


Levi Ward Reed

And His Ancestors

Personal Data	
Born: 15 November 1831	
Died: 30 November 1893	
Wife: Matilda Eve Pettit	
Father: John Reed	
Mother: Rebecca Bearce	
Siblings: Lee, Caroline, Clarissa, John, William, Susanna, Joel, Lydia, Laura, Ira	

We are informed in the book "Colonial Families of America" that Sir William Reed born in 1657 was the son of Sir Thomas IV and Mary Cornwall daughter of Lord Thomas Cornwall. William Reed was born at Brockett Hall, England. His wife and 3 children he sailed from London England, in the ship Defense and arrived in Boston Massachusetts in October 1635. He was the oldest of any of the Puritan emigrants in America by the name of Reed. He helped colonize the New England States. He is the paternal ancestor of the Reed's in America and almost every state in the union has some of his descendants. Lots of the land in other states were pioneered and settled by these descendants. These brave people, from the beginning were pioneers. They came here to a new land of freedom to build homes, sow seeds, and to think and believe as they wished. They had hard times and even had to fight Indians to survive. Later the descendants fought in all the wars Continental War, Revolutionary War, Civil War, and all other wars to the present time. They made this a free America. When I sing "America the Beautiful", I sing it with a lot of feeling.

My parents did hear from the Reeds in the other states through newspaper clippings, letters etc.

When I was a little girl I remember my folks talking about a news item in the paper. Father's second cousin James Reed of Missouri, who resembled my father as much as if he had been a twin brother was a U.S. Senator from that state. After his first wife died he married a very wealthy woman by the name of Nellie Dawn. She was in the manufacturing business making housedresses, robes and negligees. Because of her wealth she was one of the first cases of kidnapping in America. Senator James Reed paid a tremendous amount of money to get her back alive. This was a long time before the Lindberg kidnapping case and was nation wide news.

I remember my father getting a letter telling him about another Reed (I forgot his first name) who was from Iowa. He and a daughter were traveling to San Diego California to see his son, who at that time was president of a bank. They were traveling in a private car. My father and mother took me to have dinner with them when they stopped in Salt Lake City. I was about 5 years old. I was dressed in my best dress. It had an accordion pleated skirt. The bonnet I wore was faced with old rose colored silk, sheered under the brim. It had a small rose-colored plume on the top at the side. It came down low on my neck at the back, but still showed my curls. I was so excited when the African American porter helped us up the steps of the train car, but what do you think took my eye the most? The beautiful glass colored hanging kerosene lamp. When the porter turned it up we had light for the whole evening

Now I am going to leave out a lot of history from 1635 until 1783. I will tell you of John Reed born in 1783 and his wife Rebecca Bearce Reed born in 1785. They first resided in New Hampshire, then moved to New York State and later moved to Rome, Ohio, and later Kirtland, Ohio. They were some of the very early members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. They walked and talked with and followed the prophet Joseph Smith. They had seen so much persecution and hardship that it made them firmer believers in the faith.

John Reed was a blacksmith by trade and did most of the ironwork on the first Mormon Temple at Kirkland, Lake County, Ohio. They had been thinking for a long time about coming to Utah, but they had a big family and they knew they could not bring them all. It was a hard decision to make. Finally they decided to join a Mormon Company and go to Utah. They would take only 3 children and send for the others later after they were settled. So they took an older daughter Clarissa born 1814, a son Levi Ward Reed born 1831 and son Ira Beckwith Reed born in 1835. Just think how hard it must have been to leave most of your children behind. Some of them did come later.

My Grandfather was Levi Ward Reed. He was only 17 years old, but served as a scout for the wagon train. He would ride ahead and scout foul and game for food and watch for Indians and dangerous places.

His mother and father had so many good thoughts about coming to the new land of Zion and living in peace, but they were destined never to see the gathering place of the Saints. They fell victims to cholera and were both buried on the plains, somewhere near the Des Moines River in 1846. The 3 children without further misadventure' reached the Salt Lake valley November 1848.

Members of the wagon Train were very kind to the children. With them was a family Ethan Pettit and his wife and 3 daughters. The two daughters were a little younger than the two Reed boys. So the Reed boys fell in love with the two Pettit girls. After they arrived in Salt Lake in 1848. Levi Ward Reed married Mitilda Pettit in 1852. They

lived in the vicinity of what is now the 19th Ward. Their first 2 children were born there.

I visited the 19th Ward. It is the only Mormon Ward house I have seen that has a dome on it. It was erected in 1889. My father was the 3rd child born at his uncle's (Thomas Steed's) farm in Farmington, Utah in 1856.

He used to talk of his mother and said she was of French descent and was pretty as a picture.

Levi Ward Reed, having come from a section in Ohio where land was along the riverbank was considered the most desirable, the young Pioneer chose to settle on the Jordon River. He secured land that was later known as North Point. It was west of the river from 9th North northward. He was one of the first to dwell on the west side of the river. With a tot of hard work the land proved to be excellent for gardening. He built a home that was for many years a veritable beauty spot, producing all manners of fruits and vegetables including celery. They were blessed with eleven children. [My father's home has been taken down; even the old trees are gone, like Baldwin's grove]

Shortly after his arrival in Salt Lake he was a member of the first party to explore the Great Salt Lake in an effort to ascertain if it had an outlet.

In 1869 misfortune came to him again. His wife and some of the children were taken ill with the measles and on March 20 1869 she passed away. Two of the children died with the same disease within 2 weeks of her death. He was broken hearted and did not re-marry for 10 years. His second wife was Augusta Larsen. They had five children born to them.

When the North Point Ward was organized he was chosen to serve as bishop. He held that position he held until his death in November 1893.

He also was one of the first to begin manufacturing of salt from the waters of the Great Salt Lake. The manufacture of salt in those days was a very hard rugged work with oxen and pick and shovel. At this time there were Mormon missionaries in Europe and the Scandinavian countries. There were a lot of converts that wanted to come to Utah but did not have the money. He furnished the means in the nature of a loan. After they arrived here, if they wanted to work on the salt ponds he had a job for them. If they did not want to work, he helped them find other jobs. Through his kindness he would provide homes for them and help them get a start in the new country. It is said he brought more than 200 people here, most of them Swedish or Scandinavian. He liked them for their honesty and they were hard workers.

I recently went with a sister to an attorney. She had some legal work she was attending to. She told him her name. He asked who sent her there. I spoke up and said, "We are daughters of Ira Allen Reed. He was the son of Levi Ward Reed, who brought your father and uncle to Utah". He then rose from his desk to shake our hands. You know he said, "I have father's book of memories. Just last night I was reading that story. I asked, "Did it say how Levi Ward Reed said to your Father who was only 13 years old and was doing hard work on the salt ponds. "Boy you are not cut out for this hard work. Why don't you just go to school"? If you don't have the money", I will send you to school. So he went to school and latter became an attorney.

The following description of Grandpa's character is quote from the Deseret News November 1893.

Bishop Levi Ward Reed, Pioneer, was known as a good man, modest and retiring in his disposition, his associates in every capacity were drawn to him by the affinity which gives attractiveness to the honest, stalwart and true. In his capacity as Bishop in the Ward where he resided the poor were the special object of his love and kindness. He extended aid in quite a way. His private means being liberally used for the benefit of others. The object of his generosity was not confined to his own Ward. An instance of his practical ideas and methods of helping others may be cited. He furnished means for a considerable number of people to immigrate from other lands and Europe to Utah. His kindness did not stop on merely enabling them to come here; it extended to open the way for them to get a start in this new land. This is one of the ways Utah was built by unselfish people.¹

¹This history of the Levi Ward Reed and his ancestors was read at the "Daughter's of the Utah Pioneers Adella West Hoagland Camp March 14, 1974 by Bertha Bernetta Reed Hayden