

Letters

[The following is an excerpt from a letter written by Kathleen Mackley Nichols in response to the previous issue, Volume 2 Number 1, spring 2001. Ms. Nichols sent additional information about this family and each of the children. Anyone who is interested in the Mackley family may contact her at the address below.]

I received my copy of the spring issue of *Mormon Historical Studies* in today's mail. I read with great interest your article "The Early Quincy Cemetery and Mormon Burials" (pp 149-162). It was very exciting to see a member of my own family mentioned among those who are buried in Quincy. Since you have invited any additions to the data, I feel compelled to write and further identify the deceased 8-month-old baby.

Mr. Mackley (pg 150) is my great-great grandfather, Jeremiah Mackley. The 8-month-old child is his daughter, Julia Ann, who was born in Far West, Missouri. Bishop John Lytle, bless his heart, felt the need to write something about the Mackley family history upon the death, in 1886, of Jeremiah's widow, Sarah Oyler Mackley:

. . . In 1841 this family lost by death their father, he having taken sick with chills and fever in the fall of 1839 and continued thus afflicted, more or less, till death released him from his sufferings. The daughter Alvina, was not born till after his death.

The family, now consisting of mother and six children [the oldest daughter, Barbara, died in 1840], continued to reside in Nauvoo, till . . . driven out by the mob in February 1846. The widow and her children crossed the river to the sickly camp of the Saints near Montrose, stayed there for a short time, and then with the Saints journeyed westward. While at Farmington, Iowa, the four older children, three girls and a boy, through poverty, had to go out to work in different families, for board and clothing.

The mother and her two youngest little daughters, Sarah and Alvina, continued on towards Kaneshville, but while en route, following up the trail of the driven Saints, when near Mount Pisgah, this poor, afflicted, bereaved and poverty-stricken

widow had to pass through the terrible ordeal of having her little daughter stolen from her. Diligent search was made by the frenzied mother and sympathizing co-religionists, but without avail; and this noble woman, with un-faltering faith in God, continued her journey westward, having now with her but her youngest little darling, who had never known a father. . . .

The Deseret Evening News, 27 February 1886

Their story saddens me deeply. My family paid a very high price for their religious beliefs—an almost unbelievable story in a land that espouses freedom of religion. The combination of the early death of Jeremiah and the persecution of the Mormons kept my own family in poverty for 3 generations. I am descended from Jeremiah's only son, John. . . I am not a member of the Mormon church. . . [but] I do not think this story should be lost. It appears to me that the older children mentioned in Mr. Lytle's story—the ones who were forced to go out to work due to poverty—subsequently dropped out of the Church. To the best of my knowledge, none ever moved to Salt Lake City to be with their mother and baby sister [Alvina, who became the fourth wife of John D. T. McAllister in 1871 in Salt Lake City].

Jeremiah Mackley and Sarah Oyler grew up in Adams County, Pennsylvania, both of Pennsylvania-Dutch backgrounds. Shortly after their marriage there, they moved to Medina County, Ohio. Moving with them were Jeremiah's brother John, and his wife, Elizabeth (West), and Jeremiah's sister, Julia Ann, who had married William Pomeroy. All of these people became members of the Mormon Church very early in Norton, Ohio. In addition, there was another sister named Isabel or Isabella Mackley who joined the church either while in Nauvoo, or before. She was single. She is mentioned in the 1843 tax records of Nauvoo. There is no record of her after Nauvoo, and I believe she returned to Pennsylvania.

Jeremiah's brother, John, had three wives, but as far as I can tell, no children. John and Jeremiah were both ordained elders of the Church in Kirtland, Ohio in May 1836. John went on to be ordained High Priest in Nauvoo in 1845. Both men knew carpentry, and probably worked on the construction of the temple. John and his wife were in Garden Grove, Iowa in 1847, along with sister Julia Ann Pomeroy, which suggests that William Pomeroy was deceased by then. Nothing further is known about Julia Ann. John and his wife were in Provo, Utah by 1855, and continued to reside there until John's death in 1871.

In spite of the fact that Jeremiah died in 1841, he is found in some of the early Church records. He appears to have been an active member. He is mentioned in Bancroft's *History of Utah* as being among those who were preaching in Missouri, Tennessee, and Illinois in 1839. On 28 December 1838, Jeremiah, his brother John, and thirty-two others were recommended

by Elders Kimball and Young as worthy of a standing in the Seventies . . . They were received into the quorum and ordained on 5 January 1839.

The two Mackley brothers, Jeremiah and John, were always closely associated with brothers Andrew and John Lytle. These four men lived adjacent to one another on the four lots of Block 122 in Nauvoo. They had been friends and neighbors since meeting in Ohio.

Kathleen Mackley Nichols
1522 Puerto Vallarta Drive
San Jose, CA 95120



*Madison Park, Twenty-Fourth and Maine, site of the early Quincy Cemetery, see Mormon Historical Studies, Volume 2, Number 1, 2001, pp. 149-162.
Photo by Alexander L. Baugh, 18 December 2001*