

T I T L E P A G E

MAY 10 1990

2852

PIONEER NAME JAMES CLINGER

BIRTH DATE AND PLACE 3 FEBRUARY 1813, BEDFORDTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

DEATH DATE AND PLACE 6 SEPTEMBER 1884, PLEASANT GROVE, UTAH, UTAH

FATHER HENRY CLINGER

MOTHER ANN ASKIM

WHO MARRIED AND DATE HARRIET CHAPIN

7 DECEMBER 1845

YEAR ARRIVED IN UTAH 27 SEPTEMBER 1852

NAME OF COMPANY THOMAS C. D. HOWELL

WHO WROTE HISTORY AND DATE EDITH SCORUP CLINGER, JUNE 1988

WHO SUBMITTED HISTORY AND DATE EDITH SCORUP CLINGER, 20 APRIL 1990

ADDRESS RFD. 1 BOX 370

PROVO, UTAH 84601

TELEPHONE NO. (801) 225-2963

CAMP NAME LAKE VIEW

COUNTY NAME NORTH CENTER UTAH COMPANY

CAMP HISTORIAN ELAINE C. SCHOFIELD

ADDRESS RFD. 1 BOX 369

PROVO, UTAH 84601

COUNTY HISTORIAN

ADDRESS

SOURCE OF INFORMATION AND PAGE NUMBERS;

MARTHA CLINGER BOREN'S HISTORY, DUP LESSON BOOK, HISTORY OF LAKE VIEW,
BY CHRIS JEPPESON

I hereby give this history to the National Society Daughters of Utah
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Edith S Clinger
Signature of author or owner of this history

Revised 1986

LIFE SKETCH OF JAMES CLINGER
1813-1884

James Clinger was born February 3, 1813 in Bedford, Bedford County, Pennsylvania to Henry Clinger and Ann Reader Ashcom.

James was baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints by William Smith. William was the brother of Joseph Smith the Prophet. He was baptized the the year 1844 which was the same year that the Prophet Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum were martyred in the Carthage jail.

James married Harriet Chapin on December 7, 1845 in Illinois. She was the daughter of Adolphus Chapin and Katherine Billings. 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.

While in Iowa (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.¹

The following quote from The Gathering of Zion by Wallace Stegner 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.* 1A

James and Harriet Clinger and family joined the T.C.D. Howell Company and left Pottawattamie, Iowa June 7, 1852 on their journey to Utah. They were members of the Third Ten captained by Wm. Whitehead. The Third Ten consisted of 88 souls, 14 wagons, 155 cattle, no horses, 84 sheep and 18 calves.² There was sickness on the way and on July 5, 1852 Elmira Zallotta died and was buried on the side of a hill near the Platte River. She was thirteen months old.

T.C.D. Howell wrote the following Wednesday evening 4 August 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 brethern 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 breadstuffs to carry us through but should it be otherwise we will let you know."³ James Clinger and family

arrived in Salt Lake City September 27, 1852.

After a short stay in Salt Lake the family moved to Weber County. A daughter, Mary Jane, was born in South Weber, William Carlos and George Francis were born 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:

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. 4

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 Provo. They settled in an area that is now referred to as Lake View. Their home was on property near where Geneva Steel Plant now stands.⁵ 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.⁶

James and Harriet had three more children born to them while they lived in Lake View. Elnora was born in 1860, Charles Edward in 1863 and John Riggs in 1864.

From Lake View James and Harriet moved to Malad, Idaho where a daughter, Laura Catherine, was born in 1867. The family moved from Malad to Columbus, Nebraska where two more children were born. Harriet (Elizabeth) was born in 1870 and Lucy Elizabeth was born in 1871. James and his family returned to their home in Lake View in 1872. Martha Ann and James Henry did not go with their parents to Nebraska.

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.⁷

James Clinger died September 6, 1884 in Pleasant Grove, Utah. He was buried in the Provo City Cemetery. His wife, Harriet, died June 22, 1883 in Lake View and was also buried in the Provo City Cemetery.

Resources:

¹Material 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.

^{1A}The Gathering of Zion by Wallace Stegner published by Westwater Press, Inc., 1964 and 1981, pp. 208, 209.

²CR100/137 #1 Journal History, January 25, 1852--March 19, 1853

³Supplement to the Journal History #11. A copy of this is in the Special Collections Room of the BYU Library.

⁴Daughters of Utah Pioneers, Lesson for April 1987, pp. 336, 337

⁵History of LakeView Ward 1855-1951 by Christian Jeppesen, Jr., published by J. Grant Stevenson, 1969, pp. 54, 55

⁶same as #5

⁷same as #1