

Aaron Benjamin Cherry and Margaret (Yelton) Cherry



A Family History

by Shelley Dawson Davies

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Chapter 1

Frontier Farmers

Aaron and Margaret



The beautiful countryside near Falmouth, Kentucky.

There was a primal appeal to the dense forests along Ohio's wilderness frontier in the early 1790s, something which drew an ambitious, independent man like John Cherry¹ to struggle for survival against nature's brutality instead of seeking an easier life in town. Frontier life not only promised to test a man's metal and supplied adventure free from society's restraints; a backwoodsman claimed the right to achieve his own fortune, no matter how humble his circumstances.

Through an arrangement with his father's cousin, John and his wife Rebecca² readily agreed to manage William Cherry's³ Hamilton County farm while William pursued prospects in other regions. It was there in Fairfield Township where Rebecca gave birth to four sons and four daughters during the course of eighteen years. Thomas⁴ and Aaron,⁵ the oldest sons, shared their father's labor as they grew, until by the time they reached their teens, each young man was skilled at planting, harvesting and animal husbandry. They were ready to take over the farm when John died in the autumn of 1817, leaving their mother to support eight dependent children with little more than a

wagon, a number of stock and farming tools.⁶ Seventeen-year old Aaron took charge the following year after his older brother's marriage, working the family farm for nine years before seeking his own fortune sixty miles south in Falmouth, Kentucky, around 1828.

Family Ties

It was an easy trip down the Ohio River to Falmouth, a busy settlement in the middle of Pendleton County's rich bottom lands where a young man like Aaron could afford to buy a piece of property of his own, right outside of town. It wasn't long before he met eighteen-year old Margaret Yelton,⁷ daughter of a well-to-do planter whose large farm twelve miles north of Falmouth not only supported thirteen children, but produced profits enough for John Yelton⁸ to own such luxuries as a writing desk and a brass clock.⁹

John Yelton was a respected man whose survey of the Flour Creek Road some years before¹⁰ helped open up the land to new settlers. John's own farm was centered over county lines with his house located in Campbell County and his barn on the Pendleton County side.¹¹ Aaron fit right in with the friendly Yelton family, so much so that when Margaret agreed to be his wife in June, 1829, the young couple made their home with the Yeltons.¹² Margaret's mother Ann¹³ assisted with the birth of Rebecca,¹⁴ in April, 1830, and Sarah Jane¹⁵ two years later, happy to have a pair of little granddaughters to fuss over.

Aaron was in a position to buy eighty acres of prime land from his father-in-law in 1833,¹⁶ where he and Margaret intended to raise their family. Three more children were born while the Cherrys lived next to the Yeltons: John¹⁷ in 1834, Mary¹⁸ in 1836 and Amelia¹⁹ in 1838. Margaret was content living so near to her family, but eventually Aaron became restless, deciding to try his luck on the new frontier opening up in Illinois. He sold his farm soon after Amelia was born,²⁰ and packed up his wife and children for the long journey west.

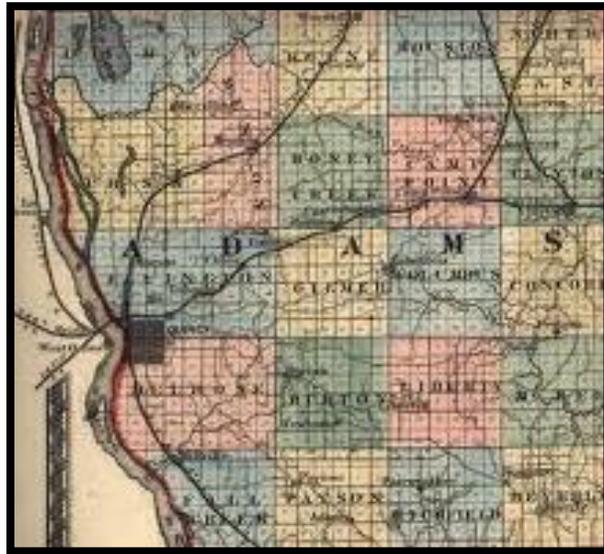
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- ⁶ Aaron, the only family member other than Rebecca mentioned in the will, was bequeathed his father's green coat. John Cherry will (1817), FHL Film # 570624, Highland County, Ohio 1, 2, 3 1809-1839, page 26, www.ancestry.com
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- ⁸ John Yelton (1770-1852), LZTK-QX6, www.familysearch.org
- ⁹ John Yelton will, Campbell County, Kentucky Will Book C, page 145.
- ¹⁰ Cheryl Chasin, "The Yelton Family," <http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~yelton/p19.htm#i558>
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- ¹² John Yelton household, 1830 U.S. census, Pendleton, Kentucky; Series: M19; Roll: 41; Page: 74; FHL film: 0007820, www.ancestry.com
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- ¹⁴ Rebecca Ann (Cherry) Porter (1830-1922), #KWV9-F82, www.familysearch.org
- ¹⁵ Sarah Jane (Cherry) Winter (1832-1913), #KWVG-H1X, www.familysearch.org
- ¹⁶ Pendleton County Court Records, Deed Book "F" page 292. Letter from R.A. Thompson, Pendleton County Clerk, Falmouth, Kentucky, to Cleo Page, Bountiful, Utah, 26 November, 1965. Original held by Shelley Dawson Davies.
- ¹⁷ John James Cherry (1834-1925), #KWNJ-GL6, www.familysearch.org
- ¹⁸ Mary Margaret (Cherry) Brandon (1836-1925), #KWVH-6KW, www.familysearch.org
- ¹⁹ Amelia Mariah (Cherry) Smith (1838-1923), #KWJR-XTS, www.familysearch.org
- ²⁰ Pendleton County Court Records, Deed Book "F" page 292. Letter from R.A. Thompson, Pendleton County Clerk, Falmouth, Kentucky, to Cleo Page, Bountiful, Utah, 26 November, 1965. Original held by Shelley Dawson Davies.

Chapter 2

New Directions

Pioneer Paths



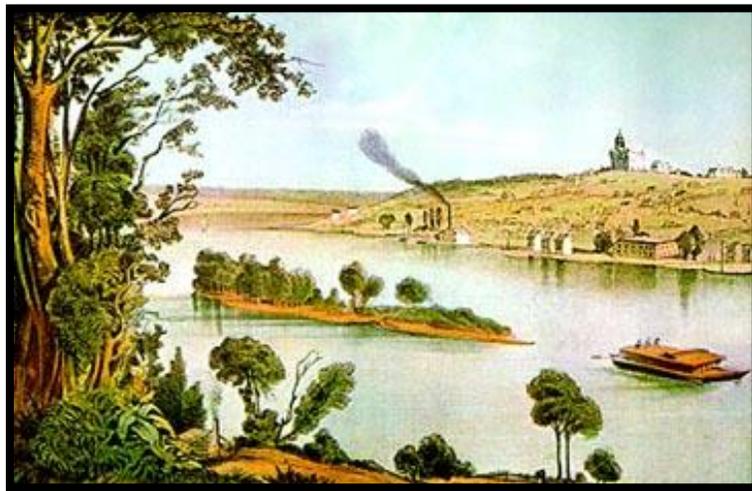
*Period map showing the town of Camp Point
in Adams, County, Illinois.*

There was a great restlessness among Americans in the early 1800s as the country's population surged west in search of vast spaces and seemingly inexhaustible natural resources. Aaron and Margaret Cherry joined thousands of families making their way to the frontier's edge, a movement described by one contemporary writer as "the great army of immigrants moving towards the setting sun... We have seen them strung along the roads of Illinois in such numbers that there seemed to be no end to the long cavalcade."²¹

The Cherry's travelled four hundred and fifty miles to Camp Point, Illinois, where a handful of settlers had been scratching out a living since 1828, but not many people were attracted to the site until a tannery, blacksmith shop and horse-drawn corn mill were built in 1838.²² Aaron purchased a spread several miles west of the settlement in May, 1839,²³ and began preparing his fields for planting.

At the same time the Cherrys and thousands of other pioneers were putting down roots, a stream of disposed and persecuted people calling themselves “Saints” were pouring across the Mississippi into Illinois, where they had been driven from their Missouri homes under threat of extermination. The people of Quincy, Illinois, twenty-two miles west of Camp Point, welcomed these exiles, sharing their homes and collecting food, clothing and other necessities for the destitute refugees.

All of Adams County was a buzz that spring with talk of these new arrivals, members of controversial religion led by Joseph Smith, who claimed he spoke as a prophet for God. Joseph Smith and other leaders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints worked into the summer relocating their followers in the small town of Commerce, fifty miles north of Quincy, as well as large parcels of land across the river in Iowa. Joseph Smith renamed the town Nauvoo, calling for his people to gather there for strength and comfort. Almost ten thousand Saints joined their prophet in building a city for the Lord and soon Nauvoo was the second largest city in the state. Smaller Mormon communities sprang up all over the countryside as new converts to the faith arrived from Canada and England.



Nauvoo, Illinois, seen from across the Mississippi River.

Residents of Illinois were sympathetic with the Mormons at first, hoping to benefit from such a large influx of new settlers, but as the church grew many people began to see these peculiar people as a threat to their frontier way of life. Their zeal and their clannishness offended many of the older residents, and eventually a staunch opposition grew towards the Mormons. Meanwhile, the Cherry family went about their lives as they always had, Aaron working hard on the farm and Margaret tending to her home and children. Aaron expanded his holdings with a land purchase in 1842,²⁴ while Margaret gave birth to two sons, Jesse²⁵ in 1840 and Thomas²⁶ in 1843, and a daughter, Caroline²⁷ in 1845.

With seven children to raise there was little time left over for Aaron and Margaret to worry about the Mormons, until tensions escalated in 1844 with the publication of anti-Mormon complaints in many of the local newspapers. One paper in particular, *The Nauvoo Expositor*, printed by a disaffected former counselor to Smith, accused Joseph Smith of grasping for political power, speaking blasphemously against God and practicing “spiritual wifery.” Nauvoo’s city council, with Joseph Smith at its head, ordered the press destroyed. *The Warsaw Signal Extra* reported a public meeting held in Quincy soon afterwards, during which a committee of twelve was appointed to “go to the scene of the disturbance” in Nauvoo.²⁸ *The Signal* called citizens to “arise, one and all! Can you stand by and suffer such infernal devils! To rob men of their property and rights without avenging them?”²⁹

Eventually Joseph, his brother Hyrum and several other church leaders were arrested and held for trial in Carthage jail, thirty miles north of Camp Point. The murder of Joseph and Hyrum by an armed mob on 27 June, 1844, caused “great excitement” throughout the countryside as emotions were “kept at fever heat by the reports continually reaching the people of lawless acts and threats” supposedly made by the Mormons.³⁰ A handbill circulated through Adams County asserted that “they, the Mormons, must leave or we must leave; and there are now but two questions to solve: which party shall leave and in what manner.” *The Quincy Whig* devoted six columns to the question in the 24 July edition.³¹

The “Mormon question” became personal for the Cherrys in the spring of 1846, when Aaron and Margaret attended a Mormon conference in Nauvoo out of nothing more than curiosity, but when they were overcome with the Spirit as they heard the doctrines of the restored church for themselves.³² They were baptized on 6 April, 1846, even as most of their fellow Saints were evacuating Nauvoo

under pressure and persecutions from their enemies. Aaron sold his property in early March, 1847,³³ and headed west with his wife and children to Winter Quarters, Nebraska, where Brigham Young was preparing for the first wagon trains to depart for the Salt Lake Valley.

Zion Gathers

Hundreds of people at Winter Quarters had been preparing for months to be ready to leave for Utah in the spring and summer of 1847, but only those who had outfitted wagons and oxen sturdy enough to pull them would be included in the first few groups of immigrants to cross the plains. The vanguard company headed by Brigham Young was ready to leave in April. The Young Company would map out a trail and set up a settlement in the Salt Lake Valley for those who followed. The second company scheduled to leave Winter Quarters was captained by Charles C. Rich, who organized those families able to put together a wagon team and supplies, not an easy task. Even Charles Rich was having trouble finding enough cash to outfit his family, until Aaron Cherry gave his new friend fifty dollars and loaned him another fifty for the purchase of provisions.³⁴

Among the multitude of Saints gathering at Winter Quarters Aaron was delighted to find his younger brother Ebenezer³⁵ and his family, who had had joined the church the previous spring in Ohio. Aaron made arrangements for the entire Cherry family to travel west together in the Charles C. Rich Company, scheduled as the first wagon train to follow Brigham's lead across the plains. The company of one hundred and twenty-six men, women and children pulled out of Winter Quarters at dawn, 21 June, 1847, accompanied by the firing of a cannon.³⁶

The Cherrys were better off than most of the Saints. The sale of Aaron's prosperous farm made it possible for the family to have three well-stocked wagons, several oxen and a band of horses for the journey.³⁷ Yet, even with the security of having enough provisions, the trip would be a difficult one for thirty-six year old Margaret, who was pregnant with her ninth child. She would come to rely heavily on her teenaged daughters Rebecca and Sarah Jane to help watch the younger children, tend to the laundry and cook three meals a day along the trail.

The C.C. Rich Company travelled two and sometimes five wagon abreast after receiving reports of Indian attacks, but later hosted a number of Ogallala Sioux in camp, where they not only treated the braves to supper, but to a demonstration of the cannon. The pioneers forded streams, endured rain storms and the blistering heat of the plains, averaging between ten and twenty miles a day. Everyone was intrigued by the large prairie dog communities they passed along the way, and the men in particular were thrilled whenever they encountered the vast buffalo herds which gave them the opportunity to hunt. All in all, the Saint's spirits were high, even when their bodies were tired. "We would make the mountains ring with our songs, and sometimes the company would get together and we would have a dance in the evening on the grass. We did not mourn, but we rejoined that we were going to the Rocky Mountains where we would be free to live our religion," recalled fellow immigrant Mary Ann Phelps.³⁸

The company reached Fort Laramie, Wyoming, on 5 August, where the pioneers resupplied the best they could, trading with local Indians and resting their horses and cattle as well as themselves. Margaret needed rest more than anyone. Heavily pregnant, she expected to give birth any day, and may have hoped the child would arrive while the company was camped outside the fort, but it was ten days past Laramie, on 15 August, that little Joseph Smith Cherry³⁹ was born, along the open trail.



Outside of Fort Laramie, Wyoming, where Margaret gave birth to her ninth child.

A month later, on 5 September, the Rich Company met Brigham Young and his party on their return trip to Winter Quarters. It was a joyous reunion, filled with details of the new settlement in the Valley and news of the trail. The women produced a surprise banquet on an improvised log table covered with linens and fine china produced from their wagon stores, topped off with jars of jellies and fruit for desert. Singing and dancing followed into the late hours of the night. Two days later it began to snow, changing the heat and dust of the trail to cold and mud.

By the time the company reached Fort Bridger on 16 September, only one hundred fifteen miles from their destination, hopes were high for the final push to the Salt Lake Valley. However, “Captain Bridger gave us but little encouragement concerning our new home,” said Emeline Rich. “We were also told that we had the hardest and roughest part of the journey to travel—I wondered how this could be, for I could picture nothing in my mind that could be worse than what we had passed. We had walked two and twenty two miles per day—and driven our ox teams sometimes one yoke and sometimes two yokes and unyoked them, and then cooked our food and attended to camp work besides. And now to be told that the hardest part of our journey was just on a head—but we were still equal to the task.”⁴⁰

Three days outside of the Salt Lake Valley the axle on Charles Coulson Rich’s wagon broke, forcing him to stop for repairs. Aaron volunteered to remain behind and lend a hand while the rest of the train continued on. In an effort to catch up the following day, one of the Cherry wagons was upset travelling down a “bad road,” scattering the contents far and wide,⁴¹ but despite this setback, the Rich and Cherry repair party caught up the next day, just in time to see the Salt Lake Valley appear over the mountain tops. “We climbed over those two ranges of mountains, walked up and down with face in hand, haw here and gee there, until at last we reached the goal of our anticipations and were made happy,” recalled Emeline Rich. “Now we thought our labors at an end.”⁴² The C.C. Rich Company rolled into Salt Lake on 2 October, 1847, after more than one hundred days on the trail.

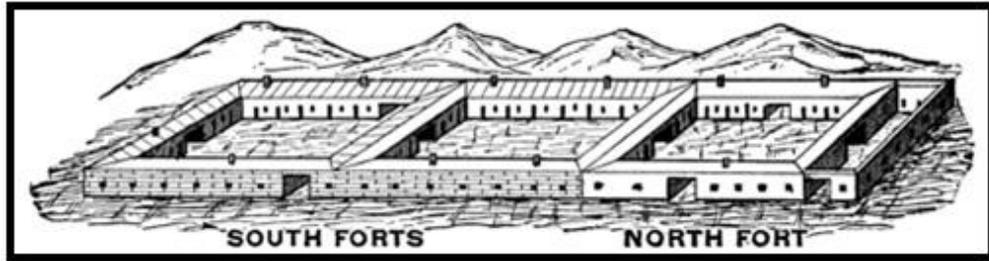
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- ²² David F. Wilcox, editor, *History of Camp Point, Illinois* (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1919), <http://history.rays-place.com/il/adams-camp-point.htm>
- ²³ 29 May, 1839, A Harpending to Aaron B Cherry, the SW ¼ of Sec 21 in Twp 1- North, Range 6 West in Book "O" page 3. Letter from Earl W Abbott, Recorder, Quincy, Adams County Illinois, to Cleo H. Page, Bountiful, Utah, 28 March, 1966. Original held by Shelley Dawson Davies.
- ²⁴ 18 July 1842, Mathais Ralph to Aaron B Cherry the NW ¼ of Sec 28, Twp 1-n and 6-w Book "S" page 589. Letter from Earl W Abbott, Recorder, Quincy, Adams County Illinois, to Cleo H. Page, Bountiful, Utah, 28 March, 1966. Original held by Shelley Dawson Davies.
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- ²⁷ Caroline (Cherry) Harris (1845-1936), #KWJ6-FLV, www.familysearch.org
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- ²⁹ *Church History in the Fullness of Times* (Salt Lake City, Utah: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1989), page 275.
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- ³² *The Davis County Clipper*, 21 October, 1898.
- ³³ 9 March 1847 Aaron B. Cherry to J.H. Bates Book 4, page 362, the SW ¼ of Sec 21, Twp 1-N Range 6 West and the NW ¼ Sec 28 in Twp 1-N and West. Adam County, Illinois. Letter from Earl W Abbott, Recorder, Quincy, Adams County Illinois, to Cleo H. Page, Bountiful, Utah, 28 March, 1966. Original held by Shelley Dawson Davies.
- ³⁴ Charles Coulson Rich, "Diary, February, 1846-October, 1847," Mormon Overland Travel Index, C.C. Rich Company, <https://history.lds.org/overlandtravels/trailExcerptMulti?lang=eng&companyId=250&sourceId=5898>
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- ⁴² *Ibid*.

Chapter 3

Building the Kingdom

Service to the Lord



The Cherry family found shelter in Salt Lake City's fort during the winter of 1847-48.

Only two months had passed since Brigham Young's advance company entered the deserted Salt Lake Valley in July, yet already there were wide fields of crops under cultivation and a ten-acre fort standing three blocks south west of the designated temple site when the Cherrys arrived. The new settlement was home to nearly two thousand people who were organized to face the challenge ahead of them: surviving the oncoming winter.

The Cherry family was up to the task. Aaron pitched in to help expand the original ten-acre fort with two additions and four hundred and fifty more log cabins to accommodate new arrivals. By early winter the entire complex was surrounded by an adobe wall, and food cultivation was expanded to over five thousand acres of crops. Although supplies were rationed during the winter, food became scarce by spring, causing the pioneers to eat whatever they could find, including crows, wolves, thistle tops, roots, bark and sego lily bulbs. Even for a well-to-do family like the Cherys, feeding their nine children became a struggle.

Just as the Saints were looking forward to an early harvest of wheat and garden vegetables in June, 1848, hordes of huge crickets descended on the fields, devouring everything in sight. Margaret armed all of her children with sticks, shovels and brooms, anything they could use to beat back the ravenous insects, while Aaron dug trenches to drown the pests, but nothing worked. After two weeks of combatting the crickets there was a very real possibility of losing the

battle. Then, a miracle happened. One Sunday morning flocks of sea gulls nesting along the Great Salt Lake flew in and began eating the insects, filling their gullets, throwing up and filling themselves again. The gulls succeeded where the pioneers could not, continuing their attacks until the crickets were eliminated.

By the spring of 1849, Aaron decided to join friends William and Osmyn Deuel twelve miles north of Salt Lake City, where the pair had found excellent livestock pasturage. Aaron bought out Thomas Grover's land, moving Margaret and the children in near the stream where cottonwood, boxelder and willow trees shaded the cabin and lush grasses spread out toward the distant Great Salt Lake.⁴³ Rebecca and her new husband Nathan Porter⁴⁴ joined the Cherrys, as did Aaron's brother Ebenezer and his family.⁴⁵ Soon there were enough people to organize a ward in the Cherry Creek Settlement,⁴⁶ with Aaron called as a counselor to Bishop Anson Call,⁴⁷ a position of service he held until 1852 when a new bishopric was installed.⁴⁸

Aaron was also elected one of the county's first school trustees, scheduling classes from autumn to spring and making sure students had access to basic textbooks and readers.⁴⁹ Seventeen-year old Sarah Jane and fifteen-year old John worked alongside their parents at home and in the fields, but Margaret sent Mary, thirteen, and Amelia, eleven, Jesse, nine, and Thomas, six, to class whenever possible, making sure they received the best education available to them. Instruction took place in various homes until 1855, when an adobe school was built on the north side of Duel creek.⁵⁰

Colonizing Southern Utah

The Cherrys hadn't been in their new home long before Aaron received a call from church headquarters to join a settlement mission in southern Utah. Building strong Latter-day Saint communities across the territory was an important part of Brigham Young's vision for the church, beginning with locations along the Wasatch front and extending to sites in southern Utah where sugar, cotton and other semitropical crops could be grown to increase the Saints' self-sufficiency.

The first mission to colonize Iron County in Utah's southwestern corner comprised not only a number of farmers, but men with specific skills needed to build a fort and set up civilization in the red rock desert, including "a mill wright, five carpenters, two blacksmiths, four sawyers, one stone cutter, two masons, one gun-smith, a surveyor and two shoemakers." An article in the 16 November, 1850, *Deseret News*

detailed both the colonizers and their supplies as they readied themselves to leave for “Little Salt Lake.” Farmers were advised to come equipped with “twenty-four ploughs, seventeen set drag teeth, grain and grass scythes, sickles and pitchforks, fifty each; five hundred bushels of seed wheat, potatoes, radish, beets, squash, and garden seeds of all kinds; fifty horses, fifty beef cattle, and one cow to two persons.” Each man was to have an axe, spade, shovel and hoe, as well as one gun and two hundred rounds of ammunition.⁵¹

Aaron was among the many pioneers who brought along their wives and children.⁵² To Margaret, the rough two-hundred thirty mile journey to Parowan brought back memories of the family’s immigration to Utah only two years before, but colonizing was a test of faith and the Cherrys demonstrated their commitment in making the move.⁵³ This particular test proved to be short lived, however, as the Cherrys were allowed to return to Centerville by late 1851.

Life in Centerville

Aaron’s leadership skills were immediately tapped upon his return home, beginning with his responsibility as a distribution agent for *The Deseret News*⁵⁴ and his appointment as Centerville’s first post master several years later. By then, Aaron had replaced the family’s rustic log cabin with a comfortable two-story adobe home on Main Street⁵⁵ where neighbors called to pick up their mail.⁵⁶ Aaron was also among several men selected to survey and fence land belonging to Davis County,⁵⁷ and oversaw road improvements while serving as a district road superintendent.

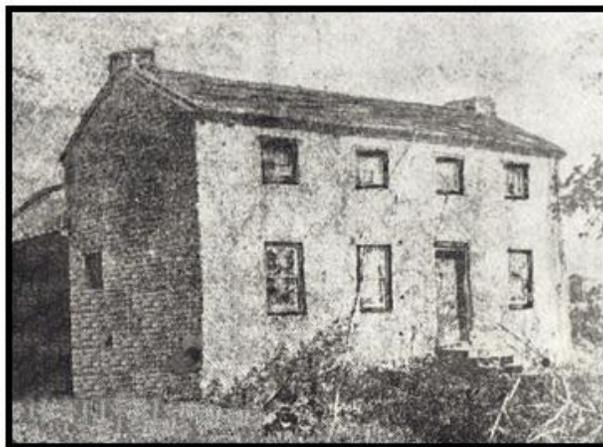
He was awarded the duties of water master on Deuel Creek in 1855,⁵⁸ a particularly important responsibility usually reserved for bishops. Only the year before Aaron had appealed for arbitration on a dispute concerning water rights which he claimed were being infringed upon by another settler who built a saw mill above Aaron’s grist mill on Deuel Creek. By this time the almost two hundred residents⁵⁹ of Centerville were taxing the snow-fed streams trickling down from the mountains, and people considered the water “barely sufficient for their subsistence.”⁶⁰ Aaron’s dispute was referred to the ward bishop, Sanford Porter, for settlement.⁶¹

The scarcity of water was only one of many trials faced by Centerville’s citizens. A scourge of grasshoppers descended on their fields in the early summer of 1855, “flying in such numbers as almost to darken the sun.”⁶² While the “iron clads” were eventually blown into the Great Salt Lake by a strong east wind, many crops and

kitchen gardens suffered under a severe drought that same year. The winter of 1855-56 was called “the hard winter” after hundreds of cattle, horses and sheep died thanks to the lean pastures and lack of range grass. The following spring families were forced to ration their food, living on weeds and roots cooked in milk.⁶³

At the same time Centerville’s citizens struggled for physical sustenance there was also a lack of spiritual nourishment in the community. Apostle Wilford Woodruff found while visiting Bishop Sanford Porter in 1854 that no meetings had been held for months.⁶⁴ This same complacency showed itself in other settlements, triggering a reform movement throughout the church. Brigham Young’s counselor Jedidiah Grant held a three day conference in Centerville, openly chastising the congregation for “their minds being set upon the things of this world more than upon their religion.” Joseph Young spoke of “the spiritual slothfulness and inactivity of the Saints and urged them to honor their religion,” symbolized by accepting rebaptism. The entire village was rebaptized, affirming their commitment to the gospel before Elder Grant’s final meeting, in which he left his blessing “upon the people, their lands, flocks and other belongings.”⁶⁵

Aaron and Margaret had always shown their commitment to the gospel. Three years before their rebaptism they travelled to Salt Lake City where they received their endowments and were sealed for time and all eternity as man and wife.⁶⁶ Several years later Aaron and seventeen-year old Jesse assisted a company of California emigrants travelling to Utah,⁶⁷ donating their time, their teams and their trail skills. Aaron was elected captain of the guard, charged with protecting the party against Indian attacks along the trail.⁶⁸



Aaron replaced the family’s log cabin with the first two-story adobe home in Centerville.



The canyons and foothills of Centerville, Utah.

Lives Well Lived

Aaron and Margaret were blessed from the beginning with material wealth, and they continued to prosper as they grew into middle age together.⁶⁹ They delighted in their posterity, content to watch as their children married and settled in around them and had families of their own. They held a joyous celebration after the triple marriage ceremony for John, Mary and Amelia, all who were married on 6 May, 1856.⁷⁰

Both Aaron and Margaret continued to contribute to the community, with Aaron serving as selectman of the Davis County court.⁷¹ Margaret was not only an active participant in the ladies auxiliary organization of the church, but donated the Cherry's old log cabin as a meeting place for the Relief Society.⁷²

All seemed well until a series of unfortunate events left Margaret reeling with grief. It began with the tragic death of twenty-four year old Thomas, who had signed on with a mule team freighting goods from Utah to Montana. He left the team to deliver his load to a small settlement somewhere along the trail in 1864, but was never seen or heard from again.⁷³ At the same time Aaron's health was fading fast as he developed an aggressive form of cancer on his neck. With no way to treat the affliction, he succumbed to the disease at the age of sixty-three on 16 October, 1864.⁷⁴ Margaret, a widow at fifty-three,

took some comfort in the marriage of her youngest child, Joseph, the following spring, but several months later she was informed that Jesse, who was serving a mission in Nottingham, England, had died suddenly from smallpox.⁷⁵

Margaret spent the next thirty-three years surrounded by family and friends in her Centerville home, receiving visits from her children and many great and great-great grandchildren “to comfort her heart.”⁷⁶ As she weakened with age, Margaret took the opportunity to settle her estate among her descendants, earning the praise of the local newspaper, which noted her decision was “worthy of imitation.”⁷⁷ Her health took a turn for the worst on New Year’s Day, 1898, when she took to her bed. She grew continually weaker as the months passed until she finally died at the age of eighty-seven in the afternoon of 17 October, 1898. She was laid to rest next to her husband in the Centerville Cemetery.⁷⁸



Aaron and Margaret Cherry are buried side by side in the Centerville Cemetery.

ENDNOTES

- ⁴³ Edward W. Tullidge, *Tullidge's Histories, Volume II* (Salt Lake City, Utah: Edward W. Tullidge, publisher, 1889), page 59.
- ⁴⁴ Nathan Tanner Porter (1820-1897), #KWCV-XNL, www.familysearch.org
- ⁴⁵ Mary Ellen Smoot, *The City In-between* (Bountiful, Utah: Carr Printing Company, 1975), page 31.
- ⁴⁶ Originally known as Deuel Creek, the settlement retained the name of Cherry Creek for some years, even after the ward was officially named Centerville. See: Glen M. Leonard, *A History of Davis County* (Salt Lake City, Utah: Utah State Historical Society, 1999), page 24.
- ⁴⁷ Tullidge, *Tullidge's Histories (volume II): Containing the History of all the Northern, Eastern and Western Counties of Utah*, page 57.
- ⁴⁸ Smoot, *The City In-between*, page 83.
- ⁴⁹ Leslie T. Foy, *The City Bountiful* (Horizon Publishers, 1975), page 80.
- ⁵⁰ Daniel F. Smith, *My Native Village: A History of Centerville, Utah* (self-published, 1943), page 15.
- ⁵¹ *The Deseret News*, 16 November, 1850.
- ⁵² *Ibid*, 11 January, 1851, names thirty women over fourteen and eighteen children under fourteen among the colonizers.
- ⁵³ Aaron's entire family is shown living in Iron County in the 1850 U.S. census. Aaron Cherry household, 1850 U.S. census, Iron County, Utah Territory; Roll: M432_919; Page: 22A; Image: 48, www.ancestry.com
- ⁵⁴ *The Deseret News*, 27 December, 1851.
- ⁵⁵ The house stood at today's address of 74 East 300 South.
- ⁵⁶ Smoot, *The City In-between*, page 42.
- ⁵⁷ Janice P. Dawson, research notes citing source as Davis County minutes, 1852-69 page 27. Held by Janice P. Dawson.
- ⁵⁸ *Ibid*, page 30.
- ⁵⁹ Smith, *My Native Village: A History of Centerville, Utah*, page 11.
- ⁶⁰ Tullidge, *Tullidge's Histories, Volume II*, page 59.
- ⁶¹ William Robb Purrington, *The History of South Davis County, 1847 to 1870* (Salt Lake City, Utah: University of Utah, 1959), page 71. Purrington refers to Davis County Court minutes, I, entry of December 4, 1854.
- ⁶² Annie Call Carr, editor, *East of Antelope Island* (Salt Lake City: Publisher's Press, 1948), page 65.
- ⁶³ Leonard, *A History of Davis County*, page 108-109.
- ⁶⁴ Smith, *My Native Village: A History of Centerville, Utah*, page 13.
- ⁶⁵ Leonard, *A History of Davis County*, page 64.
- ⁶⁶ "Aaron Benjamin Cherry-Margaret Yelton family group sheet," supplied 1979 by Cleo (Hales) Page. This sheet offers only a generic list of materials consulted.
- ⁶⁷ Passenger list, Perrigrine Sessions Company, California to Bear River, Utah, 16 July-12 August, 1857, <https://history.lds.org/overlandtravels/companyPioneers?lang=eng&companyId=453>
- ⁶⁸ Washington F. Anderson, Letter, 12 August, 1857, Bear River Ferry, <https://history.lds.org/overlandtravels/trailExcerptMulti?lang=eng&companyId=453&sourceId=26230>
- ⁶⁹ Aaron's holdings in 1860 included \$3,400.00 worth of real estate and \$210.00 of personal wealth. Aaron Cherry household, 1860 U.S. census, Davis County, Utah Territory; town of Centerville, Roll: M653_1313; Page: 361; Image: 372; FHL Film: 805313, www.ancestry.com
- ⁷⁰ "Aaron Benjamin Cherry-Margaret Yelton family group sheet," supplied 1979 by Cleo (Hales) Page.

⁷¹ As selectman, Aaron approved with the court a decision to issue alcohol licenses if endorsed by the bishop. Tullidge, *Tullidge's Histories (volume II): Containing the History of all the Northern, Eastern and Western Counties of Utah*, page 72.

⁷² Laura Walton L. Barber, "History of John James Cherry," #KWNJ-GL6, www.familysearch.org

⁷³ Thomas may have been working with his brother-in-law, Thomas Harris, who ran mule teams to Montana. Minetta Adeline Walton Wood, "Life of Carline Cherry Harris," #KWJ6-FLV, www.familysearch.org

⁷⁴ Aaron's obituary noted he was the oldest resident in Davis County. *The Deseret News*, 19 October, 1864.

⁷⁵ "Jesse Yelton Cherry, Mormon Pioneer Missionary," Jesse Yelton Cherry, #KWV-H12, <https://familysearch.org/photos/stories/2092129>

⁷⁶ At her death, Margaret had thirty-five grandchildren, fifty-two great grandchildren and four great-great grandchildren. *The Davis County Clipper*, 21 October, 1898.

⁷⁷ *Ibid*, 16 Nov 1893.

⁷⁸ Plot A-19-3-7. Lane Cheney, compiler, *Headstone Inscriptions of the Centerville City Cemetery*, (self-published, 1983) page 20.

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