

JAMES MASON CLOWARD

Author: Unknown

James Cloward was born 17 Oct. 1826 at Chester County, Pa. He was the son of Jacob and Ann Pluck Cloward. There's was a family of eight, five boys and three girls.

James father was a blacksmith by trade, but the family followed the occupation of farming.

The Cloward family heard the gospel and embraced it at the same time of James' youth. The entire family joined themselves to this strange doctrine, which brought persecution immediately upon them. James was baptized in June 1842. The family finally decided to gather with the nearest saints, disposing of their property at a sacrifice. They continued with the saints through all their persecutions, finally locating in Nauvoo, Illinois.

Being closely associated with the Prophet and his family, James was present when the Prophet made his wonderful speech when he unsheathed his sword stating that it would not be unsheathed again until his people had their rights, for he would gladly give his life.

James well remembered the transfigurations when the mouth fell upon Brigham Young's people wondering if the Prophet had risen from the dead. He saw the Prophet when he left for the Carthage jail, his mother telling the family, as he passed that they would never see the Prophet alive again.

James well remembered the sorrow which came to the saints when the sad news reached Nauvoo, that the Prophet and his brother Hyrum had been killed.

The lamentations were beyond description. He saw the bodies of the martyred brought from Carthage to Nauvoo. He went to the mansion house and saw the bodies lying side by side in their caskets, after the bodies were disposed of, there was weeping among the saints and only a short period of peace for the Mormons.

Finally it was decided that the saints should leave the state. One bleak dark night the mob came to the comfortable home of the Clowards and asked them which they would do, denounce Joe Smith as a Prophet or have their house burned. Jacob Cloward, the father of James said, "We cannot deny the testimony we have and will take our medicine." This was a very trying time and the mother "Ann" and family were told to get out of the house or be burned. They came out thinking that the mob would have a little mercy on them, but it was not so. Their home and all their belongings went up in flames while the family stood shivering and weeping. Jacob Cloward was very much heartbroken and he left until it was all in ashes.

His family thought he had been killed, but later he came back, stating he could not stand to be humiliated to watch his family treated so, and his home burned. It was too much for his nerves and he suffered a nervous breakdown which finally caused his death.

Later James crossed the river camping on the opposite side. The sorrow they endured while there, when they could gaze upon what was once their happy home, where they enjoyed prosperity and had looked upon the face of the Prophet of God. Now they must once more seek a new home, but they not where to go. Finally they burned faces westward. They endured many hardships before reaching Salt Lake Valley.

James' father, Jacob Cloward, and his brother, Thomas P. Cloward, were with Brigham

Young when they entered the Salt Lake Valley. His name being on the North side of the monument standing on Main Street in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Jacob Cloward, James father was sick from the time they were driven from Nauvoo and died three weeks after reaching the valley.

James was ordained a Seventy in 1850. He was married to Mary Ann Bauming in 1852, the daughter of John and Hannah Chrisman Baum. There were eight children born to them,

He also married a second wife, Adelia Readen in 1857. There were three children born to them one son and two daughters.

He went to the endowment house, in the year of 1861 and had all of his family sealed to him.