midway on the occasion they having camped about ½ miles from us, but our fairy castle was destroyed by a rest day preparing meals and washing dishes is not pleasant work in a rain storm outdoors. During the day Brother Campbell called to get some medicine for his wife who was dangerously ill from jumping out of the wagon when coming down a bad place in Ash Hollow and since has continued feverish and in great pain. She had her infant in her arms." Amelia died the next day. (17)

Robert remarried on January 1, 1853 in Salt Lake City. He married Mary Dalley, the daughter of William and Anna Davis Dalley. She was born February 13, 1825 in Leominster, Herefordshire, England. She had previously been married to Robert Crook Denham and had two children. Mary and Robert had nine children—seven sons and two daughters.

Robert served as President of the Eighth Quorum of Seventy, a recorder for Salt Lake City, and Chief Clerk of the Utah Territorial Legislature. His obituary which appeared in the June 9, 1890 edition of *The Deseret Evening News*, stated, "He was taken sick in April 1889, with an affection of the kidneys and bladder, and grew worse until he became very low and was mostly insensible for a month. In September he recovered almost miraculously and got about again, to the great surprise of himself and fiends. In March 1890, he went to the monthly fast meeting, which was the last meeting he attended as he fell sick again and gradually weakened. While he had a great

desire to live to be about a century old, he was quite resigned to the will of the Lord. His ambition declined toward the last, and for about two weeks before his death he had a desire to depart. He suffered considerable pain for a day or two previous to his decease, but he became easier and his end was peace, departing this life about two o'clock on the morning on Thursday, June 5th, 1890."