

Alvin Bemis

From the original Sexton Records:

Not listed

Birth Date: 1797

Birth Place: Brattleboro, Windham, Vermont

Death Date: November 9, 1847

Cause of Death: Unknown

Burial Place: Winter Quarters Calculated #258

Spouse's Name: Jerusha Garnsey

Father's Name: Samuel F. Bemis

Mother's Maiden Name: Elizabeth Bigelow

Which Winter Quarters Ward or Iowa Branch was the family:

Where was the family in the 1850 U. S. Census? Listed as family #884 in District 21, Pottawattamie, Iowa

Which Pioneer wagon train took the family west? Probably an unknown company in about 1851

Any interesting facts or stories that might have been submitted.

The yellowing pages of history contain innumerable tales of individual courage. Few, however, are more compelling than the quiet, desperate battles often fought by pioneer mothers to help their families survive. Some bore a dozen or more children, only to lose many to childhood diseases. Others went hungry to provide loved ones with a few extra scraps of food. San Bernardino pioneer Jerusha Bemis was one of those brave mothers, rearing a family of 10 children and suffering the death of three---one infant and two older children. Bemis was capable of making a meal of corn bread and wild greens during hard times, and could load the table with tasty food even when she had little money. Her life was filled with love not only for her kin, but also others in need of help or sympathy. If they were hurt or sick, all the more reason to pamper and take care of them. Born in 1799, she was 25---considered an old maid---when she met and married Alvin Bemis in 1824. She bore him 11 children between 1828 and 1844, having her last child at the age of 43. Alvin Bemis joined the Mormon church shortly after it was founded by Joseph Smith in upstate New York. In 1838 he moved to Kirtland, Ohio, the small town chosen by Smith as his headquarters. Bemis arrived there shortly after the local Mormon-owned bank went under, mainly because of a severe financial panic in 1837. Although Smith and many of his followers left Kirtland following the bank failure and headed for another Mormon settlement in Missouri, Bemis stayed. By the following year, virtual civil war had broken out in Missouri. Mobs terrorized Mormon colonists by burning, raping, pillaging and murdering. Thousands were driven from the state, while Smith and his leaders were imprisoned for six

months, charged with treason, before being allowed to flee. When the Mormons fled to what they thought would be utopia at Nauvoo, Illinois. Bemis decided to follow them. Jerusha was pregnant with her last child at the time; so the family paused for a few days in Michigan, where baby Jerusha was born. They were continuing on to Gainsville, Iowa when disaster struck. Alvin Bemis suddenly became ill and died. The baby also passed away a few weeks later.

([https://www.familysearch.org/photos/artifacts/37925891?p=19212687&returnLabel=Jerusha%20Garnsey%20\(KWV8-](https://www.familysearch.org/photos/artifacts/37925891?p=19212687&returnLabel=Jerusha%20Garnsey%20(KWV8-CT3)&returnUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.familysearch.org%2Ftree%2Fperson%2Fmemories%2FKWV8-CT3)

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