

John O. Shafer & Hannah Casto

John O. Shafer was born 30 June 1820 in Arcadia, Wayne Co. New York. He married Hannah Casto 27 Oct 1844 in Nauvoo, Ill. He was the son of Jonas Shafer and Hannah Roosa. Hannah Casto was the daughter of Able Casto and Mary Galland and was born June 27 1826 in West Louisville, Indiana.

John and Hannah crossed the Mississippi River May 1, 1846 on the way to Council Bluffs, Iowa. In 1849 they joined a wagon train crossing the plains. Their son Orson, only 2 years old, had to walk part of the way on foot. Mary Mary Adeline was a babe in arms. Mary Galland Casto, Hannah's mother, joined them on the trek. They arrived in the Salt Lake Valley Oct. 4, 1849. Two of Hannah's brothers were with the Mormon Battalion.

They lived in the 19th Ward for 39 years, and had 11 children of which 2 died. They then moved to Granger just east of the Granger Post Office in 1888. John Shafer made several trips back to Winter Quarters when chosen by Brigham Young to help the companies across the plains.

John Shafer was made a 1st Lt. of Co. "B" of the 1st Regiment Infantry in the Nauvoo Legion. We have a copy of his commission signed by Brigham Young when he was governor of Deseret. He was one of those who tried to prevent Johnson's Army from reaching Utah, and was one of those who remained behind to destroy the city if necessary when the army arrived if fighting occurred. All the rest of the people had left the area with their possessions so the place could become uninhabitable for the army. Fortunately this was never necessary and the army went through the city and camped else where.

He worked for the Salt Lake Police Force for many years. They were active in the church for many years but due to a problem over tithing, water rights, and polygamy he became inactive but there is no record in the church that he was disfellowshipped or excommunicated.

The children born to them were Orson William born in 1846, who married Elizabeth Ann Kingdon. Mary Adeline, born 19 Nov 1848 who married Jacob Hunter. Beth Vowles and Harvey Wright of Tooele are some of her descendants. John Henry was born 25 April 1851 and married Mary Forsbush and Sarrah Johnson. Eliza was born 22 Oct 1853 and married John Snell. Oliver was born 1 Nov. 1859 and married Mary Tabitha Coon. They were my grandparents. I have many relatives all around this area from the Coon side. James Alma, born 27 Feb. 1858 married Elizabeth Cook. Eleanor died as a child. Frank was born 30 Oct 1862 and married Emma Cooper. Betty Wardle who has done most of our research and wrote this book from which I got all this information, is from that branch. Her father Feno Shafer was a dentist in magna for a time then became an orthodontist specializing in child dentistry and located for years in Sugar House, did a lot of the preliminary work on the Shafer line. Betty Wardle's sister-in-law works in First Security Bank here in Tooele, sister Woodruff. Charles was born 8 Sept 1865 but never married. Maybell born 12 Aug. 1868 married William Smith. They lived in Tooele county for a time but we don't have much information about them.

John Shafer died 17 Dec. 1900 and Hannah died 20 Sept 1910. Hannah's mother, Mary Galland, Casto, was a sister to Isaac Galland who got the early church members interested in moving to Commerce, Illinois which became Nauvoo. She joined John and Hannah on their first trip across the plains.

Mary Galland's grandfather, Matthew Galland fought in the revolution. Her grandmother, Hannah Fenno was the daughter General Fenno. At his death she had the silver buckles from his uniform and shoes made into 6 tiny silver sugar spoons. They were to be passed on to descendants who were named after him. Betty Wardle, whose father was Fenn Shafer has one of them. One was stolen by a beggar who was invited in for a free meal. Fenno B. Casto has one of them. Mrs Caludia Taylor Hull of San Diego, (She is a descendant of John Henry Shafer.) has one.

There are two still no accounted for as yet.

The origin of Hanna Casto's father family the Casto line is some how tied into pirates from around Cape May New Jersey. Capt. Kidd was from that area so the favorite version mentions a Capt. William as haveing had a couple of brothers one 7 and one 9 on his ship for a time. He put one ashore in Long Island and one in New Jersey. The one in New Jersey took the name Casto as being nearest to his actual name which was either french or portugese. The long Island one took a name that sounds similar but spelled different. The Casto came from Deerfield N.J. about 40 or 50 miles nw of Cape May New Jersey.

The Roosa family came from the Netherlands. Aldert Hermanse Roosa and his wife, Wilhelmina Ariens DeJongh who came to America on the Bunte Koe or Spotte Cow, in 1660 seem to be the ancestors. They settled in Ulster Co., New York and were early settlers in Arcadia, Wayne Co. New York. They tie in some way with the Roosevelt family. Our records show one of the Roosas marrying a Roosevelt. In the Smithsonian Institute I saw a pedigree chart of the Roosevelt family that went back to a Roosa line. I'm not sure what or if there is any connection although Betty Wardle who has done most of the research says we are related to them.

Jonas Shafer, the father of John O Shafer was born 15 Sept 1765 was also in Wayne County. His father Henrich Schafer and mother Anna Maria Richter were palatines from Germany who left there in the early 1700 due to wars, religious intolerance and adverse weather conditions. This area in Germany includes the area where my wifes father is from. The palatines had a rough time getting to this country. Some of my ancestral lines from the palatine immigration are; Shafer, Shirts, Richter Stallin or Stahl, Phillips, Defu, Reffenberger, keller and Propert.

Well some of these lines may ~~not~~^{be} be too accurate but I'm sure if we go back far enough we will come to Adam and Eve.

*Franklin R. Shafer
great grandson of John O. Shafer*