

## *James Clinger and Harriet Ann Chapin*



Born: February 3, 1813  
Bedford, Bedford, Pennsylvania  
Died: September 6, 1884  
Pleasant Grove, Utah, Utah



Born: June 6, 1828  
Bath, Steuben, New York  
Died: June 22, 1883  
Lake View, Utah, Utah

James Clinger was born in Pennsylvania. James joined the Church in 1842 and moved to Nauvoo.

Harriet Chapin was born in Springfield, Illinois. Harriet's mother died when Harriet was only three years old. Harriet and her father, Adolphus joined the Church and moved to Nauvoo in 1838.

James and Harriet both lived in Nauvoo when the Prophet Joseph Smith was martyred. They both attended the meeting where Brigham Young became the new leader of the Church. James and Harriet met, fell in love and were married in Nauvoo in 1845.

When the Saints were driven from Nauvoo, James and Harriet moved to Iowa. James built a home, and made wagons for the Saints to cross the plains. After earning the means to buy four oxen and two cows, James made a wagon for his own family. They were prepared to join the Thomas C.D. Howell Company headed to Zion.

Little Elmira was only a year old when she got sick and died. They buried her on the side of a hill near the road, next to the Platte River in Iowa. James and Harriet were sad, but they knew that one day, little Elmira would be resurrected and they would be able to raise her.

James built bridges across streams and ferried wagons across the rivers. They saw huge herds of buffalo. Buffalo even stampeded through the wagon train once. It was terrifying and many things were

broken, but no one was hurt! Some of the men in camp hunted the buffalo and killed some to eat. The whole camp was happy to have meat. They had mostly lived on Johnny Cakes, a cross between pancakes and biscuits.

James saw many Indians, some friendly, and some who weren't as friendly. One Indian tribe tried to attack the train, but Heavenly Father stopped them. The Captain called the camp to prayer every morning and night. Everyone joined in. They were grateful to Heavenly Father for protecting them. They loved and helped each other all the way to Salt Lake City.

James' family arrived in Salt Lake City, thanking Heavenly Father for leading them to the Promised Land of Zion. They settled in West Ogden. Thousands of crickets came and ate James' crops. The whole family tried to fight them off. They had to eat Sego Lily roots and greens. James also hunted for rabbits. When he killed one, it was a feast.

James and Harriet moved to Lake View. The Josephites came to Utah preaching that Brigham Young and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints were false, and that Joseph Smith III had organized the true church. James and Harriet became discouraged with the pioneer hardships, so they left the Church. They and their younger children moved first to Malad, Idaho, then back to Nebraska where Harriet's father lived. Their older children stayed in Utah and remained faithful Latter-day Saints.

A few years later, and with loving encouragement from their son, James and Harriet recognized the error of their ways and repented. They quickly moved back to Utah and to Zion. James and Harriet were re-baptized and re-confirmed members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Their younger children were also baptized.

Harriet had a very even temperament. She was never angry, nor did she ever quarrel. She loved her neighbors. Everyone who knew her loved her. Harriet died a faithful member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Adapted from histories on [Familysearch.org](http://Familysearch.org)