

David Wood and Catherine Crites

Catherine & David did baptisms for deceased kin in the Mississippi River previous to the completion of the Font in the Nauvoo Temple. She has been described as a quiet, complacent, compliant, devoted companion and mother.

She had two gingham dresses that she treasured. They were treasures from the past. They were her link to a more plentiful happy life.

While they were living in American Fork, Utah they had a very bad fire which burned their home and all their material possessions. She felt so sorry about losing those two dresses.

Her parents had come from Germany, members of the Palatine people who came to America because of religious persecution. They had settled in the Mohawk Valley, in New York. An act of naturalization of fifteen persons dated 15 January 1771 included George Crites, her father. It was signed by Abraham C. Cuyler, Mayor of Albany New York, and Steven Delancey, Clerk.

David, his wife and their oldest four children were all baptized members of the church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in April 1840. They owned a sugar plantation when they lived in Canada and were financially well off.

They sold their property and moved about 300 miles to the southwest to the New York Stake of the church. They joined a wagon train of Canadian converts headed for Nauvoo in Oct 1840. David bought property, built a comfortable home, and actively participated in church and community affairs until they were driven out along with the rest of the Saints in 1846.

David was a builder and he spent a lot of time working on the construction, and the finishing of the Nauvoo Temple. He and his wife Catherine both received their endowments and were sealed in the Nauvoo Temple 2 Feb 1846.

David helped an earlier company make a trip across the plains in 1851 so that he was familiar with the trail. In 1852 when he took his large family they did not get lost and lose time as some companies did.

When they were living in American Fork and word was received that they needed help to rescue the Handcart Saints who were stranded in the mountains east of Salt Lake. David Wood was one of ten men who supplied a wagon, a few horses, flour, and his son Oscar as driver, to help with the rescue in 1856.

Again when Johnston's Army was approaching the Salt Lake Valley and the call went out for men to defend Salt Lake City, their son Oscar was among the 12 men who went from American Fork to join the militia in Salt Lake City under Daniel H. Wells, of the first Presidency, an apostle, who in Nauvoo had been Lieutenant General of the Nauvoo Legion. His orders were to stop Johnstons Army.

It was 1859 when David and Catherine moved from the big city into Provo Valley where there was more snow, it was a little colder, with a lot more water and pasture ground, more like Canada, where they came from. Here they built a home as they had done in Canada, Nauvoo, and American Fork and lived out the rest of there lives.