

## James Willard Cummings Jr.

From the original Sexton Records:

Name: James Willard Cummings, Jr.

Age: 0y; 2m; 12d

Son of James & Aura Annett Cummings

Deceased: Nov. 27, 1846

Disease: Not given

Birth Place: Country Road: Camp of Isarel

Birth Date: Sept 14, 1846

No. of Grave: 13

Birth Date: Sep. 14, 1846

Death Date: Nov. 27, 1846

Cause of Death: unknown

Burial Place: Cutler's Park grave #13

Father's Name: James Willard Cummings

Mother's Maiden Name: Aura Annett Atwood

Which Winter Quarters Ward or Iowa Branch was the family: 1<sup>st</sup> Ward

Where was the family in the 1850 U. S. Census? Pottawattamie County, Iowa

Which Pioneer wagon train took the family west? James Cummings Company left Kanessville July 1, 1851 and arrived Sep. 3- to Oct. 7

Any interesting facts or stories that might have been submitted.

-Aura and James were married Dec. 14, 1845 in Nauvoo. (Winter Quarters website)

-The couple also had Oscar Dealton Cummings on May 13, 1847 at Winter Quarters. Oscar died Oct. 18, 1850. He is reported as blind on the 1850 U.S. Census in Pottawattamie County, Iowa. (Winter Quarters website) Later they had Laron Atwood, Melvin Elisha, Annabelle, Heber Laselle, Ernest M. A., and Charles Milton.

-James, his father, was born in Maine and baptized Oct. 8, 1841. When he and his wife received their endowments on Jan. 10, 1846 he was a member of the seventy. He later married Hannah Topham and Elizabeth Tuffley. He received his patriarchal blessing May 7, 1843 in Nauvoo from Hyrum Smith.

-In 1857 James received another patriarchal blessing from John Young which said he would "be know among the elders of Israel as a mighty man of God." (The James Cummings Family of

Utah, Compiled by Franklin Cummings III, As told by Clare Cummings Brown, granddaughter, Provo, UT, 1955, p.43)

-In 1860 James was a tanner and in 1870 he was the foreman at a woolmill. (Utah Federal Census 1860, 1870)

-James served a mission, lasting just one week under a year, to St. Charles, Illinois from 1842 to 1843. He did not have very much success here due to persecutions. (Deseret News, 1883-05-23 The Life of James W. Cummings, [https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/details?id=2644974&q=cummings&page=1&rows=25&fd=title\\_t%2Cpaper\\_t%2Cdate\\_tdt%2Ctype\\_t&sort=date\\_tdt+asc&parent\\_i=2644902#t\\_2644974](https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/details?id=2644974&q=cummings&page=1&rows=25&fd=title_t%2Cpaper_t%2Cdate_tdt%2Ctype_t&sort=date_tdt+asc&parent_i=2644902#t_2644974), p.13) In 1847 he served a 10 month mission to the Oneida Indians in Missouri and Alabama which was far more successful and resulted in several baptisms. In his later years he served a home mission in Salt Lake from Oct. 13, 1877 to June 1, 1879.

-James weighed 240 pounds at one point in his life and was tall. He had 14 children from his three wives (The James Cummings Family of Utah, Compiled by Franklin Cummings III, As told by Clare Cummings Brown, granddaughter, Provo, UT, 1955, p.42)

-James heard the gospel several times in Maine and most of his family joined but he did not at that time. However, he still defended the missionaries from mobocracy. His family who had joined the church immigrated to Nauvoo and arrived July 1, 1841. James came with them. Later that year, in October, he was baptized. He was part of a posse of church men who rescued Joseph Smith from a group of men who had taken him and accused him of being a fugitive from justice. James also helped ferry the first groups of saints across the Mississippi River during the Nauvoo exodus. He was captain over 100 men who helped with the emigration and guarded at nights. (Deseret News, 1883-05-23 The Life of James W. Cummings, [https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/details?id=2644974&q=cummings&page=1&rows=25&fd=title\\_t%2Cpaper\\_t%2Cdate\\_tdt%2Ctype\\_t&sort=date\\_tdt+asc&parent\\_i=2644902#t\\_2644974](https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/details?id=2644974&q=cummings&page=1&rows=25&fd=title_t%2Cpaper_t%2Cdate_tdt%2Ctype_t&sort=date_tdt+asc&parent_i=2644902#t_2644974), p.13)

-In 1848 James served a mission to England. He left Aura and their baby Oscar in Connecticut, her home state, with friends. She was sick at the time. About three years later he returned from that mission and in 1851 took his family across the plains. In 1858 he led a group of scouts in observing and reporting on the army sent by President Buchanan. He had to return home when his eyes became afflicted. (Deseret News, 1883-05-23 The Life of James W. Cummings, [https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/details?id=2644974&q=cummings&page=1&rows=25&fd=title\\_t%2Cpaper\\_t%2Cdate\\_tdt%2Ctype\\_t&sort=date\\_tdt+asc&parent\\_i=2644902#t\\_2644974](https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/details?id=2644974&q=cummings&page=1&rows=25&fd=title_t%2Cpaper_t%2Cdate_tdt%2Ctype_t&sort=date_tdt+asc&parent_i=2644902#t_2644974), p.13)

-Aura and Oscar had been staying with James' parents during 1846 in Nauvoo while he helped others emigrate. However, Susannah, his mother, died Feb. of 1847 and his father died exactly one month later which explains why Aura, who was sick at the time, lived with friends in Connecticut when James left on his mission the following year.

-James was the captain of the company that they traveled to Utah with.

(<https://history.lds.org/overlandtravel/companies/97/james-w-cummings-company-1851>)

-Laron was Aura and James' third child but first that survived infancy. According to the Salt Lake Telegram (June 3, 1899): "He was of excellent parentage, but his great weakness, an addiction to the liquor habit, had all but ruined him and his once powerful constitution." He married Theresa Birdie Clawson in 1879 or 1880. After having two children together they separated in 1882. Laron was a secretary for Brigham Young, worked for the county clerk's office, and was an actor. He hurt his leg in a horse riding accident. Eventually he committed suicide at age 47 at the Sanitarium hot sulphur baths in June of 1899. Previous to his death he gave his landlady his watch which her mother had "been admiring for some time" and told her of his suicide plans. He also told her 12-year-old daughter goodbye.

(<https://www.geni.com/people/Aura-Cummings/6000000026174979270>)

-Melvin Elisha was born in Salt Lake City, Utah Jan. 14, 1855. He was a cashier at the Utah Commercial and Savings Bank until he moved his family to San Francisco, California where he worked for the board of public works. His oldest son, Melvin Earl because a highly acclaimed artist who studied in Paris.

-Heber Lacelle was born and died in Salt Lake. He worked for the railroad during his life as well as deputy secretary of state and as clerk of the house and senate. He married Zina Wood. (Death Notice of Heber L. Cummings (1858-1936)

Published Thurs Evening, 9 April 1936 on page 2, column 2 in the Ogden Examiner (Ogden, Utah)

-Charles Milton Cummings married a British woman, Amy Rowe.

(<http://www.watsonclan.com/getperson.php?personID=I9546&tree=Watson>)