

JEREMIAH ROBEY STORY

Jeremiah Robey was born April 14, 1809 in West Virginia and died on November 22, 1903, in Midway, Utah at age 94.

He learned the trade of carpenter and cabinetmaker, and was away working in Indiana when his wife and three children were converted to the church and moved to Nauvoo to live with their Aunt. They wrote him that the work was plentiful in Nauvoo so he met them there in 1841. His wife had been a member of the Church for three years but he had yet to be converted.

In Nauvoo, he met the Prophet Joseph Smith who with others taught him the gospel. He described his conversion to the Church on April 21, 1899 at an Old Folks Party at Vanwagoner Hall in Midway as follows:

I was born on the 14th of April, 1809, in Harrison County, West Virginia. I heard the gospel and came to Nauvoo in 1841. I was baptized in the river by the Prophet Joseph Smith for myself and afterwards, for my dead father (May of 1841). Brother Joseph put his arms around me and said, "Now, your father is happy." [In October of 1841, he was ordained an Elder by Wilford Woodruff.]

I worked on the temple; did all the turning [lathe work] for that temple and hung the last door that was hung in it. The people were poor and were harassed by mobs. I saw all of those troubles.

I received my endowments which paid me well for all I did. Got no other pay. I was at Nauvoo when Brother Joseph was killed. I had my hand on his horse when he left for Carthage. Brother Joseph said, "I am going like a lamb to the slaughter." Brother Graham, came and wanted counsel from Brother Joseph who said, "I cannot give you counsel now, I am going to heaven before I come back again." If we there had been in possession of our guns, more than one man would have been killed; as it were only one man was killed by Porter Rockwell.

Jeremiah first lived in a log home on lot 6, only 100 yards north of the temple. He later built a brick home on lot 58, which is where the visitors center's parking lot is now.

After receiving his endowments, he with many of the other Saints, left Nauvoo in the winter of 1846 and first moved to Mt. Pisgah, and then to Council Bluffs. He later joined the David Wood Company of 260 Saints who departed from Kanessville, Iowa on June 20, 1852, to cross the plains to the Salt Lake Valley.

On that western trek, his 16 year-old daughter met 19 year-old Church convert, Sidney H. Epperson, who was in the David Wood Company. On September 17, 1852, they arrived in the Salt Lake Valley. Sid married his "girl of the plains" on November 7, 1853.