

HISTORY OF BENJAMIN MARK SMITH

On January 1, 1834 about 25 miles east of Nashville, Tennessee, a son was born to Warren and Lydia Alexander Smith. Christened Benjamin Mark Smith, this boy was a grandson of Charles Smith who was killed in the battle of New Orleans.

Warren Smith, Benjamin's father, joined the Latter-day Saint Church in 1836, moving with his family to Far West in 1837. After the Saints were driven out in 1839, they established camp on the banks of the Mississippi River. Here it was that little Benjamin Mark, only five years old, lost his mother, Lydia Alexander Smith. During the course of the long cold winter, she died and was buried there.

After the loss of his wife Lydia, Warren Smith married the widow of another Warren Smith who was killed at the Haun's Mill Massacre. Benjamin's father worked for many years as a policeman. During the course of his life, he was a very intimate friend of the Prophet Joseph Smith, often serving as his personal bodyguard. He also aided in the construction of the Nauvoo Temple. Benjamin Mark was one of the first children baptized in the Nauvoo Temple during the year 1844.

In 1850 Benjamin Mark came to Utah settlements establishing residence in American Fork in Utah County. It was here he met and later married Elizabeth Agnes Wood in 1855. She was the daughter of David Wood and Catherine Crites. This family originally lived in Osnabruck, Canada, where Elizabeth was born July 11, 1836. A well-to-do family, they willingly sacrificed all they had to join the Latter-Day Saint Church. They too, came to Utah and settled in American Fork.

After the marriage, this young couple lived for a short time in American For, later moving to California and then to Nevada. It was here in Carson, Nevada, their first child, Winnifred Catherine was born November 2, 1856. Later they returned to Utah and American Fork where Martha Ann was born December 12, 1858.

Once more the Smith family moved to California and during their stay in Parkeville, Amados County, another daughter, Amanda was born October 11, 1860 and later on October 1, 1862, Warren David was born.

The Smith family now left California and returned to Wasatch County, Utah where they settled about a mile south of Midway on Snake Creek at Cottonwood Grove. On December 29, 1864, Mark Alexander was born; Stephen H. was born Jun 16, 1867; Charles William, February 9, 1870; Lydia Melissa, August 2, 1873; and Carson Oscar, September 29, 1875.

Benjamin and Elizabeth lived the rest of their lives in Midway, Wasatch County, Utah. In later life, they sold their farm, moving to a home in town. Both were staunch Latter-Day Saints and very faithful to their religious beliefs.

Benjamin Mark Smith died February 15, 1912, a victim of cancer. After two weeks of illness with pneumonia, Elizabeth Agnes Wood Smith died February 4, 1911.