

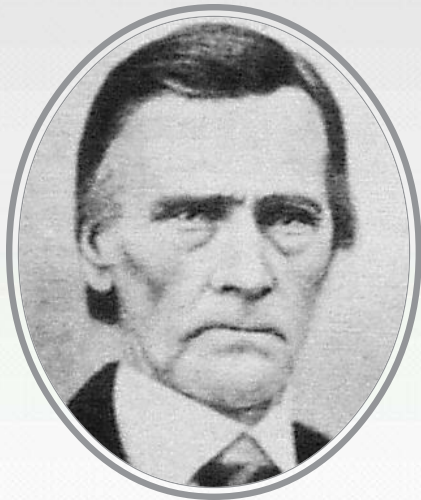
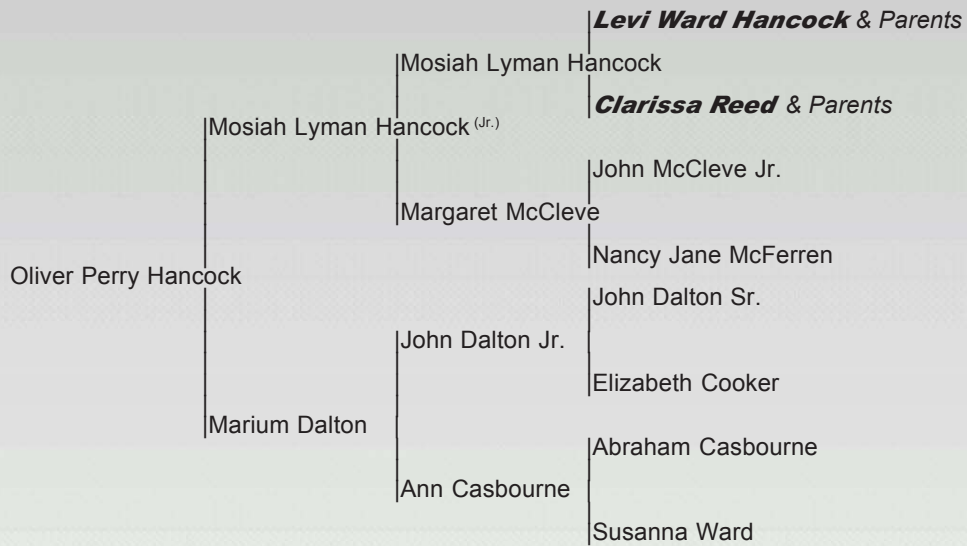
Excerpt taken from: *Perry & Lora; Their Roots & Branches* by Dixie H. Krauss

The author based her conclusions on research and interesting tales passed down in the family. She made a dedicated effort to present accurate information but recommends independent verification before accepting the material as fact or using the data for genealogical purposes.

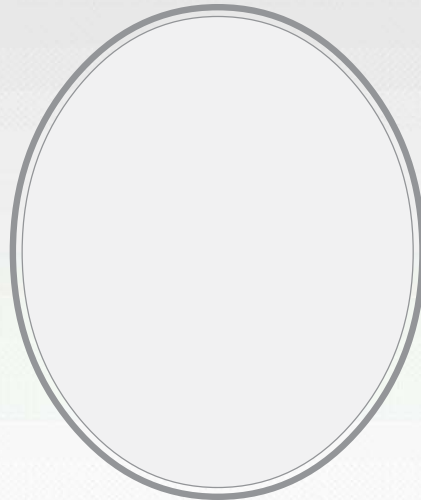
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# Fourth Generation Ancestors



Levi Ward Hancock  
Born: 1803 Massachusetts



Clarissa Reed  
Born: 1814 New Hampshire



# Levi Ward Hancock & Clarissa Reed

**Levi Ward Hancock**, son of Thomas Hancock and Amy Ward, was born on 7 Apr 1803 in Springfield, Hampden, Massachusetts. He died on 10 Jun 1882 in Washington, Washington, Utah.

Levi married (1) **Clarissa Reed**, daughter of John Reed and Rebecca Bearse, on 29 Mar 1833 in Kirtland, Geauga, Ohio. The marriage ended in divorce. Clarissa was born on 18 Dec 1814 in Acworth, Sullivan, New Hampshire. She died on 17 Jan 1860 in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah.

They had the following children...

Mosiah Lyman Hancock	9 Apr 1834	Kirtland, Geauga, Ohio
Sariah Hancock	5 Jun 1835	Kirtland, Geauga, Ohio
Elizabeth Amy Hancock	14 May 1836	Kirtland, Geauga, Ohio
Francis Marion Hancock	16 Apr 1838	Far West, Caldwell, Missouri
John Reed Hancock	19 Apr 1844	Nauvoo, Hancock, Illinois
Levison Hancock	9 Jun 1845	Nauvoo, Hancock, Illinois
Levi Ward Hancock	28 Feb 1847	Indian Mills, Pottawattamie, Iowa
Joseph Smith Hancock	24 Sep 1849	Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah

Levi also married (2) Emily Melissa Richey 24 Feb 1849 in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah.

He also married (3) Elizabeth Woodville Hovey on 19 Feb 1856. The marriage ended in divorce.

He also married (4) Anna Tew on 19 Jul 1857 in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah.

He also married (5) Maren Mogensen on 9 Aug 1868 in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah.

Clarissa also married (2) Thomas Jones White on 11 Apr 1854 in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah.



# Life Sketch of Levi & Clarissa

Levi Ward Hancock  
1803 Massachusetts - 1882 Utah

Clarissa Reed  
1814 New Hampshire - 1860 Utah

## **Levi's childhood...**

Levi Ward Hancock was born on April 7, 1803, in Springfield, Massachusetts, to Thomas Hancock Jr. and Amy Ward. At the age of four, Levi began calling upon the Lord seriously. He was determined to serve God and do all the good he could. As a boy and young man, Levi was very industrious and a great help to his father. Levi made furniture at age fourteen, and as a carpenter, made spinning wheels, bedsteads, bureaus, desks, tables, coffins, floors, chairs, doors, and a home for his parents. In his youth Levi moved with his parents to Chagrin, Ohio. He worked from place to place and in 1827 purchased land and built a house at Rome, Ohio.

## **A new faith...**

At twenty-seven, Levi heard Parley P. Pratt, a missionary for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. "It is the truth. I can feel it," said Levi. Levi's father and sister were immediately baptized. Levi followed Pratt to Kirtland and was baptized by him on November 16, 1830, and ordained an Elder by Oliver Cowdery the next day.

Levi went to Rome and began holding meetings. His missionary efforts occupied much of the remainder of his life. Levi received a mission call on June 7, 1831, to Missouri (D&C 52:29). He and his companion traveled through Indiana where they were so successful that they organized two branches of the Church with about one hundred members in each. Their success



Levi played a fife, flute, and violin. A violin on display at the Museum of Church History and Art in Salt Lake.

caused great alarm and got them ordered out of town. Levi and his companion stayed to preach their meeting the next morning. Some of those who had threatened them attended. In his sermon Levi spoke saying that his father had fought in the Revolutionary War for the freedom his listeners now enjoyed and that his relative, John Hancock, was the first signer of the Declaration of Independence. After the meeting seventeen of those who were going to run them out of town were baptized. After arriving in Missouri, Levi built the Evening and Morning Star printing office, then returned to Ohio.

## **Clarissa's Childhood...**

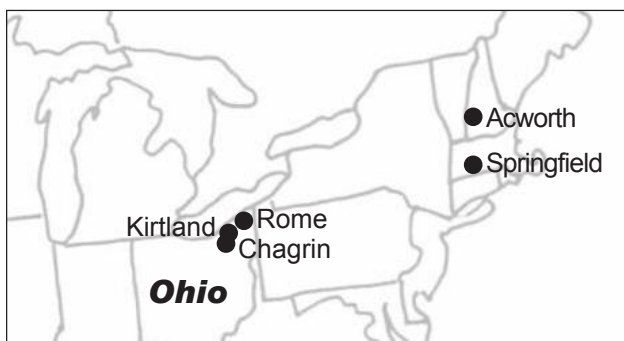
Clarissa Reed was born at Acworth, New Hampshire, on December 18, 1814, to John Reed and Rebecca Bearse. She was the third of eleven children. When Clarissa was about ten, her parents moved the family to Rome, Ohio. Six years later they joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Clarissa was baptized on March 29, 1831, and went to Kirtland, Geauga, Ohio, where she worked in the home of the Prophet Joseph Smith.

## **Marriage and family...**

The Prophet introduced Clarissa to Levi. Levi married her on March 29, 1833, in Kirtland. That same year, he helped build the Kirtland Temple.

Clarissa lost her second baby while Levi was traveling for the Church. The cow kicked her while being milked causing the baby to come too soon. It wasn't long before she had another baby to hold.



Early homes of Levi Hancock and Clarissa Reed.

### **Zion's Camp...**

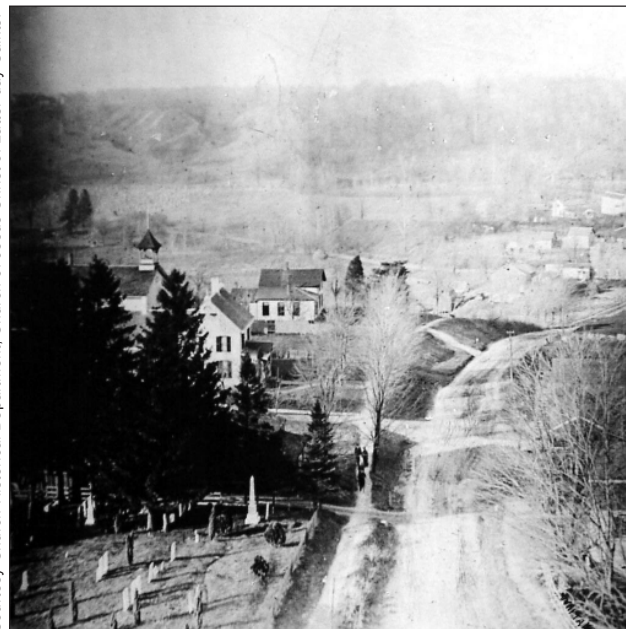
In 1834 Levi became a member of Zion's Camp and again made the long and difficult march from Ohio to Missouri and back. This was a rescue mission that tested the faith of those who participated. During this march, Levi made a fife from a joint of sweet elder. Those with him marched into camp to the music of his fife. On February 28, 1835, the First Quorum of Seventies was created from those in Zion's Camp. Levi was called as one of the presidents of that group and ordained as a Seventy by the Prophet Joseph Smith (later recorded D&C 124:138). Thus began his forty-seven years of faithful service as one of the First Seven Presidents of Seventies and as a General Authority of the Church.

### **Driven from Far West...**

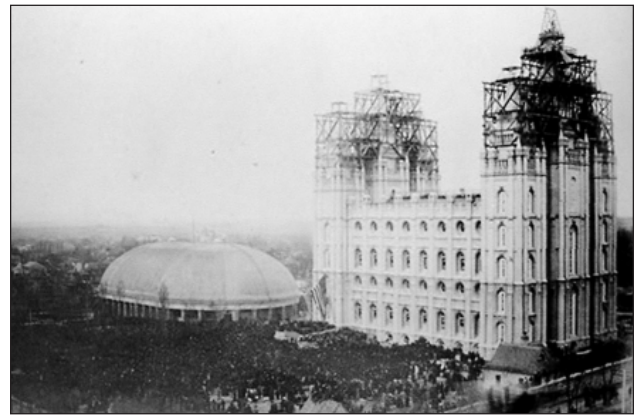
Levi and Clarissa moved to Far West, Caldwell, Missouri, arriving March 20, 1838. Their stay was short lived. On October 26, 1838, Missouri Governor Lilburn W. Boggs issued his disgraceful order to exterminate the Mormons. When a two-thousand man mob-militia arrived at Far West, the Saints voluntarily surrendered but were brutally abused. Levi and two brothers did not give up their guns and guarded and fed 600 men, women, and children who had been driven from their homes. Twelve to fifteen thousand souls were driven from Far West in the winter of 1838.

When Levi and Clarissa left Far West in early February 1839, Levi built a cart and filled it with corn. He drove the horse, and Clarissa carried her nine-month-old baby. Her four-year-old Mosiah followed

Courtesy Church Historical Department, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.



Kirtland, Ohio, from the Kirtland Temple tower.



Courtesy Church Archives, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Laying of capstone on Salt Lake Temple. As one of the General Authorities, Levi's name was engraved on a cooper plate under the capstone of this temple, and on a silver plate in a stone box in the wall of the St. George Temple.

in her foot steps; and her two-year-old daughter rode on the cart. Along the way they gathered elm bark and buds to eat with their corn. When they stopped to rest and eat, Clarissa cried as she took off her old shoes. Levi spoke these comforting words, "I prophesy in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, you shall have a pair of shoes delivered to you before long in a remarkable way." After they had eaten, she reached down for her old shoes and held up a new pair!

They crossed the frozen Mississippi River to Quincy, Illinois, and continued on to Commerce (now Nauvoo) where they camped on February 11, 1839.

### **Nauvoo the beautiful...**

It was Levi's fortune to be kind to the poor, to preach the gospel, to guard the Prophet Joseph, and to work on the Nauvoo Temple. During the founding of Nauvoo when death was all around and much sickness, Levi made caskets day and night, when he was not sick, and never charged the needy. Levi joined the Nauvoo Legion and played in the Nauvoo Legion Band as a fife major. He was a prominent and energetic citizen and served as a city policeman. He also served brief missions in Vermont and Indiana.

The Prophet Joseph Smith visited Levi's home and pointed out on a map the Great Salt Lake Valley as the future home of the Saints. Several copies were made of the map. Brigham Young had one, and one was carried by the Mormon Battalion by which they knew where to find the Saints in the west.

Levi was present when Joseph Smith delivered his last discourse on June 24, 1844. Joseph laid his hand on Levi's head saying, "If it were not for the tender



**T**he storms! . . . Father would take us on one day's travel; then the next day he would go back and get Grandmother Reed and . . . [her family]. And father would bring them all up so we would all be together at night. Thus father traveled, and kept the two families along by traveling the road over three times until we caught up with the pioneers at Council [Bluffs]. We got there just in time for President Young . . . to choose father to go and spiritually preside over the Mormon Battalion. Father went, and we [and our two grandmothers] were left alone.

—*Mosiah Lyman Hancock, son*

bonds of love that binds me to you, my friends and brethren, death would be sweet to me as honey. . . Are you willing to die for me?" Yes! was the shout. Then Joseph drew his sword and cried, "I will die for you!" The people loved their Prophet.

Knowing he would die, the Prophet told Levi whom to follow after his death. "Follow the Twelve," he told his loyal friend Levi.

Levi and Clarissa were exiled from Nauvoo in early 1846. They crossed the frozen Mississippi and camped at Sugar Creek where Levi made wagons for the poor.

### **Mormon Battalion...**

After reaching Council Bluffs, Iowa, Levi enlisted in the famous Mormon Battalion on July 1846. He did not see his family for two years. Along the way Levi played his fife, wrote songs, and recorded events in his journal. Being the only General Authority of the Church, he held meetings with the soldiers, reminded them of their duty to God, and asked them not to whip their animals, swear, or drink.

The march was difficult for Levi. He was forty-three years old and in poor health. His foot became so sore that he opened it with his knife. He later lost his right shoe out of the wagon, and hail pelted his foot until it was sore. He recorded drinking mud contaminated by buffalo urine and having to contend with lice.

On December 11, 1846, the Battalion was repeatedly attacked by scores of wild bulls. Several men were injured. One asked Levi to lay hands on him and pray.

They arrived in San Diego on January 29, 1847, and were discharged from their one-year enlistment

in Los Angeles on or about July 16, 1847. After their arrival in Salt Lake in October 1847, Levi fulfilled his pledge to help the poor get to Utah. He sent his teams of oxen to assist those still on the plains.

### **Clarissa delayed...**

When Levi left with the Mormon Battalion, Clarissa was expecting a baby and had the responsibility of her mother and Levi's mother. She found work at Indian Mills, Iowa, teaching the Indian children to sew, knit, spin, read, and write. Here she stayed until she got the promised wagon from Brigham Young and started across the plains on May 14, 1848. Levi arrived first in Salt Lake and came out to meet her. They reached the Valley on August 3, 1848.

### **Separate lives...**

Clarissa longed for Levi's company in the years that followed as he traveled to strengthen the Saints. Although their love continued, their marriage finally succumbed. Clarissa divorced Levi on April 9, 1853, and became the second wife of a kind neighbor, Thomas Jones White, on April 11, 1854. She bore him three children. One wintery day—one month after her last baby was born—she put on damp undergarments. She died in Salt Lake City on January 17, 1860. She was forty-five and mourned by both of her families.

### **Levi's remaining years...**

The remaining years of his life, Levi did not withhold anything from the Lord and divided his time between colonizing early Utah, civic leadership, and Church duties including frequent travel as a General Authority. He helped found Manti, Utah; served three times on



Mormon Battalion flag.



Ann Tew and Levi Hancock with children Levison, baby Solomon, and Ether.

the Utah Legislature; and frequently spoke at important community celebrations and conferences. In 1866 he was called to help settle Dixie, southwest Utah. Even in his older years of life, Levi continued his duties as Senior President of the Council of the Seventies. At the St. George Temple in 1877, he did work for John Hancock who signed the Declaration of Independence. Ten years before his death, Levi was ordained a patriarch and gave blessings to thousands. He died at his home in Washington, Utah, on June 10, 1882. He was seventy-nine years old.

### **Tribute to Levi...**

“Behold, I have seen my noble father untiring in the persecutions heaped upon him by the mobbers of Christianity, untiring in his exertions in defending the Prophets of God, untiring of getting the poor from the monarchy, untiring in his exertions in taking the Mormon Battalion through in the spirit of the gospel that they might not fail to receive the reward for all their toil over the desert and chilly mountains, until he—through the direct exposure—became paralyzed on his right side, until he was unable to hold his hand still. After all these things to still be sent forth to strengthen the outskirts of those people, and still in his emaciated condition standing nobly to the rock—pay or not pay—until through the goodness of God, he sank like a warrior, taking his rest with his Priesthood upon him.”

—Mosiah Lyman Hancock, son

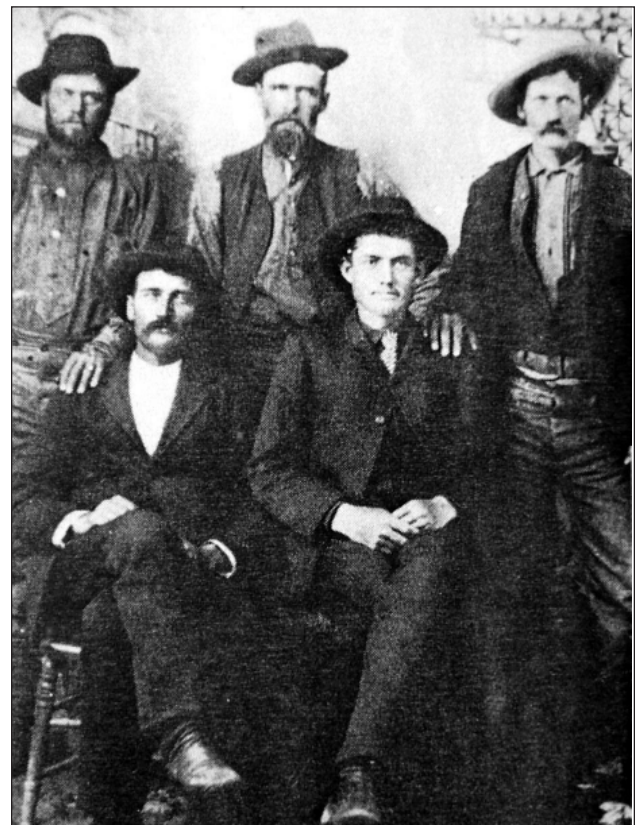
### **Tribute to Clarissa...**

Clarissa was an able seamstress, nurse, teacher, cook, and mother. She was tenderhearted and served as a midwife and helped the sick in the Valley many times. She had an unconquerable spirit. She was tried severely by tribulation, hardship, and want, yet willingly

endured the persecutions heaped upon her and remained stalwart and true to the Gospel all her days.

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Levi Hancock with some of his sons. Back from left: Ether, Levi, and Levison. Front: Solomon and Samuel.