

EDWIN NELSON AUSTIN--MY FATHER

My father, Edwin Nelson Austin (who was a passenger on Ship Brooklyn) was born in Suffield, Hartford County, Connecticut, September 5, 1846. He is the son of Julius Augustus Ceasar and Octavia Ann Lane Austin.

The Austin home was open to the Elders of the L. D. S. Church. Among other who visited them were Ezra T. Benson and John M. Wooley under whose administrations the family joined the Church. After breaking the ice on the Connecticut river so the ordinance could be performed, Grandfather and Grandmother Austin were baptized January 10, 1844.

On February 4, 1846 the family embarked on the Ship Brooklyn on its trip to San Francisco. They reached their destination July 31, 1846 and remained there two years waiting for instructions from Brigham Young as to their final settling places. Before leaving for Salt Lake, gold was discovered at Sutters Mill and the whole family panned gold until they got enough to outfit themselves for the trip to Utah. Then they gave up all their belongings and prepared to take another hard trip this time by land. Had they kept their land in California they could have become wealthy, but they were not looking for wealth. They were hunting a place where they could live in peace and quiet with the body of the church.

The family traveled with Ebenezer Brown's company from San Francisco to Salt Lake in the fall of 1848. Edwin was baptized in 1849. At the age of 17, he went with a rescuing party to Salmon river to help subdue the Indians.

On April 17, 1863, he married my mother, Alnora Naomi Lane. They then moved from Farmington, Utah to Paris, Idaho which was then a part of Rich County, Utah. In 1866 he was called to preside over the Liberty Ward and was set apart as Bishop of that Ward, August 25, 1877, and was released from that position about 1912, having presided over the same ward for nearly half a century.

In 1872 he was married to Emma Wood. He was father of twenty-one children.

July 4, 1864, he with Charles Oakey raised the stars and striped on the first Liberty pole in Bear Lake.

He was one of the commissioners who organized the County; was first sherriff of the County; was deputy United States Land and Mineral Surveyor for the State of Idaho.

Church History has this to say for my father: "He had the courage of his convictions and his fidelity to principle has never been questioned by friend or foe." He died in Salt Lake City, May 23, 1920 and was buried at Liberty, Idaho

ALNORA NAOMI LANE AUSTIN

My mother, Alnora Lane Austin is the daughter of Hyrum and Naomi Chass Lane. She was born November 11, 1843, at Jamestown, Grant County, Wisconsin. Grandfather Lane died four years after their marriage. They had three little girls, one being born four months after his death.

Before Grandfather died he told Grandmother that he thought the murder of Joseph Smith was an outrage and that the Mormon people were a good conscientious people. This impressed Grandmother so much that she decided to follow the Mormons to the Rocky Mountains and investigate their religion; she felt safe for if she should be disappointed, California lay beyond and she could go on. But she loved the gospel more and more and joined the Church; she was the first he baptized, (my mother)

My mother drove a pig in the move south to Springville and also on the return trip.

After Mother's and Father's marriage they moved to Bear Lake and had all the trials and worries connected with pioneering in a bitter cold country.

While Father did more public work in those early days, Mother's work was just as strenuous and important. She did much Church work but her most important work was the nursing and rearing of her own children and seven of her sister's. Besides she always answered the calls to homes where sickness and sorrow were to be found.

After her children were grown she moved to Salt Lake where she did the work for over 1,000 names in the Temple. Mother died in Salt Lake City, November 25, 1923 and was buried in Liberty, Idaho.