

JOHN JOSHUA TANNER

BIOGRAPHY

John Joshua Tanner was born December 19, 1811 at Greenwich, New York. John Joshua was the second in age, of John Tanner's children who came West with the Mormons. He was seven years of age when the family moved from Greenwich to Bolton. John J., along with the family, spent the next four years in the hilly wooded area of Bolton, known as Wardboro. Later they moved to Bolton Landing, where John J. grew to manhood.

Nothing is known of his life as a boy except that he grew up in the home of John Tanner, known to be a successful farmer and an active Baptist laypreacher who was highly respected in the area.

It is safe to assume that he was acquainted with the Mormon pioneers, Jared and Simeon Carter, and that he had much the same influences as the other Tanners in joining the Latter-day Saints. He would have been twenty-one years of age at the time of that important event, but there is no information as to his reactions.

In 1834 the Prophet made the request that young and middle-aged bodied men join a military force which was marching to the rescue of the persecuted Saints in Missouri. It is not known how the decision was made, but John J. and Nathan volunteered from the family and traveled to New Portage, Ohio, where the troops were being assembled. Along with 150 men, they left New Portage about May 8th and began the long march of nearly a thousand miles to Independence, Missouri. John Joshua's work appears to have been generally satisfactory. He was commended along with a few others on his mature conduct when the frightening cholera struck. Under similar circumstances full-grown men have been known to panic and run, but John Joshua and his brother ministered to the sick and buried the dead.

Following the advice of the Prophet, the Tanner brothers remained in Missouri a year to assist the hard-pressed Saints. They then returned to Kirtland where they found their folks who had moved there they had been in Missouri. Later that year, July 1835, John Joshua married Rebecca Archibald Smith, daughter of William and Jane Calkins Smith, a Bolton girl, who apparently had also moved to Kirtland.

This was a fortunate marriage; Rebecca came from a substantial family and she had much to offer a young man starting out in life. The next year Nathan also married into this fine family.

Taking his bride, John J. returned to Missouri, accompanied by Sidney and his family. Here they proceeded to locate land and timber for themselves and others of the family whom they expected to follow. John J. and Rebecca's first child, Lydia Jane, was born Nov 1836 at Gallatin, Davies County, Missouri.

G.G. GRANDFATHER  
OF  
MICHAEL H. SHULER

ZIONS CAMP  
AGE 23

For three years, along with other family members, John Joshua was in the thick of the fight with the Missouri mobbers who were seeking to expel them from the state.

During the winter of 1838-39, at the time of the final expulsion from Missouri, Rebecca was expecting her second baby. Nathan describes the confused condition as John J. hurried to get his wife to a place of safety in Illinois. Says Nathan: "John J. brought his family and old Father Baker, and his wife and my wife and child, and all their goods in one wagon, and John Joshua's wife was liable to be sick on the road." The baby, William Smith Tanner, arrived safely in New Liberty, only a few days after their arrival.

The Tanners spent one year in New Liberty, then moved up-river to Montrose, Iowa, across from Nauvoo. Here in cooperation with Father John Tanner and brother Sidney, he fenced and farmed a large tract of land. At this location they enjoyed six years of comparative peace which enabled them to recuperate from their former losses. Here also, three of their children were born, Marquis De Lafayette, Edward Orlando, and Cynthia Maria.

In 1846 they were again uprooted from their home and began the weary trip which would eventually lead them to the Rocky Mountains. If the Tanners had had only themselves to be concerned with, they would have been able to move in comparative comfort. But there were so many Saints without means and President Young had led the brethren in making a covenant to assist to the full extent of their means the poor who desired to move with the Saints. This placed a continuing burden upon John J. and the other Tanner men who left for the West with good equipment.

Christian charity is a great leveler, and by the time the Tanners had divided with the poor and then divided again, they were almost as bad off as the rest. Nathan has put it dramatically, "If there is justice in heaven, let the Gods record our credits. Our families were there and helped the poor all they could. No Tanner was ever known to shirk in the days of hardship and trials."

All too little is known about the activities of John Joshua in the spring and summer of 1846 as the Saints waded through the mud of Iowa in an attempt to gain a new home in the West. The roads were poor or nonexistent and it rained and rained. There were days and sometimes weeks when they made no progress at all. It is known that John Joshua, as the other Tanners of Montrose, was a man of tremendous physical and emotional strength - he was in the prime of his life, thirty-five years of age - and he gave his best to the cause at hand.

Along with his father and brother Sidney, he was appointed one of the compassionate bishops whose duty it was to help those in need. This appointment seems not to have had anything to do with the presidency of a ward, but Brigham had said that if a man was willing to give all he had for the Lord to use as He wished, he was worthy to be a bishop. John Joshua Tanner was such a man.

In the Journal History we find a communication regarding John Joshua Tanner dated 17 June 1846 addressed to Father Huntington, "Sir please tell Br. J. J. Tanner if he arrives in time that we want he should come to us at Missouri River. We shall be there for some weeks. My respect to yourself and the family and may the Lord bless you all. Signed A. Lyman.

His various errands of mercy caused John J. to lose contact with the company he was traveling with, and he fell behind so that he reached the Missouri River a week behind them. An interesting entry in the "Nebraska Journal" under the date of August 17 reads as follows: "Voted that John J. Tanner and eight others have permission to join themselves to Amasa M. Lyman's Company, having nine men and boys, twelve wagons, five horses, thirty-six oxen, twenty-four cows and four sheep." It has not been possible to learn who the others were in John Joshua's company, but he was probably assisting some of the Saints who needed help.

John Joshua was in Winter Quarters from August 1846 until the Tanner family left for the West in late June of 1848. It was here that John Henry was born 10 March 1847 and Cynthia Maria died 22 Nov 1847. There is no documented evidence of why he did not accompany the rest of the Tanner family West, but many strong and efficient men were needed at the river to assist in organizing and equipping the emigrants who were arriving almost daily. There were oxen to be raised and trained, wagons to be made ready, and food to be prepared for the overland trip of a thousand miles. Many of those comprising the emigrants had little knowledge of frontier life, and knowledgeable, practical men, like John Joshua were in great demand.

With the departure of Brigham Young and most of the Saints from Winter Quarters in June and July of 1848, the camp was abandoned. Those who remained at the river moved to Kanessville (now Council Bluffs) on the east side. This included John Joshua and Rebecca who continued their compassionate work among the "green" arrivals for three additional years, totaling five years in all they were on the Missouri River. John J. with Rebeckah and Lydia Jane are listed as members in Pottowatomie Co. Iowa Church Records. Elsie and Edwin, twins, were born at Kanessville, Iowa 22 September 1849. Edwin died at birth.

John Joshua came to Salt Lake Valley in 1851 in the company of Isaac Allred, a long-time acquaintance whom he had known in Zion's Camp, and with whom he had been associated at the river. By this time the church was phasing out the Iowa camps, and Kanessville was abandoned the next year. All the Saints were advised to come to Utah.

There was a ready made place in Utah for John and Rebecca. The Tanners had settled at what was known as South Cottonwood, which is in the vicinity of 6000 South and 1300 East, Salt Lake, or Murray, and had acquired considerable land. In March of 1851, all but Nathan left South Cottonwood and joined the mission to San Bernardino. This made a place for John J. who moved in and made it his

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GREAT GRANDMOTHER  
OF

Michael H. Shuler

permanent home. Some interesting information from the South Cottonwood records indicate the first meeting house was built in the ward during 1851 - a small adobe building known as Jonathan C. Wright's school house. Previous to this all meetings had been held in private homes. There were about 517 souls belonging to the Church in 1853.

It has not been possible to find much information about the activities of John Joshua in his later life. When he entered the Salt Lake Valley in 1851 he was forty years of age and more than half his life was before him. The land where he settled in South Cottonwood was not particularly good and those who made their living farming were not overly rewarded for their labor. But with persistent work and strict economy, he and his brother Nathan prospered perhaps a bit above their neighbors. It is quite possible John Joshua engaged in other activities than farming. The members of the Tanner family had interests in a hotel or boardinghouse at 'Tannerville' and Nathan Jr. contracted for hauling ore down Cottonwood Canyon, but the fact that his oldest sons left South Cottonwood and went to other locations indicates a lack of opportunities there.

Esther, John Joshua and Rebecca's last child, was born 4 Jan 1853 and died the same day. Rebecca passed away 24 April 1854 in South Cottonwood. We regret that we have found nothing that would give us more insight into the personality of Rebecca. The Index Card to Nauvoo Temple Records with information given by her gives her birth as 17 April 1816 at Bolton, Warren County, New York to William and Lydia Jane Calkins Smith. Her family, as indicated earlier in the biography, moved to Kirtland, Lake County, Ohio where she met John Joshua Tanner (or knew him previously in Bolton) and they were married in July 1835. They were both endowed in the Nauvoo Temple 30 December 1845 and she was sealed to John J. on the 28 January 1846. We do not have the earlier baptism date but re-baptism was 30 March 1964 by proxy. A letter written by her Mother to Rachel, Nathan's wife (Rebecca's sister) pleading with her to get Rebecca to please write something home indicates she had neglected to keep in as close contact as she should with her parents. One granddaughter related that she had understood she would never have her picture taken. There is much we do not know but there is much we do which is told in her devotion to her husband and the Church and in the family she raised. We quote from the Dedication page of John Tanner and his Family "To Rebecca Smith, wife of John Joshua Tanner, who spent six years with her husband traveling from Nauvoo to Salt Lake and lived but three years in the promised land." The genealogy in the following pages of this book will reveal to some extent the contribution she has made to the world.

John Joshua Tanner married Mary Ann Neyman Nickerson and Craig Lant Shuler has submitted the following information on her life:

"Mary Ann Neyman was born September 5, 1823 in Butler County, Pennsylvania to William Neyman and Jane North. Her family joined the Church and gathered with the Saints.

In Nauvoo, Mary Ann met Levi Stillman Nickerson. He also was a convert from Pennsylvania, born 2 April 1814 at Springville, Sus-

quehanna County to Freeman Nickerson and Huldah Chapman. Although she was only sixteen and he was nearly ten years older, they were married May 10, 1840 in Nauvoo, Hancock County, Illinois.

Mary Ann and Levi Stillman Nickerson's first two children (Jane born Dec 28, 1841 in Nauvoo and Levi born Apr 1843 in Nauvoo) both died in infancy. How sad this must have been for the young bride.

Mary Ann and her husband received their endowments in the Nauvoo Temple on January 6, 1846 and were sealed there Feb 6, 1846. Mary Ann was expecting a third child when most of the Saints left Nauvoo, but stayed until after the baby, Elizabeth, was born 8 Apr 1846. The family traveled across the state of Iowa with their new baby by wagon, probably in the summer of 1846. Most of the Saints lived on the Nebraska side of the Missouri River during the winter of 1846-7 and those who did not go to the Rocky Mountains the following summer moved back to the Iowa side of the river until their time came to go. The Nickersons, like the Tanners, probably followed this path.

Mary Ann and Levi's only surviving sons were born in Faryville, Pottawattami County, Iowa, Eleaser Freeman on May 4, 1848 and Charles Albert on May 4, 1850.

The family came to Utah in the summer of 1850 or 1851. It is interesting to note that Levi S. Nickerson, Mary A., their three children and Mary's mother Jane Neyman and her nineteen year old sister Rachel Neyman (who later married Sidney Tanner) were all listed in one household on the census of Great Salt Lake City in 1851. The Nickerson's last child, Mary Ann, was born August 3, 1851, probably in Provo, Utah County.

Her husband recrossed the plains - perhaps on a mission or perhaps to bring more converts to Zion when he died Dec 15, 1853 at age 39. He died in Kanessville (now Council Bluffs), Pottawattamie County, Iowa.

Being a widow with four children under eight, Mary was very much in need of a husband to care for her and her family. When John Joshua Tanner's wife, Rebecca A. Smith Tanner died on April 24, 1854, he was similarly left with six motherless children, five still at home. The Nickersons and Tanners had probably known each other during the years both lived in the Kanessville, Iowa area. John Joshua Tanner married Mary Ann Neyman Nickerson, probably in 1854. She thus became, at age 31, the mother of ten children ranging in age from 17 to 3.

On March 13, 1857 her husband followed Church counsel and entered plural marriage. Mary Ann was sealed for time to John Joshua Tanner in President Brigham Young's office and then gave her husband to be married to two young girls, Mahaleth Jane Chase, almost 17, and Nancy Augusta Ferguson, almost 14. It must have been hard for Mary Ann to see her husband with such young wives,

especially as they began to have families. She bore no children for John J. Tanner and by the census of 1870 was no longer living with him. Mary Ann died in Provo, Utah County, Utah on Nov 22, 1916 at the age of 93."

Mahaletch Jane Chase, John Joshua's third wife, was born 16 Mar 1840 at Walnut Grove, Knoll County, Illinois to Isaac and Jane Smith Chase. She married John Joshua 13 March 1857 in the Endowment House (President Brigham Young's office) and was sealed to him in plural marriage. She was just 17 years of age at the time. Three children were born to them, Albert Joshua the 14 December 1859 at Union, now Midvale, Utah; Nathan Chauncy the 8 February 1865 at Union; and Mahaletch Abiah the 31 March 1867 at Union. She appeared with John Joshua in the 1860 Census of Salt Lake Territory with Mary Ann and Nancy Augusta and children. Albert J. was just six months old. She also appears in the 1870 Census with the three children but did not appear in the 1880 Census. She remarried out of plural marriage about 1878 Alpheus Franklin and they had one child, a daughter born in 1879 named Catherine. From Mary Ann Elizabeth Beard Petersen, a granddaughter, we learn the following:

"About all I remember of Grandmother was going to her home, which was about a mile or so north of Coalville, and she would always have brown sugar or lump sugar for us kids. I thought she was a very sweet, kind Grandma, and it was a choice experience for us to visit her. We would have to walk this distance as the roads were very dusty and muddy at times.

"I guess my Grandmother moved to live with us in Coalville, after G. F. Franklin died. He died the year before I was born so I did not know him, but believe he was a carpenter as I can remember my older sisters having little cupboard and tables and chairs and chests made by him.

"I can remember Mother saying Grandmother had been blind for 14 years, and I can remember her being so fussy about how she looked after she lost her eye sight, to be sure her dress or apron were on the right side, and would feel for her hems to be sure she was properly attired."

Mahaletch Jane died 16 September 1918 at Coalville, Summit Co., Utah and was buried 19 September 1918 at Coalville.

John Joshua Tanner married, in plural marriage, Nancy Augusta Ferguson 13 March 1857 in President Brigham Young's office. Nancy was born 17 July 1843 (although South Cottonwood Church records show it to be 1842) in Adams County Illinois, a daughter of Isaac and Almira Foote Ferguson. This would put her age at 14 or 15 at the time of her marriage to John J. who was then 46. She appears in the 1860 census as being 18, in the 1870 census with four of their ten children - Almira Artimissa born 13 December 1860 at South Cottonwood, Isaac William born 19 January 1863, Warren Foote born 8 Dec 1864, and Rebecca Augusta born 21 Oct 1866 all at South Cotton-

wood, Salt Lake County, Utah. Freeman Everton was born 21 Feb 1869 but passed away 27 Jan 1870. In the 1880 Census Nancy is found with seven children - Horace Greeley born 22 Nov 1872, Ina Eugenia born 17 July 1876, Clarence LaVern born 3 July 1878 all in South Cottonwood. Later Ethel May was born 2 May 1882 and Arthur Lyman born 18 June 1887 both at Cottonwood. Arthur Lyman died 14 Aug 1887.

From Blanche Ringrose Jones, a granddaughter, we learn the following:

"As for the life of Grandpa and Grandma I don't know very much. Mama did not talk very much about her mother, but she told me a lot about Grandpa (she must have really loved him). She told me how she grew up riding horses and taking her place with the boys riding herd on the horses and cattle because they never had the place fenced in.

"She never did any housework until she was full grown and they fenced in the ground. Then she had to learn all about housekeeping and etc. She said at first she was like a bull in a china shop trying to learn cooking and washing dishes and etc. But when she was growing up she really learned things from her father.

"Everyone that had a sick horse or cow, no matter what, would bring them to Grandpa to take care of them and mother helped him all the time. She would do everything he told her to do and how happy they both were when the horse or cow was okay again. This stayed with her all her life - she was always helping people who were sick. She was sure a lover of horses and dogs - a family trait".

After John Joshua's death in 1896 Nancy married William D. Palmer 28 June 1904. She died 22 Apr 1925 in Sandy, Oregon.

The following account was published in the Deseret News under the heading "Festival of Zion's Camp":

"The members of Zion's camp met in the Social Hall at 1:00 p.m. on Monday (October 10, 1864) at the instance of Brigham Young. This was the first meeting of this body of veterans for thirty years, and it was truly an interesting occasion. . . President Young then gathered the members of the camp on the north-west and south-west sides of the room, called out all the captains of companies, when ten came forward, each of whom called their respective companies onto the floor for inspection. At this moment Elders George Q. Cannon and John W. Young entered the hall, having just returned from Europe from their missions. The President (and others) went around and shook hands with each of the honored and brave men. Presidents Young and Kimball and Elder Hyde, each in his order, lifted up their hands towards heaven and blessed the members of Zion's Camp, and the other invited guests in the name of the Lord." John Joshua and his brother Nathan were listed in the roll.



Another such Zion's Camp occasion was held 10 October 1866 where those remaining brethren were invited by President Young to meet together in the social Hall for a reunion to enjoy themselves.

In 1889 John Joshua and Nancy Augusta applied for a marriage license in Sanpete County and they were sealed 26 September 1889 in the Manti Temple. The two children who died young were also sealed to them this same date.

In a brief history of William Smith Tanner published in the Portrait, Genealogical & Biographical Record of State of Utah we read, "In Iowa they lived just across the river from Nauvoo and were intimately acquainted with the Prophet Joseph Smith. The senior Mr. Tanner (John Joshua) was imprisoned with the Prophet in the jail at Liberty, Missouri."

Emma Tanner Madson, granddaughter of John Joshua, wrote the following in her history: "When I was a small girl I heard him relate incidents of his acquaintance with the Prophet. He spent some time with the Prophet and others in Liberty Jail. While there the Prophet taught him the wisdom and blessings of keeping the Word of Wisdom and how wicked men would try to destroy the young people of the world. One morning the Prophet told the prisoners not to eat their breakfast, again at noon he warned them not to eat, and again in the evening. The next morning one of the less vile guards brought their breakfast. He said, 'It's all right, it's safe to eat this, but how in the world did you know it was poisoned horse meat that was brought for you to eat?' His entire life was spent proving that he knew Joseph Smith told the truth when he told of seeing God and His Son." Visiting

The following excerpts taken from letters written by William Smith Tanner's wife to her son in the missionfield give us an insight into the last days of John Joshua:

8 May 1896 - "Uncle Mark has just received a telegram that Grandpa Tanner is sick and wanting him to come down he is going but we all hope it is nothing serious."

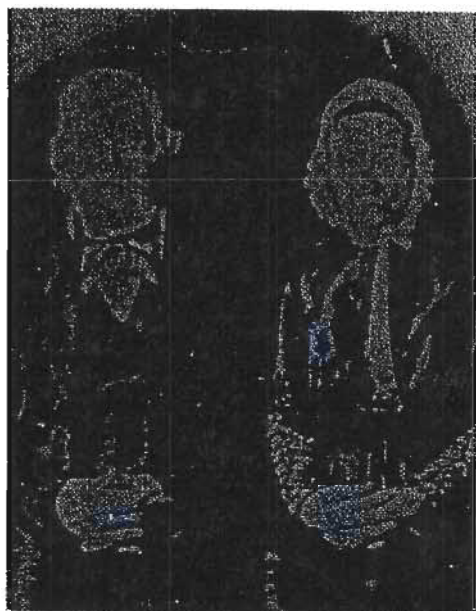
9 Sep 1896 - "Your Grandfather died this morning and your Father & Uncle John have gone down to the funeral. Uncle Mark has staid there with him all the time, he has suffered a great deal and as he could not get well it is better for him to be relieved from his suffering."

21 Sept 1896 - "Father has returned from attending his Father's funeral. He was burried last Sunday."

The obituary published in the Deseret News read as follows:  
13 September 1896 - Funeral services were held today at South Cottonwood, Salt Lake County, over the remains of Elder John J. Tanner who had lived in that Ward since October 1848. He came to Utah shortly after the pioneers, in company with his father and brother Nathan. (This is incorrect - he came in 1851) He was 84 years of



age at the time of his death. He was a member of Zion's Camp, shared in the hardships, privations, and dangers incident to the rise of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and remained steadfast in his testimony to the last. He left a large family and six of his sons bore his body to the grave in the South Cottonwood Cemetery."



William Smith and Lydia  
Jane Calkins Smith,  
parents of Rebecca  
A. Smith Tanner

Mahaleth Jane Chase Tanner  
Nathan C. & Albert J.  
Mahaleth Abiah  
John J's 3rd wife & family



G.G.G GRANDPARENTS  
OF

MICHAEL H. SHULER

MAYFLOWER LINE OF DESCENT

- 1 FRANCIS COOKE (M.I. #8,572) and Hester Mahleu
- 2 JOHN COOKE (M.I. #8,599) and SARAH WARREN (M.I. #36,494)
- 3 MARY COOKE (M.I. #8,618)
  - b. Plymouth, Mass. 1652
  - d. Dartmouth, Mass. after 18 Sep 1694
  - m. before 1668

PHILIP TABER

  - b. Yarmouth, Mass. bp. Feb 1646
  - d. 1692 or 1693
- 4 ESTHER TABER (M.I. #33,813)
  - b. Dartmouth, Mass. 23 Dec 1680
  - m. Little Compton, R.I. May 1698

THOMAS BROWNELL

  - b. Little Compton, R.I. 25 May 1674
- 5 ESTHER BROWNELL (M.I. #5,657)
  - b. Little Compton, R.I. 10 Feb 1706
  - m. South Kingston, R.I. 22 Feb 1729

JOSEPH TEFFT

  - b. Westerley, R.I. 8 Jan 1710
- 6 WILLIAM TEFFT (M.I. #34,115)
  - b. Richmond, R.I. 29 Feb 1732
  - d. Washington Co., N.Y. 28 Nov 1822
  - m. Richmond, R.I. 21 Mar 1754

MARY KENYON

  - b. Charleston, R.I. 24 Nov 1733
  - d. Easton, N.Y. 7 Oct 1824

Authorities

- Savage: Genea. Dict. of N.E.  
Vol. 1, p. 447
- Shaw: Families of the Pilgrims  
p. 68
- Hills: Mayflower Planters  
Vol. 1, p. 158
- Austin: Genea. Dict. of R.I.  
p. 195
- Savage: Genea. Dict. of N.E.  
Vol. 4, p. 247
- Austin: Genea. Dict. of R.I.  
p. 195
- Genealogical Record of the  
Descendants of Thomas Brownell  
1619-1910
- V. R. of R. I.  
Vol. 4, p. 83
- Descendants of Thomas Brownell
- " " "
- Tefft: A Genealogy of the Tifft  
Family p. 27
- Tefft: A Genealogy of the Tifft  
Family p. 26-28
- Reynolds: Hudson-Mohawk Genea.  
and Family Memoirs  
Vol. III p. 1100
- (See General Society #24,201)

# GENEALOGY

## 7 THANKFUL TEFFT (M.I. #73,023)

- b. Richmond, R.I.  
21 Mar 1757 or 11 Mar
- m. 24 Dec 1775

### JOSHUA TANNER

- b. South Kingston, R.I.  
27 July 1757
- d. near Reed's Corners,  
Washington Co. N.Y.  
12 Sep 1807

Tanner, Maurice: John Tanner  
Family (1942) p. 11

## 8 JOHN TANNER (M.I. #72,872)

- b. Hopkinton, R.I.  
15 Aug 1778
- d. South Cottonwood, Utah  
13 Apr 1850
- m. Greenwich, N.Y.  
1801

Tanner, Maurice: John Tanner  
Family (1942) p. 23

### LYDIA STEWART (Not Stuart)

- b. 18 Nov 1773
- d. Bolton, N.Y. (Warren Co.)  
31 May 1825

Cemetery records of her parents  
William and Amy Stewart Botts-  
kill Baptist Church, Greenwich,  
Wash. Co. N.Y. See New York G.  
and B. Record Vol. 48 pp 7-10

## 9 JOHN JOSHUA TANNER

- b. Greenwich, Wash. Co., N.Y.  
19 Dec 1811
- d. South Cottonwood, Utah  
9 Sep 1896

Tanner, Maurice: John Tanner  
Family (1942) p. 23

G.G.G. GRANDPARENT  
of

MICHAEL H. SMULEK

**Tanner, John**, popularly known as Father Tanner, one of the earliest Elders in the Church, was born Aug. 15, 1778, at Hopkinton, Rhode Island, the son of Joshua and Thankful Tefft Tanner. Early in the year 1800 John married Tabitha, daughter of Elisha Bently, who bore him one son, Elisha B., born March 23, 1801. His wife died on the 9th of the following month. In January, 1802, he married Lydia (daughter of William and Ann Stuart), who was born in 1783 and was of Scotch descent and said to be of the royal Stuart family of Scotland. Her mother was a descendant of Miles Standish of Pilgrim fame. Lydia bore her husband twelve children, namely: William Stuart Martha, Willard, Sidney, John, Joshua, Romelia, Nathan, Edward and Edwin (twins), Maria, Louisa, Martin Henry, and Albert Miles. One evening in the year 1808 two of John Tanner's children were bitten by his dog, which had gone mad, and in the attempt to confine the dog he himself was also bitten in the calf of the leg. He at once seized a pair of sheep shears, cut out the affected part of his leg and filled the wound with salt; and by the aid of a prescription which he obtained, he succeeded in curing his children. In the spring of 1818 he moved with his family to North West Bay, where his daughter, Maria Louisa, and son, Martin H., were born. In 1823 he moved into the town of Bolton, Warren county, New York, where in 1825 his son Albert M. was born and on May 31st of that year his faithful wife Lydia died. In November, 1825, at Bolton, Warren county, N. Y., he married Elizabeth Beswick (daughter of Everton and Anna Lamb Beswick), who bore him six sons and two daughters, namely: Marion, Seth, Benjamin, Freeman, Everton, Joseph Smith, Philomelia, David Dan, Sarah and Francis. Notwithstanding the expense of raising his large family, John Tanner became comparatively wealthy, was extensively known and universally respected. The poor and needy always found a friend in him; he would give them employment whereby to earn what they needed, if they were able to work, but would supply their needs just the same, whether they were able to work or not. Father Tanner, as he was reverentially called, was a member of the Baptist church, and the leading spirit among the members in his neighborhood. About a year and one-half after the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was organized, two Elders, Jared and Simeon Carter, came and preached in his neighborhood. Believing that his church was the only true church, he naturally thought that these men were imposters, when he heard of their appointment, and he attended their meeting for the purpose of exposing their error to his Baptist brethren. But on seeing the Elders and hearing them preach and expound the gospel and bear their testimonies to the divinity of the mission of Joseph Smith, [p.800] he was too good a judge of men and too well versed in the Scriptures not to be profoundly impressed, and was too honest to breathe a breath of discredit upon them or their doctrines, when they did not appear clear to him. Accordingly, when these Elders asked him his opinion of them and their doctrines he simply answered in the language of the wise and conservative Gamaliel to the persecutors of the primitive Church, "If this work be of men, it will come to naught; but if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it." But he was too profoundly impressed to let them pass without a thorough investigation, and therefore invited the Elders to accept of the hospitality of his home for the night. He borrowed and read the Book of Mormon while they went on their way, and upon reading it was convinced of the divinity of the work. After an absence of two weeks the Elders returned and Bro. Tanner was baptized; soon afterwards he was ordained to the Priesthood. Bro. Tanner became the instrument in the hands of God to contribute means, by which the partially constructed Kirtland Temple and grounds were saved from passing out of the hands of the Saints by a foreclosure of the mortgage, and having assisted to complete the sacred edifice and fit it for the administration of holy ordinances Father Tanner was present at the dedication and partook of the glorious gifts, manifestations and hallowed influences of that memorial occasion. He also received his washings and anointings in that, the first Temple erected to the name of the Lord, and under the direction of God in this dispensation, and hallowed by the personal presence of the Savior, Moses, Elias, Elijah and other holy personages. With his characteristic energy, Father Tanner put forth his best efforts to assist the Prophet in sustaining the "Kirtland Bank," and for that purpose bought and held much of its paper; but there was a Judas behind the counter and in spite of the best efforts of the Prophet, sustained by Father Tanner and others, the bank went down, and Father Tanner, like many others, was completely crippled financially. At the time that the

Saints were compelled to leave Kirtland, Father Tanner, with the journey of one thousand miles before him and a large family, was destitute of the means to migrate. He had an excellent farm and home which were exempt to him from sale by law, and he could have retained these and remained in Kirtland in comfort, but he had signed as surety for the Church, and no financial promise of his had ever before gone unfulfilled; nor would he now fail to meet his obligations if it took all he had. He sold his farm and enough other property to pay his obligation and was consequently left with only one horse, a turn-pike cart, a keg of powder and \$20 in cash, with which to transport himself and family of eleven a distance of a thousand miles. This was quite a change for Father Tanner; from a condition of wealth in which he was enabled to assist many people and the Church in general, he was left in a condition without means to assist himself at the age of sixty years. In a financial way he had staked his all on his faith, the Prophet and the Church, and had lost. No doubt this happened to try his faith, for it was not traceable to his lack of business sagacity or thrift. But all this did not cause Father Tanner to lose his faith in the gospel nor in the mission of the Prophet Joseph Smith, for he had a firm testimony of the truth of the gospel and believed firmly in the latter-day dispensation; hence, he could not be moved out of the chosen path. By the aid of his horse and cart and a wagon and three horses, which he succeeded in borrowing he was enabled to carry his family safely to Missouri, receiving some help from the people along the way. But the journey was not without hardships, which caused the death of one of his [p.801] daughters. Arriving in Missouri, and relating his experiences to some of his friends, he remarked that if others had come up to Missouri easier than he, they had not learned so much and had not therefore received so much benefit from the journey, thereby acknowledging the hand of the Lord in his privations. He arrived at Far West, Missouri, July 3, 1838, where, with his characteristic thrift and the aid of his sons, he soon paid off the debts and had the means of a comfortable living. While he and his son Myron were returning from a mill in the fall of 1838 and were about nine miles from home, they saw a company of state militia coming in their direction, and their appearance was so much like that of a mob that, suspecting their evil intentions, Father Tanner told his son Myron to run and secret himself, so that he could be spared to tell what become of his father. Myron accordingly ran and secreted himself beneath a heap of brush. The mob came up, and, as Father Tanner had suspected they would, they sought to take his life. One, Capt. M. Meyer Odell, snapped his gun with deadly aim at him and as it refused to discharge its contents, he seized it by the muzzle and dealt Father Tanner a heavy blow upon the head. Had not Father Tanner worn a thick felt hat at the time, it is very probable that it would have proved fatal. The mob then took him prisoner and held him and his team for several days. In order to wipe out the evidence of the murderous assault they ordered him to wash off the blood from his head and face, but this he refused to do. They killed one man by the name of Carey, and upon Father Tanner's word of honor that he would return, they allowed him with others to go and take the corpse to his family, and ever faithful to his promise he returned to their custody. During the militia raid Father Tanner lost heavily in stock stolen by the mob. As soon as he was released, he went to work at once making preparations to remove to Illinois. Together with his family and the families of his sons he arrived in New Liberty, about the 1st of April; here he sojourned for a year and prospered. About the middle of March, 1840, he moved to Iowa and settled upon the "half breed" tract, about four miles from Montrose, in Lee county, where his daughter Sarah was born in July of that year. Here he opened and cultivated a large farm, putting 250 acres under the plow, and about 200 acres into pasture, all under good fence, and here he lived and prospered for six years. At the April conference, 1844, Father Tanner was called to take a mission to the Eastern States. Before starting he went to Nauvoo to see the Prophet Joseph Smith, whom he met in the street. He held the Prophet's note for \$2,000, loaned in 1835, to redeem the Kirtland Temple farm, and in the course of the conversation he handed the Prophet his note. The Prophet, not understanding what he meant by it, asked what he would have him do with it, and Father Tanner replied: "Brother Joseph, you are welcome to it." The Prophet then laid his right hand heavily upon Father Tanner's shoulder and said: "God bless you, Father Tanner, your children shall never beg bread." He went upon his mission, and was in the East when the Prophet and Patriarch were assassinated; he returned

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early in the fall of that year. The Church up to this time, owing to the extreme adversity through which it had been called to pass, had been unable to pay the notes in full for the \$30,000, which Father Tanner had signed as surety, and he was now called on to pay this, and judgment obtained against him in the sum of \$700, in the district court of Lee county, Iowa; but he succeeded in affecting a compromise whereby the judgment creditors agreed to accept \$100 from him as his share in full, and look to the other parties for the remainder. Father Tanner aided materially in the building of the [p.802] Nauvoo Temple, and received his endowments, sealings and second anointings therein. In the spring of 1846 he sold his home at a nominal price, preparatory to gathering to the Rocky mountains with the Saints. With the means thus obtained he fitted up comfortable teams and wagons and started west about the middle of May, joining the westward bound streams of Latter-day Saints in their exodus from Illinois. He moved two families besides his own to Council Bluffs. In July, 1846, he fitted out two of his sons, Albert M. and Myron, and sent them with the Mormon Battalion into Mexico. He then moved across the Missouri river to Cutler's Park, and thence to Winter Quarters, where he herded the stock of the whole camp of Israel for three months, receiving no remuneration, through a misunderstanding. After giving up the herd, he moved to the "Chimneys" on the river, three miles above Winter Quarters, where he spent the winter. While here he lost nearly everything he owned by fire. In the spring of 1847 he assisted in fitting out the pioneers for the westward journey, opened up a farm and raised a good crop of corn. His son Myron returned in the fall from his trip with the Battalion, while Albert M. went on to California. In the fall he also sent out help to the pioneers who were on the return trip. In the latter part of June, 1848, he fitted up five teams and loaded up his worldly effects, including eighteen months' provisions, and started west for Great Salt Lake Valley. He spent the 4th of July on the Elkhorn river. Somewhere between Wood river and Fort Laramie his grandson, Sidney, six years old, fell from the tongue of a wagon which was loaded with about 3500 pounds; both wheels passed over his bowels; he raised up on his feet and then fell and expired in about twenty minutes. This occurred on the 26th day of July; the company traveled on till the following day, when the boy was buried on the bank of the Platte river. Otherwise Father Tanner had a prosperous journey; he arrived in Salt Lake Valley on the 17th of October, 1848, and located on Little Cottonwood creek, about one mile above the present Union Fort, where he built a home and laid out a farm in the spring of 1849 in the so-called Lyman survey, between the two Cottonwoods. In the fall of 1849 he was taken with the rheumatism, and on New Year's day, 1850, he was confined to his bed and suffered terribly till April 13, 1850, when he died. He was buried on the 14th in lots 4 and 13 in block 1, plat "C," Salt Lake City Cemetery.

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BEAUTIFUL ESTATE  
ON  
LAKE GEORGE  
Warren County  
NEW YORK



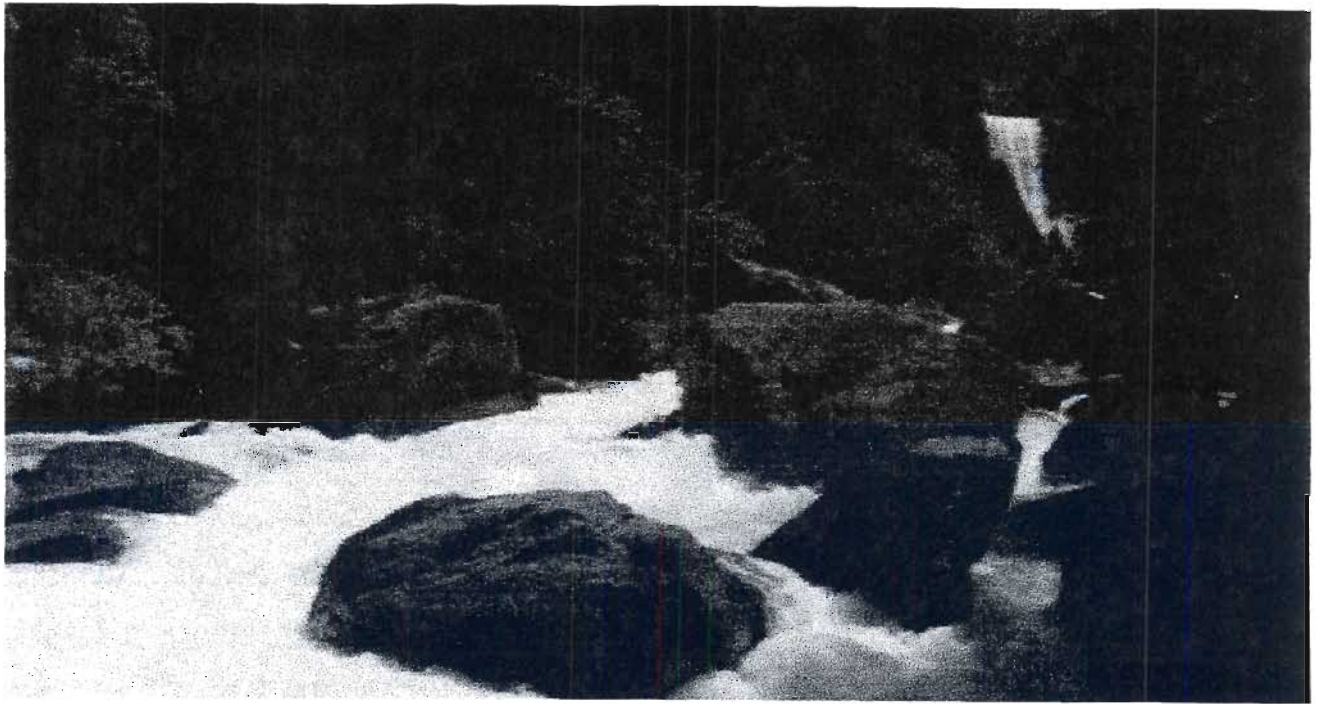
# EVERGREEN ACRES



HOME OF JOHN TANNER IN 1832 WHEN HE JOINED THE LDS. CHURCH.  
GREAT GREAT, GREAT GRANDFATHER OF MICHAEL H. SHULER



PLEASE JOIN US  
AT  
MORMON ROCK



TUESDAY, OCT. 19TH 1999  
11:00 AM  
INSTALLATION OF  
HISTORICAL MARKER  
(NEAR THE CCC CAMP SITE)

1830's

"MORMON ROCK"

HERE CONVERTS WERE BAPTIZED INTO  
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST  
OF LATTER DAY SAINTS  
AFTER HEARING THE GLAD TIDINGS  
OF THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL.

DESCENDANTS OF JOHN TANNER