

# William Baley Maxwell

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Isn't it great how we come to love our ancestors even though we never really have met them. This 5<sup>th</sup> great grandpa of yours sounds like a pretty great guy who was always willing to do his part, and be generous and kind. I really enjoyed reading your essay!

William Baley Maxwell is my 5th great grandpa, on my dad's side. He was born in Shawnee Town, Illinois, on March 14, 1821. He was the only child. His dad's name was Richard and his mom's name was Ruth Hodge Maxwell. Richard died when William was just six months old. Six years later his mom married William Barnet so the family moved to Missouri. Later when he was 19 he married Lucreta Bracken on November 26, 1840. William and Lucreta moved to Iowa where they took care of their farm and the maple grove belonging to the church.

William joined the church of Jesus Christ of Latter day saints soon after his marriage. His wife was already a member of the church. They loved to go to church every sunday.

William Maxwell was one of five hundred men who volunteered for service in the Mexican War and became known as the Mormon Battalion. He left his wife and two small boys Lee, and Jim and his wife's father Levi Bracken. After sharing the hardships of the Mormon battalion and being mustered out of service at San Bernardino in 1847, Maxwell returned to the east by way of Salt Lake City, Utah expecting to find his family provided with a team of mules, wagon, two cows, and then ran away with the team of mules and wagon.

There were fifty wagons in the train with which he and his family and his wife's father and mother traveled. The train was divided into groups of ten wagons each; Maxwell was appointed Captain of one of those groups. He had early shown ability as a leader and an organizer. He was strong, active, and moved quickly, He was also very generous and kind hearted.

William took an active part in the Indian troubles of those early days. He fought Indians, grasshoppers, crickets, and drought with the other pioneers of that district and always had amazing courage and unfailing faith in god.

At the coming of Johnson's Army, Maxwell and other men were summoned to the defense of the mormon homes. He received from President Young, the commission of Captain in the Utah Militia. Maxwell was one of the men who made the treaty with the Ute Indians in 1857. He lived in various places in Northern Utah like Stewart ranch, Sanquin, Payson, and others.

On March 4, 1857 Maxwell married Jane Mathias in Salt Lake, ten years later he married again because his wife died. But in the fall of 1867, he married Maryette Hamblin. She was a young widow with two small daughters. Maxwell was noted for his hospitality. The Maxwell homes in Spring Valley were open for everybody and no one was ever charged for meals or lodgings. Towards the end of his life overall he had 34 kids and 3 wives. He died on August 27, 1895 at the age of 74.

I chose my grandpa Maxwell because he is a good example to me and my family. William was a very hard worker even though he had some hard times. He was a very nice person and was willing to help and do things. I love my grandpa Maxwell even though I did not know him.