

## Cyrus Neff

From the original Sexton Records:

Name: Cyrus Neff

Age: 20y; 1m; 18d

Son of John & Mary Neff

Deceased: Mar. 4, 1847

Disease: Fever

Birth Place: Strasburg Town Ship, Lankester Co., State of Pencilvany

Birth Date: Jan 16, 1827

No. of Grave: 94

Birth Date: Jan. 16, 1827

Death Date: Mar. 4, 1847

Cause of Death: fever

Burial Place: Winter Quarters grave #94

Father's Name: John Neff

Mother's Maiden Name: Mary Barr

Which Winter Quarters Ward or Iowa Branch was the family:

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

Which Pioneer wagon train took the family west? Jedediah Grant/Joseph Noble Company left Elkhorn River June 19, 1847 and arrived Oct. 2.

Any interesting facts or stories that might have been submitted.

-Before immigrating with the saints John, Cyrus' father, was a hotel keeper in Philadelphia, Penn. (file notes, p.1, emailed).

-Cyrus was the 4<sup>th</sup> of 10 children that John and Mary had.

-John built the first flour mill in Utah at the mouth of Mill Creek Canyon. During the famine of 1856 John sold his flour for six cents a pound even though it was worth a dollar a pound. He would only sell to those who were in need. (Andrew Jenson, LDS Biographical Encyclopedia, vol. 2, pp. 785-86 (1951)).

-John was married to first Rachal Starr then Mary Barr, Suzannah Gazey, and finally Susan Roberts. (Black and Black, Proxy: John Neff, 2616).

-Upon emerging from Emigration Canyon and seeing Salt Lake Valley for the first time John fell to his knees and thanked God that he had found a resting place. (Latter Day Saint Biographical Encyclopedia, John Neff, vol. 2, pp.785-85).

-John and Mary had the following sons: Franklin, Amos H., Cyrus S., Benjamin Barr, and John. And the following daughters: Barbara M., Mary Ann, Susannah, Amanda, and Elizabeth.

-While at Winter Quarters Brigham Young charged John with building a grist mill on the north side of town.

-Before joining the church John was intimately acquainted with President Buchanan. (Orson F. Whitney, History of Utah, vol. 4, p. 105).

-At Brigham Young's request John and Mary's oldest child, Franklin stayed in Winter Quarters to operate the mill for incoming saints. The next year he rejoined his family in Utah and brought with him equipment for the Utah mill. (John Neff History, "Stalwarts of Mormonism", Deseret News, July 1955).

-John avoided publicity and would not accept political or high church callings. He served a mission with Brigham Young and Parley P. Pratt to the Salmon River area. He and Mary raised two Indian children they found starving on their ditch bank. They named them Leah and Pete. One of their daughters married Orin Porter Rockwell. (John Neff History, unknown author, emailed file).

-When John learned of polygamy he was critical. Shortly afterwards Brigham Young asked him to loan the money required to build a mill at Winter Quarters which would benefit the polygamous wives. John refused and said he would not assist the Twelve's whores. Brigham Young responded that he would feel the hand of God upon him and his family for his foolish remarks. Soon some family members became sick and he apologized to the twelve and repented. (Footnote from Hosea Stout Diary, edited by Juanita Brooks).

-John was dubbed Brigham Young's treasurer and he frequently made donations. Brigham would often visit and ask for a thousand dollars or more. John often did not know what the money was needed for but gave generously. (John Neff, History: Salt Lake Valley, p.2)

-The demand for flour from John's mill was so great that farmers would travel 40 miles and sometimes wait a week to get their wheat ground. (John Neff, History: Salt Lake Valley, p.3)

-The eldest daughter, Barbara, married Julian Moses in 1845. (John and Mary Barr Neff and Family, p.2, emailed).

-A Major Wentz had dinner with the Neff's at their Utah home. He reported in a letter that Mrs. Neff was "a perfect lady, and one of the sweetest women of her age" that he had ever seen. John told Major Wentz in all sincerity that he had everything his heart could desire. The major further commented on the watermelon butter the Neff's served him. (John and Mary Barr Neff and Family, p.2, emailed).

-In the late 1850's the church thought about reestablishing the united order. John, upon hearing the talk, deeded all of his real estate to the church and gave his personal property also. President Young later returned the properties because the "Saints were not yet ready." (John and Mary Barr Neff and Family, p.3, emailed).

-John died in 1869 and Mary lived another 6.5 years. (John and Mary Barr Neff and Family, p.3, emailed).

-Mary brought many seeds from her home in Pennsylvania and planted them at her home in Utah, including two locust trees. (John and Mary Barr Neff and Family, p.4, emailed).

-When a man showed up asking for work John would ask him to help him sharpen an axe or sickle. He would have the man turn the grinding stone while he held the tool. If the man stopped turning when John took the tool off to feel it's edge, John would not hire him. In this way, he separated hard workers from lazy. He would still give the man a meal and let him stay the night even if he did not hire him though. (David Neff's History, grandson, emailed)