

LIFE HISTORY OF PHILO DIBBLE, SR.

Philo Dibble Sr. was born June 6, 1806, at Peru, Pittsfield County, Massachusetts. He was the second son of Orator and Bulah Dibble. While Philo was quite young, his father moved to the town of Grandy, where he (his father) died, and left his wife with a family of nine to care for. Philo was then ten years old. He and his elder brother Philander were taken by Captain Apollos Phelps to Suffield Connecticut. Captain Phelps had no children of his own, and he treated Philo and Philander as he would have done were they his own. They were to remain with him until they were twenty-one. Captain Phelps was a good man and taught the boys good principles.

Philo stayed with him five months after he became of age. He then went to Boston, Mass., where he visited the harbor, several islands, and saw the ship Java. He then returned to Suffield where he became acquainted with Celia Kent, daughter of Benajah Kent of Suffield. They were married by Rev. Calvin Phileo. Philo was then twenty-three years old.

Philo sold his possessions in Suffield, and they moved to Ohio, where his wife owned some property. While they were crossing Lake Erie from Buffalo to Fairport there was a great storm but they landed safely. They passed through Chardon, Ohio and located three miles west of that city at a place called King St. This was about five miles from Kirtland.

One morning when he was standing at his gate, two men came up and asked him if he had heard the news. They said that four men had come to Kirtland with a Golden Bible, and one of them said he had seen an angel. They laughed and ridiculed the idea, but Philo did not feel inclined to make light of it. He made no reply but thought if angels had ministered to the children of men, he was glad. On his return home he told his wife and drove to Kirtland. On arriving there they were introduced to Oliver Cowdery, Zeba Peterson, Peter Whitmer, Jr., and Parley P. Pratt. He remained with them all day and became convinced that they were sincere. He asked Oliver what repentance meant and Oliver replied, "forsaking sin and yielding obedience to the Gospel." Philo attended a meeting held at Isaac Morleys and Oliver spoke on the principles of the Gospel, repentance and baptism, and then bore his testimony. At the close of the meeting he requested all who wished baptism to rise to their feet. Philo was one of the five to stand up. He borrowed a suit of clothes and was baptized on the sixteenth of October, 1830 by Parley P. Pratt. When he came up out of the water he knew he had been born of the water and of the spirit, for his mind was aluminated with the Holy Ghost.

He stayed at the home of Dr. F. G. Williams. While in bed that night he felt what he thought was a hand upon his left shoulder,

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delivered the greatest discourse he had ever heard. Philo said, "Brother Mills, I don't know what I have said. It was not me; it was the Lord."

In the spring of 1840 he moved to Nauvoo, which was then called Commerce, and had been appointed by Joseph as the gathering place. During the next year his wife died and left him with five children, two daughters and three sons. He concluded to get his children homes and then travel and preach the Gospel. He decided that he had not only lost a wife but also his children, and they had not only lost a mother and a father but also each other's society.

On February 11, 1841, he married a second wife, widow Smith from Philadelphia. Prophet Joseph performed the ceremony and Sister Emma Smith gave them a wedding supper. They had two children, David and Lorin. They had dinner with Joseph one day when he came over to see them. After dinner he told Philo that he must go away at once or he would die. They went immediately to a place in the south part of town. Later on Joseph told Philo's wife that the Lord told him to tell Philo to go away from there, and if he obeyed he should live; if not he should die. He said that if Philo had remained fourteen days longer, he would have been a corpse.

Philo Dibble, Sr., was the only one of his family to join the Church and come west. He crossed the plains in 1851, with Philemon C. Merrill's company and settled in Bountiful, Davis County, Utah. At the time of the move south he went and located in Springville, Utah.

He was the prophet's body guard at the time he was martyred. Two days after the death of Joseph and Hyrum, he made casts of the death masks of each. The casts remained in his possession for four decades. After coming to Utah he traveled through the country giving lectures and shows of the oil paintings and relics at the time of the Prophet Joseph. On November 21, 1885 he sold the casts to Harris Brown of Logan for \$50 and they are now in the possession of Wilford C. Wood of Bountiful, Davis Co., Utah.

He lived in Springville until June 7, 1895, when he died. He was buried at Springville, Utah.

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