

## WILLIAM SCEARCE

**(Grandfather of Sarah Anne Leany-- husband of William Stirling, Sr.)**

William Scarce, also known on many records as William Scarce, was born August 15, 1779 to David and Cassandra Scarce in Middle River, Augusta, Virginia. William was the sixth of seven children. William was born in the midst of the Revolutionary War and his father may have been a part of that war, though no evidence has been found to bear this out.

William seemed to moved west with the American frontier and may have been raised on a small family farm as that is how many of the people on the frontier lived in that day. In his western movement, William met and married Nancy Walker, the daughter of Samuel and Agnes Walker in Versailles, Kentucky.

William and Nancy moved with her family to Wayne County, Indiana where they settled two and a half miles southeast of Richmond, Indiana. In the *History of Wayne County*, "Wayne Township" page 333, it reads regarding the early settlers of Wayne County and where they settled: "Samuel Walker from Kentucky, where is now the Bellevue Water Cure. William Scarce from Kentucky, on the quarter where his son Jonathan and Elias Edwards reside." (These two were probably double brother-in-laws whereas Jonathan married Dorcus Edwards and Elias married William's daughter Cassandra Scarce.) There is some evidence to believe that this may have been near school section # 16 (see map # 1) because this section was sold to several people, including David and Samuel Scarce, William's two oldest sons.

It was in Wayne County where all eight of William and Nancy's children were born. Listed in order of birth they were:

Samuel	7 March 1807
David	4 November 1808
Jonathan	2 April 1811
Lucy	20 October 1813; (the only child not born in Richmond, was born at Muncie, Indiana which was part of Wayne County, but is now part of Delaware County)
Rebecca	22 November 1816
Cassandra	26 November 1819
Elizabeth	4 January 1822
Nancy	11 September 1827; (whom it appears died as a child)

William served briefly in the War of 1812 in Allen's Mounted Kentucky Volunteers from September 18 to October 30, 1912. He was paid \$4.94 for his 23 days service in addition to \$9.20 for the use of his horse; for a total of \$14.14. He was also given travel pay of \$8.64 for traveling the 210 miles home to Indiana. William was a private in the War of 1812, but was commissioned a colonel in the Indiana State Militia by Governor Jonathan Jennings, commander and chief of the Indiana State of Militia on April 26, 1817.

Nancy, William's wife, died in 1830 leaving a number of small children. According to Etta McMullin Marriager, who received a diary of William's from Elizabeth Scarce Laney, a daughter, "William Scarce was a well-to-do merchant of Richmond, Indiana. He [William] and 18-year-old Elizabeth joined the LDS faith in 1842 and went to Nauvoo. None of Elizabeth's brothers or sisters joined. Her Mother was dead. "

When William and Elizabeth joined the Church and moved to Nauvoo, William left his farm to his son Jonathan. On December 26, 1844, William was ordained a priest in Nauvoo, Illinois. He later was ordained a high priest in February 1845, by Heber C. Kimball.

On December 15, 1845, William received his patriarchal blessing from John Smith which told him that he was from the lineage of Ephraim. January 2, 1846 was the day William received his temple endowment in the Nauvoo Temple.

Because of the increasing persecution, the Saints were fleeing Nauvoo. In May, William, his daughter Elizabeth and her new husband, William Leany left Nauvoo and returned to Kentucky and William Leany's home, then on to Indiana to gather their resources to travel west with the rest of the saints. They outfitted three wagons and hired a man to help get them across the plains.

According to a diary of William Searce, they left Winter Quarters for the great basin June 14, 1847. The Leany's were in Second Hundred. Capt. Edward Hunter, 2nd Fifty, Capt. Jacob Foutz officially left Winter Quarters June 17, 1847; arrived October 1, 1847. Had heard some wagons really entered in last days September, among them the Leany's.

These were the Leany's: Isaac and wife Sarah Ann; children, Margaret E. and George Calvert, William and wife Elizabeth, child Sarah Ann; Elizabeth's father William Searce, who says they were ready June 14. He infers they may have driven out of Winter Quarters.

#### SKETCHES OF JOURNEY TO THE WESTERN MOUNTAINS

Left Winter Quarters 14th of June, 1847, and proceeded to the Horn 27 miles; rafted over the wagons, five hundred and forty in number.

June 18<sup>th</sup> On being variously organized in a company of tens, fiftys, and hundreds, struck the north fork of Platte and traveled up the same.

July 5<sup>th</sup> The fifth of July fired two cannons, before reaching the Missionary Station.

July 6<sup>th</sup> Passed the old Pawnee village now in ruins. Saw no Indians. Traveled. We were 20 miles farther up and crossed over and struck across for the main Platte and reached the same opposite grand Island.

6 (?) Saw two buffalo. Travel up from the Platte, which is a beautiful, wide sheet of water very shallow. The hunters began to kill some antelope which abound in this region. Cold wind. Elders Taylor and Pratt captured two stray horses supposed to have strayed from the Oregon Company on the 14th.

Some buffalo are killed on fifteenth. Numerous herds of buffalos are seen and several are killed. By the sixteenth numerous herds of buffalos appear in many directions and our hunters killed several at night. Capt. Grant's cattle took fright and ran off.

Saturday, July 17th More buffalo killed. Camped at night on the beautiful Platte, destitute of any timber. Company alarmed at night by bell owing of vast herd of buffalo on the opposite side of river.

Sunday, July 18<sup>th</sup> Held meeting at 11 and 4. After meeting a number of youths were baptized and confirmed and many children blessed. Some letters are received from the pioneers.

Monday, July 19<sup>th</sup> Remained in camp for the purpose of hunting the lost cattle of Capt. Grant's Company. Several buffalo were killed and some antelopes found and drove in three oxen from south side of the river, supposed to have strayed from the Oregon company.

Tuesday, July 20<sup>th</sup> Elders Pratt and Taylor companies remove 7 miles up the river to get better grass and receive a contribution of oxen and send to Capt. Grant's Co.

Wednesday, 21st, travel on a short distance. This day 7 or 8 buffalo were killed and brought in. Immense herds appear on both sides of the river.

July 22<sup>nd</sup> Resume our journey. Several wagons are crippled. At night Capt. Smoot's Co. came up and

are encamped near us.

July 23rd Rain in the morning. Camp moves on to where P.P. Pratt is encamped. All encamp to await Capt. Grant's Co. to come up. Are honored with a visit from a band of Sioux, both men, women and children. In the evening they entertained us with a dance and some of our people returned the compliment. Capt. Grant's Co. is not yet come up.

July 24th Capt. Grant's and all travel on. Indians accompany us. Much traffic with them for robes and skins. A heavy rain at night.

Sunday, July 25<sup>th</sup> No traveling today. Early in the morning Brother Phineas Young and Elsworth and others arrive in camp from the pioneers, which much rejoiced our hearts to see them and to hear from the brethren ahead.

July 26<sup>th</sup> Started our journey. Ascend the sand bluffs and cross several small streams and encamp at night by fifties.

July 27<sup>th</sup> Started early. Crossed large creek. Made good day's travel. Good feed at night.

July 28th Start early. Heavy thunder shower lays mostly to the south of us. Encamp at poor feed.

July 29th Very cool. Reach a sand bluff and cross several deep sand beds. Camped at night opposite Jades Mountain. Good feed.

July 30<sup>th</sup> Start early. Tolerable good road. Encamp at night opposite the Stone Steeple. Good feed.

July 31st Start early. Tolerable good roads. One of our wagon tires came off. Stop and put it on wedge it on. Very warm. Tolerable good feed. Encamp on the river.

Sunday, August 1<sup>st</sup> Remain in camp. Take a walk in the evening. See first white bear, also a gang of antelope.

August 2nd Start early in the morning. Pass the beautiful Mission Bluffs on the south side. A wagon tire came off. Stop to wedge it on. Get in camp late.

August 3<sup>rd</sup> Make a good day's travel. Encamp at night. Good feed. Work all night. Set five wagon tires.

August 4th Wade through deep sand. Encamp at night. Poor feed.

August 5th Stop at noon. No feed for the cattle. Go a short distance and encamp to wait for some that were behind. Poor feed. Trade some with the Indians.

August 6<sup>th</sup> Made a late start. Cross the river at Laramie. Go a few miles. Encamp. Put up a coal pit to burn some coal.

August 7th Remain in camp to repair wagons and travel a short distance to get feed. Encamp early in evening.

August 9<sup>th</sup> Remain in camp. Put up a coal pit to burn some coal.

August 10th Remain in camp and repair wagons.

August 11th Start on. Pass the Warm Springs. Stop at noon on a high ridge. Little feed. Camp at night at the ?

August 12th Start early. Some bad road to pass. In the evening camp at night with Rich, Grant, and Harns companies at the Hot Springs. Remain in camp to repair wagons. Smoot's company came up at night. Had lost 12 head of horses by the Indians.

August 14th Go on six miles to camping ground. Good feed.

August 15<sup>th</sup> Burn a coal pit and remain in camp to set tire and shoe oxen.

August 16<sup>th</sup> Three bears and an antelope killed. August 17th Move in a short distance. Bad road. Poor feed at night.

August 18<sup>th</sup> Make good day's travel. Lost one of my cows by her thigh getting broken. Rough roads. Poor feed at night.

August 19<sup>th</sup> Make a late start. One of the brethren upsets his wagon in a trench. Stop early in the evening on a large creek. Pretty good feed. Wet evening.

August 20<sup>th</sup> This day muddy road. Reached the Platte about 10 A.M. Travel about 10 miles. Good feed on north side of the river.

August 21<sup>st</sup> Made a late start. Cross a creek. Good road. Encamp at night. Drive cattle over river to good feed.

Sunday, August 22nd Travel up to the crossing place. Cross and camp. We take four oxen on the river. Several cattle are taken sick and drinking the slew water, which is strongly impregnated with mineral substances, but by careful attendance none of them died.

August 23rd Start early. Travel to the water. Encamp early. No wood and poor water. I went out hunting. Saw one antelope.

August 24th Late. Capt. Shurtleff went in advance of the Company. Went past the feed and camp where there was no feed or much water. Travel 4 1/2 miles.

August 25<sup>th</sup> Late start. Heavy fog. Travel a short distance. Capt. Grant killed a buffalo.

August 26<sup>th</sup> Start early. Travel through hard sand. Cross a beautiful creek. Deep sand continues to Sweetwater, where we encamp and remain on the 27th to rest our cattle,

August 28<sup>th</sup> Go on and pass Independence Rock. Travel ten miles and encamp. Good water and good feed.

August 29<sup>th</sup> Start early, Rough, heavy sand road, The teams got alarmed, Run some distances; break an axle. Stop and repair. Encamp at the river.

August 30<sup>th</sup> Go through some deep sand. Pass the two chimneys. Encamp on the river. Good feed,

Distance and miles.

August 31st Remain in camp. I wait for Brother Taylor.

September 1st Start late. Cross the creek. Water three miles. Travel nine miles, Encamp on the Bear River.

September 2nd Travel seventeen miles. Poor feed.

September 3rd Travel 8 miles to good feed on the river.

September 4th Remain in camp, Brother Taylor preaches in the evening.

September 5<sup>th</sup> Travel 15 miles to a branch of the Sweetwater and on this way discovered some of the Wind River Range of Mountains capped with snow,

September 6<sup>th</sup> Travel 7 miles to the last fork of the Sweetwater. Good feed.

September 7th An outfit arrives from the Twelve and Pioneers, requesting us encamp until they meet us. Agreed.

This is from the diary of William Searce, father of Elizabeth Searce Leany, wife of William Leany. Last page of diary undecipherable.

The last page of the Diary was not readable, but they arrived in the Great Salt Lake Valley September 29, 1847 with the Captain Edward Hunter party.

In February 1849, Brigham Young organized the valley into the nineteen wards of the Salt Lake Stake. At that time in February 1849, William Searce was sustained as second counselor to Abraham O. Smoot in the Salt Lake 15th Ward. He served as counselor to Bishop Smoot until he died in 1851. While in Salt Lake, William lived on the southwest corner of 1st South and what then was 3rd West, but is now 4th West. On an old Salt Lake map it is listed at Block 65 and the east half of Plot #6. That site is now a railroad yard just south of the new Union Pacific Depot.

In July 1849, William wrote a letter describing the valley as well as those passing through the valley going to the gold rush in California in 1849. The text of the letter reads as follows:

David, or Jonathan Searce Richmond, Indiana  
Great Salt Lake City, Upper California, July 14, 1849.

Dear Children, as the mail will leave in a few days I have thought it prudent to let you know that we are all yet in the land of the living and by the blessing of our father in heaven; we are in the enjoyment of first rate health and have been so since we have been in this place with the exception of a few weeks last winter. I had a touch of the mountain fever as it is called and the inhabitants are generally in good health. I have not wrote to you since last January was a year and have as yet received any letter from you; but our mail from the bluffs has not yet arrived this season; but we are looking for it in a short time; you can write to us now and it will come direct as there is a post office established here and contact for the mail through to the bay area in three months. Our first winter here was quite mild and our hearts thrive all the winter but this last winter was much colder but we got through it first rate. Last year we received aplenty to have done the inhabitants plentifully but the solider boys coming in from below has

made provision scarce and high wheat has been worth five dollars and corn and buckwheat two and we have sold near a hundred dollars worth of grain and a hundred fifty dollars of Beef. It costs nothing to feed them only a cent per day if you put them in herds; our crops this year are much more promising than they were last year. The city has the appearance of a garden more than a city. It is enclosed in wards by a fence and all in cultivation. It contains at present nineteen wards and each ward nine blocks and each block 72 lots, each lot one acre and a quarter and the streets eight rods wide and in addition to this each man can take as much land in the country as he can cultivate; the streets extend into the country as far as the land is laid off for cultivation; so much for the Mormons, now for the gold diggers. It is about five weeks since the first train arrived in the valley. Since which time, they have been arriving nearly every day and not more than one out of twenty comes this way. The others going by the way of Fort Hall, poor fellows, they are learning very fast and the most of them have learnt so much that if they were at home again they would stay there, as many of them have expressed themselves. Well they are right glad to get once more into civilization where they can get good butter & cheese, vegetables and exchange their wagons and some of their bacon and flour and coffee and sugar and clothing and implements for gold digging, for horses and mules and pack saddles and lassoos, thus equip they go on to the great theater where will be acted many new scenes of inequity. On the rest of this they have thrown away and destroyed thousands of dollars worth of property in their rage to exceed others in their travel to the gold diggings and this is not the worst for many lives has been taken by powder and ball. Oh my god, thou hast truly made the people drunk but not with wine-and the scenes that are beginning to be acted on a small scale will shortly be carried out by Communitys and Nations and happy will they be that are out of the midst there of. These are true saying for the mouth of the Lord hath said it. Several merchants who were taking goods to the diggings are now selling out here at auction or otherwise as they can. Well we needed some goods here they mostly go out on less than cost and the carriage thrown in. So you see that we can be supplied with all things necessary on good terms whether it was so designed or not. Brothers Goom and Boggs and families are well and all others of your acquaintances that have come on here. Elizabeth has a son about a year old, they call his name William. We would be pleased to receive a Communication at anytime from any of you and I will endeavor to write you as time and opportunity may offer. So I will close my letter with the closing words of Almun Babbets Sermon today; Save yourselves from this untoward generation, Save yourselves in the Kingdom of God-Amen-  
William Scarce

From C.C. Wagner, October 27, 1955.

William Scarce died in Salt Lake City, January 3, 1851 at the age of 71 of pleurisy and is buried in the Salt Lake City Cemetery. He is buried in Plot C, Block 11, Lot 13. Descendants of William and Elizabeth Scarce Leany have placed a beautiful head stone there to mark William Scarce's grave. The original head stone is now being used as a foot stone.

May we always remember our beloved grandfather and pioneer, William Scarce.