

John Absalom

(7/4/2016)

John Absalom was born 11 November 1832 in Svendborg, Fyn (island of Funen), Denmark. He was educated in England by a merchant, then immigrated to New York City in August 1853 at age 18.¹ He was living in the 15th Ward, New York, New York, in 1855.² That same year he petitioned for citizenship in Lenox, Berkshire, Massachusetts³ and received it 24 October 1860 in Pittsfield, Massachusetts.⁴ He was engaged in banking in Massachusetts.⁵

John was listed as a (wool) finisher in Pittsfield on the rolls of the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia, 6th Brigade, Company A, in 1862. The sudden call up and departure of the militia, without the regular publicity, was by proclamation of the governor. They reported to Boston Common immediately, even though there were no commissioned officers available.⁶

John was working at a woolen factory in Hancock, Berkshire, Massachusetts, on the 1870 census.⁷ John spent part of his life in California and was at the Klondike during the gold rushes. By 1880, he was a miner, living in Silver Reef, Washington, Utah Territory.⁸ In March 1882, John purchased a quit claim from Marcus B. Sinclair \$170 for Lot 3 in Block 25 on Main Street of Silver Reef. The plat map for Silver Reef indicates that the lot was owned by John Absalom and Ashton Nebeker, although it is unknown what business they may have been involved in.⁹ Otherwise, John was mentioned having a business two doors above the Post Office. It was advertised as furnishing any book or paper at publisher's prices, an y article for sewing machines, optical goods, spectacles and eye glasses, with old spectacles taken in exchange.¹⁰

In 1883, John was appointed as deputy registrar for Silver Reef by the Utah Commission.¹¹ He moved to Pleasant Grove, Utah, Utah, by 1900, where he was listed as a capitalist (stocks and bonds).¹² He lived two doors from Cecilia (Anderson) Christianson, who would later become his wife. He moved to Pleasant Grove, Utah, Utah, by 1910, where he was a stock exchange broker.¹³ He married Cecelia, a widow, in 1917 in Provo, Utah, Utah.¹⁴ He was 85 and she was 70 years old.

In 1920, John was living with Cecelia in Pleasant Grove.¹⁵ He died of chronic cystitis on 2 June 1921 Pleasant Grove and was buried in the city cemetery.¹⁶ He was one of Pleasant Grove's oldest and

¹ Massachusetts, State and Federal Naturalization Records, 1798-1950; United States Census, 1900, 1910; *Salt Lake Telegram*, 10 June 1921, p. 25.

² New York State Census, 1855.

³ Massachusetts, State and Federal Naturalization Records, 1798-1950.

⁴ US Naturalization Record Indexes, 1791-1992; 1920 census.

⁵ *Salt Lake Telegram*, 10 June 1921, p. 25.

⁶ *Berkshire County Eagle*, 29 May 1862, p. 2.

⁷ United States Census, 1870.

⁸ United States Census, 1880.

⁹ Silver Reef plat map, original dated 1876, names added later.

¹⁰ *Silver Reef Miner*, 27 January 1883, p. 2.

¹¹ *Salt Lake Herald*, 3 June 1883, p. 10; *Deseret Evening News*, 4 June 1883, p. 2; *Ogden Standard*, 4 June 1883, p. 1.

¹² United States Census, 1900; *Findagrave.com*

¹³ United States Census, 1910.

¹⁴ Utah County Marriages, 1887-1940; Utah Marriages, 1887-1935.

¹⁵ United States Census, 1920.

¹⁶ Utah Cemetery Inventory, 1847-2000; Utah Death and Military Death Certificates, 1904-1961; Utah Death Certificates, 1904-1964; Utah Death Registers, 1847-1966.

wealthiest citizens.¹⁷ His probate papers showed that he died intestate – yet he left gold bonds, shares, railroad and mining stock, war savings stamps, and cash, totaling \$114,319.36. Cecelia only received \$100 per month from his estate.¹⁸ Other creditors had to present claims at the Bank of Pleasant Grove.¹⁹

Cecelia lived with her daughter and her family in Pleasant Grove until she died of heart disease in 1930. Cecelia was also buried in the city cemetery.²⁰ In 1925, she was an honored guest²¹ of the Daughters of the Pioneers in Pleasant Grove, along with 43 others.²²



Signature on John's naturalization application (image from the Massachusetts state and federal naturalization records, 1798-1950)



(Image from *BillionGraves.com*)

Research by Elaine Young, Silver Reef Foundation historian, 2016
Please email eyoung@youngzones.org for additions and corrections

¹⁷ *Salt Lake Telegram*, 10 June 1921, p. 25.

¹⁸ Utah, Wills and Probate Records, 1800-1985.

¹⁹ *American Fork Citizen*, 8 October 1921, p. 5.

²⁰ Utah Death Certificates, 1904-1964.

²¹ Cecelia had emigrated in the spring of 1862 with three ship loads of Scandinavian saints who then crossed the plains to the Great Salt Lake Valley (*American Fork Citizen*, 13 March 1926, p. 4).

²² *American Fork Citizen*, 15 August 1925, p. 5; *Pleasant Grove Review*, 16 August 1935, p. 1.