

# WILFORD WOODRUFF



Wilford Woodruff was born March 1<sup>st</sup>, 1807, in the town of Farmington, Hartford County, Connecticut. He was a son of Aphek and Buelah Thompson Woodruff. The Woodruff name is English and is derived from the occupation of its bearers who in the days of William the Conqueror guarded the woods and forests for the use of the noblemen and who were considered among the most honored officers in the land.

Wilford Woodruff was a journal keeper and it is from his journal that much of the early church history was obtained. In his journal he designates a chapter as a "Chapter of Accidents." Some of these accidents include broken arms and legs, being drowned, frozen, scalded and others. He ascribes his preservation on earth to the watch care of a merciful Providence, "Whose hand has been stretched out to rescue me from death when I was in the presence of the most threatening dangers."

He was a boy of great vitality and given to the sports incident to the community and the times in which he lived. He early developed a marked aptitude for fishing. The sport of fishing and hunting, which he practiced in early boyhood, were enjoyed throughout his entire life.

Of his baptism into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, he writes, "On December 31<sup>st</sup>, 1833, there assembled at the water's edge about 11 o'clock in the morning a large number of people who witnessed mine and my brother, Azmon's baptism. The snow was about three feet deep, the day was cold, and the water was mixed with ice and snow, yet I did not feel the cold."

He entered the Salt Lake Valley on July 24<sup>th</sup>, 1847, with the first wagon train of Saints.

In the spring of 1871, he came to Randolph to establish a home for his wife, Sarah Brown Woodruff, and his son Wilford Woodruff, Jr. In April 1871, he moved onto 20 acres where they began to plough and plant their crops.

His love for fishing and hunting were engaged in often and the streams were filled with trout, of which, he caught many.

On April 17<sup>th</sup>, 1889, he traveled to San Francisco, California, where his life began gradually ebbing away. His death came on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1898, at the age of 91. His internment was in his beloved Salt Lake City, Utah.