

Calvin Stratton and Gabrilla Johnson 1777-1860 1786

Calvin Stratton was born in 1777 in Hartford, Connecticut in an area originally settled by the English. Very little is known of Calvin. The Revolutionary War was being fought at the time of his birth. He later moved to Nashville, Tennessee, where he married his second wife, Gabrilla Johnson. Oliver was born there.

This section of the country was only sparsely settled at the time as the boys would go into the woods nearby and get meat whenever the family would need it, as there was plenty of wild turkey and deer.

Calvin would not let them kill more than the family needed. Calvin was a music teacher and had a horse and a one-seated buggy in which he would ride from one small town to another giving music lessons to provide for his family. He was extremely musically talented and most of the children and grandchildren were influenced by those abilities and also enjoyed music and dancing.

It is not known when Calvin joined the Church except that it was probably after he had raised most of his family. The Temple records indicate that he was baptized on the 29th of October 1829, which is before the official organization of the Church on April 6, 1830. One of the very early converts to the Church, Calvin brought a wealth of experience and talent into his Church service. He had served as a captain in the War of 1812 and was a natural leader of men. After his conversion he moved to Nauvoo, Illinois, where these abilities were utilized. He was ordained a High Priest on 3 October, 1843. He was not endowed at Nauvoo, since Temple records show that he and Gabrilla were endowed by proxy in the St. George Temple in 1879.

References:

1. Family Bibles
2. Temple Records
3. Church records from LaVerda Allen (Granddaughter of Oliver Stratton)
4. Information from Paul Vineyard of Bakersfield
5. California Temple Ordinance Records
6. Book "The Strattons", in possession of Mabel Stratton Perkins, Mesa, Arizona
7. Life History of Oliver Stratton and Calvin Stratton by Norene Stratton Payne (Great granddaughter of Oliver Stratton)
8. Stratton Part of Brown's Story by Donna Stratton
9. Harriet Brown Stratton by Margaret Lee Becker on Oliver and Harriet Stratton
10. Miscellaneous records of C. J. Stratton