

Cynthia Maria Tanner

From the original Sexton Records:

Name: Centhia Maria Tanner

Age: 2y; 8m; 8d

Relationship: Da of John & Robeae Tanner

Deceased: Nov. 22nd, 1847

Disease: Dropsey

Birth Place: Lee Co., Ioway

Birth Date: March 14, 1845

Grave No. 266

Birth Date: March 12, 1845

Birth Place: Montrose, Lee, Iowa

Death Date: November 22, 1847

Cause of Death: Dropsy

Burial Place: Winter Quarters Grave # 266

Father's Name: John Joshua Tanner

Mother's Maiden Name: Rebecca Archibald Smith

Which Winter Quarters Ward or Iowa Branch was the family: Winter Quarters Ward 15

Where was the family in the 1850 U. S. Census? Listed as family #256 in District #21, Pottawattamie, Iowa.

Which Pioneer wagon train took the family west? Came west with the Isaac Allred Company in 1851. According to the Manuscript History of Brigham Young, 1846-1847 (see 17 August 1846 entry), John J. Tanner received authorization to travel to the Salt Lake Valley with Amasa Lyman in 1847; but he did not actually cross the plains until 1851. Ancestry index to the 1850 Iowa census incorrectly spells the surname "Sanner."

Any interesting facts or stories that might have been submitted.

John Joshua Tanner was born December 19, 1811, in Greenwich, New York. John Joshua was the second in age, of John Tanner's children who came West with the Mormons. He was seven years of age when the family moved from Greenwich to Bolton. John J., along with the family, spent the next four years in the hilly wooded area four miles above Northwest Bay, known as Wardboro. Later they moved to Bolton Landing, where John J. grew to manhood. Nothing is known of his life as a boy except that he grew up in the home of John Tanner, known to be a successful farmer and an active Baptist lay preacher who was highly respected in the area. It is

safe to assume that he was acquainted with the Mormon missionaries Jared and Simeon Carter, and that he had much the same experiences as the other Tanners in joining the Latter-day Saints. He would have been twenty-one years of age at the time of that important event, but there is no information as to his reactions. In 1834 the prophet made the request that young and middle aged able-bodied men join a military force which he was marching to the relief of the persecuted Saints in Missouri. It is not known how the selection was made, but John J. and Nathan volunteered from the Tanner family and traveled to New Portage, Ohio, where the troops were being assembled. Along with 150 men, they left New Portage about May 8 and began the long march of nearly a thousand miles to Independence, Missouri. John Joshua's work appears to have been entirely satisfactory. He was commended along with a few others on his mature conduct when the frightening cholera struck. Under similar circumstances full grown men have been known to panic and run, but John Joshua and his brother ministered to the sick and buried the dead. Following the advice of the prophet, the Tanner brothers remained in Missouri a year to assist the hard-pressed Saints. They then returned to Kirtland where they found their folks who had moved while they had been in Missouri. Later that year, 1835, John J. married Rebecca Archibald Smith a Bolton girl, who apparently had also moved to Kirtland. This was a fortunate marriage; Rebecca came from a substantial family and she had much to offer a young man starting out in life. The next year Nathan also married into this fine family. Taking his bride, John J. returned to Missouri, accompanied by Sidney and his family. Here they proceeded to locate land and timber for themselves and others of the family whom they expected to follow. John J. and Rebecca's first child, Lydia Jane, was born November 28, 1836, at Gallatin, Davies County, Missouri. For three years, John Joshua, along with other family members, were in the thick of the fight with the Missouri mobbers who were seeking to expel them from the state. During the winter of 1838-39, at the time of the final expulsion from Missouri, Rebecca was expecting her second baby. Nathan describes the confused condition as John J. hurried to get his wife to a place of safety in Illinois. Says Nathan: "John J. brought his family and old Father Baker, and his wife and my wife and child, and all their goods in one wagon, and John Joshua's wife was liable to be sick on the road. The baby, William Smith Tanner, arrived safely in New Liberty, only a few days after their arrival. The Tanners spent one year in New Liberty, then moved up river to Montrose, Iowa, across from Nauvoo. Here in cooperation with Father John Tanner and brother Sidney, he fenced and farmed a large tract of land. At this location they enjoyed six years of comparative peace which enabled them to recuperate from their former losses. Here also, three of their children were born. In 1846 they were again uprooted from their home and began the weary trip which would eventually lead them to the Rocky Mountains. If the Tanners had had only themselves to be concerned with, they would have been able to move in comparative comfort. But there were so many Saints without means and President Young had led the brethren in making a covenant to assist to the full extent of their means, the poor who desired to move with the Saints. This placed a continuing burden upon John J. and the other Tanner men who left for the West with good equipment. Christian charity is a great leveler, and by the time the Tanners had divided with the poor and then divided again, they were almost as bad off as the rest. Nathan has put it dramatically. "If there is justice in heaven, let the Gods record our credits. Our families were there and helped the poor all they could. No Tanner was ever known to shirk in the days of hardship and trials." All too little is known about the activities of John Joshua in

the spring and summer of 1846 as the Saints waded through the mud of Iowa in an attempt to gain a new home in the West. The roads were poor or nonexistent and it rained and rained. There were days and sometimes weeks when they made no progress at all. It is known that John Joshua, like the other Tanners of Montrose, was a man of tremendous physical and emotional strength. He was in the prime of his life, thirty-five years of age, and he gave his best to the cause at hand. Along with his father and Brother Sidney, he was appointed one of the compassionate bishops whose duty it was to help those in need. This appointment seems not to have had anything to do with the presidency of a ward, but Brigham had said that if a man was willing to give all he had for the Lord to use as He wished, he was worthy to be a bishop. John Joshua Tanner was such a man. His various errands of mercy caused John J. to lose contact with the company he was traveling with, and he fell behind so that he reached the Missouri River a week behind them. An interesting entry in the "Nebraska Journal" under the date of August 17 reads as follows: "Voted that John J. Tanner and eight others have permission to join themselves to Amasa M. Lyman's Company, having nine men and boys, twelve wagons, five horses, thirty-six oxen, twenty-four cows and four sheep." It has not been possible to learn who the others were in John Joshua's company, but he was probably assisting some of the Saints who needed help. John Joshua was in Winter Quarters from August 1846 until the Tanner family left for the West in late June of 1848. The family members left with the Richards- Lyman companies. John Joshua and his wife Rebecca, responded to a church "call," and remained on the Missouri River for three additional years. Many strong and efficient men were needed at the river to assist in organizing and equipping the emigrants who were arriving almost daily. There were oxen to be raised and trained, wagons to be made ready, and food to be prepared for the overland trip of a thousand miles. Many of those comprising the emigrants had little knowledge of frontier life, and knowledgeable, practical men, like John Joshua, were in great demand. With the departure of Brigham Young and most of the Saints from Winter Quarters in June and July of 1848, the camp was abandoned. Those who remained at the river moved to Kaneshville on the east side. This included John Joshua and Rebecca who continued their compassionate work among the "green" arrivals for three additional years, totaling five years in all they were on the Missouri River. Three of their children were born during this period; One at Winter Quarters, and two at Kaneshville. John Joshua came to Salt Lake Valley in 1851, in the company of Isaac Allred, a long-time acquaintance whom he had known in Zion's Camp, and with whom he had been associated at the river. By this time the church was phasing out the Iowa camps, and Kaneshville was abandoned the next year. All the Saints were advised to come to Utah. The Isaac Allred company arrived October 2, 1851. There was a ready-made place in Utah for John and Rebecca. The Tanners had settled at what was known as South Cottonwood, which is in the vicinity of 6000 South and 1300 East, Salt Lake or Murray, and had acquired considerable land. ([https://www.familysearch.org/photos/artifacts/2524563?p=18380759&returnLabel=John%20Joshua%20Tanner%20\(KWJ6-38Z\)&returnUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.familysearch.org%2Ftree%2Fperson%2Fmemories%2FKWJ6-38Z](https://www.familysearch.org/photos/artifacts/2524563?p=18380759&returnLabel=John%20Joshua%20Tanner%20(KWJ6-38Z)&returnUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.familysearch.org%2Ftree%2Fperson%2Fmemories%2FKWJ6-38Z))