

**Robert Dockery Covington**  
**Annotated bibliography**  
**Primary source list on Robert Covington**

**Bigler, David L. and Will Bagley. Editors. *Innocent Blood; Essential Narratives of the Mountain Meadows Massacre*. Norman, Oklahoma, The Arthur H. Clark Company, 2008.**

Journal History, July- August 1857; and Historical Department Journals, 23 July to 6 September 1857, LDS Archives

Monday August 27 1857 . . . G.A.S. preached to the people in Harmony meeting house. Dame drilled the militia. Maj. J. D. Lee & Capt Ingraham joined our part - Crossed Peters Leap and camped at Grape Vine Springs at 8 p.m. The road rugged & rough the country a desert. Preached in afternoon. Dame drilled military - Bishop Covington broght in a load of melons from the field - Visited Tutsegabbit's corn field - he will have about 300 bushels. . . . .

**Bleak, James G., *Annals of the Southern Utah Mission*, No publishing place or date of publication. A reprint from Greg Kofford Books was published in 2019.**

ibid., p. 29 At the April 1857 LDS General Conference in Great Salt Lake City, 28 families and a number of young men were called to settle in Washington County. Robert Dockery Covington was called to take charge of the traveling company. They arrived on May 5 at Adair's Spring "in the valley where the town of Washington has been located. On the 6th of May they were organized as a branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Robert D. Covington was appointed to preside, with Harrison Pearce and James B. Reagan to assist him."

ibid., p.49 The [Utah] Territorial Legislature appropriated \$250 toward making a road between Harmony and Washington, and a committee of three men were appointed to let contracts. The committee included: "Robt. D. Covington, Harrison Pearce, and Thomas Adair."

ibid., p. 60 "In the spring of 1861 the little settlement of Harrisville located in 1859 at the mouth of Cottonwood on the Rio Virgen was vacated and the settlers moved some three miles up the Cottonwood Creek, and named the location Harrisburg. This was done under the sanction and approval of Bp. Robert D. Covington of Washington." Bleak reported that several families headed to St. George, "arrived at the location of two or three houses named Harrisburg, after Father Mose Harris, and others of his family, who had settled there under sanction of Bishop Robert D. Covington of Washington. Silas Harris was Presiding Elder."

ibid., p. 96-97 (also shown as 100-101)

At the Saturday, March 22, 1862 conference of the Southern Utah Mission, Robert D. Covington was sustained as “Bishop of Washington Ward, including Harrisburg Branch.”

ibid., p. 106 “On June 12, 1862, Elders Orson Pratt and Erastus Snow called a meeting and organized the residents as a branch of the Church, with Elder James Lewis, as presiding Elder and Elders Moses Harris and Hosea Stout as Counselors - the branch was attached to Washington Ward, of which Robert D. Covington was Bishop.”

ibid., p. 115-116

At a conference of Southern Utah Mission, Robert D. Covington was sustained as Bishop of Washington Ward, with his counselors Albert W. Collins, and Robert L. Lloyd.

ibid., p. 135-136

On Sept. 7, the County court of Washington County held its first session in St. George pursuant to an act of the Territorial Legislature that approved removing the county seat from Washington to St. George. The court consists of James D. McCullough, and Selectmen Robert. D. Covington, Jacob Gates, and Anson P. Windsor.

ibid., p. 138-139 “Bishop Covington reported Washington Ward: There has been much difficulty in maintaining a dam in the Rio Virgen. This however, is no new thing. Two dams were lost in 1857, in 1858 three dams were carried off by the angry waters. Each year has had its loss of this kind. The cotton crop is this year better than usual. The corn crop is short, but taking all crops into consideration, enough, The Bishop thought, has been produced to purchase sufficient bread till another harvest. He spoke quite encouragingly, saying that the cotton produced in this region is better that [than] that produced in Tennessee and equal to that produced in the Carolinas.”

ibid., p. 149-150 “7th of March, Washington Court held its session. Judge James D. McCullough presiding, Robert D. Covington, Jacob Gates, Anson P. Winsor, Selectmen; and James G. Bleak, Clerk. David H. Cannon appointed by the Court, Sheriff. . . .

ibid., p. 157 At a conference of the Southern Utah Mission, “general and Local Authorities were heartily sustained by the vote of those assembled,” and it included, Rob’t D. Covington, Bp. Washington.

ibid., p. 167-168 During the latter part of July, Bleak reported that Pres. Snow and Hosea Stout, Walter E. Dodge, James G. Bleak and David H. Cannon of the High Council and Jacob Hamblin visited settlements in the upper Virgen.

“Beginning at Washington, of which Robert D. Covington was Bishop. It had 85 families, 413 souls Their report showed 74 acres of wheat, 168 acres of corn; 94 A. of cane; 2 A. of Tobacco; 18 A. of Lucern; 6 A. of Vineyard; 40 A of Peaches; 140 A of Cotton; 13 A. of Sundry Vegetables. Notwithstanding great trouble with their dams most of the crops were in promising condition. One quarter of their fruit trees are bearing this year.”

ibid., p. 177 At another conference of the Southern Mission, general authorities of the church were unanimously sustained by the vote of the conference; also the following local authorities who included “Rob’t D. Covington, Bp. of Washington Ward.”

ibid., 197-198 “On the 25th of August, the Counselors of Bishop Robert D. Covington of Washington Ward; Albert W. Collins and Robert L. Lloyd were honorably released and Robert F. Gould and Niels Sorensen chosen in their stead.”

ibid., p. 254-255 “Col. D.D. McArthur: - Brothers Mendes Cooper and Wm. Prince have just come in from Harrisburg and they report that an Indian had told them that forty or fifty Indians were in the vicinity of Grape Vine Springs and had killed three head of cattle, and were traveling in the direction of Harrisburg field. The Indians say they are Navjos; all are afoot. The (Friendly) Indians are very much excited. The people of Harrisburg are on guard. We wish to know immediately what to do, and we await your orders.

Yours hastily, Robert D. Covington. Per Crawford.

P.S. The Indians say they are after horses. R.D.C.”

ibid., p. 298-299 The Southern Mission Conference began its sessions at 10 A.M. Friday Nov. 20, 1868 with President Erastus Snow presiding. Among the speakers at the session was . . . “Bp. Robert D. Covington, of Washington. . . .”

ibid., p. 318 At a conference on Sunday, May 9, at a meeting in a school house at Bennington, it mentions that “Bp. Robert D. Covington of Washington,” and others attended.

**Cleland, Robert Glass and Juanita Brooks, edited and annotated, *A Mormon Chronicle: The Diaries of John D. Lee, 1848-1876*, Vol. 1 and 2, San Marino, California, The Huntington Library, 1955.**

ibid., p. 159 “*Sat., 17th. [1858] We returned to Harmony leveing the business with Bishop Coveington to raise 7 Teams from that Place to be at Iron Springs by Sat., 23rd. This day Bishop Coveington returned from G.S.L.c. with a no. of other Brethren &*

*families. About Sun Set reached home. Bro. Dame Staid over night with me. (spelling copied from original)*

ibid., p. 164-165 Sund., May 23rd, 1858. By request of Bishop Covington, I address the inhabitants of this city upon the subject of the Bank of the Kingdom of God, after which a vote was taken expressive of the feelings of the People with regard to supporting that institution. The vote was in the affirmative, that every man hold it Eaquel to gold, & that any person attempting to shave or impair it should forfeit the amount in Question besides his fellowship & standing in the church.

ibid., p. 176. Sund., 20th [1858] I had a Pressing invitation to attend the celebration of the 24th by Bishop R.D. Coveington, at Washington Riovirgin, which I conditionally acceptd.

ibid., p. 177 Thurs., 24th, 1858. Found my Family all well. This Morning I was invited by Prest. R.D. Coveington to dine with him. The ward that my family was living in had made preparation for me & my Family to Partake of the Publice Dinner with them. At 8 m. a grand Procession was forms & escort after the example of the 1st Presidency. The celebration of the day was conducted admirably well. At 12, I & my wives Dined with the President & council. After Dinner, the Prest. Sent for me to open the Party, which I did & took supper with the Prest. The evening's recreation went off[f] well.

ibid., p. 177 Sund., 25th. [1858] I intended returning to Harmony, but Bishop R.D. Coveington insisted that I should stay & Preach to them in the fore noon at lest, which I did The spirit of the Lord was with me & we had a good meeting. Lee then decides to drive out in the afternoon to check his crops.

ibid., p. 193 Thurs., Feb. 3rd. [1859] At work on my new House in Wash. Evening I attended Prayer Meeting. About 10 at night Bishop R.D. Coveington arrived from the Legislature.

ibid., p. 198 Sund., Feb. 27th [1859] Pleasant. Meeting at usual time. Several Elders Spoke. I was called upon to dismiss. Prayer Meeting in the Eveing. Lively feelings. Prevailed. Bishop Covington Spoke to my Praise, Said that Bro. Lee was an example to us. His integrity & enterprise in building & improving was a credit to the Place & an honor, & May Good & [ ] Strengthen his hands to accomplish the work that is before him. I Spoke upon the duties of the Saints. Reminded them that their Bishop's time was taken up in the interest of the People, & had but little time to labour for himself,

& I would suggest the propriety of all the Brethren to give him one day's labours at least on his stone wall. That will help him & prove a blessing to those that do it with Pure intents. Bro. Littlefield asked me to set the time to do the work. I accordingly Set Wed., March 2nd, 1859, to bring stone hammers, Trowels, spades, &c.

ibid., p. 198-199 Thurs., March 3rd. [1859] Fast Meeting. In the forenoon I with some 15 hands worked on Bishop Coveington wall. At 9 morning I was request to address the Saints which I did upon the subject of Order. The Bishop also reprov'd Stephen Duggings for profaning the Name of the Lord & for unchristian like conduct getting intoxicated. Duggings made a Public confession & ask'd forgiveness (Grant'd). Afternoon resumed Labour on the wall. Lee then talks about attending a prayer meeting that night.

ibid., p. 199 Frid., March 4th [1859] Assisted Bishop Covington on his Wall fence. In lifting heavy stone I wrenched My back, which lamed me for Several days.

ibid., p. 200 Teus., March 8th [1859] . . . . This Moring I was greatly reliev'd of my illness by the Prayer of faith; Bishop Covington, Jac. Hamblin, & W. Ferem administered.

ibid., p. 201 Mond., March 14th. [1859] Pleasant. About 1 P.M. Elder A. Lyman & wife, Elder Haight, Higbee, Tenny, Hopkins, & Barton arrived & put [up] at Bishop Covington's. Lee then said he preached that night and later had breakfast with Elder Lyman.

ibid., p. 212 Teus., July 26th, 1859. Washington city. At 7 Bishop Coveington & Ladies to geather with our Friends & visitors assembled at my Family Hall & had quite a dance & at 10, N.C. Tenny & all those from Harm [on] y excepting the carriage load that I brought, returned to take care of my grain. Lee said he stayed until Wednesday, July 27 to look at his crops.

ibid., p. 217 Sat., Augt. 20th. [1859] Lee writes that "Bishop Davies & Covington started to G.S.L.C.

ibid., p. 218 Tues., Augt. 23rd, 1859. Do. do. At 12 noon rained. (M) This Evening Bishop Coveington & Davies returned, considered it not safe to travel to S.L. city, as the Prejudices were so great against all men living South of Filmore.

ibid., p. 225 Fri., Dec. 2nd. [1859] Wind N. Aggathean Still low. About 8 o'clock evening Elder A. Lyman & Lady, Rollins & Lady, & Bishop Lunt, also Bishop R.D.

Coveington on his return from S.S.L.C. (sick) all arrived & put up at my House. Lee then mentioned that Elder Lyman delivered a discourse.

ibid., p. 233 Frid., Jany. 13th, 1860 . . . . About Sun Set Bishop H. Lunt & Wood arrived & Preached at Bishop Covington's. Interesting meeting.

ibid., p. 233 Sund., Washington, Jay. 15th, 1860. . . . Bishop Lunt, Covington, Wood, Bishop Judd, Prest. Hamblin & Crow [sby) all arrived, took supper & then held Meeting.

ibid., p. 234 Washing [ton]. Jany. 18th, 1860. . . . . This day I procured a horse of Bishop Coveington & a light waggon of Bro. Truly, & prepared to Start up to Harmony on the morrow.

ibid., p. 237 Teus., Feb. 21st, 1860. I was Paving my water ditch. This Eving Bishop R.D. Covington & Ladies, Winslow Farr & Ladies all supped with me. We spent the Evening agreeably.  
Frid., March 2nd, 1860.

ibid., p. 240 Frid., March 2nd, 1860. . . . . Next I had a conversation with Bishop Covington relative to the policy, Propriety & duty of LD. Saints, that our Religion requires us to do right with each other & not to pull down & cripple one another in doing good, & that Priesthood was given to a man to build up & not to destroy, to do good but not Evil, to protect but not to oppress. We were commanded to obey the Priesthood, which is good & wholesome counsel or Just requirement, not the foolish requirements of a vain, ambitious aspirant or Madman & c.

ibid., p. 259 Sund., June 17th [1860] Up to this date Planting, Eregating &c. T day by request of Bishop Covington I addressed the Saints in the Bowery. . . . .

ibid., p. 266-267 Sund., Washington, Aug. 6th, 1860. To day we all attended Meeting. The Preaching was a harangue of abuse & threats upon Poor N. Stewart. He Said that all such Men ought not to get a Night Lodging & that no honest man would Suffer him & that he ought to be drove out from us to the Piutes Indians on the Muddy & he would be one to help doo it, & if any Man wanted to Shoot him, to Shoot & be Damed. Bishop R. D. Covington then took his seat & requested me to speak on Polygamy. Later as Lee was explaining his thoughts on that topic and on N. Stewart, his journal states, "Interrupted by Bishop Covington who said that no horse thief can be a friend to this People. I replied that in days of youre a Harlot could render aid to the spies of

Joshua, & it was accounts to her as righteousness, although she did not Steal Horses to get them away, yet she told three palpable falsehoods in order to turn away their persueres & that act did not only save her life but the lives of all her father's house hold & in addition to that, her Name has been handed down from generation to generation in honorable remembrance for that act. . . . Covington said that he ought not to be allowed to Stay with us. I replied that if he wished to drive a mormon Boy contrary to his will to perish among the Indians, let the Matter be between him & his God & as for the honor of doeing the act, he was welcome to the glory that would arise from doing it.

ibid., P. 268 Teus., Augt. 8, 1860. Washington This morning I was in to hire a yoke of cattle to help haul my mill stones in. He [Bishop Covington] replied that I ought to Start in the cool of the day with Team. I smiling answered that he must excuse us this time, as we Enjoyed ourselves so well last Night at the party that we kept it up rather long & over slept our selves. He dropped his head as much as to say he was beat at his own game. . . .

ibid., p. 275 Grape VineSprings. Wed., Oct. 3rd, 1860. About 4 P.M. reached Washington. The same Eving Bishop R.D. Covington Engaged me to work up Bro. A. Lyman's cane on the halves.

ibid., p. 276 Wed., Oct. 11th [10th] [1860] This Eving Jac. Hamblin & from 15 to 25 Missionaries to the Moquich Indians arrived. A Portion of them put up with me, the remainder with Bishop R.D. Covington. Geo. A. Jun Lodged at my House. All in good spirits. A spirit of contention arose with the People of the Clara & forbid the People of Washington from hauling any more wood from that stream, although 1000s of loads are lying Rottoning on the ground. Bishop Covington referred the Mater to Prest. J. Hamblin, who denied ever giving any Such council. Said that there was wood enough for all & that he did not know [why] the Clara folks should kick up a Muss about it.

ibid., p. 276 Thurs., Oct. 12th [11th], 1860. . . . Today notwithstanding what past between Jacob H. & Bishop Covington, the Teams from Washington were stoped by the Clara Folks who Positively affirmed that Jacob told them to unload every wagon load of wood that attempted to Pass. The Brethren that [they] were acting as a Mob, that they were not authorized to stop any man on the Public highway that was peaceably going along, that they had no grant for that Timber. Consequently the wood was free to all, & if they did persist in stopping their Teams that [they] would enforce the law & c., that [the] co. passed.

ibid., p. 277 Sund., Oct. 15th [14th], 1860. The Bishop R.D. Covington & council as a committee visited the People of Clara Settlements to try and effect a compromise. I also attended a Public meeting. Eveing committee returned having Effectuated a Compromise. Said that all the trouble had arose from the Lower Clara Settlement; that they, the Bishop & Hamblin, had never objected to the Brethren from Washington having all the Dry timber they wanted & c.

ibid., p. 280 Washington. Sund., Nov. 11th, 1860. To day by request of the Bishop R.D. Covington I addressed the Saints upon the order of Celestial Marriage. . . . .

ibid., p. 282

Wed., Nov. 14th 1860. Bishop Lunt & Covington went to See my Sugar works in the Big field on their way to the Clara. . . . .

ibid., p 282 Thurs., Nov. 15th 1860. Bishop Lunt & Covington return & Preached in the School House.

ibid., p. 282 .Mondy., Nove. 20th, 1860. . . . . Jefferson [n] Slade & [ ] Chesnut was Married by Bishop Coveington.

ibid., p. 284 Teus., Nov. 27th, 1860. . . . . Bishop Covington & council went to look [for] a Place to get wood. Reports dull prospect. . . . .

ibid., p. 285. Sund., Dec. 2nd, 1860. . . . . Elders Slade, Loyd, Collins & R.D. Covington addressed the Saints. . . . .

ibid., p. 289 Sund., Dec. 30th, 1860. I attended Meeting & by request of Bishop R.D. Covington I delivered a lecture upon the Subject of charity, one of the atrbute of our Father in Heaven. The Bishop followed & backed up my discourse in the strongest terms. At 3 eve. . . . . At the close of the Eveing Servises the Bishop announced to the people that on the first day of new year, that Bro. Lee has prop [os] ed giving a Dinner & a Party to those who will turn out & help him query & haul stone for his Mill. That it was his Mind that as Many of the Brethren as could constantly leve would turn out & help him on his Mill.It will be to all of our interest to do so & c.

ibid., p. 291 Sund. Jan. 6th 1861. . . . . Evening, Bishop R.D. Covington & Elder Freem came in to see me. They Prayed & administered to me. . . . .

ibid., p 292. Sund., 20th, Jay., 1861. Conference Met agreeable to [a] adJournment. Bp. R.D. Covington in the chair, J.D. McCullough secretary. Members present from Grafton,

Pocketville, Tokerville, Ceder City, Harmony, Parowan, upper & lower Clara. After Much good instruction from various Elders, I with others occupied the time. The conference voted to send Missionaries to & from the various settlements & by Exchange of Missionaries , good will likely result to all the settlements. The different branches were represented as in good standing. The conference then was addressed by Pres. R.D. Covington, J.T. Willis, N.C. Tinny & myself. The conference then voted to send Missionaries to all the Settlements in the co. & stirrup the Saints that a reformation Might take place or revive the Spirit of the reformation. . . . .

ibid., p. 294 Sund., Feb. 10th, 1861. . . . . Eveing the Saints were addressed by Elder Jos. A. Young & G.A. Smith in my Family Hall. He & Suite took super with me. Bishop Covington, Levitt, A. Gibbons also supped & brakefastd with me. E.I., the last named Persons Brakefastd with me.

ibid., p. 299 Washington. Sund., Feb. 24th, 1861. . . . . At 11 a.m. by request of Bishop R.D. Coveington I Preached to the Saints, on the tokens of the L.D. work, followed by counsellor Loyd & Bishop Covington. Both talked up my discourse in the strongest terms. After Meeting we dined with Judge McCullough & Lady. Had splendid dinner. We then all took a walk to see the Mill &c. . . . .

ibid., p. 301 Washington. Sund., March 3rd, 1861.  
. . . . I attended evening Meeting & by request of Bishop R.D. Covington I spoke to the Saints by way of instruction.

ibid., p. 302 Sund., March 10th, 1861. To day I attende Public Meeting. Bishop Covington, Collins, & Lloyd adressed the Meeting. Eveing Prayer Meeting I spoke by the request of the Prest.

ibid., p. 310 Harmony. Thurs., April 25th, 1861. To day Bishop R.D. Covington & Train passed enrout for califor [nia]; he took dinner.

ibid., p. 313 Thurs., May 31st [30th], 1861. John D. Lee mentions in his journal that President Brigham Young "and suite" are in Harmony, Utah. And in the afternoon, Young begins to speak.  
At 4 P.M. he preached 120 minutes in my Family Hall. Said this was the best Fort that had ever been built in this Territory. Reproved the Bishops for using trying [i.e., tithing, for personal ends], Bishop R.D. Covington in Particuelar. . . . .

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ibid., p. 19 Washington. Sund., June 10th, 1866. I was very Ill, taken violently with the Cholera infantum, kept my bed all day. Bishop R.D. Coveington had requested me to address the People, which I should have been glad to have done so had my hea [!] th permittd.

ibid., p. 48 . . . . Reached my Family at Washington about sun set & our meeting was agreeable indeed. Here I attended meeting & spoke to the Saints by request of Bishop Coveington.

ibid., p. 49 Tokerville. Teus., Feb. 5th, 1867. Here I found 7 head of my catle which I sent home with Sam Worthen, Wm. Prince, I. Imlay, & others. Here I delivered a Rope, Block and Teckle to the opperator sent by Bro. White, head opperator at washington whom I visited with Bishop Coveington & had an introduction. The opperator here acknowledge the reception of the B. & T. upon the wires & answered. Quite a litle chat took place which was new & interesting to me, it being the first Telegraph that I ever saw. . . . .

ibid., p. 84 Sund., Aust. 26th [25], 1867. This moring Bishop R.D. Covington came in to see me & invited me to Preach to the Saints, which I did in the forenoon. The Bishop record bore to my remarks & said I was led to say what I did. . . . .

ibid., p. 86 Sund., Setp. 8th, 1867. Bishop Coveington request me to attend meeting with [him], & Preach to the Saints at Washington & then go to Harrisburgh & if in time Preach to them in the Evening. I complied with his request & had full liberty in speech. I satisfied myself & I believe the audience. . . . .

ibid., 107 Frid., 20th, [1868] we Gave a wedding Party to My New son in law, Bp. W.D. Pace, & my Daughter Elizabeth. We had a sumptuous Dinner & supper. Some 200 Person participated in the Festivities of the day & Eving & the Dance. Many of the leading Men from the different settlements were present, amoung which was Bp. J.T. Willis & Family of Tokerville, Bp. R. D. Covington, of the 7 Presidents of the Seventies, Henry Herriman & Family, Levi Hancock, Isaac Haight & Daughter & Many others. There were 6 Musicians. The Party was held in my Family Hall, the best Room in washington for the occasion. Every Person as Far as I know enJoyed themselves to the hilt. Our Evning's Entertainment was interspersed with songs & good Talk while the wine of our raising were on the Lees. . . . .

ibid., p. 113-114 Thurs. noon, [1869] I reached my residence in Washington preparatory to receive the Pres. Or those who might wish to stop with me. At 4 P.M. a dispatch came over the wires, announcing that Pres. Young had preached at Toker & would either be at Harrisburgh or Washington that evening. An Escort started out to meet him under command of Capt. W. Freeman, rode out a mile & waited till sunset, then returned saying that Pres. Young would not come in so late. I insisted on going to the divide where we could overlook the country to Harrisburgh & see them should they be on the Road, but my suggestions were overruled. In about 30 minutes after we reached home, the Pres. drove in, halted at Bishop R.D. Covington, it being the first House in Town. I met him there. He said, Where is your Escort? I related our failure & made apology for the same. He said he needed an Escort in an Indian country, especially traveling after Night. I invited Gen. D.H. Wells to lodge with me, however I said we must await the decision of Pres. Young. The next [minute] Pres. Young said, Can you find a place or beds for me & my wife & my two little daughters to sleep? Continuing said that he had driven from Rockville about 40 miles over a heavy Road & held 2 meetings that day, had intended to stop over Night at Toker or Harrisburgh, but the accommodation at either place was poor & that he had driven here to get a good Night's rest. Now, said he, John, I will go home and stay with you. Thus saying, he got into his carriage & said, Bro. Wells, you stop with the Bishop. I am going to Bro. Lee's. Bishop Covington said, Won't you stay with me? He replied, Bishop, I will come back & take a Bowl of Milk & mush with you & will breakfast with Bro. Lee. He being weary, we soon had Prayer & they retired to rest. The women were cooking all Night.

**Larson, Andrew Karl. *The Education of a Second Generation Swede: An Autobiography*. Salt Lake City, Deseret Press, 1979.**

ibid., p. 4. "My mother was Mary Emily Covington, who was born at Beaver, Utah on February 28, 1869. Her father was John Thomas Covington, son of Robert Dockery Covington, first bishop at Washington and leader of the pioneer band which colonized that town in 1857. Great grandfather Covington was born August 20, 1815, in Richmond, North Carolina. His progenitors came to Cecil Calvert's (Lord Baltimore) colony, Maryland, sometime during the seventeenth century. Robert D. Covington migrated to Mississippi and there became an overseer on a slave plantation. He bore a reputation as a kind, good-hearted, and considerate man. My grandfather, John T. Covington, was born in Noxubee County, Mississippi on August 7, 1840. He went with his father's family to Nauvoo, Illinois, in 1845 and to Salt Lake Valley in September 1847. . . .

ibid., p. 663.

Larson tells when he went to Salt Lake City where he spent three days, where he visited his grandfather twice daily *“during the time I was there and spent my spare time at the Church Historian’s Office trying to find something about my Great-grandfather, Robert Dockery Covington. I had some assistance from one of the elderly sisters employed there always under the watchful eye of Assistant Historian A. William Lund. He never let me take anything I had copied unless he thumbed through my notes. Earl Olsen, now the archivist, was most helpful to me. But the facilities for comfort as I pored over the old “Journal History of the Church” were most crowded and uncomfortable. But what I did get, together with what I had already obtained when doing the research on my thesis, gave me a good start toward my first book, The Red Hills of November.” . . . .*

**Robert Gardner; Utah Pioneer - 1847. “History of Robert Gardner Jr. Written by himself at St. George, Utah, January 7, 1884,” no publisher, p. 42.**

Gardner tells of arriving in Harrisburg, and yet not finding it. They then proceeded to Washington. “When we reached the top of the last ridge we found the town nearly under us on a nice flat between two ridges. Here we found some of our old neighbors who received us very kindly. We found Robert D. Covington, the Mangums, and Adams Rickey, and others who had been sent on that mission, some years before. The appearance of these brethren and their wives and children was rather discouraging. Nearly all of them had fever or ague or chills as they are called (Malaria). They had worked hard in the country and had worn out their clothes, and had replaced them from the cotton they had raised on their own lots and farms. Their women had carded, spun and woven by hand and colored with weeds this cotton. The men's shirts, the women's and children's dresses and sunbonnets were all made of the same piece of cloth. Their clothes and their faces were all of a color, being blue with chills. This tried me harder than anything I had seen in all my Mormon experiences. Thinking my wives and children from the nature of the climate would have to look as sickly as those now surrounding me, but I said, “We will trust in God and go ahead.” I think this was the first day of December, we arrived in Washington Town.”