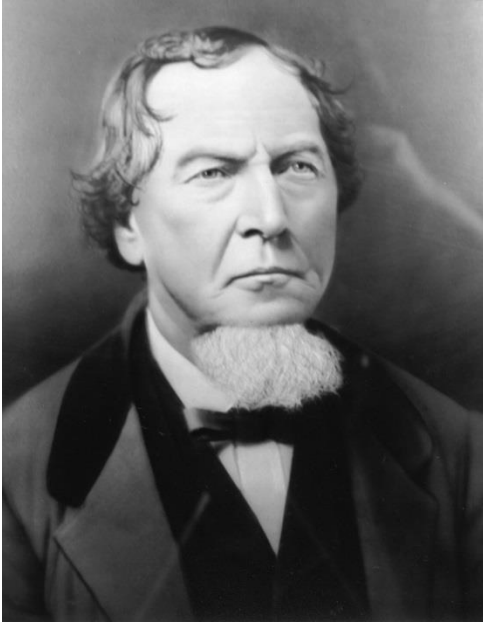


ROBERT PIXTON



Mr. Pixton was born February 27, 1819; was the son of George and Mary Pixton of Manchester, England. His mother died when he was only 14 years of age, and during the summer days of his early youth he worked with his father in the brick yards. During the winter seasons he was employed by the Quaker Hall Manufacturing Co., of Manchester. He had scarcely reached the age of 19 when he was married to Elizabeth Cooper, and shortly afterwards, being dissatisfied with his labors in England, he resolved to set sail for Quebec. His wife, however, persuaded him to go to the United States in company with the families of Joseph and Thomas Bateman, with whom he had lived for several years. While on

board the vessel bound for America, he was convinced of the truthfulness of the gospel as proclaimed by the Latter-day Saints and after arriving in St. Louis in November 1841, he and Thomas Bateman moved up the river to Augusta (Iowa), where he was baptized by Elder Bateman in Skunk Creek. He afterwards removed to Nauvoo, Ill., where he entered into partnership with Mr. Filshaw and was subsequently joined by his wife who had just arrived from England. The partnership was then dissolved and Mr. Pixton worked on the Temple until it closed. He then drove a team to Sugar Creek for President Young, after which he and the company returned to Nauvoo for their families, with whom they started west. The company traveled to Mt. Pisgah, where they were overtaken by Col. Allen, who made the historic call for 500 of the most able-bodied men in the various Mormon camps for military service in the Mexican war. Few volunteered quicker than Mr. Pixton. He went with the troops to Mexico around by California, where he with others, discovered gold in Sutter's mill race. On his return he met his wife in Salt Lake valley where they settled for a few years. In 1862 he went to England and filled an honorable mission for nearly four years. Soon after his return he was called as a missionary and colonizer to southern Utah. This mission he held until his death, which took place at Taylorsville in 1882.

This article was written by S. A. Kenner from his book, Utah As It Is. Pg. 539

The year of Robert's death was printed incorrectly in this article. He died in 1881.

Robert Pixton
**From the history of his second wife,
Martha Silcock Pixton**

At the age of seventeen, Martha became the plural wife of Robert Pixton, Sr., January 25, 1869. They were married in the Endowment House by Daniel H. Wells. The previous autumn Mr. Pixton had been called to colonize in Southern Utah, so for some months after she married Martha lived with the Pixton family in Taylorsville where preparations were being made to start another pioneer home. Finally October came and the journey was begun in a covered wagon drawn by a yoke of oxen and a span of horses. The first day, they traveled from Taylorsville to American fork. Martha was the home-keeper of this venture and one of her husband's sons, whose name was Willard, three years younger than Martha, was helper, while Mr. Pixton directed their course. After thirteen days of travel, they reached St. George where they camped in William Carter's yard for three weeks, while Mr. Pixton rode the country between Harrisburg and Moapa Valley in an effort to locate suitable soil for fruit growing. His decision fell on three acres of land in Leeds. Here they rented a dugout from Benny Stringham. There fence lines on the new farm were laid out at night when the North Star was visible as a guide for directions. The nearest point at which hay could be bought was 25 miles away over dangerous rough roads. Planting fruit trees and crops came first, so it was the second winter in Leeds before a rock house was begun. Later ten additional acres of land suitable to sugar cane and fruit trees were purchased. Besides the hard work that goes with pioneering, there was the constant dread of unexpected visits from the Indians. Among these conditions, Martha's first child, a son, was born July 1, 1870. He was named Alma honoring Martha's oldest brother. Bed fever at this time took the life of the baby who was nineteen days old, and rendered Martha very ill. September 3, 1872, Martha gave birth to a daughter named Nellie. Nellie lived two years and then died of whooping cough.

It was June 20, 1875 that Seth was born and he grew to be a rugged child. March 17, 1879, Jane was born and January 17, 1881, Olive was born. These three children were healthy and grew to manhood and womanhood. Martha's husband fell ill of appendicitis and died at his home in Taylorsville on November 23, 1881.

In May 1883 Martha sold her home at Leeds and moved to Riverton to be near her parents and relatives.

Note: Alma and Nellie are buried in Leeds, Washington, Utah. Martha died 27 April 1916 in Salt Lake City, and was buried 30 April 1916 in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah.

Written by Aurelia Densley. *Primary Presidents of the Riverton Ward.* (Handwritten notes in Riverton Ward history, Unpublished.) Martha Pixton was the second Primary President in that ward.

ROBERT PIXTON

Our Pioneer Heriage, D.U.P., Vol. 20, p. 54

Robert Pixton writes: "I was born February 27, 1819, at Manchester, England. My father's name was George Pixton; my mother's name was Mary Hankinson. They had nine children named John, William, Ellen, George, William, Ann, Mary, Robert and Maria. My parents were poor and I had little or no education as I had to go to work as soon as I was able to do anything. When I was about nine years old I had to work on a rope work. Afterwards I went to work in a brickyard in summer and in winter, for many years, I worked at Quaker Hills die works for Mr. Thomas Hargreaves. When about twelve years of age I caught my hand in some machinery and was taken up with it and had my thigh and arm broken very badly. Shortly after this my mother died and my father gave up housekeeping. I went to board with Joseph Bateman in Regent Road. At this time I was keeping company with Elizabeth Cooper. When I was about twenty years old, I began thinking about getting married. On the 5th of May 1839, I married Elizabeth Cooper, daughter of John and Charlotte Cooper of Chesterfield, Derbyshire, England. I soon afterward became much disappointed with England for I could see nothing but hard times before me."

Robert left England September 21, 1841, on the steamship Tyrean and went to Nauvoo to see the Saints and the Prophet. During the first winter he chopped wood for his board and lodgings. In the spring of 1842 he was baptized a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints by Joseph Bateman (records state Thomas Bateman) and confirmed by Lyman Wight. His first remunerative work was making brick. His wages were turned over to Brigham Young to emigrate his wife and daughter Charlotte, but another year went by before she received word to come. During these two years she had sorrow and hardship to encounter. Her baby boy, born a week after Robert had left for America, only lived a few days. Besides this, she had to seek employment for their maintenance. When Elizabeth and Charlotte arrived in December of 1843, Robert was working for a planter along the river in Arkansas. The family remained there until spring.

Their sole ambition and thought was to get to Nauvoo. When they arrived they found both life and property very unsafe as persecution had been complicated and increased by false charges held over from Missouri. Robert writes: "This summer we had a great deal of trouble with the mob. I was on guard most of the time day and night. I frequently had to get up out of bed to muster, expecting to fight before morning. I was at the Masonic Hall when Brother Joseph was there the day before his death. I heard him say the day before he started to Carthage, 'Don't be surprised, Brethren, if you do not see me again.' The posse was with him; they rode to the Mansion and bid them goodbye. I was on guard at the temple all night. The next morning when I went home my wife and neighbors were gathered together mourning the death of the Prophet Joseph Smith. They had heard that Joseph was murdered at Carthage Jail. I could not believe it, but went to

the Public Square and soon found it to be true. There was a meeting called; the Brethren spoke and told the people to be calm. Brother Richard spoke and cooled down the excitement. The brethren felt like going to Carthage and pulling the jail down. This was a gloomy time for the saints and many stout hearts failed them.

“The summer of 1845, my time was divided in working in the Nauvoo brickyard and farming in the Big Field. I made an exchange with Bro. Huntington, give him ten acres of land for a yoke of cattle, and I sold my watch for a wagon. My wife and I were permitted to go to the temple and there receive our endowments.

“In February 1846 the First Presidency began to prepare for moving west. I was working, smoking meat for them to take along. After this I was called to join the artillery in charge of Captain Cott. We started from Nauvoo and went to Sugar Creek and camped with the Twelve. I went with them to Richardson’s Point. Here Brother Young gave all the privilege to go back, that could make an outfit, and come on after them. I turned back with some others and when I got home and rested, I went to work on the River and made an outfit in about a month, then returned home and began to get ready to follow the first camp. My house and lot were sold for two cows and a rifle, and some other things. I kept one cow, and the rifle and other things I turned over to Brigham Young to finish paying for my wife’s emigration across the sea.”

Upon arriving at the Missouri River late in June, Robert learned that the U.S. Government had asked for 500 men to go to Mexico or California to participate in the war with Mexico. Quoting: “Brother Young, Heber C. Kimball and Willard Richards came to us to preach and to call for volunteers to form a battalion. I was one to go. I was a private in Company E. This was quite an undertaking. Six men out of a company of seven were on the march, leaving our families and stock in the care of an old man and a boy. If it had not been for the cause of god, we never could have left our families in the wild prairies with a murderous mob in the rear and an Indian-ridden country before. We had a promise that they should be taken care of, and that it we would be true to God and our Country that we would not have to fight.” B. H. Roberts says in one of his histories that the Battalion was “the ram in the thicket for the Church,” as it was only by their entrance into civil service that the homeless Saints were granted the right to graze their stock and plant crops on government lands. Else they must have moved into the desert wholly unprepared for its hardships. Quoting: “We mustered at sunrise July 18, 1846, and received our equipment at Fort Leavenworth. We arrived at Santa Fe in September. A distance in all of nearly 2000 miles. When we saw the sun go down in the Pacific it was an agreeable sight after passing thru so many deserts. We learned that pace had been declared. We did guard duty for six months, when we were discharged July 16, 1847. We bought animals to ride and pack home again. We traveled about 800 miles to Sacramento. Daniel Browett, Robert Harris, John Cox, Levi Roberts, Richard Slater and myself messed together all the from Council Bluffs to Sacramento, I being the cook.”

Their spiritual stamina found food each morning and evening in prayer. They tried constantly to keep before them the promise made to them by Brigham Young. At

one time when human endurance was almost spent, one of their comrades arose and drew from his pocket a small American flag, saying: “this flag, brethren, was made for me by my wife before we left the States. It is for this, comrades, that we toil, and for a home for the Church.” Next morning they were up at sunrise and in the harness toiling courageously toward the Pacific.

Lieutenant Cook wrote of the expedition: “History may be searched in vain for an equal march of infantry. Through a wilderness, where nothing but savages or wild beasts were found or through deserts, where, for want of water there is no living creature. We have dug wells, which the future traveler will enjoy, we have ventured into trackless tablelands where water was not found for several marches—we have worked our way over mountains and hewed a pass through a chasm of living rock—to bring these first wagons to the Pacific.”

Of the effects of the march a historian writes: “The presence of these toiling plodding men in the Gila desert did more to break the spirit of Mexico than did the presence of Scott’s Army in the City of Mexico.”

Hope was bounding high in the lives of this party of men, for they were homeward bound. When they were some distance into the Sierra Nevada Mountains they met Captain Brown from Salt Lake with a message from Brigham Young for them to find employment in California for the winter, as rations were already low for the 5000 saints in the Valley. Robert Pixton remained. One of his mess mates went on. With him, Robert sent a good mule to his wife to strengthen her team for the trip across the Plains.

The men who remained found work at Sutter’s Mill and saw the excitement the following January (1848) when gold was discovered. In May 1848 the party tried to get through the mountains but the snow was too deep. They returned to Mormon Island where Robert and others washed out gold to bring home.

In June they chose Bro. Daniel Browett president of the company. Brother Bowett thought it best that someone go ahead and pick out a road over which the stock and wagons could be moved. He decided to be one of that party. He took two men with him. That was his last trip. Indians shot him full of arrows, together with his companions, robbed them of their equipment and clothes, and threw their naked bodies into a shallow grave. It was only after a patient search that these facts became known. By correspondence Robert and his wife Elizabeth arranged to meet in Great Salt Lake, so it was on September 27 they met about a mile from camp. She had been watching for him for a week. After resting a few days, Brother Richards sent for him and helped him choose a lot on East Temple street, where he built an adobe room and moved his family in by Dec 16. The winter was long and severe. The following spring he went to Green River to ferry gold rush emigrants. On his return home he was mustered into service to quell Indian trouble down at Provo.

In the spring of 1852 Robert went “over Jordan” to make a farm. In 1853 the Big Field was fenced in and he was given 35 acres. A ditch was made from Archibald

Gardiner's mill race at a cost of several thousand dollars. They also had the use of flood waters from Bingham Canyon for several seasons.

The autumn of 1857 Robert spent with the militia in Echo Canyon, staying the progress of Johnston's Army. The following season when the army passed peacefully through Salt Lake, he was a guardsman at the old tithing office and saw them march by. He had taken his family to Lehi to the home of his son-in-law William Van Dyke. Quoting: "In the spring of 1859 I moved my family on my farm in West Jordan, now called Taylorsville, as Main Street was becoming too public for me, and too dangerous for my children. I rented my place in town and built me a good house nearby the field, on the bottoms. In 1860 the policy of the Big Field was changed, the fence was taken down and I was left with a house and no right to the land upon which it stood. In these straits, I went to Weber County to look over prospects there as my oldest daughter and her family were living there. Before another year had passed, the Homestead Law was passed. This act enabled me to homestead around my house and so save my home. In April 1862, I was called on a mission to Great Britain."

He returned from his mission in October 1865. In 1868, he was sent on a colonizing mission to Utah's Dixie. January 25, 1869, he married Martha Silcock, daughter of Nicholas Thomas Silcock and Jane Heath. With her and his fourteen-year-old son Willard, he settled at Leeds. The next twelve years of his life was divided between making a livable home in Dixie and his Taylorsville home which also included business interests in Salt Lake City.

Robert Pixton, Sr., died November 23, 1881, at Taylorsville, Salt Lake County Utah, of appendicitis, in his sixty-third year. —Jane Pixton Bowers

THE TYREAN

On Tuesday, September 21, 1841, the ship Tyrean sailed from Liverpool with 207 Saints bound for Nauvoo, via New Orleans, under the presidency of Joseph Fielding. By chartering the ship for the purpose, the company saved about \$600. On board the Tyrean was twenty-two year old Robert Pixton of Manchester, England bound for America.

The Tyrean arrived in New Orleans in the early part of November (the 9th), from whence the emigrants proceeded by riverboat up the Mississippi to Warsaw, Hancock County, Illinois, about twenty miles below Nauvoo, where they arrived November 24, 1841. It was the intention to locate the newcomers on the site of Warren, but difficulties arose with the old settlers, in consequence of which the British emigrants moved to Nauvoo about the middle of December. Some of them had moved there previously. (See Ms. Hist. of British Mission, Sept. 21, 1841 – LDS Historical Archives.)

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF ROBERT PIXTON

(Taken from military service record)

Height: Five feet, eight inches

Complexion: Fair

Eyes: Light blue

Hair: Light brown

CHRONOLOGY OF ROBERT PIXTON'S LIFE

1819 Born February 27, 1819 in Manchester, Lancashire, England; son of George Pixton and Mary Hankinson; one of nine children.

From the age of nine, he worked in brickyards and dye works; board with Joseph Bateman family after his mother died in 1836.

1839 Married Elizabeth Cooper on May 5 in the Church of England at Prestwich.

1840 Daughter Charlotte born February 8 in Salford, Lancashire, England

1841 Sailed for America September 21 from Liverpool on the ship Tyeon; 207 Latter-day Saints aboard under the direction of Joseph Fielding; left Elizabeth and Charlotte in England.

Arrived in New Orleans on November 9.

1842 Baptized in the Skunk River (Iowa) in the spring by Elder Thomas Bateman; confirmed by Apostle Lyman Wight.

1843 March 19, received his Patriarchal Blessing in Nauvoo given by Hyrum Smith.

Worked in brickyard at Nauvoo to pay for wife's passage to America.

Elizabeth and Charlotte sailed from Liverpool aboard the ship Champion, arriving in New Orleans December 6, where Robert met them. Spent winter in Arkansas.

1844 Returned to Nauvoo in the spring, where Robert continued to work in temple brickyard and was a guard day and night against mobs.

Heard the Prophet Joseph Smith's last public address the day before he was killed and Robert was a guard at the temple the night Joseph was shot at Carthage.

1846 Received his endowments in the Nauvoo Temple on February 6. He was a Seventy in the priesthood.

Sold his house and lot in Nauvoo for 2 cows and a rifle.

Left Nauvoo at the end of May with the main exodus.

Brigham Young called for 500 volunteers to fight in the War against Mexico while Robert was at Mt. Pisgah, Iowa. July 16, Robert was mustered into the Mormon Battalion at Council Bluffs, Iowa. Served in Company E under Captain Daniel Davis.

Marched from Council Bluffs to Fort Leavenworth then to Santa Fe, arriving in September (over 1000 miles – 40 miles a day marches were not uncommon, but the usual was 20 miles a day). Robert was the cook of his mess group.

1847 January 19, Company E arrived at the mission of San Diego.

Arrived February 4 at the mission of San Luis Rey and March 23 at Los Angeles.

Discharged from service July 16 at Los Angeles, having never fought in a battle.

Arrived September 5 at Sutter's mill where his company was advised to remain for the winter.

1848 Robert made his gold claim in the spring at Mormon Island.

July 27, left Pleasant Valley, California for the Salt Lake valley.

Arrived in Salt Lake, September 29, and met Elizabeth one mile from the Fort.

December 16, moved into his adobe house between First and Second South on Main St.

1849 Worked ferry boats on Green River – helped emigrants get wagons across.

To Fought Indians at Provo and Payson.

1850 Worked on Public Works

August, Robert and Elizabeth Pixton were sealed in Salt Lake (probably in The President's office since Endowment House was not built).

1852 Received farmland in West Jordan (35 acres)

1857 Joined militia to guard against Johnston's Army (Utah War) in Echo Canyon

- 1858 In spring, moved his family to Lehi as Johnston's Army approached Salt Lake; returned to Salt Lake on July 6.
- 1859 Moved his family to West Jordan (now Taylorsville) because Main Street was too busy.
- 1862 April 27, set apart for mission to England.
- To Arrived Liverpool on August 6; labored in Manchester, Nottingham and Birmingham Conferences and in Coventry District.
- 1865 March 4, visited London
- April 29, sailed from Liverpool aboard the ship Bellewood; arrived in New York on May 31 and traveled by train through Albany, Niagara Falls and Chicago arriving at the terminus of the railroad at Wyoming, Nebraska on June 14. Left August 11 in a wagon train for Salt Lake, arriving in October.
- 1868 Called to Dixie Mission, but did not leave until 1869.
- June 20, sealed in Endowment House to Rebecca Savage and Lucy Cooper.
- 1869 January 25, married Martha Silcock in Endowment House.
- October 15, took his wife Martha and son Willard to Washington County, Utah (trip took 13 days by wagon).
- 1870 July 14, U.S. Federal Census – in Leeds, Washington County, Utah, Martha Pictston (sic), age 18 years and Willard Pictston, age 16 were enumerated.
- September 2, U.S. Federal Census – West Jordan Ward, Salt Lake County, Robert and Elizabeth Pixton were enumerated with Robert, Jr., Willard, Joseph and Sariah.
- October 31, Robert was sealed in the Endowment House to Lucy (Tagg) Stringfellow.
- 1871 Two story rock house was built on 3 acres of land in Leeds with help of Willard; 10 acres was later purchased to grow sugar cane and fruit trees.
- 1872 Divided time between his farms in Taylorsville and Leeds
- To
- 1881 Still owned property on Main Street which he rented and later sold to Thomas Kearns for \$90,000.

1880 June 19, U.S. Federal Census – North Jordan Precinct, Salt Lake County, Robert and Elizabeth Pixton enumerated with Elizabeth, Joseph and Sariah. Martha, Jane and Seth Pixton were also enumerated in North Jordan Precinct in another household.

1881 November 23, Robert Pixton died at Taylorsville from bowel inflammation (probably appendicitis).

November 26, funeral held in 14th Ward Assembly Hall. Burial in Salt Lake Cemetery.

ROBERT PIXTON

Written by Jane Pixton Bowers, his daughter
Original at DUP, Salt Lake City, Utah
Read at Old English Fort DUP
By Hazel Pixton Paxton
1955

CIVIC DUTIES OF FATHER

Nauvoo Legion
Nauvoo Brass Band
Brick maker in Public Square Nauvoo
Perserver of meats --- Nauvoo
Soldier – U.S.A.
Constable of West Jordan
Director in Canal Company
School Trustee (gave land for first public building in Taylorsville, and gave the nails to build the building.)

RELIGIOUS DUTIES

School of Prophets in Salt Lake
22 Quorum of Seventy
31 Quorum of Seventy (members of 31st quorum will meet at the home of Robert Pixton 1st Sunday in each month at 4 P.M. 1 ½ block south of Council House G.S.S. City.)
Missionary 1862-1865. Traveling Elder in Manchester and Nottingham England.
Bro. Chase District Pres. ("Elders Chase and Pixton are alive in the good work.")
Pres. Warwickshire Conference Oct. 25, 1863
Reported condition of conference and observed that tithing had increased.
"Bro. Whitney, (a new missionary) is laboring diligently and promises to become a valuable aid in the great cause of human redemption."
Reported Conference and added his testimony. "I want to be humble and prayerful and ready at all times to be used by God, my Heavenly Father, as He directs."
Spoke at Tabernacle Nov. 19, 1865 – reported mission and declared his gratitude to Heavenly Father for his watch and care over his family during his absence.

Miss Campbell's testimony

During father's life time he kept a brief diary of his activities. This he carefully preserved and after his death Mother Pixton showed the same care for the record. However, in March 1904, Mother Pixton died and people, strange to all her plants, went into her home to change things around and distribute articles of value before the property

was sold, It was during this "clean up" that Belle Pixton went to the home one afternoon just to chat with those working there. On her way through the yard, she passed a pile of discards stacked ready for a bonfire. On one side of the pile she noticed a notted covered book which had an interesting appeal to her. She stooped down and picked up the book which proved to be an old cash book. These old accounts she passed by hurriedly, for she felt sure these had not given the book its value. Beyond the accounts she read this title: Robert Pixton, and this story: I was born February 27, 1819, at Manchester, England. My father's name was George Pixton, my mother's name was Mary Hankinson. They had nine children named John, William, Ellen, George, William, Ann, Mary, Robert, and Maria.

My parents were poor and I had little or no education, as I had to go to work as soon as I was able to do anything. When I was about nine years old I had to work on a rope work. Afterwards I went to work in a brick yard in summer, and in winter for many years I worked at Quaker Hall Dye Works for Mr. Thomas Hargreaves. When about 12 years of age I caught my hand in some machinery and was taken up with it and had my thigh and arm broken very badly----When I was 17 years old my mother died, and my father gave up housekeeping, and I went to board with Joseph Bateman in Regent Road. At this time I was keeping company with Elizabeth Cooper. When I was about 20 years old, I began thinking about getting married. On the 5th of May 1839, I married Elizabeth Cooper, daughter of John and Charlotte Cooper of Chesterfield, Derbyshire England. I soon afterward became much disappointed with England for I could see nothing but hard times before me."

And so, turning page after page the history went on recounting the scenes of leaving England, making a home in America, and helping to reclaim the West.

This record must be preserved she concluded, thus the major part of the story I shall relate tonight was saved from the flames.

Father's life, according to his place of residence, falls into three periods. Twenty two years in England, seven years in the states, up and down the Mississippi River and thirty years residence in Utah.

Father left England, Sept. 21, 1841, on the steamship Tyrean, and went to Nauvoo to see the Saints and the Prophet. During his first winter here he chopped wood for his board and lodgings. In the spring of 1842 he was baptized a member of the Church of

Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints by Joseph Bateman and confirmed by Lyman Wright. His first remunerative work was making brick. His wages he turned over to Brigham Young to emigrate his wife and daughter Charlotte. But another year elapsed before she received word to come. During these two years she had sorrow and hardship to encounter. Her baby boy, born a week after father left for America, only lived a few days, besides she had to seek employment for their maintenance.

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"In February 1846 the First Presidency began to prepare for moving west. I was working smoke meat to take with them. After this I was called to join the artillery in charge of Captain Cott. We started from Nauvoo and went to Sugar Creek and camped with the Twelve. I went with them to Richardson's Point. Here Brother Young gave all the privilege to go back that could make an outfit and come on after them. I turned back

with some others and when I got home and rested, I went to work on the River and made an outfit in about a month, then returned home and began to get ready to follow the first camp. My house and lot were sold for two cows and a rifle, and some other things. I kept one cow and the rifle, and the other things I turned over to Brigham Young to finish paying for my wife's emigration across the sea."

Upon arriving at the Missouri River late in June father learned that the government had asked for 500 men to go to Mexico or California to participate in the war with Mexico. Quoting, "Brother Young, Heber C. Kimball and Willard Richards came to us to preach and to call for volunteers to form a battalion. I was one to go. I was a private in Company E. This was quite an undertaking---six men out of a company of seven were on the march, leaving our families and stock in the care of an old man and a boy. If it had not been for the Cause of God, we never could have left our families on the wild prairie with a murderous mob in the rear and an Indian ridden country before. We had a promise that they should be taken care of, and that if we would be true to God and our Country that we would not have to fight." Let me add B.H. Roberts says in one of his histories that the Battalion was the Ram in the Thicket for Church and as it was only by their entrance into Civil Service that the homeless saints were granted the right to graze their stock and plant crops on Government lands. Ele they must have moved into the desert wholly unprepared for its hardships.

Quoting, "We mustered at sunrise July 16, 1846, received our equipment at Fort Leavenworth. We arrived at Sante Fe in September. A distance in all of nearly 1000 miles. When we saw the sun go down in the Pacific it was an agreeable sight after passing so many deserts. We learned that peace had been declared. We did guard duty for six months when we were discharged July 16, 1847. We bought animals to ride and pack home again. We traveled about 800 miles to Sacramento. Daniel Browett, Robert Harris, Jong Cox, Levi Roberts, Richard Slater and myself messed together all the way from Council Bluffs to Sacramento, I being the cook."

In recounting physical experiences of the trip one of their songsters wrote:

"The teams can hardly drag their loads
Along the hilly sandy roads
While traveling near the Rio Grande
O'er hill and dale and heated sand

And when an oxen in like to die,
The whole camp halts, and we lay by
The greedy wolves and buzzards stay
Expecting rations for the day

Our hardships reach their rough extreme
When valiant men are roped with team
Hour after hour and day by day
To wear their strength and loves away

We see some twenty men or more,
With empty stomachs and feet sore,
Bound to one wagon, plodding on
Thru sand, beneath a burning sun.”

Their spiritual stamens found food each morning and evening in prayer. They tried, constantly, to keep before them the promise made to them by Brigham Young. At one time when human endurance was about spent, one of their comrades arose in fear, drew from his jacket a small American flag. “This flag, brethren, was made for me by my wife before we left the States. It is for this comrades, that we toil, and for a home for the Church.” Then he dismissed the meeting. Next morning we were up at sunrise, in the harness toiling courageously toward the Pacific.

Their Lieutenant P. St. George Cook wrote of the expedition: “History may be searched in vain for an equal march of infantry. Through a wilderness, where nothing but savages or wild beasts are found or through deserts, where, for want of water there is no living creature.

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our way over mountains and hewed a pass through a chasm of living rock—to bring these first wagons to the Pacific.”

Of the effects of the march a historian writes: “The presence of these toiling plodding men in the Gila desert did more to break the spirit of Mexico than did the presence of Scott’s Army in the City of Mexico.”

Hope was bounding high in the lives of this party of men, they were homeward bound. When they were some distance into the Sierra Nevada mountains they met Capt. Brown from Salt Lake with a message from Brigham Young for them to find employment in California for the winter, as rations were already low for the 5000 saints in the valley. Father remained. One of his mess mates went on, with him Father sent a good mule to mother Pixton to strengthen her team for the trip across the plains.

The men who remained found work at Sutters mill and saw the excitement the following January (1849) when gold was discovered.

In May 1848 the party tried to get through the mountains but the snow was too deep. They returned to Mormon Island where father and others washed out gold to bring home.

In June they chose Bro. Daniel Browett president of the company. Bro. Browett thought it best that some one go ahead and pick out a road over which the stock and wagons could be moved the next day. He chose to go himself. He took two men with him. As they were leaving father said to Bro. Browett, “Are you wearing your garments?” “No”, said Bro. Browett, they are too ragged.” “Better mend them and put them on,” counceled father. “I’m alright,” said Bro. Browett. But he was not alright long. That was his last trip. Indians shot him full of arrows together with his companions robbed them of their equipment and clothes, then threw their naked bodies into a shallow grave. It was only after a long patient search that these facts became known. This incident portrays father’s faith in the priesthood.

By correspondence he and mother Pixton arranged to meet in Great Salt Lake, so it was that on 27th of Sept. they met about a mile north of Pioneer Square, to which point mother had walked from camp. She had been waiting for him one week.

After resting a few days Bro. Richards sent for father and help him choose a lot on East Temple street, where he built an adobe room and moved in by Dec. 16. The winter was long and severe. The following spring father went to Green River to ferry

over Gold rush emigrants. On his return home he was mustered into service to quell Indian troubles down at Provo.

It was in the spring of 1852 that father came "over Jordan" to make a farm. In 1853 the Big Field was fenced in and father was given 35 acres. A ditch was made from Archibald Gardiner's mill race at a cost of several thousand dollars. They also had the use of flood waters from Bingham Canyon for several seasons.

The autumn of 1857 father spent with Malitia in Echo Canyon. Staying the progress of Johnson's Army. The following season when the army passed peacefully through Salt Lake City, father was a guardsman at the old tithing office and saw them march by. He had taken his family to Lehi to the home of his son-in-law William Van Dyke.

Quoting: "In the spring of 1859 I moved my family on my farm in West Jordan, now called Taylorsville, as Main Street was becoming too public for me, and too dangerous for my children. I rented my place in town, I built me a good house, near by the field, on the bottoms.

In 1860 the policy of the Big Field was changed, the fence was taken down, and I was left with a house and no right to the land upon which it stood. In these straits I went to Weber Co. to look over prospects there, as my oldest daughter and her family were living there. Before another year had passed the homestead law was passed. This act enabled me to homestead around my house, and so save my home. (Joe's sickness Jan. 1861.) In April 1862 I was called on a mission to Great Britain. I was gone three and a half years. I visited my relatives. I went to Manchester. I found Uncle Wrigley's home and knocked at the door. Aunt came to the door but did not know me. I sat down and talked to them sometime, when Uncle suspected something and asked if it was Robert. I confessed. I visited with them a day or two.

I visited Altruicham, found my cousin William Pixton's widow and family who told me many things that had transpired in the 21 years since my departure from England. Also found cousin James Pixton. I stayed the afternoon with them. I went next day to cousin John Demports (this last name is very difficult to read in 2002, could be spelled a little different) and he paid me my money that had been left to me by my grandfather. Went with Cousin James to Bowden Church and got the age of our fathers. Went to

Layden, near Preston, and visited by brother John his wife and daughter and two sons, John and Edward. Visited my two nieces Jane and Ann Pearson.”

Father returned home in October 1865. Soon after returning he built store buildings on his Main Street property. In 1868 he was called to help settle the Southern Settlements. It was one year before he could go. In October he started south with a good wagon and a team composed of two horses and two oxen. With him were his young wife Martha Silcock, and his son Willard then a boy of fourteen. He settled at Leeds. For the next twelve years his time was divided between making a livable home in Dixie and his Taylorsville home which also included business interests in Salt Lake City.

Died Nov. 23, 1881 leaving two wives and ten children. This is 1955 and three are still living.

Retyped April 2002
Jolene Bateman Tanner
Spelling and grammar as original

Robert Pixton
1819

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NAUVOO TEMPLE ENDOWMENT REGISTER
(Chronological List)

February 1846
Company (continued)

| Name | Priest- hood or sex | Date | Birth Data | | | Temple Ordinance Dates | | Comments and Additional Information |
|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|---------------|------------|-------------|--------------------------|------------|--|
| | | | Town | County | State | Washing and Anointing | Endowment | |
| Bennett, Mary | f | 9 Dec 1886 | | | | 6 Feb 1846 | 6 Feb 1846 | Mary Bennet in v-a record |
| Connington, Frederick | eld | 1 Jul 1821 | | | | 6 Feb 1846 | 6 Feb 1846 | Frederick Connington in v-a rec |
| Woodland, Catharine | f | 1 Jun 1788 | | Greenville | S. Carolina | 6 Feb 1846 | 6 Feb 1846 | Jane Catherine Hunt in TIB reco |
| Sealley, John Wilton | sev | 1 Feb 1812 | M. Cincinnati | | Ohio | 6 Feb 1846 | 6 Feb 1846 | John Wilton Seasley in v-a record |
| Pixton, Robert | sev | 27 Feb 1819 | Manchester | | England | 6 Feb 1846 | 6 Feb 1846 | Benj. Andrews in v-a record |
| Andrews, Benjamin | h.p. | 6 Oct 1792 | | | | 6 Feb 1846 | 6 Feb 1846 | |
| Andrews, Rhoda | f | 9 Sep 1810 | | | | 6 Feb 1846 | 6 Feb 1846 | |
| Wells, Robert | sev | 24 Sep 1815 | | | | 6 Feb 1846 | 6 Feb 1846 | |
| Wells, Olive | f | 4 Jul 1830 | | | | 6 Feb 1846 | 6 Feb 1846 | |
| Reeves, Elizabeth | f | 6 Dec 1790 | | | | 6 Feb 1846 | 6 Feb 1846 | |
| Hammond, John | eld | 22 Jul 1795 | Chelmsford | | England | 6 Feb 1846 | 6 Feb 1846 | |
| Bennett, Melissa | f | 27 Dec 1829 | | Essex | | 6 Feb 1846 | 6 Feb 1846 | |
| Reynolds, John Francis | sev | 8 Jun 1812 | | Bedford | | 6 Feb 1846 | 6 Feb 1846 | Malissay Bennet in v-a record |
| Reynolds, Martha | f | 29 Dec 1807 | | | | 6 Feb 1846 | 6 Feb 1846 | John F. Renault in v-a record |
| Reynolds, Austin | sev | 17 Jun 1826 | | | | 6 Feb 1846 | 6 Feb 1846 | Martha Renault in v-a record |
| Hammond, Lovisa | f | 5 Oct 1790 | Foultney | | Vermont | 6 Feb 1846 | 6 Feb 1846 | Orson Eayer in v-a record |
| Foster, Herbert Hill | sev | 14 Jan 1827 | | Rutland | | 6 Feb 1846 | 6 Feb 1846 | Louisa Parker in alg record |

Abbreviations: h.p.: high priest; sev.: seventy; ald.: elder; f.: female; m.: male; 1.: v-a record only. 2.: 27 Dec 1828 - alg record.

ROBERT PIXTON – 1819-1881

Deseret News, November 23, 1881

Death Notice

Another Veteran Gone. We regret to have to announce the death of another respected veteran. Elder Robert Pixton, widely known and esteemed in the community, departed this life today, at his residence in North Jordan Ward (Taylorsville), a few miles southwest of this city. We understand he expired about 8 A.M. The deceased was an old member of the Church and belonged to the Mormon Battalion. He also filled a mission to England between 1862-1865.

Deseret News, November 26, 1881

Funeral Notice

Funeral Services. As previously announced in the News, the funeral services over the remains of the late Elder Robert Pixton was conducted in the 14th Ward Assembly Rooms at 10 A.M. today. The proceedings were conducted by Counselor George Crismon. The opening prayer was offered by Bishop L.W. Hardy. Bishop Edward Hunter was the first speaker. He spoke of his early associations with the deceased and the integrity he manifested in trying times in the history of the Church.

President Joseph F. Smith next addressed the congregation, his remarks being both instructive and especially comforting to the relatives of Elder Pixton, who had passed away after a life of integrity and usefulness and therefore entitled to all the blessings promised to those who endure to the end.

The benediction was pronounced by Elder H.S. Eldredge.
The remains were followed to the cemetery by a large cortege.

PATRIARCHAL BLESSING OF ROBERT PIXTON

Robert Pixton received his Patriarchal Blessing from Hyrum Smith in Nauvoo, Illinois on March 19, 1843. He was declared to be of the lineage of Napthali. (Historian's Office Patriarchal Blessings, Vol. 4, p. 479.)

On May 12, 1872, Robert received another Patriarchal blessing from John Smith in Taylorsville, Utah. He was declared to be of the lineage of Ephraim. That blessing follows:

“A blessing given by John Smith, Patriarch, upon the head of Robert Pixton, son of George and Mary Pixton, born in Manchester, Lancashire, England, February 27, 1819. Brother Robert, In the name of Jesus Christ, I place my hands upon thy head and pronounce and seal a blessing upon thee, which is thine through right of lineage and also through yielding obedience to the Gospel. Thou art of the house of Israel and of the blood of Joseph through the loins of Ephraim; thou art entitled to the blessings of the new and everlasting covenant with the gifts and privileges of the priesthood and I seal the blessings of Abraham, Isaac & Jacob upon thee, and say unto thee if thou will listen to the prompting of the monitor within thee, thou shalt be warned of dangers.

For thy guardian Angel will whisper in thine ear; and give thee counsel in time of need and thou shalt have power over the adversary and be enabled to cast out evil and unclean spirits and thou shalt heal the sick by the laying on of hands for this is thy gift through the prayer of faith. Thou hast seen many changes and thy life has been preserved by an unseen power for which thou hast given praise to thy Father in Heaven. Be prudent and thy days and years shall be prolonged until thou has finished thy mission upon the Earth. Thou shalt counsel wisely among thy brethren and as a father in Israel thy name shall be handed down in honorable remembrance, and written in the Lamb's book of life. Therefore I say unto thee be upon thy guard and all shall be well with thee, both here and hereafter for the Lord knoweth thine integrity, he hath heard thy petitions and thou shalt verily receive thy reward, thou shalt be enabled to feed many in time of scarcity and shalt comfort the hearts of the poor. This with the former blessings I seal upon thy head and I seal thee up unto eternal life with power to come forth in the morning of the first Resurrection, a savior among thy kindred and friends, Even so, Amen.”