

## Brigham Young Kelsey

From the original Sexton Records:

Name: Brigham Kelcy

Age: 1y; 3m; 2d

Relationship: Eli & Lutitia Kelcy

Deceased: Aug the 28, 1847

Disease: Chill fever

Birth Place: Nauvoo

Birth Date: May 26, 1846

Grave No. 214

Birth Date: May 26, 1846

Birth Place: Nauvoo, Hancock, Illinois

Death Date: August 28, 1847

Cause of Death: Chills and fever

Burial Place: Winter Quarters Grave #214

Father's Name: Eli Brazee Kelsey, Sr.

Mother's Maiden Name: Letitia Sheets

Which Winter Quarters Ward or Iowa Branch was the family: Unknown

Where was the family in the 1850 U. S. Census? Still in Iowa

Which Pioneer wagon train took the family west? Came west with the Eli B. Kelsey Company in 1852

Any interesting facts or stories that might have been submitted.

Eli Kelsey, father of Eli Brazee Kelsey, died 15 January 1836 at the age of fifty years. By this time, Eli B. Kelsey was selling goods on the Ohio River and somewhat self-sufficient. About a year and a half after his father passed away, Eli B. Kelsey married Letitia Sheets on 11 July 1837 at Madison, Jefferson, Indiana. In November of that year, Eli and Letitia moved to St. Omer, Decatur, Indiana where Eli continued merchandising and their first child, George William Kelsey was born on 1 May 1838. Eli and Letitia's second child, Mary Jane Kelsey, was born 14 March 1840 also at St. Omer, Decatur, Indiana. However, shortly thereafter Eli went into partnership with his brother-in-law selling wood and the family moved to Williamson, Johnson County, Illinois. Their venture did not go as well as anticipated, and discouraged the family moved back to Madison, Jefferson, Indiana where Letitia's family lived. Eli's widowed mother, Mary Oldfield Kelsey, came in contact with missionaries or members of the Church of Jesus Christ of

Latter-day Saints. She joined their faith and was married to John Pierce on 29 January 1843 in Nauvoo, Hancock County, Illinois. Nauvoo was a city the Mormons had built after they were expelled from Missouri. Shortly after Eli B. Kelsey and Letitia's third daughter, Minerva Kelsey, was born on 10 May 1843, Eli's mother and her new husband came to visit them. Eli B. Kelsey later remarked: "I was not converted to what is called Mormonism by the labors of any missionary of the faith. My mother had some years previous joined the Church. That I might learn something of the religious faith that had so captivated her that she left home and friends and took her way to Nauvoo, the then City of Refuge for the Saints, I sent money to Nauvoo and subscribed for the Times and Seasons and purchased a copy each of all the Mormon books then published. I found, to my surprise, that the revelations of Joseph Smith and his teachings on doctrine agreed with the teachings of Christ and his apostles. I read myself into the faith and doctrines taught by Joseph Smith. Intellectually, I was a convert many months before I could find a Mormon elder to baptize me." Eli Brazee and Letitia Kelsey were baptized and before long were moving to Nauvoo, Illinois to join the members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints already living there. At Nauvoo, Eli found employment as a school teacher. The children of the Prophet Joseph Smith were attending the school were Eli taught when their father was martyred on 27 June 1844. After Eli had been teaching school for about a year (thus abt. April 1845), he developed an inflammation in his eyes which incapacitated him from working for ten months (thus to abt January 1846). This was a time of earnest endeavor among the Saints of Nauvoo. With the death of the Prophet Joseph Smith, persecution of the Mormons resumed. The Nauvoo charter was repealed, disbanding the Nauvoo militia, and leaving the Saints unprotected. Under the direction of their new leader, Brigham Young, all energies were focused on two tasks—the completion of the Nauvoo temple and preparations for the exodus west to the Rocky Mountains. As portions of the Nauvoo Temple were completed, these areas were dedicated and sacred temple ordinances began taking place within its walls. Eli Brazee Kelsey, Letitia Kelsey, and Mary Oldfield Kelsey all received their endowment in the Nauvoo Temple on 7 January 1846. Mary's second husband had also passed away, and Eli's mother was a widow once again.

Eli B. Kelsey likely had significant challenges in preparing for the journey west. His wife, Letitia, was pregnant. Having been unable to work for the past ten months, Eli likely had little if any financial reserves to purchase a wagon and provisions. He was now responsible for his wife, Letitia, and their three soon to be four children; his widowed mother; the widow, Mary Forsythe, to whom he had been sealed; and her daughter, Jane Waite and her seven children, to whom Eli had also been sealed. In all likelihood, it was simply impossible for Eli to provide transportation and provisions for this large group. Mary Forsythe returned east to her home base of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She had married children from her first marriage to Joseph Caldwell who lived in Pennsylvania, Indiana and Illinois. Jane Waite seems to have taken responsibility for her own children. Family histories indicate that she and the children likely crossed the Mississippi river in early spring 1846 and camped on the Iowa side of the river until other plans could be made. Simeon Adams Dunn, a widower with small girls, left Nauvoo 18 May 1846. He had two wagons and enough provisions. Simeon A. Dunn and Jane Caldwell "joined forces" for the trek across Iowa to Council Bluffs and what would be known as Winter Quarters. From their time together, a son would be born on 12 February 1847 named Joseph Moroni Dunn. Eli's mother,

Mary Oldfield, “joined forces with” or married John Gribble in Nauvoo probably about April 1846. Brigham Young Kelsey was born to Eli and Letitia on 26 May 1846. A few weeks later, the Eli B. & Letitia Kelsey family left Nauvoo joined by the Gribbles. Eli was compelled for want of means to stop and labor one year in Wapello County, Iowa. He arrived at the Bluffs on 16 August 1847. Here Eli built a dwelling and a school house and taught school until February 1848. Once Eli B. Kelsey established himself at Winter Quarters, Jane Waite and her children resumed their association with the Kelsey family. Simeon Adams Dunn had married again at Winter Quarters and subsequently had moved to Summer Quarters to farm. While at Winter Quarters, Brigham Young Kelsey, Minerva Kelsey, and Rebecca Waite—all young children—died within a few months time. Eli B. Kelsey received a mission call to England in February 1848. He took Letitia and her children to stay with Letitia’s parents in Madison, Jefferson County, Indiana. Their daughter, Emma Celestine Kelsey was born there on 23 May 1848 just prior to his departure.

([https://www.familysearch.org/photos/artifacts/2572526?p=11914827&returnLabel=Eli%20Brazee%20Kelsey%20Sr.%20\(KWVQ-HKK\)&returnUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.familysearch.org%2Ftree%2Fperson%2Fmemories%2FKWVQ-HKK](https://www.familysearch.org/photos/artifacts/2572526?p=11914827&returnLabel=Eli%20Brazee%20Kelsey%20Sr.%20(KWVQ-HKK)&returnUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.familysearch.org%2Ftree%2Fperson%2Fmemories%2FKWVQ-HKK))