

Melissa Kelsey

From the original Sexton Records:

Name: Melissa Kaelsy

Age: 5y; 8m; 19d

Daughter of Stephen & Rachel Kelsey

Deceased: Oct. 30, 1846

Disease: Blank

Birth Place: Montvill, Gage County, Ohio

Birth Date: Feb. 17, 1841

No. of Grave: 42

Name of the Deceased: Melissa Kelsey

Birth Date: Feb. 17, 1841

Death Date: Oct. 30, 1846

Cause of Death: unknown

Burial Place: Grave #42 Cutler's Park

Father's Name: Stephen Kelsey

Mother's Maiden Name: Rachel Allen

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

Where was the family in the 1850 U. S. Census? Stephen (son) and his wife Lydia were in Great Salt Lake County, Utah, house #558, p. 62. Lavina with George Bowser/Bouser, Great Salt Lake County, Utah, house # 429.

Which Pioneer wagon train took the family west? Stephen (son) came with the 1847 and 1848 Brigham Young Companies. Lavina with Jedediah Grant – Willard Snow from Elkhorn River June 19, 1847 and arrived Oct. 4, 1847. Easton Kelsey was the captain of the company he came with. They left June 29, 1851 and arrived between Sep. 22 and Oct. 7.

Any interesting facts or stories that might have been submitted.

-Melissa's mother Rachel joined the church and moved to

-Melissa had a brother named Stephen. He traveled with Brigham Young in the first group of Saints to Utah despite not being a member of the church yet. He returned to Winter Quarters the fall after he left only to find that his mother had died leaving him and his siblings orphans. His sister Melissa had also died. He joined the church and brought his siblings to Utah. In 1850 went searching for gold in California. He found \$500 in gold before returning to Utah. Steven married and had 11 children. He was called by

the church to help colonize the Bear Lake area and helped settle Paris, Idaho. (Biographical Encyclopedia, Stephen Kelsey, vol. 4, p.709).

-On the way back from panning for gold in California Stephen's party was attacked by Indians for 4 hours. Many of their horses were killed. Upon making it to Utah Stephen helped dam City Creek so that the pioneers could irrigate. However, the first crop of potatoes was planted so late that they were only marbles sized. While traveling to Utah Stephen heard that Brigham Young was sick and unable to eat. Stephen found, killed, and cooked a prairie chicken which President Young ate and enjoyed. (Life of Stephen Kelsey, The Paris Post, May. 31, 1900, <https://www.geni.com/people/Stephen-Kelsey/6000000010447384435>).

-Melissa had lots of siblings. Her mother had been married before and had 5 children from that marriage. Stephen, her father, had also been married previously and had 8 children when he married Rachel Allen. Together Rachel and Stephen had six more children. Melissa was their youngest. (Emailed info page from Stephen Kelsey sjkelsey@msn.com, sent May 15, 2004).

-Rachel and at least one of her brothers, Joseph Stewart Allen, were baptized in 1831. Her husband Stephen never joined before he left the family to live with his sister Thankful and her husband Sylvannus Smith in Woodstock Ohio. (Emailed info page from Stephen Kelsey sjkelsey@msn.com, sent May 15, 2004).

-Two of Melissa's sisters, Rachel and Sylvia along with their families left the church and joined with the Cutlerites. This group moved to Minnesota. (Emailed info page from Stephen Kelsey sjkelsey@msn.com, sent May 15, 2004).

-Another sister, Lavina came to Utah in 1847. She married George Henry Bowster and the family eventually settled in California. (Emailed info page from Stephen Kelsey sjkelsey@msn.com, sent May 15, 2004).

-Easton Kelsey was Melissa's half brother. His father was Stephen Kelsey and his mother was Charlotte Nichols, Stephen's first wife.

(<https://www.ancestry.com/boards/thread.aspx?mv=flat&m=110&p=surnames.kelsey>)

-Easton served in the Utah Militia. He signed up shortly after arriving in Utah in 1851. (Utah, Territorial Militia Records, 1849-1877)

-After 1860 Easton was called to help settle Washington County Utah. He was faithful to this calling and in 1899 he died and was buried in St. George. He had three wives for most of his married life. (Easton Kelsey – 1851, <https://lifeandtimesoflorriej.wordpress.com/pioneers/easton-kelsey-1851/>).