

Great-Great-Grand-Father of Lavaughn Tolman Fowler.

Daughter of Mary-Lou Camp of (Daughter'S Of Utah Pioneer's)

Sketch Of Reynolds Cahoon's Life.

Reynolds Cahoon was the son of William and Mehitable Hodges Cahoon. He was born 30th day of April 1790, at Cambridge, Washington Co. New York. He had three wives: Thriza Stiles; Lucina Roberts and Mary Hildrath.

Reynolds Cahoon was among the early settlers in Northern Ohio. He was in the service of his country during the war of 1812.

He was among the first that embraced the Gospel in Kirtland.

He was baptized by Elder Parley P. Pratt, Oct. 12 th. 1830.

From the time of his baptism he was closely associated with the Prophet Joseph and his brother Hyrum and their families.

On June 13 th, 1831 the fourth general Conference of the Church was held at Kirtland, Ohio. Two thousand members were in attendance and several Elders were ordained High Priests. They were selected by Revelation, through President Smith. This was the first occasion in which the priesthood had been revealed and conferred upon Elders in this dispensation, except as being held by Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery.

More than thirty missionaries were called on missions to preach the Gospel and baptize by the way. They were to travel two by two. The Revelation pertaining to the calling of Reynold's Cahoon was given June 7 th, 1831 and is recorded in the Doc. and Cov. Section 52, verse 30.

"Let My Servant Reynold's Cahoon and Samuel H. Smith also take their Journey"

Samuel H. Smith, Brother of the Prophet, one of the eight Witnesses to the Divine Origin of the Book Of Mormon, and a charter member of the Church. Samuel H. Smith and Reynold's Cahoon were appointed to go together to Missouri. They immediately departed on their Mission. On their route Samuel and Reynold's suffered great hardships such as want of food and rest. At this time nearly fifty other missionaries started for Missouri, each pair taking different routes. When they arrived the Elders met on the spot far the Temple, and dedicated the ground in Jackson County. While there Reynolds attended several Conferences, and was with the Prophet Joseph when he received several revelations. Reynold's returned home in Sept.

Samuel H. Smith and Reynold's Cahoon were the second missionaries to enter Illinois and the first to enter Kentucky.

At a special Conference in Hiram, after Reynold's had opened the meeting with prayer, there was a question which he wished to be settled, "Whether it is the will of the Lord that I ~~remai~~ should go to Zion in the spring?!" The conference voted that it was the mind of the conference that "Our brother Reynold's be not sent up to Zion in the coming spring.

Joseph Smith had been told that he would be given power to discern by the Spirit those who should go to the Land Of Zion, (Missouri) and those of the Lord's disciples who should tarry.

Later it was understood why Reynold's was retained in Kirtland. The first Temple was to be built there. The Lord had spoken "Verily I say, it is My Will that you build a House. If you keep My commandments you shall have power to build it. Let the House be built, not after the manner of the world, for I give not unto you that you shall live after the manner of the world. Therefore, let it be built after the manner which I shall show unto three of you, whomye shall appoint and ordain unto this power!"

It was a very important undertaking, A Temple of the Lord had not been built anywhere upon the earth since Heroid's reconstruction of Solomon's Temple on Mount Moriah.

2

It was imperative that men of proved integrity and reliability should be placed in charge of the ~~labor~~ labor. The church numbered about fifteen hundred souls. The Prophet selected Hyrum Smith together with Reynolds Cahoon and Jared Carter. Again the Lord speaks.

"Yea, verily I say unto you, I gave you a commandment that you should build a House, in which House, I design to endow those whom I have chosen with power from on High" and they were given the assurance if Obedient, they would have the privilege of seeing HIS Face and receiving knowledge for themselves of His Divine Nature.

May the 6th, 1833, the Lord commands them to commence laying out and preparing the foundation of the city of the Stake of Zion at Kirtland, "begining at My House and behold it must be done according to the pattern which I, The Lord have given unto you."

The lot on the South, a house for the Presidency, for work of the ministry and receiving revelations, wholly dedicated unto the Lord". The second lot on the south, "for printing of the translation of My Scriptures." It was on this date the revelations was given regarding the inheritances which Hyrum Smith, Reynold's Cahoon and Jared Carter were to receive.

"And on the third lot shall my servant Hyrum Smith receive his inheritance.

"And on the first and second lots on the North shall my servants Reynold's Cahoon and Jared Carter receive their inheritances,---

"That they may do the work which I have appointed unto them to be a committee to build mine houses, according to the mighty commandment, which I The Lord, have given unto you."

Mighty indeed must have been the Prayer of Faith of Hyrum Smith, Reynolds Cahoon and Jared Carter, for Joseph Smith, speaking as a Prophet, explains what the Lord says regarding those who shall receive an inheritance from the Lord.

"I (the Lord), say concerning the residue of the Elders of My Church, the time has not yet come for many years for them to receive their inheritance in this land, except they desire it through the prayer of faith, only as it shall be appointed unto them of the Lord".

The Lord promises to Reynold's-he should have an inheritance in Zion and possess it again in Eternity and be appointed to build himself a kingdom that should never have an end; that angels would have charge over him and he would converse with them face to face; that he would stand on earth with his companion and children, that he would sit in council with Ancients of Days with his fathers. These with other glorious blessings were "sealed upon him and his posterity forever." ~~TA~~

These inheritances were certain land grants and if the saints had remained there in Kirtland, the descendants of Hyrum, Reynolds and Jared would have been legal heirs to that property to this day. But The Lord knew that they could never become a great people in the East so they had to leave all and flee to the mountains, Recorded is the following Prophecy.

"Yet your children may possess them, but not until many years shall pass away and then I will send forth and build up ~~Kirtland~~ Kirtland and it shall be polished and refined according to MY Word."

On June 1st; 1833, a circular letter was prepared by the building committee, who went to work to gather means by subscription. Thus the building was underway. On June 5th; George Albert Smith ~~hauled~~ hauled the first load of stones for the Temple. Hyrum Smith and Reynolds Cahoon commenced to dig the trench for the walls of the Lord's House, and was finished with their own hands, Soon others volunteered and be these means the work progressed.

Reynold's divided what he had with Brigham Young that he might stay on ~~in~~ in Kirtland and help build up the Temple.

3

The Temple Committee, Hyrum, Reynold's and Jared were not only to be managers of the "House Of The Lord", but managers of the store in Kirtland, through which much of the business connected with its construction was accomplished. They also were to raise money and superintend the construction of a school building in Zion. This School was the first educational movement of the Church.

On the Kirtland Temple was inscribed "Holiness To The Lord" The Corner stone was laid July 23rd; 1833 at which time Reynolds Cahoon was chosen one of the officiating Elders, and on March 27th; 1836 their beautiful Temple was dedicated.

Not long, however could the Mormon people rejoice in their labors in the Temple in Kirtland, for its erection seemed to increase the hostile opposition to which the church had subjected since its organization. The saints were affected by failure of banks, beatings by mobs, by being driven from their homes, and towards the close of 1837 many of the leaders and most of the saints had gone to Missouri. The upper Missouri being sparsely inhabited, lent itself admirably to occupation by the Mormon people.

Reynolds Cahoon, with John Smith and Elder Marks, presided over the Stake at Kirtland until Reynolds departure to Missouri in the spring of 1838. Reynolds, his wife and family were compelled to leave behind them everything they possessed. "We turned the Key and locked the door of homes, leaving property and all we possessed in the hands of enemies and strangers, never receiving a cent for anything we owned.

Joseph Smith writes "Monday June 7th; 1838 I visited with Elders Reynolds Cahoon and Parley P. Pratt who had this day arrived in Far West.

On Tuesday the 8th; I spent the day with Elders Rigdon and Cahoon attending to some of our private and personal affairs.

June the 28th; a conference of elders and members of the Church was held for the purpose of organizing a stake, it was named Ada, - Ondi - Ahman "President Joseph Smith Jr presided and conducted this meeting. Explaining the purpose to organize a Presidency and High Council to preside over this Stake of Zion.

It was moved and seconded and carried by a unanimous voice of the assembly that John Smith for President, Reynolds Cahoon 1st Counselor and Lyman Wight second Counselor. After remarks from the newly appointed presidency the meeting closed by singing the hymn Adam-ondi-ahman, prayer by pres, Cahoon.

Adam-ondi-ahman is located immediately on the North side of Grand River, Davies County, Missouri, about twenty-five miles north of Far West and about eighty miles North of Independence. Here the Mormons gathered by the hundreds, and it sprung up over night. Originally it was called Spring Hill, but Joseph named it Adam-ondi-ahman as instructed by the Lord. It is the place where Adam shall come to visit his people or Ancient of Days shall sit, as spoken of by Daniel the Prophet.

This town was making rapid progress when the Saints saw forming again, those elements which threatened their peace. The Saints became angered and decided "that they would submit no more to such acts of despoilation, injustice and outrage"

On Wednesday July 4th, 1838 Sidney Rigdon at Far West expressed strong determination to no more submit quietly to mob violence and acts of pillage. This out-burst against injustice was probably unwise at this time, but it was a natural thing to do.

On July 4th, 1838 a procession which comprised the infantry (Militia), the Patriarchs, the President, vice-president, orator, twelve apostles, other officers and L.D.S. members commenced their march at 10 O'clock A.M. They formed a circle around the excavation and this day July 4th, 1838, the site for the Temple in Far West

was dedicated. The saints spent the day celebrating the Declaration of Independence. Joseph Smith was president of the day, Hyrum vice-president and Reynolds Cahoon acted as chief marshal.

The earlier oration given by Sidney Rigdon proved to be very damaging and a potent factor against the Saints in subsequent movements of their enemies. Thus the persecutions started. The real cause was that "the religious tenets of this people were so different from all churches of the age." A Latter-day Prophet had announced a revelation from God and the Gospel had been restored. These statements, the enemies of the church would not accept. In August 1838 the mobs began their crusade which finally resulted in exile from Missouri. On Oct. 27th, 1838- Governor Boggs issued an "Order of extermination of the Mormons". As a result armed mobs came upon them, which resulted in that terrible massacre of Haun's Mill. Without any notice to the Mormons, this mob tore down their homes and destroyed them, shot their animals, killed men, women and children.

The Governor and also authorities at Washington were called on to learn why such treatment, and asked for protection, as they had done nothing to break the laws, but were supporters of the "Constitution of the Democracy. But all efforts were futile gestures.

Their unexpected haste in leaving, the lack of preparation and the inclement weather, soon resulted in wide-spread suffering with epidemics and considerable loss of life. Property valued at two million dollars was destroyed or confiscated. This was the beginning of the story of the trek of our Ancestors, "The Mormon Pioneers".

Fifty miles up the Mississippi River from Quincy, Illinois a beautiful, green rolling ridge over-looked the mile wide "Father of Waters". At the foot of this ridge lay a low, level swamp land. This boggy, black-soiled peninsula pushed west-ward two miles into the path of the oncoming river. The Mormons learned this swamp-land was for sale and terms good. It was not a likely site to build a city, but because of poverty they had no alternative. Joseph Smith arrived from Missouri, after a six month of abuse as a political prisoner. He looked over the marshland and decided "with a little hard work" they could make it both healthful and habitable. They named it Nauvoo, a Hebrew turn meaning "Beautiful Place".

Here sprang up the largest city ~~with/wide/straight~~ in the state of Illinois. It was a beautiful city with wide straight streets, houses of brick, lumber and stone, some were large commodious and stylish. A fine hotel, university, schools, stores and churches were built. In five years its population was 20,000, almost as large as Washington D.C., and three times larger than Chicago at that time. Across the river in Iowa were 10,000 more saints and many more converts coming from the British Isles and Europe.

Nothing like it had ever happened before in the United States. Joseph Smith was a mighty genius. The New York Times called him the Great man of his age, "whose history will rank with those who, in one way or another, have stamped their impress strongly on Society, "He is a extraordinary character, A Prophet-hero."

Joseph Smith took no credit, "He gave it all to God and insisted that the Church would continue whether he was the president or some-one else took his place.

On January 19, 1841, came a command from the Lord "I command you, all ye My Saints, to build a house unto Me--For a baptismal font there is not upon the earth, that they, My Saints, may be baptized for those who are dead--for this ordinance belongeth to My House, and cannot be accepted to Me, only in days of your poverty where in ye are not able to build a House unto Me!"

Reynolds Cahoon who was officiating as a counselor over a branch in Iowa, was called to Nauvoo in October of 1840, to assist in the building a second great "House Of The Lord."

5

A committee of three was appointed Reynolds Cahoon, Alpheus Cutler and Elias Higbee. In February Elder Cutler laid out the foundation of the building. On the 18th; the brethren commenced to dig the cellar. On April 6th- 1841 the corner stones were laid for the Temple. The site being twelve blocks from the residence of the Prophet and an equal distance from the river on three sides. His home stood near the riverbank and the Temple was erected on the bluffs to the north.

The Log house which Joseph lived in was known as the "Old Homestead". It was the first Indian trading post in Illinois. Joseph remained there until the Mansion House was completed. Reynolds Cahoon assisted in building the Mansion House. Which was built to accommodate visitors and also where the prophet and family lived. They were living there at the time of the martyrdom of the Prophet. Reynolds also assisted in building the Nauvoo House which was for the boarding of strangers, and weary travelers, that they might find health and ~~stay~~ safety while he shall contemplate the word of the Lord.

The Font was dedicated by Brigham Young on November 8th, 1841. And on Sunday the 21st, of the same month the first baptisms were performed.

The Latter-Day-Saints were a happy people and welcomed their days of rejoicing together.

At the call of Joseph Smith a meeting was held in 1842 to organize a band. There were ~~thirteen~~ fourteen present. William Cahoon, played a bass drum, Andrew Cahoon piccolo, Daniel Cahoon piccolo and Rais Bell Cahoon a snare drum.

In those days the Mormon people experienced joy one day and sorrow the next. In 1842 The Governor of the state issued a warrent for the arrest of the Prophet Joseph. Joseph retained Justin Butterfield as council. The case great interest. Present were Joseph Smith his twelve Apostles and leading men of the state. So crowded was the court room that some ladies, among them Mrs Lincoln and one of Judge Pope's daughters.

The judge after hearing testimony discharged the Mormon leaders. The leaders sent manypetitions to the authorities of the United States. Joseph Smith appeals to his own native state Vermont, soliciting their replies and rules of action.

Joseph relates to them the sufferings of the people in Missouri, telling of the many lost lives, how they had been robbed of an immense amount of property, and in vain, they had sought redress by all constitutional, legal and honorable means.

Three men were appointed to draft Resolutions. They were W.W. Phelps, Reynolds Cahoon and Hosea Stout. They directed their appeals to Governor of Missouri and various authorities of the states of the United States. They related the persecutions of the people of Nauvoo relative to the demanding of the body of Joseph Smith, as well as the common, cruel practice of kidnapping citizens of Illinois, and forcing them across the Mississippi river, and putting them in dungeons and prisons in Missouri.

Appeals to the governors brings no relief.

The enemies of Joseph have now mustered their strength against him and his brother Hyrum Smith.

Joseph called a meeting with a few of his close friends and associates. He requested Reynolds and Alpheus Cutler to stand guard at the Mansion House and not ~~let~~ admit any strangers inside the House. He (Joseph) asked O.P. Rockwell to accompany him on a short journey, and Rockwell replied he would. Joseph called Hyrum, Willard Richards and others into the upper room and said, "Brethren here is a letter from the governor, which I wish read," After it was read Joseph remarked "There is no mercy, there is no mercy here." Hyrum said, "No justas

6

as sure as we fall into their hands, we are dead men." Joseph replied "what shall we do, brother Hyrum? Hyrum replied, "I don't know"-- All at once Joseph's countenance brightened and he said, "The way is open, it is clear to my mind what to do, all they want is myself and Hyrum. Brethern go tell everybody to go about their business, not to collect in groups, but scatter about. There is no doubt they will search for us, but let them, for no harm will come to you or your property, not even a hair in your head. We will cross the river tonight and go west. Rockwell took Joseph and Hyrum across the river and returned for horses. When he returned he found the governor had ordered Joseph's and Hyrum's arrest, but would see to it that they got a fair trial. Emma Smith sent letters by Rockwell and Reynolds Cahoon asking him to return and give himself up. L.D. Wasson and Hiram Kimball likewise were persuaded by Emma to induce Joseph and Hyrum to start back to Nauvoo. These men went to Joseph as true friends to explain the governor's letter and deliver the message to him from his wife Emma.

June the 24th-- Joseph, Hyrum and 13 others went to Carthage and gave themselves up. No trial had been held, but they were thrust into jail. When Joseph went to Carthage to deliver himself up to the pretended requirements of the law, two or three days previous to his assassination, he said, "but I am going like a lamb to the slaughter; but I am calm as a summer's day morning; I have a conscience void of offense toward God, and towards all men. I shall die an innocent, in cold blood, and it shall yet be said of me--He was murdered in cold blood."

Reynolds Cahoon was in Carthage with Joseph and Hyrum, and Joseph instructed Reynolds to return to Nauvoo with all haste and fetch a number of documents for the promised trial, "and to further substantiate this fact. We are told "Elder Cahoon returned to Nauvoo from Carthage for some papers, but Joseph and Hyrum were assassinated before his return.

Just three months after the death of Joseph and Hyrum, Reynolds and several others were "illegally arrested for treason" and forced to go to trial at Carthage. Can one imagine the emotions in their hearts, --Carthage, the same city and jail where their beloved friends were so recently murdered.

The date was Wednesday Sept. 24th-- 1845. Since the court was not ready for trial, the company proceeded to the jail where Joseph and Hyrum were martyred. The blood of Hyrum still stained the floor where he fell. The walls were marked with bullet holes.

Reynolds returned to courthouse where, Daniel Spenser, Orsen Spenser, brother Richards, Taylor, Phelps, Rich, Cutler, Scott, Hunter, and Clayton were ~~examined~~ taken to Justice Barnes office. Here they were put under examination and asked if they wanted witnesses, ~~subpoena~~ subpoenaed. They replied "NO"

DeBackman, the person who made the affidavit on which they were arrested, after being sworn was asked if he personally knew the defendants or any of them, he answered that he did not, and stated he made the affidavit upon strength of rumors which he heard at the time, and because of his great prejudice against the Mormons, that he believed the reports and did think that the Mormon leaders were guilty of treason. The court according to law, dismissed the case at 3 P.M. Reynolds and his friends started on their return home.

Reynolds Cahoon was one of twenty Elders who went with Brigham Young to the attic of the Temple in Nauvoo early Sunday morning of Nov. 30th--1845 and prayed that the Lord would hear their prayers and deliver them from their enemies until they had accomplished His will in His House. They asked for blessings on their families and that the Lord would lead them to a land of peace.

7

During the summer of 1845 the Saints heard threats of incendiarism and mobings. President Brigham Young called the Saints together and started making plans in case of attack. He assigned men to head companies of fifty, if and when they had to move on to an unknown land, where if God was willing they might find peace.

Joseph and Hyrum did not live to see the Temple completed. It was dedicated quietly on April 30th, 1846 by Joseph Young a brother of Brigham Young, and publicly dedicated on May 1st, 1846, by Orson Hyde. On Dec. 10th, 1845 the first endowments were given and on this date Thriza and Reynolds received their endowments. From Dec. 10th-1845 to Feb. 7th 1846 when the Temple was closed for ordinance work more than 5,500 endowments had been given. Recorded in the Microfilm dept. of the Utah Genealogical Library in Salt Lake City, Utah The film is known as Nauvoo Sealings. The Celestial Marriages of Thriza ^{8 files} Lucina Roberts and Mary Hildrath and Reynolds Cahoon, were performed by Brigham Young, on January, 16th, 1845.

There were only a few short months for the Saints to enjoy the blessings of this glorious Temple work, until they were driven out. On March 9th, 1846 Reynolds and brother Cutler were given instructions to "roll out their Companies as quickly as possible, On this date the Reynolds Cahoon family left their beautiful City. During the summer of 1846, many of the Saints homes had been burned and there was constant fear that their Temple would share the same fate. It was now in possession of the mobs, the once hallowed structure stood as an abandoned building.

After the Saints had evacuated Nauvoo and the Trek from Illinois to Utah was nearly completion, the news came to them that the Temple had been destroyed, nothing left but the naked and blackened walls, the catastrophe occurred early Monday morning, October 9th, 1848.

Reynolds Cahoon and family were stationed at various places along the way to assist saints which were coming. Thus they did not arrive in Salt Lake until the second season, Or until Sept. 24th-1849.

Reynolds assisted in building Salt Lake, and many surrounding communities. He continued to occupy many important positions in His Church and country. Reynolds took many leading discussions in their many problems, such as keeping canyons, and roads in repair, managing the church farm, acting as judge or counter of games for extermination of ravins, hawks, wolves, foxes, and etc. He was also appointed on a committee to erect a building for an "Armory". He was a speaker at the general Conferences and at each conference is sustained as first Counselor to the High Priests Quorum.

On April th- 1851 at General Conference a motion was read and carried by acclamation, to build a Temple to the name of the LORD, in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Reynolds Cahoon did labor many years here, no record of any specific job, but where ever his services was needed most.

Reynolds was the first and only private owner of the lots where the Great Salt Lake Theatre was built. One day Brigham Young came to Reynolds and said " Brother Cahoon we need your lots, we must build a theatre." No doubt there were mingled thoughts in the minds of Reynolds and Thriza. These lots were probably the only property they owned. They were valuable lots in the heart of Salt Lake City. Reynolds had given everything of worldly possession or value to their church. They ~~dedicated every~~ had dedicated every movement of their lives for the Gospels sake. Now they were aged and could no longer do hard ~~work~~ and laborous work, for their own maintenance, nor their Church.

No there were many things Thriza and Reynolds could not do to help build a city of Zion in the desert, but they did own this property where this majestic "Play House could be erected."

8

"Yes" they reasoned, these lots can perform a mission for us, and give or sell, our church shall have them." ON April 23rd, 1860, Reynolds Cahoon conveyed this property to Brigham Young for the purpose of erecting the Salt Lake Theatre.

Reynolds Cahoon died one year before the completion of the Salt Lake Theatre.

The colorful life of Reynolds Cahoon came to a close at Twelve O'clock, Monday, April 29th, 1861, at the age of 71. He died of dropsey, at his residence in South Cottonwood Ward. He was laid to rest in a beautiful lot in Salt Lake City Cemetary.

The History of Reynolds Cahoon was submitted by His Great-Great-Grand- daughter, Eavaughn Tolman Fowler--- daughter of Moseph Holbrook Tolman and Mary Ellen Cahoon Tolman