



JAMES LAKE JR. 1782-1874

James Lake, Jr. was born in 1782 at White Creek, New York to James Lake and Margaret Hagerman. James's father backed the British during the American Revolutionary War and was a prisoner of war. After the war when he was five years old, his family moved to Canada. There his father appealed for land because he was loyal to the United Empire during the revolution. He obtained the land, and the family stayed in Canada. James's grandparents and several of his aunts and uncles had settled in the area. When James reached the age of 21, he also petitioned the Crown for land and obtained it.

In 1809, James Lake married his cousin, Mary Lake. They had the following children, George (1810), Denis (1812), Cyrus (1815), Mary (1816). Mary Lake died about the time of the birth of their daughter, so James was left with four children under the age of six.

Just a few months after his wife's death, he married Elizabeth Stover. Then continued living in the Township of Ernestown. Their children were Julia (1817), Lawrence (1818), and James Madden (1823). Mary died the day James was born. James' oldest son, George, also died in 1821.

Adversity was not over for the Lake family because during this same time period, about 1822, James accidentally hit his shin with an ax, which splintered it to the bone. Gangrene set in, resulting in the leg's amputation. This was done without an anesthetic other than whiskey. Additionally, the family was very poor. In the end, James was a widower, very poor, crippled, and had a family of six living children.

Because of the situation, James decided to let his childless sister, Margaret Lake Madden and her husband, William Madden, take the new baby and his daughter Julia, aged six. The Maddens raised the two children. James III took the name Madden as a middle name, but both children retained the surname of Lake.

James Lake married Philomela Smith on 3 Sep 1823. She was a widow and with four children. With this marriage, the two families consisted of 8 living children: Denis, almost 11; Lyman Smith, 10; James Harvey Smith, 8; Cyrus Lake, 8; Mary Lake, 7; Elizabeth Boardman Smith, 6; Lawrence Lake, nearly 5; and Esther Smith, 3.

The Lakes, still living in the township of Ernestown, had ten children; six of them were born in Canada: Sabra (1824), William Bailey (1826), Barnabas (1827), Clarissa (1828), Jane (1830), and Lydia Ann (1832).

Because of their large family, James began to prepare to build a home in 1825. One of James's friends, Brigham Young, who was a carpenter, helped him build his home and out buildings. The Young family joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and were active in preaching

The Lakes were visited by Latter-day Saint Elders, Brigham, Hiram, and Phineas Young in 1832. They accepted the teaching of the Mormon Church, were baptized by Elder Eleazer Miller in July of that year. In July 1832, a group of Saints, including the Lake family, moved to Kirtland, Ohio. James and Philomela took 12 of their 17 children with them. They ranged in age from 20 years to 13 months old.

The family purchased property in Kirtland, and James and his sons helped in the construction of the Kirtland Temple hauling stone and laying bricks. In April 1834, a son, Moroni was born to the family. A year later, in May 1835, a daughter Samantha was born.

When church members were forced to leave Kirkland, the Lakes went to Kane County, Illinois. The two youngest Lake children, George Lake (1838) and Sarah Amanda (1841) were born. In Kane County, the family rented land and farmed in order to obtain money for an eventual move to Nauvoo. They were able to move to Nauvoo in 1844, shortly after the death of Joseph Smith. The Lakes then helped in the construction of the Nauvoo Temple and Nauvoo House.

The Mormons continued to be persecuted and at October Conference in 1845, the people were told of the upcoming move to the West. The people of Nauvoo spent the fall getting ready for the move. The Nauvoo Temple was dedicated in December 1845, and James and Philomela were endowed in the Nauvoo Temple the last day of December, 1845.

In February, the Saints were expelled from Nauvoo. They crossed the Mississippi River on a "bridge of ice" and eventually arrived at Council Bluffs, 500 miles away, in June 1846. While in Council Bluffs, James Lake was called as a bishop. The Lakes stayed in the area until 1848 when they moved to Missouri to work. In May 1850, the Lake family started West, and James Lake was appointed as a Captain of Fifty. In September 1850, the family arrived in the Great Salt Lake Valley and in the fall of 1850, moved to Ogden and settled in the Ogden Fort. George Lake, one of their sons, reported, "The country was barren and desolate. The country abounded with sage brush, wolves, and nude Indians."

In the spring of 1851, the Lakes moved out of the fort. He tore down his cabin and rebuilt it on Four Mile Creek, four miles from Ogden. It later became Harrisville.

When the Weber Stake was organized in February 1851, James Lake was called to be a member of the high council. In the fall of 1855, he was called as patriarch.

James Lake married three women in polygamy. He married Esther Ann Pierce Gheen for time only in Oct. 1853. He married Mary Hutton McMurray in Oct 1857 for "time only." He was married to Polly Smith, Philomela Smith's deceased sister, in Oct. 1861.

The Lakes were part of the evacuation to Utah County with the threat of Johnston's Army in April 1858. They did not return to Weber County until July 1858.

James and Philomela continued living in Harrisville until the summer of 1872, when they moved to Oxford, Idaho, to live with and be cared for by their youngest son, George. Philomela died in March 1873, and James died 7 October 1874 on his 86th birthday. They were buried in the Oxford, Idaho Cemetery.

SOURCES:

Allredge, Cynthia B. "James Lake, Jr." Nelson Family Genealogy Site. n.d. Web. 12 Jun 2012.

Jeffery, Janet F. *History of the James Lake, Jr. Family*. Roy, Utah: J.F. Jeffery, 1990. Print.

Lake, Barnabas	Lake, Mary Lake
Lake, Clarissa	Lake, Moroni
Lake, Cyrus	Lake, Philomel Smith
Lake, Denis	Lake, Polly Smith
Lake, Elizabeth Stover	Lake, Sabra
Lake, Esther Ann Pierce Gheen	Lake, Samantha
Lake, George (1810)	Lake, Sarah Amanda
Lake, George (1838)	Lake, William Bailey
Lake, James	Madden, Margaret Lake
Lake, James Madden	Madden, William
Lake, James, Jr.	Miller, Eleazer
Lake, Jane	Smith, Elizabeth Boardman
Lake, Julia	Smith, Esther
Lake, Lawrence	Smith, James Harvey
Lake, Lydia Ann	Smith, Lyman
Lake, Margaret Hagerman	Young, Brigham
Lake, Mary	Young, Hiram
Lake, Mary Hutton McMurray	Young, Phineas