

William Jackson Jolley & Sarepta Curtis



William Jolley was born to Reuben M. and Sarah Pippin Jolley in Dresden, Weakley County, Tennessee. He was born on November 8, 1829. His parents joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in 1842 and moved to Nauvoo.

When the family was driven out of Nauvoo, they moved to Keosauqua, Van Buren County, Iowa Territory where they lived. While living there, the father, Reuben, contracted pneumonia and died in 1849. This left William's mother with nine children.

The family moved to the Middle Missouri Valley and settled in Harris Grove, Pottawattamie County, Iowa. On April 8, 1850, William married Sarepta Curtis of Big Pigeon.

Sarepta was the daughter of Benjamin Gardner and Maria Dunn Curtis. She was born on April 9, 1830 in Washington, Brown County, Ohio.

If the Overland Pioneer Travel Records are correct, William left his bride in Big Pigeon and accompanied his mother and eight siblings and departed on June 17, 1850 for the Salt Lake Valley. He then returned to Big Pigeon to find his wife and a daughter, Sarah Marie, who was born on June 9, 1851. The three of them joined the Uriah Curtis Company which departed on June 28, 1852.



William and Sarepta first settled in Palmyra, Utah County, Utah Territory where Sarah Marie died on May 18, 1853. Reuben Gardner was born here on December 8, 1852. They then moved to Springville where William Jackson Jolley, Jr. was born in 1854. It was here, during the Indian War, that William was wounded while on picket duty.

The family moved to Payson, Utah County, Utah Territory where three children were born. They moved to southern Utah and in Leeds, Washington County, John Alma was born in 1864. Another move put them in Parowan, Iron County, where two more children were added to the family and then back to Leeds where Joseph Uriah was born in 1868 and Arminda Luella was born in 1871.

The family's last move took them to Mount Carmel, Kane County, Utah. It was here that Sarepta died on January 9, 1889. When there was a serious drought, many left the area, William decided he was too old to leave. He married Jacobine Sorensen in 1889 who took care of him until he died on July 2, 1905.