

Stillman Pond

1847 Utah Pioneer

and his Family

Biographical Sketch

STILLMAN POND

A Biographical Sketch by Leon Y. Pond

Stillman Pond, an early Utah pioneer, was born 26 October, 1803 at Hubbardston, Worcester County, Mass. (In 1846 Stillman Pond wrote that he was born in Princeton, but the date is not recorded there. It appears at Hubbardston and also at Templeton.)

He was a son of Preston Pond and Hannah Rice. His paternal Grandfather was a revolutionary soldier and served on several campaigns. His great grandfather, Ezra Pond, of Franklin, being dissatisfied with religious conditions of that time was a dissenter and a leader of the minority in the Franklin church troubles between 1780 and 85. He was a restless soul. At that time the religions, social and civic affairs of the community were the same, and when Ezra Pond refused to comply with the orders of the Selectmen, he was forced to leave the town. He moved with his family to Hubbardston. Stillman seemed to have inherited this restlessness and dissatisfaction which manifested itself in his frequent moves as a young man.

On his Maternal side his grandfather was David Rice who was a grandson of Lt. Paul Moore, one of the Commanders of the American Army in the Battle of Bunkers Hill. All of his ancestors were sincere, honest, and God-fearing pioneers and Puritans, many of whom were Ministers, others were Selectmen of the early towns of New England. Stillman followed in their footsteps as a tiller of the soil. Perhaps few of his ancestors and progenitors ever won national fame and fortune, and fewer still ever brought reproach or shame upon their name. His ancestors have been hard working, honest people who have left us a heritage to be proud of.

Stillman lived with his parents until he was twenty years of age, during which time he received a common school education corresponding to the first ten grades of our present day educational system. He worked on his father's farm and being the oldest, most of the responsibility fell on him. At the same time he learned the trade of harness-making by which he used to make a living. He married 22 December 1825, Almyra Whittemore, (at the time of his marriage his father gave him a tract of land where he made his home. He lived there but a short time when the spirit of moving took possession of him and he sold his property and removed to Westminster where he purchased several tracts of land. He remained here until 1832 when he moved to Templeton. His wife bore him five children, four girls and one boy. Almyra Pond died 25 July, 1833 and was buried at Hubbardston.

He married 4 July 1834, Maria Luoisia Davis, at Hubbardston. He settled again at Hubbardston and in 1837 he moved with his family to New Salem, Franklin Co., Mass., where during the following five years he purchased three large tracts of land. The first one dated 27 September 1838. He seemed to have been a speculator in land for he bought and sold always at a profit. In 1841 missionaries of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints came to New Salem. They were received by the Pond family. The message of the restored gospel brought joy and happiness to the family and gave peace and comfort to the troubled soul of Stillman. He and his family accepted the Gospel and were

baptized 28 December 1841 by Elder Elias Harris. July 7, 1843 he sold his land and prepared to settle with the Saints at Nauvoo, Illinois. Before leaving for Nauvoo, Stillman visited his father with the hope of converting him and his family to the restored church. While enthusiastically expounding the truths of the restored church and gospel the son was aroused to indignation when his father, uninterested, fell asleep. As he took his leave for the West, Stillman remarked, "Father, you won't go to sleep the next time I talk with you."

In the fall of 1843 the Pond family moved to Nauvoo. Stillman purchased a tract of land about three-fourths of a mile east of the Temple, and directly across the street from the cemetery. It is in the easterly part of the city of Nauvoo in what was once a beautiful residential district. On this land he built a red brick home, two stories high, the front part of which he established a store.

He took an active part in the church and was rewarded for his faithfulness by being ordained an Elder in July 1844. He received his patriarchal blessing under the hand of John Smith January 1, 1845. May 17, 1845 he was ordained a Seventy and became a member of the Second Quorum of the Seventies. On the 30th of December 1845, Stillman and his wife were permitted to enter the House of the Lord where they received their endowments. On the fourth of February, 1846, he was sealed by authority of the Priesthood to his two wives. Maria stood as proxy for the first wife who was dead. On the 12th of February 1846 at Nauvoo, Stillman Pond wrote, "I am perfectly satisfied with the authorities of the church, consider it my indispensable duty to give heed to council in all things." This was the guiding star of his life and he lived by it and exemplified it throughout his entire life.

He did not live in peace in Nauvoo, as persecution continually harassed the Saints. February 2, 1846 the migration West began. Stillman and his family remained in Nauvoo until after the battle of Nauvoo in September 1846 when they were driven at the point of a bayonet across the river. Tribulations and hardships were many as the winter set in early and the Mormon refugees were without the proper food and clothing and shelter. The camp was ravaged by malaria, cholera, and consumption. The Pond family fell victim of all of these diseases. His wife, Maria, became consumptive and all of the children were afflicted with malaria. Snow fell early on the plains of Iowa and along the way Stillman buried three of his children. Her body wracked with pain and bowed down with grief with the loss of her children, Maria Pond was unable to walk and was confined to her bed with the fever of malaria. In this condition she gave birth to her sixth child, which died a few days later, and on the 16th of October 1846 the refugees arrived at winter quarters on the west bank of the Missouri River. The Pond family were all sick with malaria. Stillman Pond, unable to walk, lay upon his stomach in his wagon, bracing himself with one arm and peering through a knothole in the dashboard he drove his team with his other hand hanging over the dashboard. In this manner he drove the last one-hundred and fifty miles of Iowa Territory.

The influx of refugees into winter quarters was so great that there was not sufficient housing. Many of the new comers were forced to live in tents. Stillman and his family were of those unfortunates. His family lived in tents until after the New Year when they were

placed in a log cabin, but during this time disease continued to take its toll of the members of the Pond Family. The winter was hard and Stillman was called upon to shoulder added grief for he shared in the tragedy of winter quarters. In the journals of Horace K. Whitney and Helen Morr Whitney we read these heart-rending items:

"On Wednesday, December 2, 1846, Laura Jane Pond, aged 14 years, daughter of Stillman and Almyra Pond, died with chills and fevers. She was born in 1832 in Westminister, Worcester, Mass.," "Friday, December 4, 1846: Harriet M. Pond, aged 11 years, daughter of Stillman and Maria Pond died with chills. She was born September 6, 1833 in Hubbardston, Worcester, Mass.," "Monday, December 7, 1846: Abigail A. Pond, aged 18 years, daughter of Stillman and Almyra Pond, died with chills. She was born July 14, 1828, at Hubbardston, Worcester County, Mass. She was a wife of Bishop Newell K. Whitney." "Friday, January 15, 1847: Lyman Pond, aged 6 years, son of Stillman and Maria Pond, died with chills and fever. He was born April 24, 1840 at New Salem, Franklin, Mass."

The trials and tribulations of that winter coupled with the ravages of disease proved too much for the wife of Stillman. All of her six children had died and she had stood at the graveside. One may never know the suffering and sorrow of that good woman who had endured much at the hands of the mobocrats of Illinois, as well as the hardships of a cold and bitter winter with the loss of her children. She was called home to her rest Monday, May 17, 1847. Stillman Pond was now left alone with his two oldest daughters, Elizabeth Almyra, wife of Bishop Newell K. Whitney, and Lorenza Alcena, the wife of Joseph Cardon Kingsbury.

We will probably never realize the sorrow and the grief that Stillman went through during this winter and undoubtedly had its effects upon his latter life. It was a test supreme and we may wonder how many of us today would be able to stand as firm as he did. He never faltered but remained true and steadfast to the cause which he had espoused. If he had any doubt in his mind he promptly banished it from his thoughts. Against many obstacles and trials he continued to press onward. Like Job of Old he was again blessed by God with families and posterity.

In the early summer of 1847, Stillman Pond with his remaining family became members of the second company of pioneers under the leadership of John Taylor. He was under Captain Joseph Mount of the fourth hundred, third ten. In this same company was Major Samuel Russell and his wife, Abigail Thorne, and their infant daughter, Frances, who had been born at winter quarters. This woman later became the wife of Stillman Pond. The company of pioneers arrived in Great Salt Lake in the early fall of 1847. At this time, according to Emaline B. Wells, who knew him well, "Stillman Pond was one of the wealthiest pioneers. He brought with him bolts and bolts of dry goods and beans." It is said of him that he gave freely of his goods to his fellow pioneers, and also that he furnished beans to Brigham Young. Stillman Pond established his home in Salt Lake City and engaged in farming. His home was on the west end of the city, and in the following spring when the crickets swept down from the mountains, he was one of those fortunate pioneers whose crop was saved by the arrival of the seagulls.

In the spring of 1848, Major Samuel Russell deserted his wife and baby for the gold fields of California. Stillman Pond and Abigail Thorne Russell were married in the endowment house February 8, 1849. He legally adopted the child, Frances. He was an officiator under the supervision of Heber C. Kimball, in the endowment work of 1852. He studied astronomy and mathematics during the evenings of 1852 under Orson Pratt. He married the fourth time September 26, 1852 Elizabeth Bessac, the widow of Joseph Mount, and she bore him one child, a daughter. 1854 or 1855 she divorced him and married Timothy Foote.

Stillman Pond was rewarded for his faithfulness in the work of the church by being ordained senior President of the 35th Quorum of Seventy February 16, 1853. This office he faithfully fulfilled during the remainder of his life.

In 1855 Stillman Pond moved his family to the point of the mountain west of Salt Lake at about the same location of the present town site of Garfield. This move allowed them the needed grazing territory for their cattle. Uncle Beason Lewis, who later was also one of their warm friends at Richmond, lived in a part of their mountain home. He married Stillman's oldest daughter after the death of her husband. The year Johnston's army made its entrance into Salt Lake Valley, 1857, the family moved a second time, going south thus becoming pioneers at Spanish Fork. Just before this move, he took part in the Echo Canyon campaign under Daniel H. Wells, against Johnston's army.

Stillman Pond's sturdiness, industry and sobriety won for him favor in the hearts of his new neighbors. Immediately he assumed the responsibility of religious and civic duties and became an interested builder in this southern section. In Warner's History of Spanish Fork, it is recorded that Stillman Pond at one time was elected Alderman of the city and later becoming supervisor of the city streets. From the early records of the Spanish Fork Ward under date of 1 April 1860, there is entered the following motion: "It is moved and seconded that Stillman Pond and family be given a recommend from the ward," for that spring he was called by President Brigham Young to accompany Bishop Marriner Wood Merrill to go to North Cache Valley.

Accordingly that spring the family with their meager possessions joined the pioneer group at Richmond, Cache County. A man named Alma Gay assisted in their removal. One pig, a calf, and four yolk of oxen represented the livestock which figured in this one-hundred fifty mile journey north. The cattle making up the team were secured at Antelope Island in the midst of Great Salt Lake, as the church had established them there to provide working stock for the saints.

These newcomers were welcomed at Richmond upon the occasion of an Indian disturbance, which according to the daughter, Frances, then 15 years of age was a "fearful and an annoying period." A place within the fort was assigned to them for their quarters where soon after Stillman Pond erected three log rooms with dirt roofs, located one block east and a little north of the present Utah-Idaho Central R. R. depot. The spot of ground on which these new log rooms were located is now a part of one of the city streets of Richmond. The two younger members of the family were born here at this location, Martin, 21 May 1862 and Zina 7 June 1864. In later years a number have heard these two playfully

remark, "We were born in the road." This location within the fort was maintained four years.

Later a five acre city lot was allowed the family near the fort and subsequently a modern home, for those days, was erected one block north of the Old People's Store and Creamery Company. This new home was the first frame house to be built in Richmond. Until just recently it has continued to stand on what the early settlers called the Pond Corner. For a few years after their arrival in Richmond, conditions were very strenuous for the members of the Pond Family. Food consisted chiefly of boiled wheat and of flour which was poorly ground and had to be hauled from the nearest mill in Brigham City. Oft times it was so darkened with smut as to render it unwholesome. Sweet foods ordinarily craved by children were scarce at this early time and very seldom had.

The farm lands of Stillman Pond were located on both sides of the present state highway north of Richmond on Cherry Creek. It was here that the boys learned their first lessons in farm operations as they assisted their father in plowing the wheat grass land and in irrigating crops. Without shoes, the feet of the boys would become chapped and often bled. To relieve the soreness as best she could, their mother bathed them in warm bran water. This kindly service during the summertime was one of the special duties of the mother before retiring at night.

He was active in church and religious affairs of the community. During a period of hardship when necessities of life were scarce and when many of the saints were discouraged he received for his comfort and encouragement a patriarchal blessing under the hand of C. W. Hyde, 25 June 1865. This blessing was of great encouragement to him and his family. He was promised that he should accomplish all of his desires in righteousness and that he should live as long as he desired life.

On the 20th of June 1868 his father Preston Pond died at Hubbardston, Mass. Stillman returned to his home. His father died intestate and the estate was distributed by Order of the Court. Stillman shared in this distribution receiving the oldest son's portion. This more or less changed the fortunes of the family. He returned to Utah with his portion and in October 1868 he invested this capital in the business enterprise called at that time the Richmond Co-op known as the Z. C. M. I. This was the first attempt in America of a department store. This business had grown to be one of the great Mercantile Institutions of the West. He further engaged in the activity of the business by wagon taking farm produce from Richmond to Salt Lake City and bringing back merchandise which was sold in the Richmond Co-op. Upon one occasion while in the City his faithful horses Mac and Seal ran away doing considerable damage which cost him three hundred dollars - a terrible expense in those days. Other than this his investment in the Z. C. M. I. proved to be a wise and profitable one.

He married for the fifth time 28 March 1870, Anna Regina Swenson (Jacobsen) the widow of Peter Valentine Christensen at Salt Lake City. She bore him four sons.

All of his life he engaged himself in building up the country. He was called to do work on the St. George Temple. Accompanied by Tom Dobson, Lewis Petty, C. H. Monson, and

Mathew Bell, he drove a span of horses to Southern Utah and returned. While there he hauled rock for the Temple making his home with the family of David Cannon. He was a sincere believer in the Temple work and had he lived to see the completion of the Salt Lake and Logan Temples he would have taken an active part in Temple ceremonies in behalf of his dead kindred. The spirit of the Temple work has followed upon several of his descendants who have done much in the accomplishment of this great work. His complete ancestry for eight generations back to the Puritan founders of America has been compiled and the Temple work for all has been done by his children and grandchildren. It would seem that his great desire to save his progenitors has been given to several of his posterity.

He had a generous heart, although somewhat stern and harsh at times, undoubtedly caused by the hardships and sorrow of the tragedy of winter quarters. He was constantly religious, always paying an honest tithe. No one having dealings with him could question his integrity and straight-forwardness. Few men were harder workers and more righteously ambitious. He was a good provider to his family and believed in having a supply on hand. This was exemplified by his having a large pile of chopped wood ready to burn near to the house. Many people followed this way in providing their fall in advance, until it had become a general practice among the pioneers and their descendants. It is also said that Stillman Pond always had a reserve of fire wood stacked in the nearest canyon to replenish the one at home.

After a lingering illness of two years he passed to his rest 30 September 1878, at Richmond, Utah, aged 74 years, 11 months, 4 days. He was survived by his two wives Abigail and Anna Regina Pond and twelve of his children seven sons and five daughters, (with their ages at the time of their father's death) namely: Brigham, age 25; Lewis Sumner, age 24; Joseph Thorne, age 19; Martin, age 17; Lysander C., age 8; Noah S., age 6; Moses A., age 2; Almyra Elizabeth, age 51; wife of Beason Lewis; Mary Anner, age 28 wife of John Buxton; Abigail, age 21, later the wife of William D. Van Noy; Martha Ann, age 25, wife of Walter P. Reed; Zina Adeline, age 13, later the wife of John Casper Whittle; and the following grandchildren: Almyra Jane Bainbridge, wife of Marriner Wood Merrill, Valette Kingsbury, she was the wife of Edward Snellgrove; Martha Ann Kingsbury, wife of William C. Lewis; Marie Loenza Kingsbury, she was the wife of Marriner Wood Merrill, Joseph Buxton, Laura Abigail Buxton, Sarah Buxton, John Albert Buxton, Mary Elizabeth Buxton, Thaddus Buxton, Lewis Sumner Buxton, Charles Pond, and the following great grandchildren: Charles Edward Merrill, Elizabeth Almyra Merrill, Heber Kimball Merrill, Albert Marion Merrill, Louis Alfred Merrill, Loren Asa Merrill, Freddy Whittmore Merrill, children of Almyra Jane Bainbridge Merrill; Abigail Loenza Lewis, Valette Elizabeth Lewis, Sanford Brigham Lewis, children of Marth Ann Kingsbury Lewis; Joseph Frances Merrill, Hyrum Willard Merrill, Hatty Loenza Merrill, Laura Merrill, and Lucy Alcena Merrill, children of Marian Loenza Kingsbury Merrill. He was buried 2 October 1878 at Richmond.

It has been contended that Stillman Pond married six times. This contention has been maintained by the descendants of the first and last wives, but has been refuted by the descendants of the other wives. The compiler of this history has believed the six wives theory, but when he began to investigate the records of the past, he was led and forced to accept the conclusion that Stillman Pond married only five times.

The Pond Genealogy by Edward D. Harris, published in 1873, states that Stillman Pond married first Elvira Whittemore. In the Nauvoo Temple Records is the statement that Stillman Pond was sealed to Almira Whittemore. It was therefore naturally assumed that these were different women and it was contended that they were sisters. The compiler of this record made full investigation. He found that the names Elvira and Almira were variations of spelling also that a copyist could very easily mistake the one for the other. The History of Hubbardston, Massachusetts by Stowe gives only one daughter of Isaac Whittemore by the name of Almira, born 20 August 1800. Also, Stillman Pond in the biographical sketch of himself, written by himself, 12 February 1846 and found in the Seventy Record of the Second Quorum, page 148, states that he married Almira Whittemore. Also the gravestone of Stillman's first wife, which still stands in the Hubbardston cemetery, gives her name as Almira. The Sealing Records of the Nauvoo Temple state that Maria Pond was a proxy in the sealing of Almira Whittemore to Stillman Pond.

A further contention for an unknown wife is that in the Journal History, page 40, may be found a statement that Stillman Pond was accompanied by his wife Almira Elizabeth Pond, born 2 May 1827. This his daughter and not his wife, Helen Marr Whitney in her Journal says that Stillman Pond's wife, Mira, died at Winter Quarters. This was assumed to be the sister of Elvira. Now Stillman Pond married a year after his first wife's death in Massachusetts, Maria Louisa Davis. It has been believed that he married in Nauvoo, the sister of his first wife, and that when the migration westward began that the first wife's sister accompanied him on the westward journey while Maria, the mother of his children remained in Nauvoo, refusing to go with him.

In support of this idea we have the testimony of Stillman's younger son, Noah S. Pond, who while president of the Northern States Mission visited Nauvoo in 1929. While there he met an aged hotel keeper who told him that while he (the hotel keeper) was a boy, that the widow of old man Pond had died in his home, that she refused to go West.

It seemed unnatural to the compiler that a mother could refuse to go on a long and dangerous journey with her husband, and let her small children go. So the compiler could not accept this idea. Proof that his wife, Maria, did leave Nauvoo with her husband came from the testimony of several of the oldest sons of Stillman Pond, that Maria gave birth to twins on the Iowa plains. Maria Pond was therefore the wife who had died at Winter Quarters and Helen Marr Whitney was mistaken in the spelling of Stillman's wife's name.

Who was this Pond woman who died at Nauvoo? The old hotel keeper did not give any name. Neither did Noah S. Pond make any investigation to determine who she was. When the compiler visited Nauvoo in 1933 he was unable to find out anything about her. The Hancock County Burial Records of Illinois do not begin until 1878 and reveal nothing.

Recently while doing some research on the Pond family the compiler found this interesting bit of information. "Prentice Pond, born 1807 in New Hampshire, moved to Nauvoo at about the same time that the Mormons were driven out. He married Harriet Chase, daughter of John and Mary Chase, born in Hereford, Herts, England. He died in Iowa and she died as a Widow in Nauvoo." No date is given. Did Harriet Chase join the Mormon Church? No information concerning her baptism is available, but it seems strange that she should migrate from England to Nauvoo unless she had joined.

It is therefore the conviction of the compiler that this is the widow of old man Pond who died at the home of the old hotel keeper at Nauvoo. Also, as shown above, there was only one Whittimore woman to marry Stillman Pond, and the second wife Maria accompanied him when he left Nauvoo. In the light of the above evidence Stillman Pond married but five times and the contention of another wife fails of proof.

1. Stillman Pond married first, 22 December, 1825 at Hubbardston, Worcester Co., Mass., ALMYRA WHITTEMORE, daughter of Isaac Whittemore and Annia Woodward. She was born, 20 August 1800 at Hubbardston. She moved with her husband to Westminister, Worcester, Mass. where her four daughters were born. In 1832 she moved to Templeton with her husband. Here her son was born. She died at Templeton during the epidemic of yellow fever which swept through New England. She was buried in Hubbardston in the family cemetery. Her tombstone, which is yet standing, was a flat slab of granite. The top is rounded and bears the following inscription: "Almyra Pond, wife of Stillman, died 25 July, 1833, age 33." Her husband Stillman Pond was sealed to her in the Nauvoo Temple, 4 February 1846, his second wife, Maria, acting as proxy for Almyra.

Issue

- *2. ALMYRA ELIZABETH POND, familiarly known as Aunt Lib, born 2 May, 1827 at Westminister, Worcester, Mass. She married 7 January 1846, Bishop Newell K. Whitney at Nauvoo but later divorced him and married Fredrick H. Bainbridge at Salt Lake City. After his death she married at Salt Lake City, Beason Lewis. She has issue: one child by her second husband.
- *3. ABIGAIL AUGUSTA POND, born 14 July 1828, at Westminister, Worcester, Mass. Died 7 December 1846 at Winter Quarters. Married Bishop Newell K. Whitney, 7 January 1846 at Nauvoo. No issue.
- *4. LOENZA ALCENA POND, born 15 February 1830 at Westminister, Worcester, Mass. Died 15 June 1853 at Salt Lake City, Utah. Married at Nauvoo, 27 January 1846, Joseph Cardon Kingsbury. She had no issue.
- 5. LAURA JUNE POND, born 8 March 1832 at Westminister, Worcester, Mass. Died 2 December 1846 at Winter Quarters.
- 6. LYMAN ADDISON POND, born 6 June 1833 at Templeton, Worcester, Mass. Died 12 September 1833 at Templeton.

Stillman Pond married second 4 July 1834 at Hubbardston or Templeton, Worcester, Mass., MARIA LOUISA DAVIS, daughter of James and Miranda Davis born at Templeton 2 May, 1812. The family made their home in Templeton where her oldest child was born.

She moved with her husband to New Salem, Franklin County, Mass. during the early part of 1837. Here two of her children were born. She not only provided a home of comfort for her husband, but she was a true mother to the four motherless girls, the children of Stillman's first wife. These four children grew to revere her as their mother. December 28, 1841 she joined the L. D. S. Church with her husband, being baptized by Elder Elias Harris. In the fall of 1843 the family moved to Nauvoo, Hancock County, Illinois. Here she made the home life pleasant for the family, and also her fourth child was born which died a few months later.

She was endowed with her husband in the Nauvoo Temple 30 December 1845. On the 4th of February 1846 she was sealed to Stillman Pond. At the same time she acted as a proxy in the sealing of Stillman Pond to his first wife, Almyra Whitemore who was dead.

In the winter of 1845-46 persecution against the Mormons became very intense so the Pond family remained at Nauvoo until September 1846, when they were driven out at the point of the bayonet. The weather was very inclement. Without proper food, clothing, and shelter the family suffered with hardships. Thomas L. Kane describes condition of the Mormon refugees in the following manner:

"Dreadful, indeed, was the suffering of these forsaken beings, bowed and cramped by cold and sunburn, alternating as each weary day and night dragged on. They were, almost all of them, the crippled victims of disease. They were there because they had no homes, nor hospital, nor poor house, nor friends to offer them any. They could not satisfy the feeble cravings of their sick; they had not bread to quiet the fractious hunger-cries of their children. Mothers and babes, daughters and grandparents, all of them alike, were bivouacked in tatters, wanting even cowering to comfort those whom the sick shiver of fever was searching to the marrow."

It was under such conditions as these that Maria Pond gave birth to twins on the stormy plains of Iowa. The twins died a few days later. Also, on the Iowa plains she buried her oldest son. Due to exposure and under-nourishment she contracted tuberculosis which wracked her body with pain. She arrived with her husband and children at Winter Quarters, 16 October, 1846 and they lived in tents until January 1847.

She died at Winter Quarters, 17 May, 1847.

Issue

7-i HARRIET MIRANDA POND, Born 6 September 1835 at Templeton, Massachusetts, died of Malaria at Winter Quarters, Nebraska, December 4, 1846.

8-ii LOWELL ANSON POND, Born 18 July 1837 at New Salem, Franklin County, Massachusetts, died September 1846 in Iowa.

9-iii LYMAN POND, Born 25 April 1840 at New Salem, Franklin County, Massachusetts, died 12 January 1847 at Winter Quarters.

10-iv CHARLES STILLMAN POND, Born 28 October 1844 at Nauvoo, Hancock County, Illinois. Died 5 January 1845 at Nauvoo, Hancock County, Illinois.

11-v JOSEPH POND) Twins, born the latter part of September or early part of
12-vi J. HYRUM POND) October, 1846 on the plains of Iowa. Both died a few days
later.

Stillman Pond married third, Salt Lake City, Utah, 8 February 1849, ABIGAIL THORNE, daughter of Richard Thorne and Mary Armstrong. Her parents were highly respected citizens, possessing many friends in the community and in the county where she resided.

Curiosity actuated Abigail Thorne, then a young woman, to attend a religious meeting which was being conducted in the community by two Mormon Elders. Both the songs and the message proclaimed made deep impressions upon her soul. Because of an outstanding spiritual experience she was converted and baptized upon that occasion thus becoming the first proselyte to the Mormon faith in that section of the country. As a result of her conversion the entire Thorne family joined the Church with the exception of the father. However, in later years a number of them apostatized.

Abigail soon experienced the urge to join with the Saints and in due time reached her desired destination. Under date of 7 March 1843 at the age of 22 she received her Patriarchal Blessing at Nauvoo under the hands of Hyrum Smith, just fifteen months before his martyrdom at Carthage. A special feature of this blessing was the gift of dreams and visions by the Holy Ghost. She also enjoyed the gift of tongues. It was her special privilege also to be present upon the occasion of the transfiguration of Brigham Young. It was on Thursday 8 August 1844. A vast assemblage of Saints had gathered. Sidney Rigdon spoke for one and one-half hours presenting himself to them as a guardian for the church. The longer he talked, the more the people were convinced that he was without the inspiration of the Lord. When Brigham Young arose to speak, the people were astonished for President Young stood transfigured before them and they beheld the Prophet Joseph Smith and heard his voice as naturally as ever they did when he was living. It was a manifestation to the Saints that they might recognize the correct authority.

Abigail was married to Major Samuel Russell in 1845. During the trying times of the Saints at Winter Quarters their first child, Frances, was born in a covered wagon October 1846. The following year they joined with the second company of pioneers and came westward under the direction of John Taylor. Major Russell officially acted as captain of ten and his wife, Abigail, walking by his side carried her baby Frances practically the entire distance from the Missouri River to the Salt Lake Valley.

Upon reaching the valley of the mountains Major Russell endeavored to prevail upon his companion to continue with him to the gold fields of California. Her immediate reply to this suggestion was both curt and poetic, "Samuel Russell," she said, "I came here for the sake of the Gospel and not for gold." The Major took his departure with others but his wife and child remained with the Saints.

Soon after being deserted by Major Russell she obtained a divorce and married Stillman Pond, by whom she had eight children. They made their own in Salt Lake City. In 1837 they moved to Spanish Fork, and in 1860 they moved to Richmond, Utah. Conditions were hard but she maintained her home in orderliness and love.

Following the death of her husband in 1878 the widow Abigail maintained her home in Richmond for a short time. Sometime during the late eighties she moved to Lewiston where her sons had established themselves in business. She succeeded Almyra Merrill as president of the ward

Relief Society in which capacity she served ably and well. As is the case with the normal mother, her outstanding accomplishments in life were her boys and girls, who were anxious constantly to provide for every possible convenience through the remaining years of her life. She lived among her children considerably thereafter, finally establishing living quarters at the home of her son Martin.

During the early spring of 1904 she contracted an illness that finally led up to her death on March 7. The week or two were moments of intense physical suffering almost beyond her life's power to endure it, which invited the tenderest sympathy of her children who had gathered at her bedside.

An experience that her family always remembered and one that thereafter remained as a sacred testimony was witnessed at the time of her passing. Desiring that rest and relief might come to this weary suffering soul, her sons bearing the Holy Priesthood officiated in the ordinance of dedication. Immediately following the removal of their hands from her head, the uttered prayer was heard, and the great spirit of their mother took its flight to the realm of the disembodied; then all was peaceful and quiet.

Her days were lengthened to the age of 83 years. She had endured many privations and hardships through her life, but never wavered from the faith that came to her when a girl. She had seen her family grown to maturity, established in good homes with large families and keeping the faith. This was her joy.

Funeral services were held in the Richmond Cemetery beside her husband in the family lot.

Abigail (Thorne) Pond possessed a powerful and magnetic personality together with a great store of practical wisdom. With a profound knowledge of the scriptures, she always had an appropriate passage to substantiate most any statement she made. As a recipient of spiritual power, her special endowments were the gifts of dreams, visions, the discerning of spirits and character, which qualifications were great aids to her in the various callings of life. She was intelligent and well informed. An outstanding achievement for which she enjoyed distinction was that of being a very clever fireside conversationalist.

The life of this good woman, eventful and colorful, was typical of that of the sturdy pioneers of nearly a century ago who gave their all for the establishment of what they thought was right. The faith and devotion she manifested for the cause of truth in the long trek across the plains as a young woman remained with her to her dying day. And in its lingering dignity continues as a living inspiration to her posterity.

Issue

a- FRANCES RUSSELL, Born October 1846 at Winter Quarters, Nebraska. Died 1938 at Boise, Idaho. Married Hough. She was legally adopted by and sealed to Stillman Pond 8 February 1849.

*13-ii MARY ANNER POND, Born 1 January 1850 at Salt Lake City, Utah. Died 19 August 1919. Married John Buxton.

- 14-iii CHARLES STILLMAN POND, Born January 1852. Died as an infant.
- *15-iv BRIGHAM POND, Born 9 June 1853 at Salt Lake City. Died 26 December 1933 at Logan, Utah. Married (1) Aroetta Whittle, (2) Catherine Whittle.
- *16 LEWIS SUMNER POND, Born 25 December 1854 at Salt Lake City. Died 16 November 1934 at Salt Lake City. Married . . . (page missing)

Stillman Pond married fifth, 28 March 1870 at Salt Lake City, Utah, ANNA REGINA SWENSON (JACOBSEN) widow of Valentine Peter Cristian Christiansen. She was born 26 November 1837 at Balkary, Torpa, Sweden, daughter of Swan Jacobsen and Inger Samuelsen. Her father was a Swedish farmer who owned his own land and home.

When a young woman, a missionary of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints came to Sweden. Anna Regina and her sister Christiana became interested in the new religion.

So great was the prejudice against the Mormons that the two girls were forced to leave home. When the family learned of the intentions of the two girls, the brothers John and Noah endeavored to stop them, but the girls escaped their brothers and proceeded to Copenhagen, Denmark where they hired out as maids. While in Denmark Anna Regina met Valentine Peter Christian Christiansen who was born 14 February 1838 at Hjorring, Hjorring, Denmark, son of Johnnaes Horen and Catarina Christiansen. He too was a convert to the new faith. In 1863, after two years residence in Denmark, Anna Regina, her sister, and Peter Christiansen embarked for America with a group of Mormon Converts. The group arriving in New York proceeded by train to Omaha, Nebraska. Here Anna Regina Swenson and Peter Christiansen were married. She was baptized 27 April 1858 and he was baptized 24 December 1861.

At Omaha the group was outfitted with teams and covered wagons and supplies with which to make the thousand mile journey to Salt Lake City. The route was no longer as dangerous as it was in 1847. There were military posts along the way to protect the immigrants from Indians and the path was well marked but yet there were many hardships and obstacles to be overcome. They arrived in Utah 1863 and received their endowments 13 December 1865 in the Endowment House. They moved to Richmond where they made their home. He died in 1869 or 70 and his widow married Stillman Pond by whom she had four sons. She lived part of the time at the Pond homestead and later in her own home. After the death of Stillman Pond she remained in Richmond maintaining her family by running a millinery shop.

In October 1882 she exchanged her Richmond home for eighty acres of land in Preston, Idaho, where she lived in poverty with her three children which was the common lot of the pioneers in that locality and time. The boys remember the thrill and joy that came to them on one occasion when they were invited to a friendly home and enjoyed a baked potato dinner. In 1884 she moved to Eagle Rock, now Idaho Falls, Idaho, leaving her son Noah, then 12 years old in Preston, Idaho. Noah worked for Bishop William C. Parkinson during the day and sleeping at night at his deserted home. The winter nights were so cold that he had to fill his boots with wheat to keep them from freezing and also in order to put them on in the morning. It was necessary for Noah to live on the land in order to obtain full possession. He followed his mother to Eagle Rock the following December.

The day Mrs. Pond and boys were to be taken by wagon to Eagle Rock she became so ill it was deemed unadvisable for her to make the wagon trip, and she was put on the train which overtook the wagon part at or near Red Rock. She pleaded sincerely with the train

conductor, Mickey Hogan, to watch for the wagon, stop the train, and take her baby boy Alonza on board, and this was actually done by the big-hearted Irish conductor who stopped the train, climbed through the fence, picked the boy off the wagon and delivered him to the arms of his mother, much to the wonderment of all the passengers.

On arrival at Eagle Rock the family lived in an old frame shack on the riverside among the poorer people where the mother took in washing largely gathered by the boys, in order to maintain the little family. From their first savings Noah and Alonza purchased a boys wagon for summer and a sleigh for winter with which to haul water from long distant hydrants with which the mother did the washing in their humble home. At midnight hours these boys stood by their mother in freezing winter, handing her the clothespins as she hung out her washing. She also did cooking and general housework among the better provided for families.

She was associated with the activities of the L. D. S. people and doing all she could to build up a branch and ward for the church. She was chosen as a counselor to Mary J. Hawkey in the Relief Society. With the removal of the railway shops from Eagle Rock to Pocatello in 1888 she moved with her family to Pocatello. As with people who came at that early date the family lived in a dugout on Harrison Avenue until better homes could be provided. Later living in one of the nicer Railway Company houses in which she conducted an early boarding and rooming house from the proceeds of which it became possible for all of the boys to attend and graduate from Brigham Young College at Logan, Utah.

She was chosen as the first Relief Society president at Pocatello, and for many years worked among the poor, the sick, and the needy, provided for their comfort and needs the best she could. She often went from house to house collecting the castoffs of those who had and gave it to those who had not.

In later years she traveled extensively going several times to Nebraska and Iowa visiting relatives hoping that she might bring them into the Church. She was also a frequent visitor to the Northwest among friends in Portland, Seattle, and Tacoma. She moved to Salt Lake City in 1902, keeping house for her son Alonza who was Assistant Superintendent of the O. S. L. Railroad. After his marriage she made her home with her son and daughter-in-law. During these years from 1902 until her death she was an active worker in the Logan and Salt Lake Temples.

She died at Salt Lake City, Utah, 10 July 1909. She was buried at Richmond, Utah. Her passing was mourned by loved ones and many friends. There are many living today (1938) who remember her for her kindness, love, generosity, sincerity, and her testimony of the Gospel. They all speak well of her for her life was full of service.

Issue

- *22-1 LYSANDER CHRISTENSEN POND, Born 31 December 1870 at Richmond, Utah.
Died 30 May 1936 at Idaho Falls, Idaho.

- * 23-ii NOAH DEANDER POND, Born 22 December 1872 at Richmond, Utah. Married Alice Armeda Snow Young. Living at Pocatello, Idaho, 1938.

- * 24-iii MOSES ALONZA POND, Born 2 October 1876 at Richmond, Utah. Married Sarah Crosbeck Smith. Living at Salt Lake City, Utah, 1938.

- 25-iv AARON ALFONZO POND, Born 2 October 1876 at Richmond, Utah. Died May 1877, an infant.

NAME	BORN			DIED		
M. W. Merrill	25	Sept.	1832	12	Feb.	1906
Elizabeth Almira Merrill	27	Aug.	1849	6	Apr.	1906
Children:						
Charles Edward Merrill	9	Feb.	1866	17	Feb.	1931
Elizabeth Almira Merrill	11	Jan.	1868	13	May	1926
Heber Kimball Merrill	23	Sept.	1869	4	Feb.	1941
Albert Marion Merrill	28	June	1872	2	June	1939
Lewis Alford Merrill	23	June	1874	1	June	1915
Lorin Asa Merrill	4	Apr.	1876	26	Jan.	1919
Freddie Whittemore Merrill	19	May	1878	14	Apr.	1942
Emma Irene Merrill	31	July	1880	23	Nov.	1904
Preston Reynolds Merrill	23	Aug.	1882	11	Oct.	1918
Alva Retta Merrill	14	Aug.	1884	4	Feb.	1911
Leon Earnest Merrill	22	Aug.	1886	10	June	1933
Abigail Orella Merrill	22	Feb.	1889			