Almon Newell

Almon Newell, son of Mahitable Griffin & Moses Newell, was born 28 June 1803 in Butternuts, Otsego, New York.

The settlers of that region were primarily engaged in farming, hunting and trapping. They traveled up and down Butternut Creek, but seldom went very far from the settlement because the threat of hostile Indians was a real danger at all times. The Indians were very angry because they felt the white man was encroaching upon his territory & would eventually destroy his very existence.

Travel was almost impossible. The roads were narrow, rutted wagon tracks and most of the streams lacked bridges. For this reason most of the Pioneers and early settlers used the waterways when ever possible. Sturdy rafts and barges were built and later the material was used to construct new homes when they found a place to settle. All provisions for the journey and for establishing a new home had to be carried with them.

In about 1829 Almon and married Olive Comstock of Williamstown, Oswego, New York. They settled in nearby Amboy where two sons, Elliot Alfred and Oris Comstock were born. It was here they first heard the news of the Restored Gospel and were baptized and confirmed members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in 1835.

We have not been able, at this time, to trace the route they took to Nauvoo, Ill., soi we can only guess they followed the trails which were prescribed by the Prophet, going by wagon train whenever necessary, or using the river boats as often as possible. We know the journey was very hazardous and certainly uncomfortable for all of the pioneers and we can only marvel at the great fortitude and determination as well as the loyal dedication of these early saints.

Upon their arrival, or somewhere along the trail (we aren’t certain), another son, Cealey was born and died. Then in 1844, a daughter, Sarah Olive was born in Nauvoo.

They enjoyed a very short time of peace and rest before the mobs came in and drove them out of their homes. They were forced to cross the Mississippi River in the bitter cold of February, and find what shelter they could on the other side. It was during this trying time that Olive died. We have no record of the cause of her death, but many of the pioneers had pneumonia and many others of cholera.

Almon was now left homeless and alone to care for the 3 children. He, along with many of the saints, found temporary refuge in Iowa. It was here that he met a young widow, Rachel Bunn Lundy Jerman. We have no details as to the cause of her husband’s death, but we know that a large number of the men were killed by the mobs. Rachel was left with 2 small sons, so it seemed a very wise decision for her to Marry Almon.

The family spent some time together in Iowa before heading west. Here the eldest son, Elliot Alfred, married Marie Louisa Roberts, and they stayed in Kanesville until after the birth of their first child. We have not been able to determine exactly when both families came to Utah, but the Provo Second Ward Record of 1852 lists both of the families as members of that ward. Almon Newell, wife Rachel, children Orris and Sarah Newell and Daniel and James Alonzo Jerman, and baby Geraldus Newell.

Almon spent only a short time in Provo before moving his family to Mona, Juab, Utah.
Here he established a permanent home for his family.

Pioneering was difficult in any area and we can assume that Mona was no exception. He probably built the typical log cabin for their first dwelling. This could be constructed quickly, using material that was available in the area. The thick log walls and sod roof were nice and warm in winter and were a special blessing in the summer as insulation against the hot desert sun and wind.

For a few years, the family prospered and enjoyed life. Geraldus grew to manhood and married Sarah Ann Shawcroft. His posterity, for the most part, remained in Juab Co. Area. Sarah married David Drown, and moved to Sandy, Salt Lake Co., and Oris married Mary Eveline Johnson. 4 of their children were born in Mona. They moved to Moab, and their posterity is still to be found there and in the surrounding area. The eldest son, Elliott remained in Provo, where most of his descendants are to this day.

During the winter months when there was not much work to do on the farm, the men went to work in the mines at Eureka, Tintic, Mammoth & Dividend. It was while working in the mine at Mammoth that Almon and Geraldus were killed in a tragic accident. It seems that Geraldus got caught in the mine cage. His father tried to pry the cage open to free his son, but he was impaled on the shovel handle and both of them died, 29 May 1878.

They were buried together in the Mona City Cemetery.

NOTE; If anyone has anymore information on this family, please write to THE NEWELL FAMILY ORGANIZATION Further address says to send information to Ernest C. Newell, and he has since passed away and I do not know who to contact as of this date of Oct. 2002

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**THE TWIN GRAVES**

So lonely we laid them beneath the cold clay-
The friends we have cherished in life’s early day.
In one grave we have left them to sleep.
They have left us in sorrow, in sadness to weep.

Now heavy our hearts as we turned from the place-
What sorrow was mirrored on each friendly face.
The tears fell in torrents from hearts running o’er
We left them dear friends, we shall see them no more.

Oh, how we shall miss them around the bright hearth
When we mingle our voices in gladness and mirth.
Is the pleasures of evening, our parties, our balls,
We shall think of them dear ones and tear drops will fall.

Yes, sadly we’ll miss them when in gay throng
We join in our socials, our dancing, our song,
We’ll cherish the memory ‘till life’s dream is o’er
And we meet past the shadow, to part never more.

A tribute to dear friends by George W. Johnson Mona, Juab, Utah
(Typed by Kathleen J. Woolf 829 Saturn Ave. Idaho Falls, Id. 83402 5 Oct 2002)