



## David Lewis

David Lewis was an early member of the Church of Jesus Christ. His family, consisting of 5 brothers joined the church in Kentucky. They were with the early church in Missouri, Nauvoo, and Utah. David and his brother were both victims of the Hauns Mill Massacre. His brother Tarlton survived and was nursed back to health by David's wife Duritha. David saw his impending death if he stayed at the mill so he walked out of the mill and home. Five bullet holes were found in his clothing, but his body was not hit by any. The next day he went to check on the victims inside the mill, and to bury them in the well and was captured by those who had attacked the mill. Each night they released him to go home and cut firewood for his wife, stay the night, and return the following day.



This riveting story is told by him and others in the memories section of his page on [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org). Later he and Duritha moved to Nauvoo. Her father died and left an inheritance for her which included 3 slaves, two girls and one male named Jerry along with a sizeable amount of money. Their trip to Utah included a time at winter quarters, Nebraska.

The trip west for these early settlers was very difficult as were the first years in the valley. When they arrived in Salt Lake City they used the remainder of her financial inheritance and the help of Jerry to set up a nice farm located near where the City County Building of Salt Lake now is. Jerry's relationship to the family is not known, as slavery was not legal in Utah, but he remained with the family and his assistance was crucial to their welfare. David's son Siney referred to him as Faithful Negro Jerry.

Those early pioneers in the valley had difficult times. They lived through losing their harvest to grasshoppers, and many other hardships. In 1851 He married

Clarissa Harding, a young widow who had recently lost her husband and half her children. In her biography it states simply "In Salt Lake Clarissa married David Lewis who promised to be a good father to her children, but was not, so she left him". They were divorced on 13 August 1854. The church was at this time encouraging all men who could do so to take plural wives. His son's comments about his father's next two wives stating that he married two sisters and then moved south to Parowan. He married Elizabeth Carson on August 4, 1852. And on 18 Jan 1855 he married Elizabeth's half sister Margaret Jane Pearson.

The only reference to his mission in the Southern Indian Mission is that he was called as Indian agent. He must not have stayed very long, as he was in Parowan in 1855. His first wife Duritha did not move south to Parowan, it seems possible that she wanted to stay on the farm that she had established in Salt Lake, or maybe she felt like she needed a break from starting over.

He possibly didn't marry Margaret until later. He is reported to have made one trip to Salt Lake after moving south. And he is married to Margaret in the Salt Lake Endowment House. His children with Elizabeth were born in 1852, 1853, and 1854. The first died the first year. Margaret did not have any children. Elizabeth also had two children that they rescued from Native American Slavery.

David died in 1855. This left Elizabeth with two children of her own, and two Indian children. Siney reported that his mother wept bitterly when she received news of the death of her husband.

This information is from FamilySearch.org.