

EMERY BARRUS

Emery Barrus was born 8 April 1809 at Hanover, Chautaugua county, New York. He was the son of Benjamin Barrus and Betsy Stebbins. When missionaries from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints arrived in the western counties of New York, Emery was working as a farm hand for Freeman Nickerson in Perrysburg, Catteraugus county, New York and was courting his employers daughter, Abigail. The Nickerson family joined the church in April 1833 as did Emery Barrus. In the fall of 1833, Freeman Nickerson served a mission in the Kirtland area. In October, he furnished transportation to the Prophet Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon on their mission into Canada. Emery married Huldah Abigail Nickerson on 19 December 1833.

In November 1839, the Nickersons and the Barrus's left New York to join the Saints in Jackson county, Missouri. Because the rivers were soon blocked with ice, they stopped for the winter in Jefferson City, Missouri. While in Jefferson City, they learned of the saints expulsion from Missouri and their eastern migration to the Commerce area of Illinois. Hence, they turned back to the east and arrived in Nauvoo in the spring of 1840. There they acquired lots, built houses, planted orchards and gardens. They lived in comparative peace until 1844 when the Prophet Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum were assassinated in the Carthage jail. After the martyrdom, persecution became severe; men were whipped, houses and barns were burned and crops destroyed by the mobs.

Emery had established a shingle mill on an island in the Mississippi River. Emery's wife helped him man a two man saw as they cut tree trunks into the proper length to make the shingles. When preparations got under way for the Saints to vacate Nauvoo, the shingle mill was converted into a wagon shop. Emery and Abigail still worked together as they cut tree trunks into the proper length for the various wagon parts.

In August 1846, seven years after they left New York, they crossed the Mississippi River and wintered at Sheridan Point, Iowa. Before winter set in, they built log cabins and chinked them with split boards. That winter they had to fell small trees so that their stock could feed on the small limbs and buds. Freeman Nickerson died 22 January 1847.

In the spring of 1847, Emery, with his family, which now included his mother-in-law and his wife's brother, journeyed on to the west across Iowa. They arrived at Council Bluffs too late in the year to join the migration west. They settled in an area called Ferryville near Council Bluffs and again built houses, fenced a farm and planted crops. Here they remained until the spring of 1850 when they joined the Appleton Harmon Company to continue their journey west to Salt Lake City. Emery was appointed as a hunter for the wagon train so he often rode out in front of the train to look for game. When he was able to shoot a buffalo he would stay by the kill til the wagon train caught up with him, then the animal would be divided among the families in the train.

There was cholera in the train ahead of them as well as in the train behind them. The captain of the train advised them to eat meat sparingly. After some time in Salt Lake City, the Barrus Family was assigned to travel on to Grantsville and settle in that community. They arrived in

Grantsville in October 1853. In December that year Abigail gave birth to their son Owen who was the 9th of 12 children.

Because of trouble with the indians, the Grantsville settlers had established a fort surrounding a four acre lot by building their houses side by side. They had to guard their stock day and night to keep the indians from driving them off.

In those early days, carding machines were not available so the wool had to be carded by hand. The Barrus home became a manufacturing plant. Abigail took the freshly sheared wool, carded it spun it, formed it into yarn and then made stockings and cloth from the yarn. The cloth was then made into clothing for the family and the neighbors.

Emery had brought 46 head of cattle, not counting the oxen that had pulled their wagons, across the plains with them so Abigail was also involved in making large quantities of butter and cheese. Emery built the first barns that were built in Grantsville as well as some well constructed houses.

In 1855, the grasshoppers came so thick that they blocked out the sun. It didn't take them long to destroy most of their crops. The winter of 1855/1856 was a time of famine in the community. The Barrus family was reduced to living on segoes, thistles and edible roots. They went for months without any bread to eat. By the 4th of July 1856, John W. Cooley had a patch of barley that was mature enough to harvest. After it was harvested, threshed and cleaned, all by hand, each family was given a half bushel. It was ground into a meal in their coffee grinders and made into barley cakes. By the 24th of July, other grain crops matured and after harvest the grain was shared by all of the families.

In the fall of 1857, all able bodied men and boys left the community to go to Echo Canyon to hedge up the way of Johnston's army who were on the way to Utah to civilize the Mormons. In 1858 they vacated the community and moved south. A few faithful brethren were left behind to watch their crops and houses with instructions to burn everything if they were molested by the army. As soon as the treaty of peace was signed, everyone rushed back to their homes.

In April 1857, Emery took a second wife. Her name was Jane Zerilda Baker. In November 1859 Jane gave birth to their first child, whom they named Emiline Abigail Baker Barrus. Emery and Jane were the parents of seven children. Emery served as Grantsvilles first Mayor. He attended to the surveying of the city cemetery to establish the boundaries of the burial lots.

In his later years, Emery was a faithful temple worker. During his period of temple service , he lived in Salt Lake City. He returned to Grantsville just two weeks before his death in October 1899. Emery's son Benjamin chided his father saying, "Father, You ought to rest" To which Emery replied, "Ben, when I meet my relatives over there, they will ask me what I have done for them."

EMERY BARRUS

Emery Barrus was born April 8, 1809 at Hanover, Chautauque County, New York.

In 1833 he was working as a farm hand for Freeman Nickerson and keeping company with his employer's daughter, Abigail. When they first heard the gospel in New York, Emery was the only one of his father's family who was baptized in New York. Emery and Abigail were baptized into the church and were married during 1833 in New York.

In November 1839 the Emery and his family traveled with his in-laws, the Nickersons, toward Nauvoo, but as the Ohio River was closed by ice, they wintered at Jefferson City, Missouri and arrived at Nauvoo in the spring of 1840. There they bought city lots and built homes, planted orchards, etc. and lived in comparative peace until about 1844 when the Prophet Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum were assassinated in the Carthage Jail.

After that date the persecution became very severe: men were whipped, houses burned and crops destroyed. In 1845 the Saints agreed to vacate their beautiful homes, leaving the orchards with their fruit trees just ready for harvesting.

Preparations were made for the journey across the plains. Wagon shops were established. Emery Barrus had a shingle mill on an island in the Mississippi, where his wife would hold one end of the cross cut saw as they cut the trees into blocks ready for shingles. When preparations were made for the journey across the plains, his business was converted into a wagon shop.

In 1845 they moved to the island and Emery would go into the woods and get the timber and his wife would help saw it into suitable lengths for the different parts of the wagon, then put it in the shop to season. He made fifteen wagons right from the stumps of the trees.

It was just seven years after their journey from New York that they left Nauvoo. It was in August of 1846 that they crossed the Mississippi and wintered at Sheridan Point, Iowa. Their stock lived on the buds and limbs of small trees felled for that purpose. They built log houses and covered them with split boards.

In the spring of 1847 they again took up the line of march westward, arriving at Winter Quarters too late to accompany the pioneers on the journey to Salt Lake Valley. So Emery Barrus and his family again built a house and fenced a farm on which he planted and harvested considerable produce. Here they remained until the spring of 1850 when they again started on the westward journey.

They traveled in Appleton Harmon's company and Emery was appointed hunter for the company. He would travel ahead of the wagon train and when he could find buffalo close to the road he would shoot one down and wait for the wagon train to divide it up.

The cholera was in the wagon train in front of them and the one behind them, and the captain advised them to eat as little meat as possible.

The Barrus family arrived in Grantsville in October 1853. Their son Owen was born in December 1853, two months after their arrival. They built a fort by joining house to house around a tract of land of about four acres. By the spring of 1854 the inhabitants of Grantsville had become quite numerous.

The Indians made a great deal of trouble for the settlers in the early days. They had to herd the stock in the day time on the range and stand guard at night to keep the Indians from driving them off.

In those days there were no carding machines. The Barrus home was a regular manufacturing plant. Abigail would take the wool right from the sheep's back, card and spin it into rolls, making the rolls into yarn and then yarn into cloth and stockings; the cloth into clothing for the family and neighbors. After there was carding machine in Provo, she would take the wool to Provo, driving a pair of colts they had brought across the plains, and get the wool made into rolls. She also made thousands of pounds of cheese and butter. Emery had brought about 46 head of loose stock across the plains besides the oxen that were yoked to the wagon.

Emery Barrus made the first barns in Grantsville and some well-constructed houses. In 1855 the grasshoppers came so thick they darkened the sun and destroyed the crops. 1856 was the year of the famine. A good horse would not buy a sack of flour. The Barrus family was without bread for months, living on segoes, thistles, roots, etc.

On the 4th of July in 1856 Brother John W. Cooley had a patch of barley that was almost ripe. He and two other men harvested it by hand, threshing it with flails and cleaned it up in the wind. Each family was given one half bushel of barley which they ground into flour with coffee mills and then made cakes.

On the 24th of July some other men had grain that was ripe enough to be harvested so each family got a pan of flour. Also, Emery Barrus furnished a fat beef so each family had a flour cake and a beef steak for dinner.

In 1857 word was received that Johnston's Army was coming to civilize the Mormons. Every able-bodied man and boy was expected to go to Echo Canyon to hedge up the way of the Army.

1858 was the move south. It was decided to burn every building, destroy every tree and any grown crops provided the Army persisted in coming. But they did not come in until a treaty of peace was signed. Every family had left the Grantsville Precinct. A few faithful brethren were left to watch the crops

with orders to burn if molested by the Army. When the treaty of peace was signed, everyone made a rush for home.

Emery Barrus had married his second wife, Jane Zerilda Baker in April 1857. In November 1859 my grandmother, Emeline Abigail Barrus was the first child born into this family.

Emery Barrus was the first mayor of Grantsville City and attended to surveying the cemetery into burial lots, and drove the stakes when it was surveyed. He was a faithful worker in the temple in his later years and only came home two weeks before his death.

His son, Benjamin, would say, "Father, you ought to rest," but he said, "Ben, I have not much time left and when I meet my relatives over there, they will ask me what I did for them."

Emery Barrus died in October 1899 in Grantsville, Utah.

Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled
wretched ~~and~~ masses yearning to breathe free, Your
tearful ~~and~~ refugee of your tanning shore.
And these the homilies dropped
to me. I left my lamp beside the
golden door.

These words are inscribed on the statue
of liberty and have meant much to our
ancestors and to us.

We read in the first Tazewell county history
Book about my great grandmother
Margaret Eliza Utley Tolman that her
mother Elizabeth Rutledge came through
the line who helped form the Declaration
of Independence but that wasn't right
John Rutledge was one of the framers
of the Constitution. My cousin Maryann
Barber Russell had an opportunity to visit
the Rutledge home in North Carolina.
Elizabeth married Little John Utley, they
accepted the Gospel, moved the place and settled
in Tazewell. They had eleven children.

My grandmother Margaret Eliza Utley Tolman was
the third wife of Cyrus Tolman. There was
much jealousy among the wives and my grandmother
later lived in a log out by Apple Creek and raised
nine children, taught them all to read, learned the Gospel's
When moved with her second wife to Tazewell.

My Grandmother Mattha Anna Talman loved
to read and during visit to Frow she had
the opportunity to meet Karl of Massie and
he realized she great for knowledge and
helped her receive her education and my
Grandmother became a teacher in Brantville -

in getting ahead of myself. In the 1600's
William Mickerson settled in Boston Massachusetts
became wealthy a much of what is known
as Cape Cod was owned by him. There still
is a beautiful Mickerson Home & Mickerson Park.

William Mickerson had a grandson named
Freeman who moved from Boston to New
State New York where he & his wife and
family heard the message of the Angel
and accepted it. They wanted so much
to have their children baptized that
they traveled to Kirtland to try to
persuade Joseph Smith to return with them
which he did. There was so much
persecution at that time that Joseph
Smith was so worried about his
family -

In my Great Grandfather's home Joseph
Smith received a revelation which is
now the 100 section of the
Doctrine and Covenants. In it the

the Lord tells Joseph that his family
is alright and that he should go
to the east meaning Canada

In Joseph Smith's History of the Church
Vol # 1 we read on Page 416 & 422
about Herman and Sidney Rigdon & Joseph
Smith opening up the Canadian Mission.

They later are forced out of Missouri and
cross the plains. Herman Mickerson has
a hired hand named Emory Barber who
marries his daughter Hilda.

Herman Mickerson dies along the plains
in Iowa and is buried there. Emory
and Hilda arrive and settle in Grantville.
Hilda becomes the first Relief Society
president in Grantville & had the article

My Grandmother Martha from Tolson is
teaching school in Grantville and she
meets my Grandfather Emory and they
marry. Brigham Young needs families
in Star Valley Wyoming so they decide
to move there. They have six children
& when the youngest is a baby he gets
pneumonia and of course there are no antibiotics
but Grandpa has been called on a
mission and my Grandma said to go,

