

## John Neff II 1794 by Karly Bain

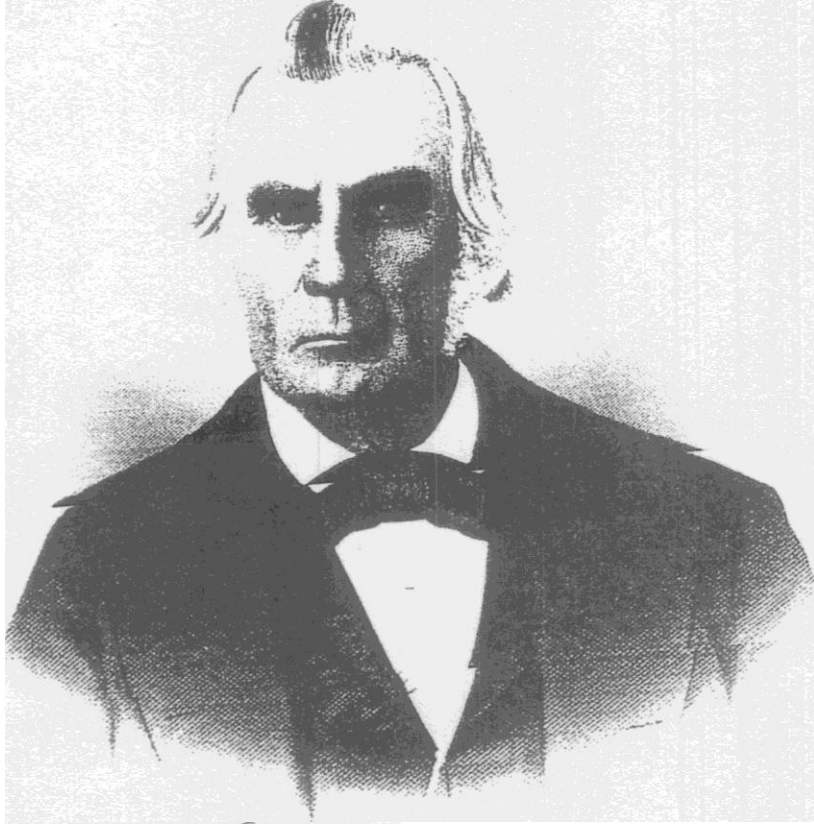
For my report I choose John Neff II. He is my great, great, great, grandpa. He was born in Strasburg, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, on September 19, 1794. His parents were John and Barbara Herr Neff. His grandfather was Jacob Neff, a Mennonite preacher from Switzerland. The Mennonites believed that babies did not need to be baptized but that baptism for an adult meant that a person had chosen for themselves to follow Christ's teachings. So then, from Switzerland his grandfather went to Penn Woods, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Here they could worship what, how, when, who, and where they wanted. John was taught German and English and he had good penmanship. Later he married a lovely lady named Mary Brenneman Barr. They had 10 children. I will name them oldest to youngest: Barbara, Franklin, Amos, Cyrus, Mary, Susanna, Benjamin, Amanda, John III, and Elizabeth. I am a descendant of Amos.

John knew President James Buchanan. John and his wife met a missionary of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints at a school house. The missionary's name was Elder Henry Deem. They were later baptized into the Mormon church. They met and became friends with the prophet Joseph Smith. In 1844 they went to Nauvoo and got their patriarchal blessings. They were given to them by Hyrum Smith. While they were there, John had a talk with Joseph Smith and Joseph said that he would not live much longer. Soon Joseph Smith was murdered. Then a new prophet was called. It was Brigham Young! He said they should move to a new land so they did. The new land was Salt Lake. They walked on the side of the wagon with all their belongings. They were well supplied. It was a long and difficult journey. At Winter Quarters, their son Cyrus became ill and died. It was said by someone who was walking with John Neff, that when he emerged from Emigration Canyon and beheld the desert valley, that he knelt upon the ground and thanked the Lord that he had found a resting place.

After they arrived, they set to work on a flour mill which could grind wheat by the winter of 1849. They made a main road which went through a canyon which was called Neff Canyon. John had a lot of land. John and Mary gave a lot of charity to the church and to many people. John and Mary also adopted two Indian children. John died on May 9, 1869, Mary died later on December 1, 1875. They both died peacefully at home.

John Neff was a generous man who always gave to those in need.

I am very proud to be his ancestor, because he knew a president, a prophet, a wonderful lady. But also because he was generous, giving, kind, handsome, and righteous. I love him dearly and it was a great experience to discover!



*John P. [unclear]*