

HISTORY OF JAMES CLINGER, born 3 Feb 1813

James Clinger was born 3 Feb 1813 in Bedford, Bedford, Pennsylvania to Henry Clinger and Ann Reader Ashcom. He was baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on 18 April 1842 by William Smith, the brother of Joseph Smith the Prophet.

James married Harriet Chapin daughter of Adolphus Chapin and Katherine Billings on 7 Dec 1845 in Illinois. James and Harriet were mobbed with the rest of the Saints in the Nauvoo area and driven out of their homes. They moved west and settled in the State of Iowa. Three of their children were born in Iowa: Martha Ann, James Henry and Elmira Zallotta.

As Martha Ann was born 19 Nov 1846, Van Buren Co., Iowa; and James Henry 10 Feb 1849 and Elmira Zallotta 26 Apr 1851, both in Pigeon creek (Council Bluffs), Pottawattamie, Iowa, we might ask the question: Were James Clinger and family in Council Bluffs when Brigham Young was sustained as President of the Church 27 Dec 1847? While in Pottawattamie County James assisted in making wagons for the Saints so that they could make the trip across the plains. His family suffered a great deal while he was doing this. However, they were prepared by the Lord and they always felt to rejoice.

The following quote from "The Gathering of Zion" by Wallace Stegner, pp 208, 209, adds insight to the situation in Iowa.

"The poor can live without the luxuries of life on the road and in the valley as well as in Pottawattamie." In those instructions was established the pattern of hard frugality that would mark the Mormon emigration for many years to come. Frugality had the double effect of permitting the gathering of more Saints per dollar, and of simultaneously testing and trying them and making them strong in the faith.

In the minds of the Twelve, the gathering of the Pottawattamie Saints took precedence over emigration from abroad. They had hopes of doubling the population of the valley every year, and of using the augmented manpower of each year to raise grain to support a doubled population the next. To that end, they held back for the time being the elders who might have been sent on missions abroad, and dedicated them to the raising of crops. Later, the word

was, they would go out "by the thousands." Until they did, the most easily gathered, and the most capable of becoming immediately productive frontier farmers, were the Mormons stranded on the former Pottawattamie lands. But moving them did not turn out to be a job for a season, as clearing Winter Quarters had been. Not only was the P.E. Fund too small to help all who needed help, but there was a considerable reluctance among the Mormons in Iowa to uproot themselves once again just when their squatter farms began to produce. It took three more years before all of them who had not drifted away from the Church could be removed to Utah. In addition to the 500-600 wagons of 1849, about 700 went out in 1850, at least 500 in 1851, and 1,300-1,400, carrying perhaps as many as 10,000 people, in 1852.

James and Harriet Clinger and family joined the Thomas C.D. Howell Company and left Pottawattamie, Iowa 7 Jun 1852 on their journey to Utah. They were members of the Third Ten captained by Wm. Whitehead.

Third Company

Capt. Thos. C. D. Howell's company consisting of members of the Little Pigeon Creek Branch, Pottawattamie County, Iowa, left the Missouri River 7 June 1852. The number of emigrants is not known but numbered probably about 200 souls. Part of the company arrived in Salt Lake City 27 Sep 1852. (Journal History, Church Emigration 1852)

The roster of Saints in the Howell Co. is found in the Journal History, after 31 Dec 1852, pp 12-18 in which these are listed:

Third Ten

Wm. Whitehead, Captain

and family from Huntsville

Branch

W. Wm Walkin (Walker) Sr " " " "

Wm Atkin Jr (Watkins) " " " "

Mary Spencer, widow, " " " " "

Alexander Stanley " " " " "

Bro Chattering from same part of Pottawattamie Co., Iowa

James Clinger and family from Huntsville Branch

The Third Ten consisted of 88 souls, 14 wagons, 155 cattle, no horses, 84 sheep and 18 calves. There was sickness on the way and on 5 Jul 1852 Elmira Zallotta died and was buried on the side of a hill near the Platte River; she was 14 months old.

Thomas C.D. Howell wrote the following Wednesday evening 4 Aug 1852:

"According to the request of the Presidency and particularly to accomplish the desire of our hearts, we are now on our way to the Valley of the Mountains, thereto we are come and the hand of the Lord has been over us for good. We forward this epistle so that our brethren and acquaintances may see we are on our way, hoping it will give comfort and consolation for there is a prospect of our meeting again. We hope to have breadstuff to carry us through but should it be otherwise we will let you know."

James Clinger and family arrived in Salt Lake City 27 Sep 1852. After a short stay in Salt Lake the family moved to Weber County. Mary Jane was born 8 Jun 1853 in South Weber; William Carlos was born 24 Nov 1855 and George Francis 25 Jun 1858, both in Ogden. While in Ogden James helped build Bingham's Fort. The following is a description from Daughters of Utah Pioneers Lesson for April 1987, pp 336, 337:

In 1855, the settlers decided it was necessary to build a wall for protection from the Indians. The houses were built of logs; each log was notched, the first with one notch, the next with two notches and so on to the top log. This was done so that when the houses had to be torn down they could be rebuilt without remeasuring and refitting. All houses faced the inside of the fort.

Later, when Chauncey Stone was excavating for a home, he found a rock foundation which the settlers decided was the base of the wall of Bingham's Fort. It was located north of Second Street, west of Washington Boulevard and extended northwest along the Harrisville road. According to the ward records, the wall was 120 rods by 60 rods, 6 feet thick and 12 feet high. Built of rocks and mud, it was completed under the direction of Mr. Goodale.

There was a gate, or entrance, in the west side and had it been completed there would have

been one on the east. In 1855 of '56, Brigham Young visited the people at the stronghold. He advised them to abandon it and build a real city between the Ogden and Weber rivers. As a result, the work on the wall stopped and most of the people moved into Ogden. Within a year only a few families remained, and Thomas Richardson of Slaterville was put in charge, with Robert E. Baird, William Hutchins, John Laird and Josiah Parry as leading teachers.

In 1856 and 1857, all able-bodied men in the fort were called into the militia, under General Chauncey W. West, to resist Johnston's Army. In the spring of 1858, all moved south except a few who were left to either guard property or destroy it in case the army entered victorious. In the fall of 1858, the settlers returned to their homes in the fort.

Life was not easy in Ogden. The family lost their crops to grasshoppers. This forced the family to live on Sego bulbs and wild greens. When James would bring in a rabbit for food it was a real treat. Conditions were very trying and difficult for James and his family in this northern part of the Territory. As a result they only stayed for a short period of time and then they moved south to Lake View. Their home was on property near the Geneva Steel Plant.

The first thing they did after moving was to plant a garden. Their oldest daughter used to relate an incident of interest in connection with their first planting. They had seeds that were very carefully guarded since no more were available if they should be destroyed. One day as they were working at the planting of the garden, James asked Martha to go to the house, which at this early stage of their settlement was only a dug-out, and bring the cucumber seeds which they had left in a saucer on the table. As Martha entered the room she noted a black hen they had acquired was on the table eating the cucumber seeds. There was only one or two of them remaining. She tearfully told her father what had happened, and he ordered her to catch the black hen immediately. He then killed her and recovered the precious seeds from her crop, which when planted yielded a bounteous crop of cucumbers..

James and Harriet had three more children born to them while they lived in Lake View. Elnora was born 28 Oct 1860, Charles Edward 17 Feb 1863 died 18

Jun 1863, and John Riggs 28 Nov 1864.

The Josephites had organized their church and came to them preaching many false doctrines. Through their persuasion James left the Church and started East with his family. The two older children, Martha Ann and James Henry, remained in Utah.

They went as far as Malad, Idaho, where they lived for two years. A daughter, Laura Catherine, was born there 1 Oct 1867. They left Malad and continued on their journey East. They settled in Columbus, Platte, Nebraska, where two more children, were born to them -- Harriet Elizabeth who lived only from 11 May 1870 to 8 Aug 1870 and Lucy Elizabeth born 6 Sep 1871.

According to "History of Lake View" by Christian Jeppesen, Jr., James and his family returned to Lake View in 1872. It was said that their son, James Henry, went to Nebraska and persuaded his parents to return to Utah by railroad.

James was re-baptized 4 Jul 1880 by James Cobbley, and Harriet was re-confirmed 18 Jul 1880 by Thomas Woolley (Pleasant Grove Ward Records).

James was five feet six inches tall. He weighed one hundred seventy pounds. He had blue eyes and reddish-brown hair. During his lifetime he enjoyed good health. He died 6 Sep 1884 in Pleasant Grove, Utah, and his wife, Harriet, died 22 Jun 1883 in Lake View. Both are buried in the Provo City Cemetery.

Note: Through research by H. M. Hegyessy, Jr. for Areta S. Blake (beginning in Feb 1884) record was found that William Clinger, brother of James, was a member of the Church, but record of his baptism could not be found. He crossed the plains in the company commanded by Capts. Daniel A. Miller and John W. Cooley with the wagon of Capt. Cooley. They started from Pottawattamie Co., Iowa, 9 Jun 1853 (Thursday) and arrived in Salt Lake 9 Sep 1853. Only his name was given. (JH 9 Sep 1853 pp 2, 9, 21)

William's name was among those who attended a meeting of the Garden Grove Camp, Iowa (F001923). Garden Grove, Iowa, was 60 miles northwest of Rocust creek and about half way across Iowa. Lourt creek was near the present day Iowa, Missouri border. He is listed as age 35 in the 1850 census, Pottawattamie County, Iowa, (442963 p 215 #703). Evidently he did not receive a patriarchal blessing, and no record has been found of him since arriving in Utah.

According to Martha Ann Clinger Boren, daughter of James Clinger, William Clinger never married. However evidence has been located of a wife and two children who remained behind with his mother, Ann R. Ashcom and his sister Martha who married Joshua Helsor, who joined with the Josephites. [Details and sources for this family of William Clinger can be found in FamilySearch.]

Martha Matilda Clinger, sister of James, was also a member of the Church. She married Joshua Helsor 7 May 1841 in Nauvoo, and their first 3 children were born there. The next two were born in Potawattamie County. She received a patriarchal blessing by William Smith in the City of Joseph (Nauvoo) under the name of Martha M. Helcer, born 23 Dec 1820, Washington Co., Ohio, daughter of Henry Clinger and Ann R. (392658 vol 5 #177). Her husband, Joshua, also received a blessing (#176). They did not come to Utah but instead went to Michigan and then to Wisconsin, joining the Josephites. Four more children were born to them in these states. Martha's mother, Ann R. Ashcom, lived with them for many years.

Martha Ann C. Boren stated that another sister of James, Ann, born about 1817, married Anthony Daniels and remained in Pennsylvania.

Sources:

Birth data from patriarchal blessing #392658, vol 5, p 177, given 25 Aug 1845 in Nauvoo by William Smith, "son of Henry and Ann R. Clinger"; also from Seventy ordination record, 820138 1C, p 297, 54th quorum, ordained 14 June 1857 by L. A. Shirliffe.

Material taken from the history of Harriet Chapin Clinger written by her daughter Martha A. Boren; also another history which had no source. Re-written and edited by Eulene Barrett Adams January 1978.

CR100\137 #1 Journal History, January 25, 1852--March 19, 1853 Supplement to the Journal History #11. A copy of this is in the Special Collections Room of the BYU Library.

"History of Lake View Ward 1855-1951" by Christian Jeppesen, Jr., published by Grant Stevenson, 1969, pp. 54, 55