

# Recreation of the 1953 Foss Reunion Picture Chart with Some Additional Pictures and a Family Group Sheet of Calvin Foss and Sarah Brackett Carter Foss

By Loretta D. Nixon 7/12/2013

Draft Copy 7/12/2013

Recreation 1953 Foss Reunion Pictures and Some Additional Foss Pictures



Rhoda, Sarah, Phebe Carter  
1882



Ilus Carter



Ezra Carter, Jr.



Ezra Carter, Sr.



Ezra Carter Home, Saco, Maine



Wilford Woodruff



Lauritz Foss



Foss



Wilford & Phebe Woodruff Family &  
Ezra Carter, Sr. Taken in Boston abt. 1849



Cynthia Porterfield Carter and Charles Elmer Carter,  
grandson of Joseph Fabyan Carter.



Sarah B. Carter Foss & Grandchild



Calvin Foss Home, Saco, Maine



Ira Foss



Sarah B. Carter Foss Home, Salt Lake City, Utah



Tryphena Seavey Foss



Calvin I. Foss



Ira Foss Family, Saco, Maine



Sarah E. Foss



Phebe Foss Sessions



Ezra Foss, Sr.



Rhoda Foss Richards



Olive Foss



Sarah Brackett Carter Foss



EZRA

MOTHER  
SARAH B. C. FOSS

SARAH ELIZABETH

RHODA HARRIETT

PHOEBE CARTER

OLIVE CARL

Seated :Ezra C. Foss, Sr., Sarah B. Carter Foss, Rhoda Foss Richards, Olive Foss Woolley Standing: Sarah Elizabeth Foss Cowley, Phebe Foss Sessions



Nancy Jane Roundy Foss



Ira Foss Jr.



Tryphena Foss



Ezra Carter Foss, Sr.



Ezra, Sadie, Frank, Calvin



Ezra Carter Foss, Sr.



Ezra Carter Foss, Jr.



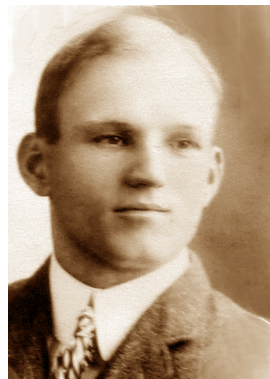
Sarah (Sadie) Foss



Frank Nathan Foss



Ezra &  
Emily M.Cheney Foss



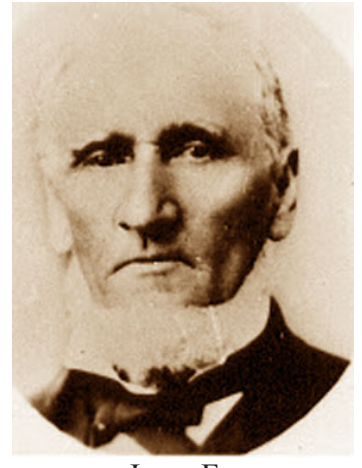
Calvin Zachariah Foss



Luther Scammon Foss



Sarah Elizabeth Foss Cowley



Jesse Fox



Matthias and Ann Cowley



Matthias Cowley



Lottie Fox



Ann E. Cowley Willey



Abby Hyde Cowley



Luella S. Parkinson  
Cowley



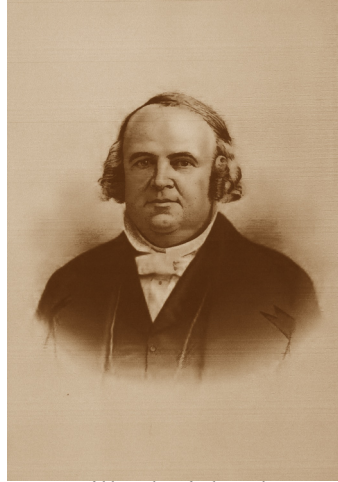
Matthew Cowley



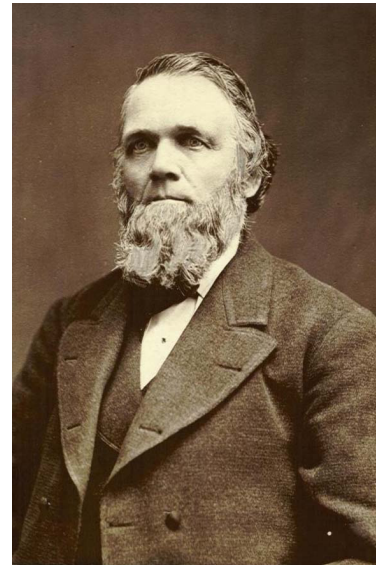
From Effie Dean Bowman Rich Collection. Back of photo states:  
Matthias Cowley Family.



Rhoda Foss Richards



Willard Richards



Franklin D. Richards



Calvin Willard Richards



Sarah Richards Robinson



Foss, Sarah and Calvin Richards



Ezra Foss Richards



Amanda L. Reeder Richards





David Sessions



David Sessions Home  
Bountiful, Utah Erected abt. 1905



Phebe Foss Sessions



David and Phebe Foss Sessions



David, Darius, Fabyan, &  
David Sessions



Seated: Phebe, Annie, Sarah  
Standing: Cerdenia, Elizabeth, Olive



James Madover Sessions David &  
Phebe's adopted son



David and Phebe C. Foss Sessions Family



Olive Foss Woolley



Franklin Benjamin Woolley



Frank Woolley



Ida Woolley McArthur



Jed Woolley



Ezra Woolley



Effie Dean Woolley



Olive Foss Woolley Family  
Seated: Frank, Effie, Ida  
Standing: Ezra, Jed

## THE FIRST FOSS FAMILY REUNION - 1903

HELD AT THE HOME OF AUNT PHOEBE FOSS SESSIONS HOME IN BOUNTIUFUL, UTAH



1. Ezra Carter Foss Sr., 2. Emily M. Cheney Foss, 3. Luther S. Foss, 4. Matthias Foss Cowley, 5. Leona Cowley, 6. Ezra Richards, 7. Amanda Reeder Richards, 8. Franklin Richards, 9. -----, 10. Phoebe Foss Sessions, 11. Annie Cowley, 12. Lottie Fox Seamon, 13. Ezra Woolley, 14. Franklin F. Woolley, 15. Fabyan Sessions, 16. -----, 17. -----, 18. William Corbridge, 19. William Corbridge, 19, Sarah Sessions Moss, 20. Calvin Richards, 21. -----, 22. Phoebe or Olive Corbridge, 23.----- Woolley, 24. William George Seamon?, 25. ----- Seamon?, 26. James William Nixon, 27. George Seamon, 28. -----Woolley, 29. Annie Silvia Sessions, 30. Effie Woolley Nixon, 31. -----.

A GENEALOGY OF LIEUT EZRA  
 & SARAH CARTER CONTAINING  
 THEIR PARENTS & CHILDREN  
 TAKEN FEBRUARY 23 1818

EZRA CARTER BORN JAN 19 1737

PHINEAS CARTER BORN JULY 23 1731

JOSHUA FABIAN ESSY BORN MARCH 1 1733 DIED JULY 1790

DEATH WOUNDS TO CURE: WE FALL: WE RISE: WE RE

SPRING FROM OUR FETTERS: FASTER IN THE SKIES:

WHERE BLOOMING EDER WITHERS IN OUR SIGHT:

DEATH GIVES US MORE THEN WAS IN EDER LOST.

SARAH FABIAN BORN APRIL 7 1740

EZRA CARTER BORN MARCH 18 1773

SARAH CARTER BORN APRIL 9 1775

JOSEPH CARTER BORN DECEMBER 11 1798

SARAH B CARTER BORN SEPTEMBER 30 1800

EZRA CARTER BORN SEPT 19 1802 DIED 20 1857

THIS COLDEE HARP HE TUNES SO SWEET.

WHILE SITTING AT HIS SAVIOUR'S FEET.

EZRA CARTER BORN APRIL 7 1804

EZRA CARTER BORN OCT 1805 DIED 1857

SHORT PAIR SHORT GRIEF DEAR NAME WAS THERE

NOW JOYS ETERNAL AND DIVINE

PHINEAS W CARTER BORN APR 11 1807

REBODA F CARTER BORN MARCH 13 1809

EZRA CARTER BORN OCT 20 1810 DIED JAN 24 1818

SO LADEN THE LOVELY BLOOMING FLOWER.

SWAN CARTER BORN DECEMBER 20 1811

MARY F CARTER BORN MARCH 22 1814

ELIUS F CARTER BORN MARCH 18 1816



GENEALOGY SAMPLER MADE BY SARAH BRACKETT CARTER (FOSS) IN 1818

# Family Group Sheet

13 July 2013

<b>Father Calvin Ira FOSS-460</b>				
Birth	17 Apr 1798	Scarboro, Cumberland, Maine, United States	B: Sep 1834	
Chr	7 Apr 1800	Scarborough, Cumberland, Maine, United States	E: 3 Mar 1881	
Burial	Feb 1835	Laurel Hill Cem., Saco, York, Maine, United States	SP: 19 May 1932	SLAKE
Death	28 Feb 1835	Saco, York, Maine, United States, United States		
Ref #		FOS-026		
Marriage	1 Nov 1823	Scarboro, Cumberland, Maine, United States	SS: 10 Mar 1881	SGEOR
Father	Zachariah FOSS-469 (1760-1839)			
Mother	Olive CARL-470 (1760-1834)			
Other spouse	Levina TRAFTON-741 ( -1823)		SS: 10 Mar 1881	SGEOR
Marriage	17 Mar 1822	Scarboro, Cumberland, Maine, United States		
<b>Mother Sarah Brackett "Sarah" CARTER-461</b>				
Birth	30 Sep 1800	Limrick, York, Maine, United States	B: 15 Sep 1835	
Burial	Mar 1894	City Cemetery, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah	E: 30 Jun 1851	
Death	4 Mar 1894	East Bountiful, , Davis, Utah, United States	SP: 3 Mar 1881	SGEOR
Ref #		CAR-028		
Father	Ezra CARTER Lt.-491 (1773-1868)			
Mother	Sarah or Sally FABYAN-492 (1775-1845)			
<b>Children</b>				
M	<b>Ira Carter FOSS-735<sup>1</sup></b>			
Birth	19 Jul 1824	Saco, York, Maine, United States <sup>1</sup>	B: 8 Mar 1881	SGEOR
Burial	Apr 1864	Laurel Hill Cem., Saco, York, Maine, United States	E: 10 Mar 1881	SGEOR
Death	17 Apr 1864	Scarborough, Cumberland, Maine, United States	SP: 10 Mar 1881	SGEOR
Spouse	Tryphena Burnham SEAVEY-742 (1823-1889)		SS: 7 Feb 1933	SLAKE
Marriage	1 Nov 1848	Saco, York, Maine		
M	<b>Calvin Ichabod FOSS-7167</b>			
Birth	10 Jan 1826	Saco, York, Maine, United States	B: 8 Jun 1909	
Burial	May 1908	Odd Fellows Cem., Sacramento, California, United States	E: 20 Aug 1909	
Death	21 May 1908	Sacramento, Sacramento, California, United States	SP: 1 Oct 1963	SLAKE
Spouse	Nancy Jane ROUNDY-743 (1836-1885)		SS: 18 Jun 1909	SLAKE
Marriage	abt 1856	Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah		
F	<b>Sarah Elizabeth FOSS-737</b>			
Birth	26 Dec 1827	Saco, York, Maine, United States <sup>1</sup>	B: 10 Jul 1850	
Death	14 Jun 1899	Bountiful, Davis, Utah, United States <sup>1</sup>	E: 4 Aug 1851	
Burial		Salt Lake City, Utah, United States	SP: 1 Oct 1963	SLAKE
Spouse	Matthias COWLEY-744 (1829-1864)		SS: 17 Oct 1857	
Marriage	17 Oct 1857	Salt Lake City, Great Salt Lake, Utah Territory, United States		
Spouse	Jesse William FOX-748 (1819-1894)		SS: 8 Mar 1871	EHOUS
Marriage	13 Mar 1871	Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah Territory, United States		
F	<b>Rhoda Harriet FOSS-738</b>			
Birth	19 Apr 1830	Saco, York, Maine, United States <sup>1</sup>	B: 31 Oct 1844	
Death	19 Nov 1881	Farmington, Davis, Utah, United States <sup>1</sup>	E: 4 Aug 1851	EHOUS
History			SP: 1 Oct 1963	SLAKE
Burial				
Spouse	Willard RICHARDS (Dr.)-745 (1804-1854)		SS: 30 Nov 1851	EHOUS
Marriage	30 Nov 1851	Salt Lake City, Great Salt Lake, Utah Territory, United States		
Spouse	Franklin Dewey RICHARDS-749 (1821-1899)		SS: 6 Mar 1857	EHOUS
Marriage	6 Mar 1857	Salt Lake City, Great Salt Lake, Utah Territory, United States		

# Family Group Sheet

13 July 2013

<b>Father Calvin Ira FOSS-460</b>				
<b>Mother Sarah Brackett "Sarah" CARTER-461</b>				
<b>Children</b>				
<b>F</b>	<b>Phoebe Carter FOSS-739</b>			
	Birth	2 Nov 1831	Saco, York, Maine, United States <sup>1</sup>	B: 31 Oct 1844
	Census	15 Jun 1860	Bountiful, Davis, Utah Territory, United States	E: 4 Aug 1851 EHOUS
	Census	19 Aug 1870	Bountiful, Davis, Utah Territory, United States	SP: 17 Apr 1895 SLAKE
	Census	14 Jun 1880	Bountiful, Davis, Utah Territory, United States	
	Census	4 Jun 1900	Bountiful, Davis, Utah, United States	
	Census	27 Apr 1910	Bountiful, Davis, Utah, United States	
	Death	25 Jul 1913	Bountiful, Davis, Utah, United States <sup>1</sup>	
	Burial	29 Jul 1913	Bountiful, Davis, Utah, United States	
	Spouse	David SESSIONS-746 (1823-1896)		SS: 20 Mar 1857 EHOUS
	Marriage	30 Dec 1852	Salt Lake City, Great Salt Lake, Utah Territory, United States	
<b>M</b>	<b>Ezra Carter FOSS-449</b>			
	Birth	23 Jun 1833	Saco, York, Maine, United States <sup>1-2</sup>	B: 31 Oct 1844 <sup>3</sup>
	Burial	Jul 1919	Farmington, Davis, Utah, United States <sup>4-5</sup>	E: 4 Aug 1851 EHOUS
	Death	3 Jul 1919	Farmington, Davis, Utah, United States <sup>1,6-7</sup>	SP: 17 Apr 1895 SLAKE
	Ref #	FOS-023		
	Spouse	Emily Mariah CHENEY-459 (1851-1929)		SS: 19 Oct 1870 EHOUS
	Marriage	19 Jun 1870	Farmington, Davis, Utah Territory, United States	
<b>F</b>	<b>Olive Carl FOSS-740</b>			
	Birth	12 Apr 1835	Scarboro, Cumberland, Maine, United States <sup>1</sup>	B: 31 Oct 1844
	Death	7 Apr 1877	Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah Territory, United States	E: 4 Aug 1851 SLAKE
	Burial	9 Apr 1877	Saint George, Washington, Utah Territory, United States	SP: 1 Oct 1963 SLAKE
	Spouse	Franklin Benjamin WOOLEY-747 (1834-1869)		SS: 11 Feb 1857
	Marriage	10 Dec 1856	Salt Lake City, Great Salt Lake, Utah Territory, United States	
Preparer		Comments		
Loretta Nixon 260 West 2000 North Mapleton, Utah 84664 801 491 0958 ldnixon@msn.com				

## FATHER NOTES: Calvin Ira FOSS-460

**LDS Bapt (September 1834):** Wilford Woodruff states in his journal that Calvin Foss died 28 Feb, 1835, a member of the Church. Family tradition is that Calvin died a few months after his baptism. Robert Foss Hansen gives his baptism date as September 1834. Sarah Brackett Foss's baptism date is 15 Sep 1834. Sarah and Calvin were probably baptized the same day. Sarah's baptism date is from the records of Nina Moss.

## Burial (February 1835): Calvin Ira Foss

Birth: Apr. 17, 1798  
Scarborough  
Cumberland County  
Maine, USA  
Death: Jan. 28, 1835  
Saco  
York County  
Maine, USA

Son of Zachariah Foss & Olive Carl

Married Lavina Trafton, 17 Mar 1822, Scarboro, Cumberland, Maine

Married Sarah Brackett Carter, 1 Nov 1823, Scarboro, York, Maine

# Family Group Sheet

13 July 2013

Children - Calvin Ichabod Foss, Olive Carter Foss, Rhoda Harriet Foss, Ezra Carter Foss, Ira Carter Foss, Phoebe Carter Foss, Sarah Elizabeth Foss

Family links:

Spouse:

Sarah Bracket Carter Foss (1800 - 1894)

Children:

Ira Carter Foss (1824 - 1864)\*

Calvin Ichabod Foss (1826 - 1908)\*

Sarah Elizabeth Foss Fox (1827 - 1899)\*

Rhoda Harriet Foss Richards (1830 - 1881)\*

Phebe Carter Foss Sessions (1831 - 1913)\*

Ezra Carter Foss (1833 - 1919)\*

Olive C. Foss Woolley (1835 - 1877)\*

\*Calculated relationship

Burial:

Laurel Hill Cemetery

Saco

York County

Maine, USA

Created by: SMSmith

Record added: Sep 11, 2007

Find A Grave Memorial# 21500265

**Death (28 February 1835):** Tombstone gives date of death as 28 Jan 1835

**General:** GS: Me. 25 Vol 1

Foss Family Records

GS: Me 20 Vol 4 page 2161

LDS Archives sheets

1. Obit. of Sarah Brackett Carter Foss in D. Weekly News 3 Mar 1894 p.331.
2. Family Rec. in poss. of Robert Foss Hansen
3. Family Rec. compiled by Sarah Brackett Carter Foss Elliott in poss. of Robert Foss Hansen.
4. Foss Temple Records in poss. of E. Foss Richards.
5. Family Group sheet of Dr. Willard Richards & Rhoda Harriett Foss.

## **MOTHER NOTES: Sarah Brackett CARTER-461**

**LDS Bapt (15 September 1834):** Nina Moss, gives her baptism date as 15 Sep 1834. This is more reasonable as Calvin her husband was supposed to have been baptized in Sep 1834 just a few months before he died.

**Burial (March 1894):** Sarah Bracket Carter Foss

Birth: Sep. 30, 1800

Limerick

York County

Maine, USA

# Family Group Sheet

13 July 2013

Death: Mar. 4, 1894

Bountiful

Davis County

Utah, USA

Daughter of Ezra Carter & Sarah Fabyan

Married Calvin Ira Foss, 1 Nov 1823, Scarborough, York, Maine

Children - Calvin Ichabod Foss, Olive C. Foss, Rhoda Harriet Foss, Ezra Carter Foss, Ira Carter Foss, Phoebe Carter Foss, Sarah Elizabeth Foss

Family links:

Spouse:

Calvin Ira Foss (1798 - 1835)\*

Children:

Ira Carter Foss (1824 - 1864)\*

Calvin Ichabod Foss (1826 - 1908)\*

Sarah Elizabeth Foss Fox (1827 - 1899)\*

Rhoda Harriet Foss Richards (1830 - 1881)\*

Phebe Carter Foss Sessions (1831 - 1913)\*

Ezra Carter Foss (1833 - 1919)\*

Olive C. Foss Woolley (1835 - 1877)\*

\*Calculated relationship

Burial:

Salt Lake City Cemetery

Salt Lake City

Salt Lake County

Utah, USA

Plot: D\_12\_2\_\_

Created by: SMSmith

Record added: Sep 11, 2007

Find A Grave Memorial# 21500417

**General:** GS: Me. 25 Vol 1

Foss Family Records

Foss Family Temple Book dated before 10 May 1923 in poss. of R.F.Hansen 1991

GS: Me 20 Vol 4 page 2161

LDS Archives sheets

1. Obit. of Sarah Brackett Carter Foss in D. Weekly News 3 Mar 1894 p.331.

2. Family Rec. in poss. of Robert Foss Hansen

3. Family Rec. compiled by Sarah Brackett Carter Foss Elliott in poss. of Robert Foss Hansen.

4. Foss Temple Records in poss. of E. Foss Richards.

5. Family Group sheet of Dr. Willard Richards & Rhoda Harriett Foss.

**CHILD NOTES: Ira Carter FOSS-735**

**Burial (April 1864):** Ira Carter Foss

Birth: Jul. 19, 1824

Saco

York County

Maine, USA

Death: Apr. 17, 1864

Scarborough

Cumberland County

Maine, USA



# Family Group Sheet

13 July 2013

Son of Calvin Ira Foss and Sarah Brackett Carter  
Married Tryphena Burnham Seavey, 1 Nov 1848  
Children - Martha C. Foss, Ida E. Foss, Ira Calvin Foss, Sarah Jane Foss, Olive C. Foss, Tryphena Foss  
Family links:  
Parents:  
Calvin Ira Foss (1798 - 1835)  
Sarah Bracket Carter Foss (1800 - 1894)  
Spouse:  
Tryphena Burnham Seavey Foss (1823 - 1889)\*  
Children:  
Martha C. Foss (1851 - 1874)\*  
Olive C. Foss (1852 - 1871)\*  
Ida E. Foss (1854 - 1919)\*  
Ira Calvin Foss (1856 - 1919)\*  
\*Calculated relationship  
Burial:  
Laurel Hill Cemetery  
Saco  
York County  
Maine, USA  
Created by: SMSmith  
Record added: Sep 11, 2007  
Find A Grave Memorial# 21504887

**Death (17 April 1864):** Ira Carter Foss

Birth: Jul. 19, 1824  
Saco  
York County  
Maine, USA  
Death: Apr. 17, 1864  
Scarborough  
Cumberland County  
Maine, USA  
Son of Calvin Ira Foss and Sarah Brackett Carter  
Married Tryphena Burnham Seavey, 1 Nov 1848  
Children - Martha C. Foss, Ida E. Foss, Ira Calvin Foss, Sarah Jane Foss, Olive C. Foss, Tryphena Foss  
Family links:  
Parents:  
Calvin Ira Foss (1798 - 1835)  
Sarah Bracket Carter Foss (1800 - 1894)  
Spouse:  
Tryphena Burnham Seavey Foss (1823 - 1889)\*  
Children:  
Martha C. Foss (1851 - 1874)\*  
Olive C. Foss (1852 - 1871)\*  
Ida E. Foss (1854 - 1919)\*  
Ira Calvin Foss (1856 - 1919)\*  
\*Calculated relationship  
Burial:  
Laurel Hill Cemetery  
Saco  
York County  
Maine, USA

**General:** GS: Me. 25 Vol 1  
Foss Family Records  
Foss Temple Book dated before 10 May 1923 in poss. of R.F.Hansen 1991.

# Family Group Sheet

13 July 2013

GS: Me 20 Vol 4 page 2161

LDS Archives sheets

1. Obit. of Sarah Brackett Carter Foss in D. Weekly News 3 Mar 1894 p.331.
  2. Family Rec. in poss. of Robert Foss Hansen
  3. Family Rec. compiled by Sarah Brackett Carter Foss Elliott in poss. of Robert Foss Hansen.
  4. Foss Temple Records in poss. of E. Foss Richards.
  5. Family Group sheet of Dr. Willard Richards & Rhoda Harriett Foss.
- Interview with Ira C. Foss 3rd at Weston, Mass 1991 by Loretta Nixon.  
Letter from T. Ann Gorton 1991 to Robert Foss Hansen.  
Sadie Foss Elliott says his middle name was Carter, His grandson of Newton, Mass said his middle name was Calvin.m Gravestone gives his name as Ira Carter Foss.

## **CHILD NOTES: Calvin Ichabod FOSS-7167**

**General:** GS: Me. 25 Vol 1

Foss Family Records

GS: Me 20 Vol 4 page 2161

LDS Archives sheets

1. Obit. of Sarah Brackett Carter Foss in D. Weekly News 3 Mar 1894 p.331.
2. Family Rec. in poss. of Robert Foss Hansen
3. Family Rec. compiled by Sarah Brackett Carter Foss Elliott in poss. of Robert Foss Hansen.
4. Foss Temple Records in poss. of E. Foss Richards.
5. Family Group sheet of Dr. Willard Richards & Rhoda Harriett Foss.

## **CHILD NOTES: Sarah Elizabeth FOSS-737**

**Burial:** Sarah Elizabeth Foss Fox

Birth: Dec. 26, 1827

Scarborough

Cumberland County

Maine, USA

Death: Jun. 14, 1899

Bountiful

Davis County

Utah, USA

Daughter of Calvin Ira Foss & Sarah Brackett Carter

Married Matthias Cowley, 17 Oct 1857, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah

Children - Sarah Isabella Fayban Cowley, Ezra Carter Cowley, Matthias Foss Cowley, Ann Elizabeth Cowley

Married Jesse Williams Fox, 13 Mar 1871, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah

Child - Charlotte Jeannette Fox

Family links:

Parents:

Calvin Ira Foss (1798 - 1835)

Sarah Brackett Carter Foss (1800 - 1894)

Spouses:

Jesse Williams Fox (1819 - 1894)

Matthias Cowley (1829 - 1864)\*

Children:

Sarah Isabella Fayban Cowley (1860 - 1861)\*

Ezra Carter Cowley (1862 - 1863)\*

Ann Elizabeth Cowley Willey (1864 - 1930)\*

\*Calculated relationship

Burial:

Salt Lake City Cemetery

Salt Lake City

Salt Lake County

Utah, USA

Plot: D\_12\_3\_3\_W

Created by: SMSmith

Record added: Sep 11, 2007

# Family Group Sheet

13 July 2013

Find A Grave Memorial# 21499469  
Added by: Judie Latshaw in Salt Lake

- SMSmith  
Added: Sep. 11, 2007

## **General:** GS: Me. 25 Vol 1

Foss Family Records

GS: Me 20 Vol 4 page 2161

LDS Archives sheets

1. Obit. of Sarah Brackett Carter Foss in D. Weekly News 3 Mar 1894 p.331.
2. Family Rec. in poss. of Robert Foss Hansen
3. Family Rec. compiled by Sarah Brackett Carter Foss Elliott in poss. of Robert Foss Hansen.
4. Foss Temple Records in poss. of E. Foss Richards.
5. Family Group sheet of Dr. Willard Richards & Rhoda Harriett Foss.

## **CHILD NOTES: Rhoda Harriet FOSS-738**

**LDS Bapt (31 October 1844):** Wilford Woodruff's Journals states that he baptized four of the Sarah Foss's Family, 31 Oct 1844, Olive, Ezra, Rhoda and Phebe.

**History :** Rhoda Harriet Foss Richards  
(1830 – 1881)

Written by granddaughter, Clara Richards

My grandmother, Rhoda Harriet Foss Richards, was born in Saco, Maine, April 19, 1830, the second daughter of seven children in the family of Calvin Foss and Sarah Brackett Carter Foss.

Rhoda's parents were of New England and English descent. Their ancestors could also be traced to the Scandinavian countries. Both parents had ancestors who fought for freedom of the colonies in the Revolutionary War.

Her parents were poor farmers but generous and hospitable, so Rhoda grew up in a thrifty, industrious, and economical family. Her mother was a neat, efficient housewife and trained her daughter to be the same. Rhoda was also skilled in the art of cooking wholesome food. Rhoda and her family were also well educated.

In 1844, when Rhoda was fourteen years old, Apostle Wilford Woodruff baptized her as well as her mother [Wilford Woodruff's Journal records only the daughters as being baptized in 1844 L.Nixon.] and some other family members into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

When Rhoda was twenty, she went with her mother, three sisters, and a brother, Ezra Carter Foss, to Omaha, Nebraska to join a large company of Saints to Utah. Their leaders were Elder Woodruff and Leonard G. Hardy. Rhoda's sister, Sarah Elizabeth, had been to school in Portland, Maine when the others were baptized. So Elder Woodruff baptized her while on the trip to Utah. The Foss family loved Brother Woodruff as a true friend. When he married a sister of Rhoda's mother, Phebe Carter, the fourth president of the Church became known as "Uncle Woodruff" to them all.

Rhoda was beautiful and a young woman of calm temperament and had moral and physical courage. She rode in a carriage across the plains. They had one dreadful experience as they traveled along. Suddenly the horses became frightened of something and stampeded. They were running wildly and were uncontrollable. All in the carriage feared for their lives or some serious injury. Rhoda sat calm and full of faith as she said, "None would be injured." None were. It seemed uncanny, but as she said this, the horses began to slow down and were easy to control.

The Foss family arrived in the valley October 14, 1850 and eventually settled in the fourteenth Ward in Salt Lake City. Their neighbor on the south was Uncle Woodruff. On the north was Elder William W. Phelps, the author of many hymns. They were involved in Church activity upon arrival.

Rhoda was a teacher, yet never thought any work was to be frowned upon, even to milking cows, which she did later after she moved to Farmington.

In the fall of 1851 Rhoda married Apostle Willard Richards who was second counselor to President Brigham Young at the time. She moved to a home just south of South Temple where there were other Richards homes. Richards Street was named after the family homes there. Though Willard was away most of the time, they were very happy. A son, Calvin Willard, was born October 1852 to add to their happiness. It was a shock when Rhoda's husband died in 1854. She tried to hold her sadness within herself.

Due to the encouragement of Brigham Young, three years later on March 6, 1857, Rhoda married Franklin D. Richards, a nephew of Willard, who had worked closely with him in Church and in the flour mill in Farmington. Willard and Franklin had been very

close.

Willard and Rhoda had planned to build a rock house in Farmington about three blocks from the mill. (The mill building has a state historical marker on it now.) Shortly after Rhoda's marriage to Franklin they moved to a log cabin in Farmington.

A son, Hyrum, was born December 14, 1857. Then July 27, 1860 twin boys, Ira Carter and Ezra Foss, were born. The plans went forward on the rock home. Their only daughter, Sarah Elizabeth, was born October 31, 1862.

The three-room rock home was built in the early 1860s. Calvin Willard was the only child old enough to go to the canyon with his father to get the rocks. He often mentioned this in his later life. The home was not enlarged until 1904 when her son, Ezra, and family were living there. A State Historical Marker has also been placed on this home. Rhoda was secretary of the Relief Society.

Rhoda was alone with the children much of the time, but she willingly accepted this responsibility. Her husband, an Apostle, had to be away much of the time and had many families and his work to attend to. When the twins were four years old, they were often with the other Richards children of the wives of Franklin who lived along the two blocks. They watched the men at work.

One morning six of the children were going over the stile, which had three steps up and three steps down. This was the way to get over the fence to the mill. When Ira was on the top step, he stumbled and fell to the ground. He broke his neck. His big brother, Calvin, took him in his arms and ran over three blocks to place him in his mother's arms. For a moment she was overcome, then typical of her she controlled herself and said she knew there was an eternity and she would have him there. This took its toll on her health just the same.

When Hyrum was twenty years of age, he was badly injured while working beyond his strength, cutting and hauling logs and rock from Farmington Canyon for the town's homes. It resulted in his death, and his mother was never well after that.

The other three children grew to adulthood and were well equipped to assume any responsibility that came their way.

Calvin married first to Emma Irene Walker, the granddaughter of patriarch Hyrum Smith. They had nine children. After her death, he married Louise Madsen, called Aunt Lou. She was the mother of four sons. Calvin filled a mission after he was forty years of age to England.

Ezra Foss married Amanda Lydia Reeder. They had eight children but lost one of them in infancy. Ezra filled two long-term missions to New Zealand. During the first mission he and Elder Sanders translated the Book of Mormon into the Maori language and was president of the mission the second time. He also served two short-term missions. One was to the Southern States, on Church business, with Apostle Mathias F. Cowley, and the second, late in life, to Southern California for six months.

Sarah Elizabeth married Loren Joy Robinson, and they had eleven children (losing five in their first year of birth). Most of the descendants of Rhoda's children are active in the Church and hold responsible positions.

Mathias Cowley used to visit Rhoda's home. He reported that she was kind and loving, but her children had to mind and do what was right. She had a clean home and scrubbed the children until they were rosy.

The first Primary in the Church was organized in Farmington by Aurelia Rogers, and she selected Rhoda for her secretary and recorder. As always, she was faithful in her calling. When she was too ill to go, she sent her daughter, Sarah, who filled in for her.

Rhoda was never well after the death of Hyrum, and the last two years of her life she was confined to her room. She was afflicted with Erysipelas, a bacterial infection of the skin that is caused by Streptococcus.

A few days before her death, her husband asked her about him going with President Taylor and the other Apostles on a mission to the southern territory. She replied, "Go, Franklin, and do your duty; all will be well with me."

Her earthly career ended November 19, 1881 at 10 a.m. In all her illness she manifested the faith and patience which were the fruits of an abiding hope. She was buried in the Farmington City Cemetery.

A quote from the newspaper obituary read: "She won the love and esteem of those who knew her by her dutiful and consistent life as a Latter-day Saint. She accepted and obeyed every doctrine and ordinance of the Church that was required of her and lived in dutiful conformity therewith. She taught her children the principles of the gospel and had great satisfaction to see them walk in the way of the Lord, while they lived, and those who slept departed in faith."

When word finally got to Franklin about Rhoda's death, he wanted to attempt a return in a heavy snowstorm, but President Taylor deemed it would be dangerous for him to try it alone. He regretted that he couldn't have the privilege of rendering the last rights to the "respected dead."

Rhoda was "truly an obedient, dutiful child, a faithful and affectionate wife, a loving and indulgent mother and an exemplary confiding Latter-day Saint."

References: Life of Rhoda Harriet Foss by Mathias F. Cowley. Things my Father, Ezra Foss Richards, and my Aunt Mary Ann Richards Vanfleet have told me.

**Burial:** Rhoda Harriet Foss Richards

Birth: Apr. 19, 1830

Saco

York County

Maine, USA

# Family Group Sheet

13 July 2013

Death: Nov. 19, 1881

Farmington  
Davis County  
Utah, USA

Daughter of Calvin Ira Ross and Sarah Brackett Carter

Married Willard Richards, 30 Nov 1851, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah

Child - Calvin Willard Richards

Married Franklin Dewey Richards, 6 Mar 1857, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah

Children - Sarah Elizabeth Richards, Ezra Foss Richards, Ira Carter Richards, Hyrum Franklin Richards

Family links:

Parents:

Calvin Ira Foss (1798 - 1835)

Sarah Brackett Carter Foss (1800 - 1894)

Spouses:

Willard Richards (1804 - 1854)

Franklin Dewey Richards (1821 - 1899)

Children:

Calvin Willard Richards (1852 - 1926)\*

Ezra Foss Richards (1860 - 1930)\*

Ira Carter Richards (1860 - 1864)\*

Sarah Elizabeth Richards Robinson (1862 - 1925)\*

\*Calculated relationship

Burial:

Farmington City Cemetery

Farmington  
Davis County  
Utah, USA  
Plot: B-164-2

Created by: SMSmith

Record added: Jun 07, 2007

Find A Grave Memorial# 19771456

**General:** GS: Me. 25 Vol 1

Foss Family Records

GS: Me 20 Vol 4 page 2161

LDS Archives sheets

1. Obit. of Sarah Brackett Carter Foss in D. Weekly News 3 Mar 1894 p.331.
2. Family Rec. in poss. of Robert Foss Hansen
3. Family Rec. compiled by Sarah Brackett Carter Foss Elliott in poss. of Robert Foss Hansen.
4. Foss Temple Records in poss. of E. Foss Richards.
5. Family Group sheet of Dr. Willard Richards & Rhoda Harriett Foss.

## **CHILD NOTES: Phoebe Carter FOSS-739**

**LDS Bapt (31 October 1844):** Wilford Woodruff's Journals states that he baptized four of Sarah B. Foss's Family, 31 Oct 1844, Olive, Ezra, Rhoda and Phebe.

**Burial (29 July 1913):** Phebe Carter Foss Sessions

Birth: Nov. 2, 1831

Saco  
York County  
Maine, USA

Death: Jul. 25, 1913

Bountiful  
Davis County  
Utah, USA

Daughter of Calvin Ira Ross and Sarah Brackett Carter

# Family Group Sheet

13 July 2013

Married David Sessions, 30 Dec 1852, Bountiful, Davis, Utah

Children - James Indian Sessions, David Sessions, Cardenia Estella Sessions, Rhoda Harriet Sessions, Darius Sessions, Annie Sophia Sessions, Elizabeth Sessions, Fabyan Carter Sessions, Sarah Phebe Sessions, Calvin Foss Sessions, Olive Cordelia Sessions

Family links:

Parents:

Calvin Ira Foss (1798 - 1835)

Sarah Brackett Carter Foss (1800 - 1894)

Spouse:

David Sessions (1823 - 1896)\*

Children:

James Madover Sessions (1844 - 1895)\*

Sarah Phebe Sessions Moss (1853 - 1933)\*

Olive Cordelia Sessions Corbridge (1859 - 1932)\*

Fabyan Carter Sessions (1862 - 1934)\*

Darius Sessions (1864 - 1935)\*

Calvin Foss Sessions (1866 - 1869)\*

Elizabeth Sessions Lewis (1868 - 1919)\*

Rhoda Harriett Sessions (1871 - 1873)\*

\*Calculated relationship

Burial:

Bountiful Memorial Park

Bountiful

Davis County

Utah, USA

Plot: a-5-26-3

Created by: SMSmith

Record added: Sep 19, 2007

Find A Grave Memorial# 21653251

**General:** GS: Me. 25 Vol 1

Foss Family Records

GS: Me 20 Vol 4 page 2161

LDS Archives sheets

1. Obit. of Sarah Brackett Carter Foss in D. Weekly News 3 Mar 1894 p.331.
2. Family Rec. in poss. of Robert Foss Hansen
3. Family Rec. compiled by Sarah Brackett Carter Foss Elliott in poss. of Robert Foss Hansen.
4. Foss Temple Records in poss. of E. Foss Richards.
5. Family Group sheet of Dr. Willard Richards & Rhoda Harriett Foss.

## **CHILD NOTES: Ezra Carter FOSS-449**

**LDS Bapt (31 October 1844):** Wilford Woodruff's Journals states that he baptized four of the Sarah B.Foss's Family, 31 Oct 1844, Olive, Ezra, Rhoda and Phebe.

**Burial (July 1919):** Ezra Carter Foss

Birth: Jun. 23, 1833

Saco

York County

Maine, USA

Death: Jul. 3, 1919

Farmington

Davis County

Utah, USA

Son of Calvin Ira Foss and Sarah Brackett Carter

Married Emily Mariah Cheney, 19 Jun 1870, Farmington, Davis, Utah

Children - Ida Foss, Edna Foss, Ezra Carter Foss, Franklin Nathan Foss, Sarah Brackett Foss, Luther Scammon Foss, Calvin Zachariah Foss, Amy Elizabeth Foss

Family links:

# Family Group Sheet

13 July 2013

## Parents:

Calvin Ira Foss (1798 - 1835)

Sarah Bracket Carter Foss (1800 - 1894)

## Spouse:

Emily Maria Cheney Foss (1851 - 1929)

## Children:

Ezra Carter Foss (1871 - 1934)\*

Sarah Brackett Foss Elliott (1873 - 1969)\*

Franklin Nathan Foss (1875 - 1931)\*

Calvin Zachariah Foss (1877 - 1953)\*

Amy Elizabeth Foss (1880 - 1883)\*

Luther Scammon Foss (1883 - 1962)\*

Ida Foss (1889 - 1889)\*

Edna Foss (1889 - 1889)\*

\*Calculated relationship

## Burial:

Farmington City Cemetery

Farmington

Davis County

Utah, USA

Plot: C-23-1

Created by: SMSmith

Record added: Feb 02, 2000

Find A Grave Memorial# 40418

## CHILD NOTES: Olive Carl FOSS-740

**LDS Bapt (31 October 1844):** Wilford Woodruff's Journals states that he baptized four of Sarah B. Foss's Family, 31 Oct 1844, Olive, Ezra, Rhoda and Phebe.

**Burial (9 April 1877):** Olive C. Foss Woolley

Birth: Apr. 12, 1835

Scarborough

Cumberland County

Maine, USA

Death: Apr. 7, 1877

Salt Lake City

Salt Lake County

Utah, USA

Daughter of Calvin Ira Foss and Sarah Brackett Carter

Married Franklin Benjamin Woolley, 11 Feb 1857, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah

Children - Edwin John Woolley, Samuel Woolley, Ida Foss Woolley, Eva Woolley, Ezra Foss Woolley, Effie Dean Woolley, Jedediah

Foss Woolley, Franklin Benjamin Woolley

## Family links:

### Parents:

Calvin Ira Foss (1798 - 1835)

Sarah Bracket Carter Foss (1800 - 1894)

### Spouse:

Franklin Benjamin Woolley (1834 - 1869)

### Children:

Eva Woolley (\_\_\_\_ - 1867)\*

Franklin Benjamin Woolley (1857 - 1939)\*

Jedediah Foss Woolley (1862 - 1938)\*

Ezra Foss Woolley (1865 - 1933)\*

\*Calculated relationship

## Burial:

Saint George City Cemetery

Saint George

# Family Group Sheet

13 July 2013

Washington County  
Utah, USA  
Plot: A-A-4-4-SH  
Created by: SMSmith  
Record added: Sep 11, 2007  
Find A Grave Memorial# 21503359

**General:** GS: Me. 25 Vol 1

Foss Family Records

GS: Me 20 Vol 4 page 2161

LDS Archives sheets

1. Obit. of Sarah Brackett Carter Foss in D. Weekly News 3 Mar 1894 p.331.
  2. Family Rec. in poss. of Robert Foss Hansen
  3. Family Rec. compiled by Sarah Brackett Carter Foss Elliott in poss. of Robert Foss Hansen.
  4. Foss Temple Records in poss. of E. Foss Richards.
  5. Family Group sheet of Dr. Willard Richards & Rhoda Harriett Foss.
- Note: Sadie Foss Elliott says Olive was born in Saco, York, Maine and died 6 or 7 April 1877.



1. *Family Records of Sarah Brackett Foss Elliott.*
2. *Sealings for living couples in Endowment House 19 Oct 1870 p.35 #18303.*
3. *LDS Farmington, Utah Ward Records of Members 1907-1917 #107.*
4. *Obituary of Ezra C. Foss in SL Tribune 6 July 1919.*
5. *Farmington, Utah Cemetery Records.*
6. *Obituary of Ezra C. Foss in Deseret News 4 July 1919.*
7. *LDS Farmington Ward Record Form E. Deaths 1919.*



## Life Story

# Sarah Brackett Carter Foss

Compiled by **Alexis Champneys Beckstead**, wife of David B. Beckstead (one of Sarah's descendant). Information was obtained from a life story for Sarah written by Sarah Brackett Foss Elliott (granddaughter); life story of Olive Carl Foss Woolley written by Ida Matilda McArthur Snow; Sketch of Sarah Brackett Carter Foss by her grandson, Matthias F. Cowley; a life sketch of Wilford Woodruff; Life Stories of Ezra Carter Foss and Rhoda Foss; and "They Came in '50," International Society of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers. Picture added by Loretta Nixon 7/13/2013

- **Sarah Brackett Carter Foss**

Sarah Brackett Carter was the daughter of Ezra Carter and Sarah Fabyon. She was born September 30, 1800 at Limerick, York County, Maine. She was the second child of a family of eleven children, six sons and five daughters. Her ancestors were of the substantial, sturdy New England stock who came to America in the early Colonial years. Several of the Carters, Fosses and Fabyons were valiant soldiers of the American Revolutionary War. Zachariah Foss, Joseph Brackett, and Ebenezer Carl, ancestors of Sarah Brackett Foss, were with General Washington at Valley Forge. The family as a whole were staunch supporters of the United States.

Sarah and her older brother, Joseph Fabyon, were born at Limerick, Maine, but in the same year of Sarah's birth (1800) the family moved 30 miles east to Scarborough, Maine where the remainder of the family's nine children were born. Scarborough was a fishing and farming town on the Gulf of Maine.

In Scarborough Sarah's father, Ezra, built a splendid house and beautified the grounds surrounding it. Ezra told the builders to put two nails where they usually put one. One of the builders said later that if the house was lifted up and rolled down hill it would still hang together. What Ezra Carter did, he did well. At 150 years old the home and old elm trees were still in good preservation.

Sarah learned early to be a good housekeeper. She was orderly, neat and clean. As the oldest daughter, she became very useful in helping her mother care for the family. Sarah was an excellent cook and learned the art of spinning and weaving the wool from the sheep on her father's farm.

At the age of 18 Sarah Brackett Carter embroidered a genealogical chart giving data of her father, Lieutenant Ezra Carter, and her mother, Sarah Fabyon, and their children. It was done on linen and told the birth and earth of each one. It also included grandparents and 13 other members of the family. The sides, tops and bottom were decorated with embroidered flowers and ferns. It was passed down and in the possession of Sarah Brackett Foss Elliott, a descendant, for many years.

### **Changes in Her Life**

Sarah Brackett Carter married Calvin Foss November 1, 1823. Calvin was raised at his father's home in Scarborough, Maine. They moved a few miles south to Saco, York where Calvin and Sarah had a farm. Together they had seven children.

Elder John F. Boynton of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints went on a mission to Saco, Maine and reported in a letter dated Jan. 20, 1834, "I have baptized about forty in this section (Saco); Elder Even M. Greene travelled with me from Jan. 16, 1833 until October following; while together we baptized about 130." It appears that Sarah's sister, Phebe Whittemore Carter, was baptized at this time and eventually traveled to Ohio. A marriage record is found of her union with Wilford Woodruff in Kirtland, Ohio April 13, 1837 with Frederick G. Williams officiating.

Wilford Woodruff recorded that he began a mission to Maine May 31, 1837 with Jonathan Hale and Milton Holmes. His intent may have been to go back and preach the gospel to Phebe's relatives. When he showed up in Saco, he found that his wife's sister, Sarah, was a widow. Sadly, when Sarah was pregnant with her seventh child, Calvin died February 28, 1835 from Erysipelas, a bacterial infection caused by Streptococcus that invaded and spread through the lymphatic vessels. He was only 36 years at the time. In consequence, Sarah, along with her children, moved back to her parents' home where she gave birth to her youngest child, Olive Carl. Sarah had what was then considered a good education, so while the children were too young to be of any assistance in securing a livelihood, she managed with her work as a teacher and other means to support herself and the children. She sought to educate her children as well. Her daughters became capable teachers. Sarah never did remarry.

When her son, Ezra, was about nine years old, Sarah's brother, Ezra, arranged for her son to live with him at Portland, Maine, offering to educate and teach him in the book-binding trade. Uncle Ezra Carter and Mr. Saunders owned a large printing establishment as well as a book store at Portland. Ezra the younger was given a good college education and trade in binding. Ezra did the binding on some of his sister's school books with choice red Morocco covers and many of the books were carried west with them.

Through the preaching of these brethren, Ezra Carter, his wife, and most of his children (including Sarah and her family) were converted and baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The exception was Sarah's oldest son, Ira, who did not accept the gospel. Ezra Carter was not baptized until March 22, 1849.

### **Pioneer Trek**

At the age of 50 and in the spring of 1850, Sarah Foss and six of her children accompanied Wilford Woodruff, who had now become an apostle, and a group of other saints in a journey to Utah. Son, Calvin I. was 24, daughter Sarah was age 23, Rhoda was age 20, Phebe was 19, Ezra was 17, and Olive was age 15. On the ninth of April 1850, Wilford Woodruff with his family and a hundred other saints left Maine for New York, where they were joined by other saints, making in all 209 people. On their way to Pittsburg, they passed through Philadelphia. At the former place they secured passage to St. Louis, where they arrived on the first day of May 1850.

From St. Louis to Council Bluffs they took passage on the steamer Sacramento. They left St. Joseph, Missouri on the 12th of May 1850 and Ft. Kearney on the 15th. The company rested the following day while President Woodruff accompanied by Orson Pratt went to Kanesville, Missouri to visit Elder Orson Hyde.

This frontier town was a busy place in those days. The saints were constantly coming and going, and the people were generally in a state of excitement. The very nature of the circumstances gave rise to some discontent.

On the 21st of May 1850, the companies starting to Zion were organized into hundreds, fifties, and tens with a captain over each lot. Sarah's sons, Calvin and Ezra, were to drive teams.

Milo Andrus' team left June 3rd, Benjamin Hawkins company left June 7th, Aaron Johnson headed a company leaving June 12th, James Pace captained a company leaving after that. Three more companies left June 15th under the direction of captains Joseph Young, Warren Foote, and David Evans. Wilford Woodruff's group left June 20, 1850 with 44 wagons. It is hard to imagine the hundreds of individuals frantically working to prepare for departure with a feverish excitement in the air.

During their travels on the ninth of July, four women died (Lucy Johnson, Matilda Hardy, a Sister Snow, and Emily Huntington). Deaths in that year on the plains were frequent and Elder Woodruff's company suffered with the rest.

The daughter, Sarah Elizabeth, being absent at school in Portland, Maine when the rest of the family were baptized, received this ordinance in the Platte River July 10, 1850 by Wilford Woodruff.

On the 15th of July a severe thunderstorm arose and Brother Ridge from Staffordshire, England and his oxen were killed by the lightning.

The 30th of the month witnessed one of those scenes not uncommon to the plains in the early days of emigration by ox teams. Those who have not seen a stampede can hardly imagine the confusion and dangers involved. The wagons they drew were loaded with women and children and merchandise. There were often 30 or more teams of oxen close together, with there being usually from two to five oxen to a team. The stampedes generally took place without a moment's warning and the cattle ran in all directions.

Elder Woodruff, in writing of this scene, said,

“Our stampede commenced in the following manner: While my son, Wilford, was mounting his horse, William Murphy struck the horse with a whip, starting it to run. When his saddle turned, Wilford was thrown to the ground and the horse ran away. As the horse approached one of the wagons, Mr. Cannon's team became frantic and started off at great speed. In a moment, twenty of the thirty teams followed the rush and the whole company was moving apparently onward into the jaws of death.”

On my carriage was a fine black steed, and in it were Rhoda Foss (Sarah's daughter) and Susan Woodruff (Wilford's daughter). We were at the head of the company and when the stampede commenced, I was by the side of my carriage. I saw Mrs. Woodruff rush into the midst of the scene with many other women and children. Their lives were in constant danger. I told Rhoda to let my horse run into the bluffs and do the best she could. I gave him a cut to start him into a run and left them to the care of Providence.

I then rushed into the midst of the stampede in order to save the lives of my wife and as many others as possible. I had hard work even to save my own life. Mrs. Woodruff soon found an opening and fled out of the midst of the scene. Brother Petty's wagons were turned over. My family wagon with four yoke of oxen ran over one of his wagons and a wagon ran over one of his children. Prescott Hardy was knocked down by his own team and badly injured in the thigh and arm.

Wherever I saw women and children in danger, I did what I could to rescue them, then I ran forward to see what condition my carriage and wagon were in. I found my horse still running but on three legs. Rhoda was thrown from the carriage and Susan was

lying on her back with her feet hanging out between the wheels. It was a miracle that no one was killed, and there was really but little damage done to oxen and wagons.”

According to a story passed down by the family, on one occasion when they were camped for the night, an Indian chief rode into camp and made numerous threats; but when he saw Olive (Sarah’s beautiful, youngest fifteen-year-old daughter with two long black braids below her waist), he promised to leave them unmolested if they would let him take Olive away with him for a wife. He offered his horse, blankets, saddle, and about all he possessed. When Sarah would not sell Olive to the Chief, he became very indignant saying, “White squaw don’t know much.” After considerable discussion, and the receipt of food and a few other presents, he departed and molested them no more.

After some break downs and delays, the company arrived in Salt Lake City October 14, 1850.

### **Life in Salt Lake City**

In Salt Lake City, the Foss family located in the 14th Ward at number 44 South West Temple, between South Temple and First South—one half block south of the future Bamberger Station. Their home was erected in the next lot south of the Wilford Woodruff home. It was natural that the Foss family became close neighbors to Brother Woodruff in the new city of the Saints. To Sarah Foss and all her children and grandchildren who were reared in the faith of the gospel, Wilford Woodruff was always known as “Uncle Woodruff.” Wilford was a true friend as well as a spiritual advisor and father.

At the time the Relief Society was organized, President Brigham Young read the name of Sarah Brackett Foss as Secretary. Sarah had not been previously notified and it came as such a surprise to her. She told Pres. Young she was not capable to fill the position. He turned toward her and made the remark to the audience, “There is enough talent done up in that little woman to furnish secretaries for the church for six generations.” Each of her four daughters later served as secretaries to various church organizations, as well as granddaughters. The prediction was fulfilled.

### **Sarah’s Children**

Sarah had wonderful children. Many of them married important leaders in the church and brought about a great posterity.

Sarah’s oldest son, Ira C. Foss, did not join the church when the rest of the family did, but stayed behind in Maine. He married Tryphena Burnham Seavey and they had six children. Although he made no profession of religion, he was a good honest person in all the business transactions of his life.

Calvin Foss, second son of Sarah Carter Foss, married Jane Roundy, a daughter of Bishop Shadrack Roundy. Calvin and his family moved to Sacramento, California where they reared a family of nine children and lived the remainder of their lives.

Sarah's oldest daughter, Sarah Elizabeth, taught school in the 16th Ward and later in the 14th Ward in Salt Lake. President Heber C. Kimball was one of her best supporters. Five of his own and four of his grandchildren were her pupils. President Heber J. Grant and others who became prominent in the church were pupils in her school as well. Sarah Elizabeth married Matthias F. Cowley (one of the 12 apostles) and had four children by him. She was left a widow and later married Jesse W. Fox, Sr. They had one daughter, Sethe Fox Seeman of Salt Lake City.

Rhoda Harriett, Sarah's second daughter, married President Willard Richards and he gave her one son, Calvin Richards. He passed away and she later married Apostle Franklin D. Richards by whom she had three sons and one daughter.

Her third daughter, Phoebe, married David Sessions, a pioneer of Bountiful, Utah. They had four sons and five daughters. David Sessions was an early colonizer on the muddy in Lincoln County, Nevada.

Sarah's youngest son, Ezra Foss, was employed in the printing and book-binding department of Deseret News, by Willard Richards, who was Editor of the Deseret News. The first laws and statutes governing the Territory of Utah made at the first Legislature were printed in the Deseret News office, and Ezra bound these first statute books. Ezra was called on three different colonizing missions. Two were broken up by the Indians. He also went as a missionary to Carson Valley, Nevada.

The youngest daughter, Olive Carl, married Franklin B. Woolley. They were among the first missionary colonizers of St. George, Utah. They had three sons and two daughters. Franklin was killed by the Indians while freighting goods from Southern California by mule team to St. George.

Sarah had 43 grandchildren, 151 great-grandchildren, and enough great-great-grandchildren to number around 500 descendants.

### **Trip Home to Maine**

In 1861 at the age of 61, escorted by her son-in-law, Matthias F. Cowley, Sarah Carter Foss crossed the plains eastward in an attempt to visit her family in the state of Maine. From Omaha she went by rail to Maine—that being as far west as the railroad was built at that time. Her aged father, one sister, and her son, Ira (who had not accepted the gospel), were still alive.

Although she dearly loved her native state, her dear relatives, and the old homestead, no amount of persuasion, nor the inducements of comfort and finances which she might have enjoyed in her father's home, could influence her to stay. After a short

visit, they returned to Utah by the same route, thus she made three trips across the great American Desert.

### **Sarah Remembered**

Her grandson, Matthias F. Cowley, said of Sarah:

“Grandmother Foss was a devoted Latter-day Saint. She had the courage, willpower and faith to refrain from tea and coffee, to pay her tithing, and to do her full duty. She was always anxious that neither her sons nor grandsons should use liquor and faithfully warned us against it. She wanted to obey the entire counsel of the authorities of the Church. She did not believe in card playing. I remember a little verse she used to repeat to us as follows: ‘Cards and dice are the Devil’s advice. ‘Tis God’s desire that they should be committed to the fire.’ She was very constant and faithful to observe family prayers. I remember from boyhood a sentence she frequently repeated in her prayer— ‘Keep us or hold us, O Lord, as it were in the hollow of thine hand.’

She was very faithful in searching for the genealogical data of her kindred dead. When the St. George Temple was ready for ordinance work, she would go there and spend months at a time working in the temple. She lived with Aunt Olive C. Woolley. Aunt Olive and her husband were early missionaries to St. George.”

Sarah had a happy cheerful disposition. The more a person knew her, the better they liked her. Her father lived to be 96 years of age, and she was 93 when she departed this life (March 4, 1894). She was living with daughter, Sarah Elizabeth, in Bountiful, Utah, at the time. President Woodruff, President George Q. Cannon and other leading men attended her funeral and paid beautiful, yet well-merited tributes of respect for her.

Sarah Brackett Carter Foss was a Patriot, a Pioneer, and a true Latter-day Saint. Her name and memory will live forever and she will be found among the best fruits of a glorious resurrection.

Compiled by **Alexis Champneys Beckstead**, wife of David B. Beckstead (one of Sarah’s descendant). Information was obtained from a life story for Sarah written by Sarah Brackett Foss Elliott (granddaughter); life story of Olive Carl Foss Woolley written by Ida Matilda McArthur Snow; Sketch of Sarah Brackett Carter Foss by her grandson, Matthias F. Cowley; a life sketch of Wilford Woodruff; Life Stories of Ezra Carter Foss and Rhoda Foss; and “They Came in ’50,” International Society of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers.

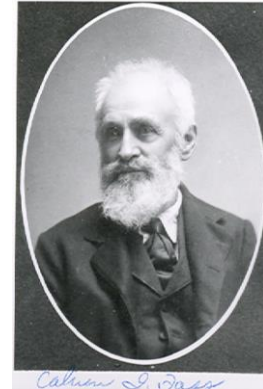


## Calvin Ichabod Foss, California Pioneer

By  
Marjorie Joan Oughton Green, GGGranddaughter  
September 16, 2005  
Revised June 2010 with Renee Mounteer

“Fortune lies upon the surface of the earth as plentiful as the mud in our streets. We look for an addition within the next four years equal to at least one thousand million of dollars to the gold in circulation.” – Horace Greeley,  
New York Tribune

“The accounts of the abundance of gold in that territory are of such extraordinary character as would scarcely Command belief were they not corroborated by authentic reports of officers in the public service.” – President James Polk



Gold fever was an epidemic! Adventurous young men all across the nation dreamed of wealth, of getting rich quick. They left their jobs, their farms, their family and friends behind and headed west seeking their fortune. And so it was that Calvin Ichabod Foss, joined the rush for gold in California.

The Fosses were, by tradition, people with big dreams who acted to achieve those dreams. The first Foss to leave his home, Johann Foss, arrived in the Colonies in 1657 from Ribe, Denmark.<sup>101</sup> Family lore advises that John worked as a caulker on a British War ship and when he came into the Boston Harbor he jumped overboard and swam ashore.<sup>6,16</sup> Other Fosses dreamed of a free county where they could live and worship as they pleased and struggled to achieve their vision.

Deputized, authorized and appointed by the Englishman, Sir Fernando Gorges, in the spring of 1623, Calvin's 5<sup>th</sup> great grandfather, David Thompson, was given the possession and seisen (transferring of land from one party to another) of the patent on the land known by the name of Messachusick. A Scotsman, gentleman and scholar, Thompson was considered to be the founder and first governor of New Hampshire. It is rumored that Squanto was aboard ship on David's first trip across the Atlantic Ocean in 1607 – well before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock.<sup>13,100</sup>

Other ancestors of Calvin, the Bracketts, Carters, Fabyans, and Thompsons took up residence in the New World during the early to mid -1600's. Some were known to have battled Indians. Several of his forebearers, Anthony Brackett, Thomas Brackett and his wife, Mary Mitton, were killed by the Indians.<sup>37</sup>

In the late mid 1700s some supported the “Glorious Cause”; the Revolutionary War. One of those was a Foss. Revolutionary War Records show that in January of 1777 Calvin's paternal grandfather, Zachariah of Scarboro, Maine, enlisted with the Continental Army holding the rank of Private. On July 7, 1777, about six month after enlisting found himself at the Battle of Hubbardton, Vermont, where one of the most successful rear guard actions in the annals of American History was fought. On October 17, 1777 he witnessed the surrender of the British General John Burgoyne at Saratoga, New York.<sup>7,18,30,39</sup>



This famous painting, “The Surrender of Burgoyne”, [at Saratoga] by John Trumbull hangs in the Rotunda of the United States Capitol.

Tradition claims that Grandpa Foss encamped near Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, during that miserable January of 1778 where George Washington’s troops nearly all died. His expertise came in handy for building cabins for the soldiers. Private Foss participated in the “Storming at Stony Point”, New York on July 15 and 16 1779 when the American Light Infantry Brigade armed with only unloaded muskets and fixed bayonets launched a midnight assault against a British garrison. On October 2, 1779, he appeared for muster at West Point, New York. He was discharged on Jan 1, 1880 at Fishkill Landing in the state of New York.<sup>18,29,30</sup>

Calvin’s maternal great grandfather, Joshua Fabyan, Esq. is considered a Revolutionary War Patriot because of his many civic exploits in support of the war effort. He was a member of County Convention, Sept. 21, 1774; Selectman of Scarborough, in 1775, 1779, and 1781; Receiver of Taxes, 1775; Representative to General Court in 1776, and a member of the committee to raise Capt. Paul Ellis’ Company for two months’ service at the siege of Boston; a Justice of Court of General Sessions, Oct 31, 1775, until April, 1797; in 1776, a member of the Cumberland Co. committee to raise men for the Canadian Campaign and a member of the Committee of Correspondence and Safety at Scarborough in 1782. With regard to the aforementioned Siege of Boston, it is a family story that every able bodied man from Scarboro was enlisted.<sup>5, 23</sup>



Fabyan Farm, once the home of Joshua Fabyan, is still a working farm today. Here you see Norm Green, husband of Marj, the gg granddaughter of Calvin Foss with the current owner of the farm.

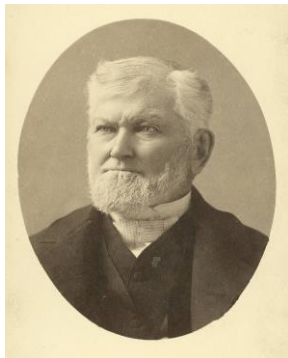
Many generations after the arrival of Johann Foss and David Thompson, on a cold wintry day, Calvin Ichabod Foss was born on 10 January 1826, in Saco, Maine, to Calvin Foss and Sarah Brackett Carter Foss in a house built by grandfather Ezra Carter. His birth record indicates that he was named just Ichabod. The Calvin was added later. Calvin Ichabod’s father, Calvin Ira Foss, a farmer, died 28 February 1835,<sup>36</sup> nine year old Calvin Ichabod learned about the sorrows of death at an early age. His mother, a widow with seven children, found work as a teacher in

order to support her family. Between teaching other peoples' children and raising her family, she took the time to teach her own children to read and write.<sup>11</sup>



The house that Ezra Carter built where Calvin Ichabod Foss was born located on the Fabyan homestead, Scarborough, Maine, burned on July 4, 1904. The house was rebuilt at nearly the same location. Now on Lucky Lane, it is still lived in today.

In 1836, Wilford Woodruff, a deeply religious and conservative man, made a missionary trip to Maine where he taught the gospel to many, including the Carter and Foss families. He baptized Calvin and the rest of his family shortly afterward. He married Calvin's Aunt Phebe Whittemore Carter in 1837 and Woodruff became a "father figure" to the family.<sup>11,104</sup>



Wilford Woodruff was sustained as the Fourth President of the Mormon Church in 1889.

When he was a young man of about 22, the place where he had been living burned down, and the lure of gold in California called. He found his way back to his mother's place and on 23 February 1849, Wilford Woodruff went to Boston with him to secure his passage ticket to the California gold fields on the ship *Areatus*. His grandfather, Ezra Carter Jr. had sent \$300 of the passage money with Wilford. *The Bay State and California & Trading & Mining Company* (the BSCTM Company) had hired the *Areatus* for the trip and was selling shares for passage, an equal right to the Ship and all its contents, and to all the income after they reached California. On the 9th of March, his Uncle Wilford and Grandfather Carter went into Boston to help him secure all he would need for the trip. They then took the opportunity to visit the *Areatus* and of seeing common areas of the ship.<sup>106</sup>

After spending a Sabbath evening with his family, he sailed out of Boston's harbor on 5 April 1849 to sail around Cape Horn for California.<sup>20,21,24</sup> He was officially an Argonaut, not with

thoughts of a Ram with golden Fleece, but with dreams of riches and golden rocks. He was a Forty-niner.

For the next 170 days Calvin learned about sea sickness, got his sea legs, experienced gale storms on the seas, and what life in some of the South American coastal ports was like. The ship stopped in Rio de Janeiro between May 21st -25<sup>th</sup>. Slaves were everywhere as they did all the manual labor. The housing was poor, and the native people were somewhat fearful of the “Californians.” Apparently there were six or seven ships from the states in port all headed to California around the Cape at that time. They experienced some gale winds near the Falkland Islands and the weather continued to be frigid and stormy around the Cape. The *Areatus* reached Valparaiso, Chili, on the 25th of July where they remained until the 31st. There were no slaves there; but the rest of the town was much the same as Rio de Janeiro. About 3 days out of San Francisco thick fog became a problem, but on 23 September 1849 they reached shore. There were 150 vessels in port and as many more strung out along the coastline for 160 miles north. These robust Argonauts saw gambling almost everywhere—men and women alike.<sup>105</sup> They were quite sure that “There was plenty of gold as they’d been told, on the Banks of the Sacramento.” (from an old folk song, *The Banks of the Sacramento*)

The majority of dwellings in San Francisco were tents. Lumber was being shipped in for building purposes at a cost from \$300 - \$350 per thousand; with the cost dropping daily. Carpenters made \$12 - \$15 a day for building. Board [and room] was from \$5- \$15 a week.<sup>105</sup>

The BSCTM Company Association broke up after all of the goods on board were sold, and the proceeds were divided among the 140 in the Association. The individuals on the ship then formed their own little companies with their own by-laws.

The foothills of California were good to Grandpa Cal. He did his sluice mining up into Amador and El Dorado counties for about five years (some reports say 3 1/2 years.) Calvin said he never lost any gold in his cabin from the mines. He made a fortune clearing \$800 to \$900 at a whack. Anyone could go into his cabin and cook a meal providing they washed up the dishes afterwards. Later, when he wished to cash in his gold, he drove his wagon to Sacramento, leaving it across the street from where the Scottish Rite Temple was first located. He left everything and \$40,000 in gold in the wagon for two weeks while he went to San Francisco to arrange to cash in the gold. When he returned, he found everything safe.<sup>12</sup> In August of 1852, his uncle Ias F. Carter from Maine and in 1855 his brother, Ezra visited him in Sacramento in 1855<sup>17</sup>.

Meanwhile, Calvin’s mother and all of his siblings, except his brother Ira, traveled across the plains to Utah in 1850 in the Wilford Woodruff Company, a pioneer wagon train. At this time, Calvin’s family ties began to show. It was time to go “home” to Utah.<sup>11</sup>

The quest for gold behind him, Cal settled into life in Salt Lake City, Utah. On 9 May 1855, he bought 10 acres in Lot 13 Block 34 in Salt Lake City for \$140.00. Today that is located near the corner of Main and 600 South Streets. The Grand America, a huge 24-story luxury hotel, now stands on this and adjacent properties.<sup>15</sup>

Here, Calvin’s charitable side became evident. He helped his mother and sisters when she needed it. Patty Sessions, a very good friend of his mother’s, often needed a little help keeping up her property. He cut her hay, cut her grass, and at times he would go over to her place to pick up his sisters. One of his sisters, Phebe, married Patty’s son David.<sup>98</sup>

When and where Calvin married Nancy Jane Roundy is not exactly known. She had been a single mother since the end of May of 1852 when she was deserted by her then husband, Henry D. Lindsay. It was thought that Henry had died when Indians attacked and burned his wagon in the gold fields of California.<sup>32</sup> But, she received a divorce on 24 February 1857.<sup>14, 99</sup> Could she have married Calvin before she sought the divorce? Perhaps the divorce was one of those things done after having a nightmare of her first husband, Henry D. Lindsay, walking back into her life after she and Calvin had married.

Their first daughter, Betsey (Bessie) Sophia, was born at the end of June 1857 before Calvin made a return trip to California on 8 November 1857.<sup>36</sup> Perhaps this is when the idea germinated about starting a freighting business between Sacramento and Utah.

Calvin returned to Salt Lake, served on Petit Juries on 11 August 1858, and again on 24 November 1858.<sup>8</sup> On 11 April 1859, Nancy Jane gave birth to son Calvin in Salt Lake City.<sup>33</sup>

Once the riff with Johnston's Army was settled in Utah, the government sold off surplus goods at very low prices. Sales began in July of 1859 with the army selling 2000 mules at \$60 to \$140 each. At another sale the army disposed of 3,500 large freight wagons for \$10.00 each. Harnesses were thrown in free if an entire team of mules was purchased.<sup>22</sup> We know that somehow Calvin acquired eighteen freight wagons with teams of eighteen mules each. It seems logical that he bought his wagons and mules from the army at one of their auctions. Calvin decided it was time to wind up his affairs and to move back to California. On 3 August 1859, he served on a jury with his brother-in-law, Matthias Cowley, and five days later he sold his property to Matthias for \$140.00.<sup>9, 15</sup> Before Nancy Jane and Calvin left Salt Lake, they kissed Nancy Jane's daughter, Henrietta, good-bye and left her to be raised by Nancy Janes parents, Shadrach and Betsey Roundy.

They arrived in Sacramento sometime before August 9, 1860. Calvin noticed that in his absence Sutter's Fort had been abandoned.<sup>12</sup> Closely associated with the Donner Party and the Gold Rush, it once served as a trading post and a way station marking the end of the California and Siskiyou Trails.<sup>103</sup>



Renee Munteer and Marj Green in front of Sutter's Fort, Sacramento California, July 2002. Both are descendants of Shadrach and Betsey Roundy; Renee through Lorenzo and Marj through Nancy Jane.

Cal and Nancy Jane settled into a house on the south side of K Street between Twelfth and Thirteenth Streets and quickly set up his freighting business located on the southwest corner of Eleventh and J Streets.<sup>38</sup> Life was not easy here in the "old west". According to the account of his sons, Bert and Willam, all of the financial investment in the Foss & Adams freighting business, was Calvin's. He ran the store and Adams (probably John), his partner, a single man, did the long-haul driving between Sacramento and Salt Lake City. Calvin would give Mr. Adams the money to pay for the goods when they purchased them. However, on the last trip Mr. Adams made, he pocketed the "payment for goods" money. He led Calvin to believe that he had paid for them. He then drove "east" and not only sold all the goods, but the freight wagons and mules, too. He kept all the money and fled to Canada. Calvin was left with the bill for goods and

his business decimated.<sup>12</sup>



A twenty mule team similar to the ones Calvin owned in his freighting business in Sacramento.

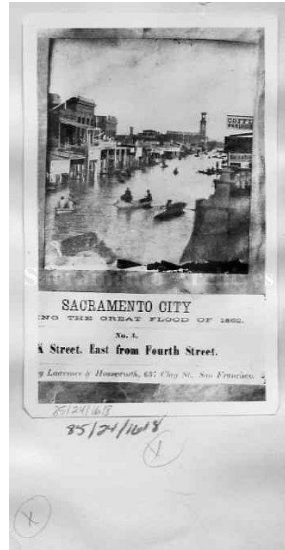
Mormons were not welcome in the City of Sacramento at that time, in spite of the fact that they had played a large role in the discovery of gold in the nearby foothills. There was no Mormon Church in town. Brigham Young had called back the faithful from California. Emotions still ran high because of the Mountain Meadow Massacre. The Mountain Meadows Massacre was the killing of roughly 120 emigrants who were passing through Southern Utah in September 1857. The massacre occurred on September 11, 1857. The emigrants--men, women, and children--were traveling from Arkansas to California, part of the Baker-Fancher wagon train. They were killed by a very small group of Mormons motivated by years of persecution, deep fear and paranoia with the help of local Paiute Indians.<sup>28, 82</sup> Between 1859 and 1892, there were nearly 100 articles printed about the incident, appearing in the Sacramento Daily Union, most using inflammatory language.<sup>84, 85</sup> A play called *The Plains*, founded on the Mountain Meadow Massacre was advertised at the Metropolitan Theater.<sup>51</sup> A graphic book with characters that were coarse and vulgar by H.I. Sterns called *Evelyn Gray; or, the Victims of Our Western Turks—a Tragedy in Five Acts*, was reviewed. It was an attempt to reveal scenes at the massacre and to implicate Mormons as a whole.<sup>85</sup> During that same time period upwards of a thousand articles were printed and published in the local newspaper about Mormons; mostly negative.<sup>59, 77, 80, 88</sup>

It would seem prudent at the time, to keep mum about any connection to being LDS. Consternation at the very least must have eaten away at Grandpa Cal when he read in the newspaper an account citing a prayer that Wilford Woodford, had given at the dedication of St. George's Temple denouncing the United States Government and prophesying its destruction; his very own uncle, now head of the Church, his father figure, the one who supported him so much as a younger man.<sup>91</sup> What internal conflict must have occurred when thinking back to his grandfathers who fought so hard for this country.

Nancy Jane and Cal must have silently nurtured their own faith in God and passed their beliefs on to their children. While we do not see either Cal or Nancy Jane on any church membership lists, we do see Hattie and several of her nieces as members of St. Pauls Episcopal Church. Malinda's two children, son Ichabod Calvin Elder and daughter Lottie Lillian Elder, became LDS.<sup>10</sup> In succeeding generations, many of Julia's progeny returned to the LDS Church.

Daniel, their second son, was born 18 December 1860. But just 1 month and 19 days later, on 6 February 1861, he died of croup. Later that year on the 7th of September, their first son, Calvin died of diphtheria.<sup>33</sup> Losing two sons in one year had to have been quite a blow to the family.

During these years, major events changed the way of life in Sacramento. After 10 inches of rain in December 1861, Sacramento newspapers declared Christmas canceled. The largest storm in California's recorded history peaked in January 1862, turning the Sacramento Valley into a 250- to 300-mile-long inland sea.<sup>1</sup>



Sacramento City during the Great Flood of 1862

In 1862, Calvin served on juries on May 17th, May 21st, May 22nd, and May 23rd.<sup>66</sup> Their third son, Shadrack Roundy Foss was born on 29 August 1862. Having buried their first two sons, it was a special blessing that he survived until the age of 80, giving Nancy Jane and Calvin 4 of their 25 grandchildren.<sup>36</sup>

Even though the Civil War, was fought on the eastern side of the United States, it affected Calvin. Maine, where many of his family members still resided, including his brother Ira, was so enthusiastic for the cause that it ended up contributing a larger number of combatants, in proportion to its population, than any other Union state.<sup>102</sup> When the news of the United States Revenue Cutter Caleb Cushing burning during the Battle of Portland Harbor on June 27, 1863 reached Sacramento, Calvin must have been very worried for his family back east.<sup>89</sup>



The USRC Caleb Cushing burning during the Battle of Portland Harbor, June 27, 1863

Nancy Jane gave birth to their second daughter, Hattie Delilah on 20 December 1864.<sup>36</sup> On 19 February 1867, his name returned to the list of those to be called for jury duty and on 15 March 1867, he served once again as a jurist. That same month he was registered as a member of the Union Political party so that he could vote.<sup>46</sup> Nancy Jane gave birth to their next daughter, Julia Ella on 14 June 1867.<sup>36</sup>

With Calvin's partner absconding with all of his assets in his freighting business, he had to close it. In 1868, Calvin was listed in the Sacramento City Directory as a farmer on 364 K Street.<sup>39</sup> According to his sons, they ranched for a while near Willow Slough on Freeport Road on Mrs. Rideout's ranch. This later became the Gundrum and then the Winters Ranch.<sup>12, 54, 78</sup>

On 3 August 1868, the Sacramento Daily Record reported that Cal was the victim of a theft. A man by the name of Ah Chee was charged with grand larceny for stealing a notebook from him. This was the second larceny charge against Ah Chee that day.<sup>63</sup> Mr. Chee had a long record of theft. Twelve years later, Ah Chee, or probably more correctly, Ah Kee was killed in an encounter with M.V. Jurgens for stealing chickens. He was only 24 years old at the time.<sup>52, 60, 79</sup>

With its history of flooding, Sacramento merchants as well as its citizens were tired of all the worry that came every year with the rains. So, the Board of Trustees made the decision to raise the street level by building brick walls at the edges of the street and filling the space between with dirt. Simple though it sounds, managing the restoration of the buildings became quite a difficulty. In some instances, the buildings were jacked up to street level. In other instances, the buildings were left where they were and the existing sidewalks became underground sidewalks with entries to the buildings under ground or from descending staircases. As the years passed, most of the buildings turned their original street levels into basements and built new quarters on top of them.<sup>25</sup> On 1 September 1868, Calvin was assessed \$700.00 to help raise Twelfth Street.<sup>55</sup>



A portion of the brick retaining wall used to hold back the fill dirt from the raised streets in Sacramento still in existence today.

Calvin and Nancy lived in a city that was very invested in the sport of harness racing and gambling and Grandpa Cal loved fine horses. He did not bet the tables; but he did bet on the horses. About 1868, he swapped one of his horses with an old Dutchman for a horse named Charley because the Dutchman was afraid of him. Charley was a high spirited horse that had been abused by his previous owners. Using tender loving care, Cal trained the horse to the harness and used him to pull butcher wagons noticing that the horse could trot faster than most horses could run. Calvin never raced him as long as he had him.<sup>12</sup> Charley eventually was purchased by Leland Stanford, railroad baron, Governor of California, Philanthropist, and founder of Stanford University for \$4,500 and renamed Occident.<sup>4</sup> In 1873, Occident went on to become The World Champion Trotter setting the record at 2:16 3/4.<sup>19</sup> He also earned fame as the horse that triggered the motion picture industry when Stanford hired Edward Muybridge in 1877 to set up many cameras to determine that at one point in his gait all four hooves were off of the ground.<sup>96</sup>



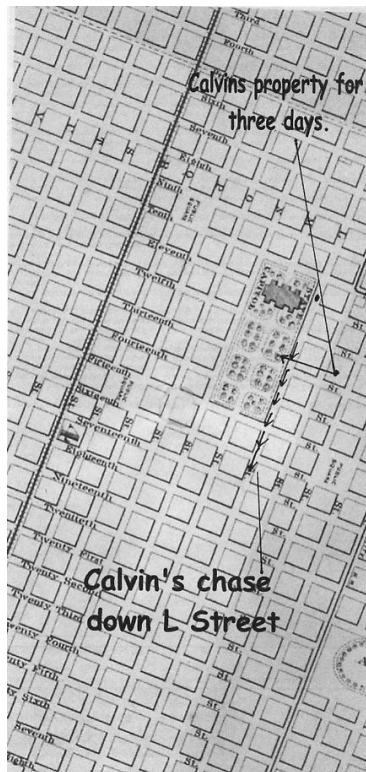


World champion trotter, Occident driven by James Tennant.

Calvin was still listed as a farmer in 1869 in the city directory.<sup>40</sup> On 4 March 1869, Calvin received notice through the Sacramento Daily Union that he had a letter at the post office. Their little family was growing. Their daughter Malinda Lillian was born on 3 September 1869.<sup>36</sup>

The next year he was listed as both the proprietor and butcher of Union Market on the corner of Twelfth K & I Streets.<sup>41</sup>

The 1870s were a time of financial stress and difficulty for Sacramento as promised railroad wealth had not materialized. By 1873, the Big Four (Hopkins, Huntington, Stanford and Crocker) moved both their business headquarters and themselves to San Francisco.<sup>1</sup> On 11th of February 1871 Cal purchased Lot #8 in the block between L and M from Capitol Savings Bank for \$1000.00. It was just a block or two from capitol building that had been under construction since 1861. Three days later, he sold that same lot to a widow with five children, Susan Chisholm, for \$500.00.<sup>45</sup> Just the day before, she married a teamster, W. A. McKeehan.<sup>91</sup> On April 1, 1872, the State of California exercised its right of eminent domain and laid claim to that property and surrounding properties to provide additional grounds for the State Capitol building.<sup>48</sup> It has since become know as Capitol Park.



From a 1874 map of the City of Sacramento showing the State Capitol and Capitol Park.

Once again in 1870 jury duty called. He was in the pool for the April, May, October, and December terms.<sup>64</sup>

The 1871, the Sacramento City directory, shows a partner for Cal at his Union Market, by the name of Rudolf Orth.<sup>41</sup> On 20 January 1872, we find Calvin listed aboard a west-bound Overland Train in Carlin, Nevada.<sup>35</sup> We don't know if Nancy Jane was with him. It was only 5½ months before her father, Shadrach's death in Salt Lake. Their William Calvin (Henry) was born a short month later, 25 February 1872.<sup>36</sup>

On a warm Friday afternoon, 28 June 1872, a couple of prisoners who were working on a chain gang in the streets of Sacramento, made an escape. One of them headed up L Street with a guard, one Captain Harvey, in hot pursuit. When reaching Twelfth, just a couple of blocks from Calvin's meat market, Harvey jumped into Cal's wagon and accompanied by its owner pursued the fugitive down the roadway, dust billowing up behind. They closed up on him at Seventeenth Street and both men leaped out of the vehicle to wrestle him down. A scuffle ensued and they finally succeeded in capturing the culprit after Calvin received a smart blow to the face.<sup>66</sup>

Later in 1872, the directory reported the Rudolph Orth Meat Market at the corner of Twelfth & I Street. Calvin was listed as a butcher.<sup>42</sup> In the 1873 Directory both Mr. Orth and Calvin were listed as butchers. Calvin's and Nancy Jane's family continued to grow when next son, Jared "Burt" Lorenzo was born on 22 February 1874.<sup>36</sup>

That year the city directory listed Calvin as the, owner of the C I Foss Meat Market, NE Corner of 12th and L. In 1876 he was listed as Foss, Calvin I, Butcher, W S 11th between J & K. His residence was listed as 11th between J & K.<sup>43</sup>

Calvin's interest in horses was stronger than ever and 1875 was beginning to be a good year for him. He owned Charley's half brother named Foss who was also a pacer and another trotter named Shoo-Fly. William "Billy" J. Tennant drove for him. Both horses raced all that year. Foss was skittish and very seldom placed first that year. Shoo-Fly's record was better.<sup>49, 67, 68, 86</sup>

The day after a trotter race, on the 14th of October 1875, Calvin went through a life-changing accident. The Cox and Clark Storehouse on L street between Twelfth and Thirteenth caught on fire. Calvin, never one to stand by, took a hose and climbed on the roof to help put the fire out. Calvin fell through the roof and seriously injured his back and his internal organs. The injuries confined him to a bed for months.<sup>69, 70</sup> By April of 1876 he was still on crutches. Calvin had to quit the butcher business.<sup>12</sup> At this time the family lived at the southeast corner of Eleventh and O Street. He continued to run Foss and Shoo-Fly in trotter races. Shoo-Fly was a more steady horse and generally won higher purses than Foss.<sup>92, 93</sup>

On 4 April 1876, Calvin applied for and got the job of Poundmaster, (animal control officer).<sup>71</sup> He appointed Samuel Hall as one of his deputies. Within one week he proposed a lot on the northeast corner of Eleventh and O Street be used for a city pound.<sup>62</sup> Considering he and Nancy lived on the same block, it was convenient for him to do business at all hours. He had to give a monthly report to the city in detail about what animals and how many he had impounded and how many of what animal was destroyed. Only after his report was it decided by the Board of City Trustees what his wage for the month would be. One month he earned \$235.50, but most months his wage was much less.<sup>56</sup>

Poundkeeping, was not a popular job; hence neither was the position of Poundmaster.<sup>72</sup> During his tenure Calvin found himself in trouble and many times. One needs to remember that this was the old west and men tended settled their differences by yelling at each other or with fisticuffs. It was not uncommon for citizens to be charged with battery and/or disturbing the peace and Calvin was not immune to this method of communication. The Sacramento Union reported his being arrested for "unlawful settling of arguments" on many occasions.<sup>75</sup> However, a couple of charges brought to the City Council by M.H. Meagher<sup>58, 73</sup> may have been the a result of Meagher's Dairy Farm, being located inside the city limits on 17<sup>th</sup> Street, between, D & E.<sup>50, 51</sup> Maybe it had something to do with the 54 of cows that Cal impounded because they were

roaming the city streets and the fine Mr. Meagher had to pay to get them back. There also seemed to be an issue among some of the citizens over drinking water for the cows. Pond holes for his cows where they were kept were their source during the rainy season. When Meagher wanted his water bill reduced, he cited the cows drinking out of pond holes in winter and therefore he didn't use the water and shouldn't be charged for it. When the citizenry complained about the it being unhealthy for the cow to drink the pond water, he denied it.<sup>94</sup> In 1876, Meagher attempted to sell his stock and equipment stating that he was getting ready to retire.<sup>50</sup> He was 29 years old.<sup>3</sup> In 1893, he still had his dairy farm.

Calvin reapplied to keep the Poundkeeper job for the next year.<sup>57</sup> But, he was replaced by J.P. Brannigan. Troubles plagued the new poundmaster as they had the old ones; but now, the focus of the furor was returned to the issuance of dog tags.<sup>61</sup>

On 29 March 1877, the Sacramento Daily Union reported that "Application of Mrs. C. I. Foss to become a sole trader –Continue one week with notice to creditors to file objections."<sup>74</sup>

For the next few years, it is not known what Calvin did for a living. Their last child, George Henry was born on 28 May 1878.<sup>36</sup> Nancy Jane was 43 years old at his birth.

On 30 August 1879, Calvin's sense of values was offended when the city coroner demanded that some citizens pay him to get their dead friend back in order to give him a decent burial. The fact that the coroner returned the body naked especially incensed him. He wrote to the editor of the Sacramento Daily Union pointing out that the coroner was paid by the city and had no right to make such demands of the dead man's friends.<sup>49</sup>

On 28 March 1880, Nancy lost her mother, Betsey, to old age.<sup>36</sup> Her tie to Utah was now severed. She did have her sister Laurette in Centerville, California, but whether they ever visited is unknown. When Calvin sold his harness horses is not known. But in June of 1885 a Mr. Gilman owned Foss and was racing him.

On 12 February 1880, Calvin Foss appeared as one of the principal officers of the new Fountain Mining Company that operated in Amador county but kept their headquarters in Sacramento.<sup>83</sup> He bought a lot of shares in the company. But it was a long time before he got the assessment fees paid.<sup>53</sup>

In 1885, at age 59, Calvin acted as a juror during January and March. Again in 1889 he served as a juror on 15 March 1889.

On 6 July 1885, Nancy Jane lost her battle with tuberculosis.<sup>33</sup> She was only 49 years old. Her funeral was held in their home at Eleventh and O street. At the time of her death, Henrietta, her daughter that she left with Shadrach and Betsey to raise, was not quite 33 years old and was raising a family of her own. Betsey Sophia was 28 and also raising her own family. Shadrack was 23, Hattie Delilah had just married that year, Julie was 18, Malinda was not quite 16, William C. was just 13, "Burt" was just 11, George Henry was just seven years old.<sup>36</sup> Calvin was left alone with children to raise. He had his hands full.

Calvin was again arrested for battery on 12 April 1886. In 1890, Calvin appeared in the Great Register of voters Index for the Union party.<sup>3</sup>

Apparently Calvin's love of horses passed onto Malinda. She rode in competition at the state fair in 1891, coming in 10th place.<sup>81</sup> Finally the 1892 directory listed Calvin as working for Southern Pacific Railroad. He worked for the Southern Pacific Railroad until he retired of old age.<sup>12</sup>

On 28 February 1894, Calvin was in Utah to see his mother one more time before her death. She died on the 4th of March, and Calvin acted as a pall bearer at her funeral on the 8th of March.

He lived until 21 May 1908, when he passed away at age 82 of chronic cystitis, (inflammation of the bladder).<sup>2</sup>

Calvin carried on the legacy left him by his ancestors. A legacy that included big dreams,

taking action on those dreams, hard work, kindness, caring for others, faith in God, civic duty, resourcefulness and the ability to overcome adversity. As his forefathers left this legacy to him, he left it to all of his progeny to maintain, build on and to leave to our descendants.

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## A Sketch of Sarah Elizabeth Foss Cowley

Written by her son Matthias Foss Cowley

My mother whose maiden name was Sarah Elizabeth Foss was born in Saco, Maine, December 26, 1827. She was the eldest daughter of Calvin Foss and Sarah Brackett Carter Foss. Mother early developed a desire for a good education. Her parents were of the good old New England stock, whose ancestors came early from England and Scandinavia, her grandfathers on both sides were patriots in the Revolutionary War American Liberty.



Sarah Brackett Carter Foss



Calvin Foss Home, Saco Maine

Ira Foss



Calvin Foss



Ezra Foss, Sarah Brackett Carter Foss, Rhoda Foss, Olive Foss  
Back Row: Sarah Elizabeth Foss, Phoebe Foss

Her parents were in the farming class, hardworking and industrious.

There were four daughters and three sons. [Sarah Elizabeth, Rhoda Harriet, Phoebe Carter, and Olive Carl, Ira Carter, Calvin Icahgod, Ezra Carter,] At an early age Mother went to Portland, Maine for higher education. When Elder Woodruff and Apostle John F. Boynton [Boynton] brought the gospel to the family-baptizing the parents and three daughters, my mother was absent in Portland, attending school. The family left for Utah early in 1850 and en route crossing the plains Mother was baptized in the Platt River by Elder Woodruff. They crossed the plains with horse and ox teams. About the only thrilling experience they had on the journey was the stampeding of the cattle.

Soon after arriving in the valley they located in the 14<sup>th</sup> ward on West Temple Street on the lot south of the two lots occupied by President Woodruff. On this lot all of mother's children were born,(No 44 South West Temple Street) where the big transfer stables now stand.)



Sarah Brackett Carter Foss Home on West Temple

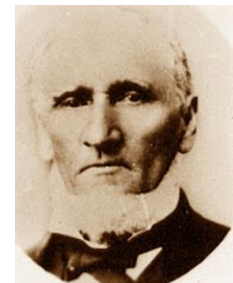
On the same street 123 N-W-Temple) just two blocks from the old home we purchased a residence many years later which has been our home for the last 35 years. President Woodruff's wife Phoebe was grandmother's sister, as we called him familiarly "Uncle Woodruff". He was a noble, good man and a dear friend to all our family.

For some time after they reached the valley my mother taught school in the 16<sup>th</sup> ward. Some of her pupils were early settlers in Richmond, Cache Valley, the Petty's, Bullen's and others. She was always remembered with love and respect by the pupils of this private school. Twenty five years later I became acquainted with a number of them. Among them were five of President Kimball's children and four of his grandchildren also President Heber J. Grant and children of other faithful men and women of God.

In the fall of 1857, mother was married to my father Matthias Cowley by Apostle Wilford Woodruff. She became the mother of four children by that union, two sons and two daughters, Matthias, Sally, Ezra and Annie Elizabeth. The second and third died in infancy. Annie lived to be 62 years of age and died in Bountiful, Utah, the wife of David Willey, Sr. and was the mother of two fine daughters, Antoinette and Eva. The former is unmarried. The latter is the wife of Guy Hill and mother of two sons, Philip Dean and Keith.

After my father's death in 1864, mother taught school and wove rag carpets for a living. I helped to weave many a yard of carpet. She was saving and economical. The rags she could not weave she traded to the Deseret News Company for church books.

About the year 1870, she was married to Jesse W. Fox by President Brigham Young. He was the Territorial Surveyor General of Utah. By him she had one child, a daughter Charlotte Jeanette who is the wife of George A. Seaman and is the mother of ten lovely children.



Jesse W. Fox

Annie and Lottie were both school teachers and were always faithful wives and mothers. My mother being the plural wife of father Fox it became necessary when the crusade was on by the government against that principle for her to go into exile for a time. She finally settled in Bountiful where she died in June 1899, a neighbor to her sister Aunt Phebe Sessions. I can say truly and sincerely of my beloved mother all the many good things that have been said on the pages of history of good men and women about their mothers. She was a good faithful wife and as a mother she

loved her children with all her heart and did her best to make of them good Latter-day saints. Her desire was to have them well educated, useful and a credit to any community wherever their lot might be cast.

We loved her dearly and she loved us. She was loved by all who knew her and in the words of the late George C. Parkinson a man of culture and refinement, "She was a perfect lady." I can truly say that whatever of good and true and noble there is in me, that next to God our Eternal father, I owe it to my beloved mother.



Sarah Elizabeth Foss Cowley Fox



Matthias Cowley

Note: Research indicates that Calvin and Sarah Brackett Foss were baptized in September 1834. Wilford Woodruff did not go to Maine until after his marriage to Phebe Carter in April 1837. Their daughters would have been too young to have been baptized in 1834. Loretta Nixon

Pictures added by Loretta Nixon 4/20/2013



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## • Rhoda Harriet Foss Richards

• (1830 – 1881)

Written by granddaughter, Clara Richards

My grandmother, Rhoda Harriet Foss Richards, was born in Saco, Maine, April 19, 1830, the second daughter of seven children in the family of Calvin Foss and Sarah Brackett Carter Foss.

Rhoda's parents were of New England and English descent. Their ancestors could also be traced to the Scandinavian countries. Both parents had ancestors who fought for freedom of the colonies in the Revolutionary War.

Her parents were poor farmers but generous and hospitable, so Rhoda grew up in a thrifty, industrious, and economical family. Her mother was a neat, efficient housewife and trained her daughter to be the same. Rhoda was also skilled in the art of cooking wholesome food. Rhoda and her family were also well educated.



Calvin Foss Home, Saco Maine

In 1844, when Rhoda was fourteen years old, Apostle Wilford Woodruff baptized her as well as her mother and some other family members into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

When Rhoda was twenty, she went with her mother, three sisters, and a brother, Ezra Carter Foss, to Omaha, Nebraska to join a large company of Saints to Utah. Their leaders were Elder Woodruff and Leonard G. Hardy. Rhoda’s sister, Sarah Elizabeth, had been to school in Portland, Maine when the others were baptized. So Elder Woodruff baptized her while on the trip to Utah. The Foss family loved Brother Woodruff as a true friend. When he married a sister of Rhoda’s mother, Phebe Carter, the fourth president of the Church became known as “Uncle Woodruff” to them all.

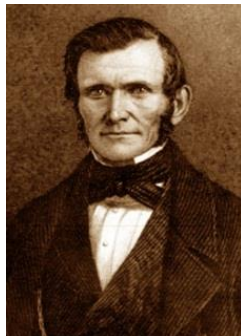


Ezra C., Sarah Brackett Carter Foss, Rhoda Harriet, Olive Carl, Bk Row: Sarah Elizabeth and Phebe (Phoebe)

Rhoda was beautiful and a young woman of calm temperament and had moral and physical courage. She rode in a carriage across the plains. They had one dreadful experience as they traveled along. Suddenly the horses became frightened of something and stampeded. They were running wildly and were uncontrollable. All in the carriage feared for their lives or some serious injury. Rhoda sat calm and full of faith as she said, “None would be injured.” None were. It seemed uncanny, but as she said this, the horses began to slow down and were easy to control.

The Foss family arrived in the valley October 14, 1850 and eventually settled in the fourteenth Ward in Salt Lake City. Their neighbor on the south was Uncle Woodruff. On the north was Elder William W. Phelps, the author of many hymns. They were involved in Church activity upon arrival.

Wilford Woodruff and



Phebe Carter Woodruff

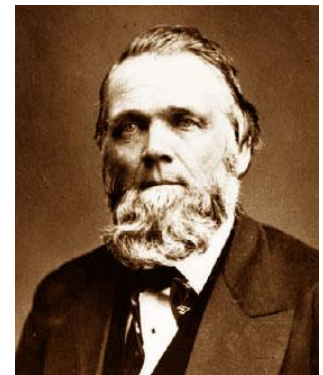


Rhoda was a teacher, yet never thought any work was to be frowned upon, even to milking cows, which she did later after she moved to Farmington.

Willard Richards



In the fall of 1851 Rhoda married Apostle Willard Richards who was second counselor to President Brigham Young at the time. She moved to a home just south of South Temple where there were other Richard's homes. Richards Street was named after the family homes there. Though Willard was away most of the time, they were very happy. A son, Calvin Willard, was born October 1852 to add to their happiness. It was a shock when Rhoda's husband died in 1854. She tried to hold her sadness within herself.



Franklin D. Richards

Due to the encouragement of Brigham Young, three years later on March 6, 1857, Rhoda married Franklin D. Richards, a nephew of Willard, who had worked closely with him in Church and in the flour mill in Farmington. Willard and Franklin had been very close.

Willard and Rhoda had planned to build a rock house in Farmington about three blocks from the mill. (The mill building has a state historical marker on it now.) Shortly after Rhoda's marriage to Franklin they moved to a log cabin in Farmington.

A son, Hyrum, was born December 14, 1857. Then July 27, 1860 twin boys, Ira Carter and Ezra Foss, were born. The plans went forward on the rock home. Their only daughter, Sarah Elizabeth, was born October 31, 1862.

The three-room rock home was built in the early 1860s. Calvin Willard was the only child old enough to go to the canyon with his father to get the rocks. He often mentioned this in his later life. The home was not enlarged until 1904 when her son, Ezra, and family were living there. A State Historical Marker has also been placed on this home. Rhoda was secretary of the Relief Society.

Rhoda was alone with the children much of the time, but she willingly accepted this responsibility. Her husband, an Apostle, had to be away much of the time and had many families and his work to attend to. When the twins were four years old, they were often with the other Richards children of the wives of Franklin who lived along the two blocks. They watched the men at work.

One morning six of the children were going over the stile, which had three steps up and three steps down. This was the way to get over the fence to the mill. When Ira was on the top step, he stumbled and fell to the ground. He broke his neck. His big brother, Calvin, took him in his arms and ran over three blocks to place him in his mother's arms. For a moment she was overcome, then typical of her she controlled herself and said she knew there was an eternity and she would have him there. This took its toll on her health just the same.

When Hyrum was twenty years of age, he was badly injured while working beyond his strength, cutting and hauling logs and rock from Farmington Canyon for the town's homes. It resulted in his death, and his mother was never well after that.

The other three children grew to adulthood and were well equipped to assume any responsibility that came their way.

Calvin married first to Emma Irene Walker, the granddaughter of patriarch Hyrum Smith. They had nine children. After her death, he married Louise Madsen, called Aunt Lou. She was the mother of four sons. Calvin filled a mission after he was forty years of age to England.

Ezra Foss married Amanda Lydia Reeder. They had eight children but lost one of them in infancy. Ezra filled two long-term missions to New Zealand. During the first mission he and Elder Sanders translated the Book of Mormon into the Maori language and was president of the mission the second time. He also served two short-term missions. One was to the Southern States, on Church business, with Apostle Mathias F. Cowley, and the second, late in life, to Southern California for six months.

Sarah Elizabeth married Loren Joy Robinson, and they had eleven children (losing five in their first year of birth). Most of the descendants of Rhoda's children are active in the Church and hold responsible positions.

Mathias Cowley used to visit Rhoda's home. He reported that she was kind and loving, but her children had to mind and do what was right. She had a clean home and scrubbed the children until they were rosy.

The first Primary in the Church was organized in Farmington by Aurelia Rogers, and she selected Rhoda for her secretary and recorder. As always, she was faithful in her calling. When she was too ill to go, she sent her daughter, Sarah, who filled in for her.



Rhoda was never well after the death of Hyrum, and the last two years of her life she was confined to her room. She was afflicted with Erysipelas, a bacterial infection of the skin that is caused by Streptococcus.

A few days before her death, her husband asked her about him going with President Taylor and the other Apostles on a mission to the southern territory. She replied, "Go, Franklin, and do your duty; all will be well with me."

Her earthly career ended November 19, 1881 at 10 a.m. In all her illness she manifested the faith and patience which were the fruits of an abiding hope. She was buried in the Farmington City Cemetery.

A quote from the newspaper obituary read: "She won the love and esteem of those who knew her by her dutiful and consistent life as a Latter-day Saint. She accepted and obeyed every doctrine and ordinance of the Church that was required of her and lived in dutiful conformity therewith. She taught her children the principles of the gospel and had great satisfaction to see them walk in the way of the Lord, while they lived, and those who slept departed in faith."

When word finally got to Franklin about Rhoda's death, he wanted to attempt a return in a heavy snowstorm, but President Taylor deemed it would be dangerous for him to try it alone. He regretted that he couldn't have the privilege of rendering the last rights to the "respected dead."


Rhoda was "truly an obedient, dutiful child, a faithful and affectionate wife, a loving and indulgent mother and an exemplary confiding Latter-day Saint."




This picture was located in the photo album of Effie Dean Woolley Nixon. It was identified as Aunt Rhoda. Effie was niece of Rhoda Richards.

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 [helenlewis55](#) added this on 1 Mar 2012

 [dbbmd\\_1](#) originally submitted this to [Beckstead Family Tree](#) on 9 Nov 2010

Pictures added 4/20/2013 by Loretta Nixon, Mapleton, Utah

# Phebe Carter Foss Sessions

By Edna P. Christensen 1968

Edited by Loretta Nixon

The town of Scarboro is located in the southwest corner of Cumberland County in the State of Maine. It is bordered on the southeast by the Atlantic Ocean, with one of the most beautiful beaches on the New England coast. In the northwestern part of the town, the hills rise to a considerable elevation upon which tall stately pines grow. It has large tracts of salt marsh which join the sea in places.

It was in this beautifully located town that Phebe Carter Foss Sessions was born November 2, 1831. She was the third daughter and fifth child of Ezra [Should be Calvin] Foss and Sarah Bracket Carter.

The family lived a very comfortable New England life. Their home was a two story building and good out-buildings were provided for their livestock. All the varieties of fruits that could be grown in that climate were found in their orchard.

When Phebe was four years old, a baby sister, Olive, was born. This was April 12, 1835 and it was six weeks after the death of her father. Now her mother had seven children ranging in ages from 11 years to a new baby to raise. While the children were too young to be of any assistance in securing a livelihood, she managed with her work as a teacher to support her family and to give each one a good education.

When the Gospel of Jesus Christ was taken to Maine by Elders John F. Boynton, Jonathan Hale, Milton Holmes, and Wilford Woodruff [Wilford Woodruff did not go to main until after his marriage to Phebe Carter.], who was Sarah's brother-in-law, Sarah soon saw the light. Because of the bitterness of her neighbors toward the Mormons, she was baptized in the middle of the night on 15 September 1834. She was baptized by John F. Boynton. Her greatest desire now was to take her children and go to be with the Saints in Zion. Phebe, her sisters, Rhoda Harriet and Olive, were all baptized in 1844 by their uncle Wilford Woodruff. [He also baptized Ezra Foss, their brother.]

Early in the spring of 1850, this good mother with six of her family, decided to come to Salt Lake City. Ira, her oldest son, did not accompany them, as he could see no good in this new religion. She was unable to sell her property because he feeling toward the Mormons was so bitter in the community. They took just what was necessary with them. This included their school text books and they journeyed to the Missouri River. Here Uncle Wilford put all of their earthly belongings in two wagons. One was drawn by horses and the other by oxen, and he placed them among a company of Saints he was taking to Utah.

The journey was a pleasant one with very little trouble. One incident with the Indians: As they were traveling, a band of Indians who seemed to be friendly came to the camp. When they saw Olive, the youngest of the family, who was a very beautiful child, the Indian Chief asked if he could have her. He offered ponies or anything else he had, for her. He was very determined even when he was told "NO". The Indians followed the wagon company for days. Young Olive was kept hidden in the wagon box all this time.

There were about 20 young people in the company who walked nearly all of the way. Sometimes they would walk ahead of the wagons, then, sit down to rest until they were overtaken. The girls always had their knitting to do during this wait.

When camp was made in the evenings, everyone had their chores to do. Material for fires had to be gathered, be it wood, brush, or buffalo chips. Soon a good wholesome meal was prepared. When the animals had been cared for the night, an hour could be spent in storytelling, singing or dancing. After the evening prayer was offered, all retired to a much needed rest in preparation for the long miles they must travel the next day. They arrived in the Salt Lake Valley October 14, 1850. In Salt Lake City, they erected a home in the 14<sup>th</sup> Ward, on First West between South Temple and First South Streets.

Education was always put first in the lives of this Foss family, and now it was made possible for them to be self-supporting. Ezra had learned the printing and book binding trade in Portland, Maine. [He worked for his Uncle Ezra Carter.] He was soon at work in the office of the Deseret News. Elizabeth and Rhoda taught school in Salt Lake City. Phebe went to Bountiful, which was known as Sessions Settlement. About all the books these girls had to use in the schoolroom were the books they brought with them from Maine, plus the Bible, Book of Mormon and Doctrine and Covenants.

While teaching in Bountiful, Phebe met and married David Sessions. They were married 30 December 1852 by President Brigham Young. David and Phebe lived in part of Perrigrine Sessions' home until after their second child was born. Then they moved into a two-room home of their own which was located at what is now 26<sup>th</sup> South and First West in Bountiful.

David and Phebe were always kind to the Indians who came to the settlement at different times of the years. When all the members of an Indian family, except one small boy about 8 years of age was killed, about where Becks Hot Springs is, David and Phebe took him into the family and raised him as their own son. He was known as Indian in to the community, but to the family, he was just Jim.

As the family grew, the two-room home became smaller and smaller. At night, the girls slept in a trundle bed which was pushed under the parents' bed in the daytime, and drawn out at night. Jim, the Indian boy, slept on a bed in the kitchen and the boys slept on the floor. All enjoyed the new rooms that were finally added to the home.

Phebe was a pleasant, agreeable, hard-working person. She was of that sturdy New England stock, plain, simple in dress and habits, practical in all respects and full of good common sense. She believed in the words of the Lord, "He was pleased that the apparel of his people should be the work of their own hands". So like other Pioneer wives and mothers, she made the clothing for the family from home woven materials. She would stand for hours by the New England spinning wheel, twirling the carded wool into skeins of yarn, preparatory to being placed on the weavers' loom and then made into cloth. The cloth may not have looked as good as that made in the factories of today, but at that time cloth was made to wear, rather than to be looked at. David, the husband, made the boots and shoes for the family.

The fire place, with its cross bar or crane above the fire, had hooks to hold the copper kettles. In these kettles, the different foods were cooked for the family. There was an iron bake oven with a heavy lid to hold in the heat. Here meat, bread, pies, corn bread and those good Boston baked beans were cooked. In the evenings, the fire place was the gathering place for the family.

No household task was easy in those days. Not even the laundry. On Sunday night, the clothes were put to soak in a tub. Monday morning they were scrubbed on a board with plenty of homemade soap rubbed on the soiled spots. Then they were boiled in a heavy copper kettle or boiler, wrung by hand, and placed on bushes or fences to dry.

Medicines to treat the family ills were all homemade. Salve for sores was made from the bark of the Indigo weed which was boiled down with beeswax, mutton-tallow and a very little rosin added.

Remedy for Bowel Complaint:

1 teaspoon peppermint essence  
1 teaspoon rhubarb  
1/4 spoon carbonate of soda  
1 teaspoon brandy  
1 1/2 teacups warm water

Mix together, and take one tablespoon full once every hour.

For Kidney Trouble:

Make a tea from the roots of the marsh mellow weed. Drink one cup full three times a day.

Phebe, always found time to help comfort those in need especially, caring for the sick and preparing the dead for burial. At times she would make the burial clothes. She thought every woman should know how to do this. One time a baby died, so she took Phebe, her daughter who was about 12 years old, and instructed her how to do this. She even had her make the baby's clothes.

She was a very good seamstress. She even cut her own patterns. Her stitches were fine and even. Her buttonholes were near perfect. She made many beautiful rugs and when her grandchildren began to marry, she made each one a quilt. She was never so busy that she couldn't stop and show you how to sew a seam, tell you how to make mustard pickles, cut fruits for drying, or how to make her good baked beans.

She recorded in her account book that she commenced teaching school December 17, 1883. On the 14 of January 1884, she received from Mother Sessions, \$30.00 for one month of teaching. She taught at the "Patty Sessions Academy".

She was a teacher in the East Bountiful Sunday School for 25 years. When the First Relief Society was organized in Bountiful, 24 April 1857, she was chosen to be the secretary. Then when the Bountiful Ward was divided, she was Second Counselor and Secretary in the Teachers Quorum. In 1897 this Quorum was discontinued and their duties were taken over by the presidency of the Relief Society. She was a secretary in the Relief Society Ward and Stake for 35 years.

Her children and grandchildren always looked forward to New Year's Day, when they could have a family get-together at Grandma Sessions' home. The little New Year always left a gift somewhere about the house for each small child to find. No New Year's dinner was complete without a pot of Boston baked beans. She always said, "If you serve beans on New Year's Day, you will have a prosperous year."

She would never begin a new project on Friday that couldn't be finished that same day. She always said if it can't be done that day, it never would be finished.

When she was 67 years old, her son, Fabyan's wife died, leaving three small children. She took them into her home and reared them as her own.

She was the mother of 10 children: **Sarah Phebe**, born 26 November 1853; **Cerdenia Estelle**, born 30 January 1856; **David Jr.**, born 9 Jan 1858; **Olive Cordelia**, born 26 December 1860; **Fabyan Carter**, born 22 July 1862; **Darius**, born 22 October 1864; **Calvin Foss**, born 24 December 1866, died 15 June 1869; **Elizabeth**, born 29 May 1869; **Rhoda Harriet**, born 3 October 1871, died 31 July 1873; **Annie Sylvia**, born 30 October 1875. She also raised the Indian boy, Jim, and her son Fabyan's three children, Carter, Robert, and Hilda.

She was an ideal daughter, wife and mother who was ever faithful, devoted and true to her parents, husband, children, and to her God. She was full of hospitality and kindness to all who came into her home.

Besides her sons and daughters, she left 38 grandchildren and 47 great-grandchildren to mourn her loss when she died 25 Jul 1913. She was buried beside her beloved husband in the Bountiful Cemetery.

## Obituary

### **AUNT PHEBE SESSIONS LAID TO FINAL REST**

**Funeral Services Held in the East Bountiful Tabernacle, Tuesday Afternoon ---Large Attendance.**

Funeral services over the remains of Phebe C. Sessions, widow of the late David Sessions who died Friday afternoon, July 25<sup>th</sup> [1913], at her home in Bountiful, of heart trouble and general debility, after a brief illness, were held in the East Bountiful Tabernacle, at 2 o'clock Tuesday afternoon. The speakers were elders John H. Barlow, sr., Amos Cook, Susan Grant, Nancy Willey, Ezra F. Richards, Charles R. Maybe, Mathis Cowley and President J. H. Grant. Her favorite hymn and a special selection which she loved so much, namely, "How Firm a Foundation" and "I Will Go Where You Want Me to Go, Dear Lord," were sung. The floral offerings were numerous and very beautiful and the attendance at the funeral very large for this time of year. There were over forty carriages in the funeral procession.

All of the children except Mrs. Cedenia Burningham, who is at Ocean Park with her husband, who is in poor health, were in attendance at the funeral.

Mrs. Phebe Carter Foss Sessions was born in Scarborough, Maine, and would have been 82 years old on the 2d of next November. Her husband passed away seventeen years ago on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April [1896].

She was baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints the fall of 1844. Soon after her baptism, her father died, leaving her mother a widow with three sons and four daughters.

In 1850, she, with her mother, three sisters and brother, Ezra, left the state of Maine to gather with the Saints.

They crossed the plains with ox teams in President Woodruff's company, arriving in Salt Lake the fall of the same year. They located in Salt Lake, but soon after, the subject of this sketch came to Bountiful (then Sessions Settlement) to teach school, where she met and married her late husband.

The following children were born to them: Mrs. Joseph Moss [*Sarah Phebe*], South Bountiful; Mrs. Arthur Burnham [*Cerdenia Estella*] of Healdsburg, California; David Sessions of Menan, Idaho; Mrs. William Corbridge [*Olive Cordelia*], Layton; Fabyan C. Sessions, Bountiful; Darius Sessions, Leorin, Idaho; Mrs. William Lewis [*Elizabeth*], Wayne, Idaho; and Mrs. George Neville [*Annie Sophia*], Hibbard, Idaho. Two, Calvin and Rhoda, died when they were small children. She also has forty-seven great grandchildren.

She had occupied the positions of ward and stake secretary of the East Bountiful and Davis Stake Relief society for thirty years, and possessed exceptional ability for the position.

She was an ideal woman and was endowed by an unusually large number of virtues, traits, and attributes which made her beloved by everybody.



## A SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF EZRA CARTER FOSS

Pioneer of 1850

Written by his daughter Sadie Foss Elliot, October 1922

My father, Ezra Carter Foss, was born at Saco, Maine, June 23, 1833. His Father was Calvin Foss and his Mother was Sarah Brackett Carter Foss. Grandfather Calvin Foss died of erysipelas at the age of thirty-five year, my Father being between two and three years old. The date of Grandfather's death was February 28 1835. He and Grandmother had seven children, they are: Ira Foss, Calvin Ichabod Foss, Sarah Elizabeth Foss Cowley, Rhoda Foss Richards Phoebe Foss Sessions, Ezra Carter Foss and Olive Foss Woolley.

When Father was about nine years old, Grandmother's brother, Uncle Ezra Carter, arranged for Father to live with him at Portland, Maine, saying he would educate him and teach him a trade. Uncle Ezra Carter and a Mr. Saunders owned a large printing establishment, also a book store at Portland, Maine. My father was given a good college education and also was taught the book-binding trade while there. He was neat and accurate, his work was creditable. In those days it was the custom to bind their books in a red or mottled morocco. I have often heard Father say he used to bind his sister's school books with the choice of red morocco covers. Many of them were brought to Utah. The one we had were destroyed at the time our home burned down.

One of my Father's dearest friends was Thomas B. Seavey; they lived as children at Saco, Maine and as Uncle Thom said: "The path between their homes never grew up", neither had their friendship for one another ceased up to the time of their death. They both left the State of Maine at the age of eighteen years. Uncle Tom settled in Chicago, opened up in the hardware and range business, but lost everything he possessed at the time of the Chicago Fire; in fact, he told me that no merchant in the city lost heavier than did he.

Grandmother Foss, her four daughters and my father came with Uncle Wilford Woodruff to Utah in 1850. They crossed the plains with horse and ox team, their journey was a pleasant one. Before leaving Saco, Grandfather Ezra Carter, made them a present of a large Concord Carriage of which the women folks rode, Aunt Rhoda driving a great part of the way. Father drove the wagon containing their goods; also he took turns driving and herding stock along the journey. Aunt Olive was a handsome girl about sixteen years old with two long black braids that



hung below her waist. An Indian Chief became much attached to her and offered Grandmother his horse, blankets, saddle and all he possessed. When Grandmother would not sell her, the Chief became very indignant saying "White squaw don't know much". Their company arrived in Salt Lake City in September 1850. They first lived in the Sixteenth Ward with Dr. Hodgkiss, an old friend from Maine, until they built their home in the Fourteenth Ward.

Uncle Woodruff owned the north east half of the block facing east on West Temple, between South Temple and First South. John Turnbow owned the south east half of the same block. President John W. Taylor owned the whole of the west half of the block. Father and his sisters bought their lots from John Turnbow; they paid him for it a horse, saddle, bridle, and enough money to pay for the deeds and getting them recorded. James Townsend was the mason who built the Foss Home. Because President Woodruff's wife, Phoebe, was a sister to Grandmother Sarah Brackett Carter Foss, it was natural they planned that their homes should be close together in this far off land from their parents and native state of Maine.

Brother Willard Richards, who was Editor of the Deseret News, employed my father in the printing and book-binding department. The first legislature was held at Fillmore. The first laws and statutes governing the Territory of Utah were printed in the Deseret News office and father bound these first Statute Books. The old gentleman, Mr. Morgan, who owned the "Theatre Book Store", told me he had sold during one month two of the Session Books in the East for \$75.00 a volume and had an order from a library in Boston for another volume. Being the first books bound in our state made them valuable. My father and \_\_\_\_\_ Camson also set the type for these Statute Books.

Father was called to go on three different colonizing missions. He cheerfully accepted the call each time. Two of the missions were broke up by the Indians. I have a letter signed by President Brigham Young and Jedediah M. Grant, calling him to go and help colonize in the Elk Mountain Region in Carson Valley, Nevada. This mission he faithfully filled. From there, father went into the Sacramento Valley where Uncle Calvin had gone previously in 1847. While there, father engaged in mining and sheep business and was very successful financially, but unfortunate in that he sold several thousand head of sheep, taking the purchaser's note. The deal had been closed but a week or so when the levies gave way and the big Sacramento Valley Flood came, boulders and debris were washed onto the farm and the man was left penniless. He told father if he didn't live to pay the debt his sons would, but, of course that was the end of it so far as father was concerned. Father remained there about ten years. He came home in 1864, the time of Uncle Matthias Cowley's death.

My father and mother, Emily Cheney, were married June 19 1870. They built their little home on the lot next to Grandmother Foss's home, where the following children were born to them: Ezra Carter Foss, Sarah Brackett Foss, Franklin Nathan Foss, and Calvin Zachariah Foss.

They moved to Farmington, Utah in 1880, and there the balance of their children was born: Amy Elizabeth Foss, Luther Scammon Foss and twin girls: Edna and Ida Foss. Edna and Ida lived to be nine months old then passed away, both departing this life within twenty-four hours of one another of what the doctor called intermittent fever. They were both buried in the same casket and were beautiful children.

When my brother Luther returned from his mission in 1906, Father met his in New York City and together they visited in Boston and Maine, the old Foss and Carter homes and all of the relatives and friends. Uncle Ira's three children were then living at the Checkley at Prouts Neck, Maine, not far from Saco. Cousins Ira and Ida have passed away since then, Tryphenia, the only granddaughter remaining there. Grandmother Foss has but three descendants east at the present time: cousin Tryphenia, her daughter Tryphenia and Cousin Ira's son, Ira Foss, Jr. My father visited Uncle Tom Seavey in Chicago while on this trip: school-boyfriends separated at the age of eighteen years, met later at the age of seventy years. The meeting was beautiful, but pathetic. Their fondness for one another had grown even dearer during their separation. Uncle Tom came west and visited us twice after that, each time saying that it was the happiest and greatest pleasure trip of his life. Though he was no kin, we always called him Uncle Tom Seavey.

My father, in connection with his mother and her family, also her parents embraced the gospel in the state of Maine, it being presented to them by Uncle Woodruff, John Boynton and others about the years 1836 or 1837, and they were baptizer there before coming West.

My father was a generous, self-sacrificing, and especially kind to the poor and the needy. Whenever he gave assistance it was in the unpretentious manner. If he ever had a weakness or a fault, he lived to overcome it; if ever harm was done, it was to himself and not to another. His latter days were spent in peace, contentment and happiness. Because of his worthiness, the Lord seen fit to take him apparently "without tasting death" for he passed away peacefully while conversing with my mother and his niece, Annie Cowley, who had come to spend the day with us. Father passed away July 3, 1919, as the age of 86 years, at his home in Farmington, Utah



- - OLIVE CARL FOSS WOOLLEY

(1835 – 1877)

Compiled by Alexis Beckstead, wife of David B. Beckstead (a direct descendant). Information came from the History of Olive Foss Woolley written by Ida Matilda McArthur Snow (granddaughter), Census Records, and life stories of Olive's siblings and mother. Pictures added by Loretta Nixon 7/13/2013

Olive Carl Foss was always considered a beauty. She had dark hair and eyes, an olive complexion and was rather small. She was the youngest of seven children belonging to Calvin Foss and Sarah Brackett Carter of Scarborough, Cumberland, Maine. Unfortunately, her father passed away about a month and a half before she was born. Her mother, Sarah, along with the other children, moved her family back in with Sarah's parents. And that is where Olive was born April 12, 1835, in Scarborough, Maine. She was named after her grandmother, Olive Carl (her father's mother).

Sarah had what was then considered a good education, so while the children were too young to be of any assistance in securing a livelihood, she managed with her work as a teacher and other means to support herself and the kids. She sought to educate her children as well. Sarah never did remarry.

When Olive was only two years old, Wilford Woodruff, an apostle for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints came to proselyte in the area along with Jonathan Hale and Milton Holmes. Olive's mother, grandmother, and many other relatives were baptized into the Church. Later, when Olive was older, she was baptized as well. Olive's mother's sister (her Aunt Phebe) had joined the Church earlier, and had moved to Kirtland, Ohio where she married Wilford Woodruff. So Wilford was her uncle when he came preaching. All of her family eventually became Mormons, except for her older brother Ira, who did not accept it.

In 1850, when Olive was about fifteen years old, Wilford Woodruff came back and encouraged the family to join him and 100 other saints on a journey to Utah to be with other members of the church. So Olive's family (except Ira) left Maine for New York, where they were joined by other saints, making in all 209 people. They continued on to Pittsburg where they secured passage to St. Louis. May 1, 1850 they arrived in St Louis.

They took passage on the steamer Sacramento from St. Louis to Council Bluffs. The company rested and prepared. Companies were organized into hundreds, fifties, and tens with a captain over each lot. Olive's brothers, Calvin and Ezra, drove

teams. Seven groups left previous to them. But Wilford Woodruff's group finally headed west June 20 with 44 wagons.

On the ninth of July, four women died (Lucy Johnson, Matilda Hardy, a Sister Snow, and Emily Huntington). Deaths in that year on the plains were frequent and Elder Woodruff's company suffered with the rest. Olive's older sister, Sarah Elizabeth, being absent at school in Portland, Maine when the rest of the family were baptized, received this ordinance in the Platte River July 10, 1850 by Wilford Woodruff.

On the 15th of July a severe thunderstorm arose and Brother Ridge from Staffordshire, England and his oxen were killed by lightning.

The 30th of the month witnessed one of those scenes not uncommon to the plains in the early days of emigration by ox teams. Those who have not seen a stampede can hardly imagine the confusion and dangers involved. Stampedes generally happen without a moment's warning with the cattle running in all directions.

Elder Woodruff, in writing of this scene, said,

lying on her back with her feet hanging out between the wheels. It was a miracle that no one was killed, and there was rea *"Our stampede commenced in the following manner: While my son, Wilford, was mounting his horse, William Murphy struck the horse with a whip, starting it to run. When his saddle turned, Wilford was thrown to the ground and the horse ran away. As the horse approached one of the wagons, Mr. Cannon's team became frantic and started off at great speed. In a moment, twenty of the thirty teams followed the rush and the whole company was moving apparently onward into the jaws of death."*

*On my carriage was a fine black steed, and in it were Rhoda Foss (Olive's sister) and Susan Woodruff (Wilford's daughter). We were at the head of the company and when the stampede commenced, I was by the side of my carriage. I saw Mrs. Woodruff rush into the midst of the scene with many other women and children. Their lives were in constant danger. I told Rhoda to let my horse run into the bluffs and do the best she could. I gave him a cut to start him into a run and left them to the care of Providence.*

*I then rushed into the midst of the stampede in order to save the lives of my wife and as many others as possible. I had hard work even to save my own life. Mrs. Woodruff soon found an opening and fled out of the midst of the scene. Brother Petty's wagons were turned over. My family wagon with four yoke of oxen ran over one of his wagons and a wagon ran over one of his children. Prescott Hardy was knocked down by his own team and badly injured in the thigh and arm.*

*Wherever I saw women and children in danger, I did what I could to rescue them, then I ran forward to see what condition my carriage and wagon were in. I found my horse still running but on three legs. Rhoda was thrown from the carriage and Susan was lly but little damage done to oxen and wagons."*

According to a story passed down by the family, on one occasion when they were camped for the night, an Indian chief rode into camp and made numerous threats; but when he saw beautiful fifteen-year-old Olive with her two long black braids hanging past her waist, he promised to leave them unmolested if they would let him take Olive away with him for a wife. He offered his horse, blankets, saddle, and about all he possessed. When Sarah would not sell Olive to the Chief, he became very indignant and said, "White squaw don't know much." After considerable discussion, and the receipt of food and a few other presents, he departed and molested them no more.

The company had some break downs and delays. When the saints in Salt Lake heard of the nearing immigrant train, men were sent out to assist them. Among this rescue group, Olive met a young man by the name of Franklin Benjamin Woolley. He was immediately interested in the dark haired, black-eyed girl from Maine and acknowledged to himself, "I'm going to marry that girl some day."

The Woodruff Company with the Fosses officially reached Salt Lake City October 14, 1850. Olive's family located in the 14th Ward on West Temple Street, number 44 South. They had the next lot south of those owned by Brother Woodruff. Brother Woodruff was always a "true Brother," and spiritual advisor and father to the Foss family.

Olive was always well groomed. She loved beauty, culture, and order. Because Olive and her sisters were all school teachers, she obtained a splendid education for those early pioneer days. She was popular among the young people of her set. But though she and Franklin B. Woolley lived in different wards, Franklin never forgot the little dark-eyed girl he had met in the immigrant train. Soon a sincere friendship developed between them, which later flowered into a romance well known in Salt Lake City's early history. Benjamin Franklin's cousin, Della Woolley Eardley, said of him, "He was the outstanding Woolley boy in looks and accomplishments." Della also claimed that much of the courtship of Franklin and Olive was done at Samuel Woolley's home. Franklin B. Woolley and Olive C. Foss were married February 11, 1857 in the Salt Lake City Endowment House. They had a son in the first year, which they named after Franklin. Then they had another son, Edwin, named for Franklin's father. Unfortunately, Edwin died as a baby in 1859. Ida Foss was born January 10, 1861.

Franklin's father, Edwin D. Woolley, was engaged in so many enterprises, such as framing, merchandising, doing missionary work, making trips east for merchandise, company clerkship, newspaper and telegraph work, and acting as private business secretary to Brigham Young, that he kept Franklin busy helping him with his own interests. This was wonderful training for him and was really a liberal education itself, but Franklin never missed an opportunity to go to school. Soon Franklin owned a nice home, comfortably furnished, a small farm, and he had steady employment as tithing clerk in the general church tithing office.

When Brigham Young called men and their wives to go to the St. George or Dixie area, Franklin was included. They sold everything and moved south in the spring of 1861

to Duncan's Retreat, now known as Virgin City. Franklin Jr. was about 4-1/2 and Ida was still a baby. They had no house to go to and didn't bring tents. They just piled everything in a covered wagon with bedding and a limited amount of food. It rained constantly for nearly 40 days—making the red, sticky mud nearly knee deep.

Imagine cooking over a campfire, making beds in a wagon box, etc. under such wet conditions! Eventually, they moved to St. George where they built a lovely, two-story, house made of adobe. He also built a barn, planted fruits and grapevines, a vegetable garden, and some flowers on his lot. Later he bought four lots in the northwest part of town known as the Sand Lots and planted apple, pear, and peach trees as well as grapes. He owned several teams of horses and mules, and necessary wagons and equipment and kept them busy freighting. He opened the St. George tithing office and was tithing clerk for several years.

Olive and Franklin had five more children for a total of eight—Jedediah, Samuel, Ezra, Eva, and Effie Dean. Unfortunately, Samuel and Eva died as babies.



Artemesia Snow Woolley Seegmiller

April 9, 1868 Franklin entered into plural marriage with 19-year-old Artemesia Snow, the daughter of Erastus and Artemesia Snow. We are not sure what this was like for Olive. Olive's mother never married again, so Olive never had to live in a polygamist home. These type of marriages were all around her, but trying to live it oneself is a different matter. It may have been that accepting Artemesia into the home was like adopting another daughter. Olive was 14 years her senior.

In 1868, at the instigation of Erastus Snow, the St. George Co-op Store was organized and Franklin B. Woolley became a heavy stockholder. He also held a large block of stock in the Z.C.M.I. of Salt Lake City and also in the "Factory" at Washington of Washington County, a factory erected to weave cloth made of Dixie cotton and woolen cloth. The wool was obtained from sheep raised by the Dixie Pioneers. Later, tailors were also employed to make men's suits. Franklin was commissioned to go to California for merchandise for the co-op in February 1869. A company was organized to take teams and wagons.

Unfortunately, on the way home, a mule wandered off. When Franklin scoured the area on his own to try to find it, some Indians (who were on a rampage over an unjust killing of one of their own men) took out their revenge on the nearest white man they could find, which just happened to be Franklin. His brother, Edwin, who went in search of him, found his emaciated body. After talking to people in the vicinity, Edwin came to the conclusion that Franklin was an unfortunate victim of circumstance. Edwin had the sad task of bringing Franklin home to his family. (For more information on the particulars of this event, see Franklin's life story.) When the first teams came home, they were met by large groups of people and children.

Franklin's children rushed up to the wagon asking for their daddy, expecting to be taken into the wagon for a ride home, where Franklin's wives, Olive and Artemesia, were preparing a big dinner in honor of the return of their husband. Sadly, one of the teamsters said to Ida, then eight years old, "Your Dad didn't come home this trip." So the children rushed home and told their mother that daddy hadn't come home. Franklin's death was a terrible shock to Olive, and since she was not allowed to see the deteriorating body, it took her a long time to accept the fact that her husband was gone. The family tells that Olive set a place for him at the table until she died.

Olive and Franklin were known for their generosity, especially their charity and kindness to the Indians. The Indians really liked them. Olive's granddaughter, Ida, states: "No St. George Indian would ever have killed grandfather. They loved him too well.

Olive was left a widow with five children at the age of 33. Her oldest was 12 and her youngest was less than a year. But she tried not to become discouraged. She was determined to make a good home for her family and give them a good education. Franklin left her with a good home and team, and many investments in land, fruit trees, a factory, a store, and a co-op.

Shortly after Franklin's death, Brigham Young presented Olive with a splendid team of mules. With the animals and wagons, she and her 12-year-old son, Franklin, freighted produce, molasses, fruit and other products between St. George and Salt Lake City. On each trip north she purchased goods for the St. George Co-op and drew her dividends in sugar, spices, cloth, shoes, candy, rice, nuts, Christmas toys, etc. and freighted them back to St. George. She arranged one of her up-stair rooms as a store room and made a large chest with compartments to hold her commodities.

Olive, like most New Englanders, was a splendid weaver and she wove enough Jean cloth and sold it to buy 2-1/2 acres of land on the Santa Clara Creek. She built a small house on the sand lots and hired a Swiss man to care for her orchards and vineyards. Then she dried apples and pears and pickled grapes and sold them up north.

She had one of the first organs in St. George and Ida was taught music by one of their neighbors becoming the organist for the 3rd Ward. Olive did beautiful handwork and made lovely baby dresses for her grandchildren. They were a yard long with ruffles

of embroidery, rows of tucks, insertions, and yokes. The sewing looked like machine work. However, Olive had most of her personal sewing done by Anna Ivins, mother of Apostle Antone Ivins.



Olive bought a white marble monument for Franklin and one for herself just like it. She kept hers ready for the future. Her home was a model of neatness. Her walls were all plastered and papered. She had “States” carpets on her parlor floors and homemade carpets on the other floors. Her kitchen was white washed and had built-in cabinets. Her furniture was mostly heavy walnut; her wood was done in oak graining by Brother Milne, who was an expert grainer. She built a rock wall around her property about 2-1/2 feet high and 1-1/2 feet thick. Franklin had planned this wall, so she could not rest until it was completed according to his plans. Olive furnished one room upstairs for a playroom for her children. Here Ida and Effie had a real cook stove that would burn real wood chips. They also had tables and cupboards made by Gordon Woolley. They had dolls, doll buggies, and play dishes. She always encouraged her children to bring their friends home to play.

John G. McQuarrie, who grew up in the neighborhood said to Ida’s daughter, “Your grandmother was known for her gentle breeding, and refinement, her good taste in dress, her good grooming, her well-supplied table, and her love and sympathetic understanding of young people. I was always trying to think up excuses to take me into her home, because it was so neat and nice. She always had cookies or something for me, and she was never too busy to talk with me.”

Olive had many special friends. Among them were Brigham Young, Erastus Snow, Daniel Duncan McArthur, Israel Ivins, James G. Bleak, Rassist W. Snow, James Andrus, Walter Dodge, and Brother and Sister Townsend. Olive’s husband and James G. Bleak used to be like brothers. After Franklin’s death, Brother Bleak was always a good friend and wise counselor to Olive. Her children always loved and respected him as a father.

The question might be asked, “Whatever happened to Artimesia, Franklin’s second wife?” She lived with Olive and her children for several years. She did not have any children by Franklin. Artimesia is found on the 1870 Census living with the



Woolleys in St. George. April 16, 1873 she became a plural wife of Daniel Seegmiller. His first wife, Ellen, died in 1879 and Artimesia raised Ellen's seven children who were between the ages of thirteen and two. Daniel Seegmiller had a third wife, named Emma, as well who gave him five children. In the 1880 Census Daniel and Artimesia were living in St. George. But in 1900 Artimesia was living as a widow in Kanab of Kane County, Utah. She was a widow for 25 years before she died.

In March 1876 Olive brought her family to Salt Lake City to go to school. Frank, Jr. and Ida attended Miss Cook's school for a short time and then attended the University of Deseret. Jed and Ezra worked as errand boys for the Z.C.M.I. and attended school part time.

In April 1877 Olive was suddenly taken ill and passed away. She was buried in Salt Lake City. When school was out in the spring, Frank Jr. took the family back to St. George. He then returned to retrieve his mother's body and had her buried in St. George beside her husband.

At the time of Olive's death, Frank was 19, Ida 16, Jed 14, Ezra 11, and Effie 8. Frank and Ida never returned to school, but stayed home and acted as parents to the younger children. Frank and the other boys ran the farm and kept the teams busy managing with what little income they had. Ida kept house for them all for eight years until she was married in 1883. Their industry is a tribute to them and their upbringing by Olive. She set a good example for them of fortitude and can truly be called one of the great Pioneer women of Utah's history.