

## Warren Stone Snow 1818 by Tyler Stilson

Warren Stone Snow was my Great Great Great Great Grandfather. Warren Stone Snow was born in Chesterfield, New Hampshire, on June 15, 1818. His parents were Gardner and Sarah Sawyer Hastings Snow. Chesterfield was a community made up of farms and mills. Warren was related to some of the town's earliest settlers. Twenty years before Warren's birth, Warren's relatives moved 125 miles upriver. Warren's father Gardner was either left when he was nine years old with relatives in New Hampshire when his family moved to St. Johnsbury, Caledonia County, Vermont in 1804, or went with them and returned later in his teens. Gardner married Sally Hastings, a friend from his childhood, in 1814. Four years later Gardner and Sally had Warren. After Warren was born, Gardner was determined to take his family to St. Johnsbury to settle with some relatives. A few months later they moved to St. Johnsbury. Warren was able to see his cousins, grandpa, grandma, and other family relatives more often. When Gardner and Sally moved to St. Johnsbury, they found that it was a wild, sparsely settled frontier. Settlers had cleared the land on small hills and valleys. It was very cold in St. Johnsbury. It was described as nine months of winter, and three months of summer. Warren was described as a rough and jagged and unpolished boy. Growing up, he worked hard clearing land for his father's farm. He was known for his big arms, big hands, and being very powerful. There was little time for school or education. He was so good at everything he did, he thought anything could be accomplished. This made him a leader of what he did each day. Then he became a marksman and hunter. He also had to deal with the Indians. He respected the deep green hills and nature; he gave his heart to the Lord. There was a mystical union between God and nature for him. When he was alone, he liked to think about what the meaning of life was. He appreciated a good fence and recognized good stock and had a love for riding horses. The men that were in war made a great impression on his life. As they were in the backwoods building fences, hauling rocks, and planting crops, the men that were in the Revolutionary War told of their experiences. Someone once told Warren to stand up in what you believe in. To stand up for his rights. The Mormon missionaries came to St. Johnsbury in 1832. Warren had an aunt who was very sick and had been in bed for 7 years. The doctor told her she had one year to live. Her husband went to get the missionaries. Orson Pratt gave her a blessing. Twenty-four hours later she was healed. Warren then decided to become a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. The missionaries taught them about Joseph Smith, and the Second Coming, and taught them about the Book of Mormon. They started reading the Bible and the Book of Mormon. Most people around him didn't join the church. The Snows had great knowledge of the Book of Mormon. They knew Joseph Smith was a real prophet. They knew that missionaries were messengers of God. On Warren's fifteenth birthday, the missionaries returned. There was word of someone on his street that was very ill. Some people said that she had not much longer to live. Orson Pratt gave her a blessing and she was healed immediately. After that, a lot of the Snow family joined the church. A month later, Warren's mom got baptized. When Warren was fifteen, he went on a mission. He did lots of missionary work. More and more people went on missions at this time. In 1834, Warren's father was called to the position as Bishop. The members dammed the river to have a place to baptize people. In 1835, the Twelve Apostles visited St. Johnsbury and held a three-day conference. Over 1000 people came. In 1841, Warren met a girl named Mary Ann Vorhees. Warren was 23 when they married. They built a log house to live in. Warren took a job with the Nauvoo Legion. Warren knew there was a plan for him. Everything was having a

great impact on him. Warren wanted to keep the church from any danger. He told others to join the church, and that the church was the work of God. The church held the snow family together. The church said the Snow family was so loving to the church, and to their neighbors. People started to sale there land and move to Ohio. Warrens family moved in the summer. When Warren's family was in Ohio they saw the Prophet Joseph Smith. Warren was so grateful to see the Prophet. Warren could hear the voice of God in the Ohio, Kirkland temple. Warren was committed to protect Joseph Smith. Warren became Joseph Smith's bodyguard. Most of the Apostles apostatized at that time. Many other bodyguards died. Warren and Joseph Smith became really good friends. Warren was proud that he had the chance to defend his living prophet. For thirty years he protected the prophet from danger. In 1838 Warren became very ill and had to stay in Ohio for two years. His family continued to follow the Prophet. In 1839 the Prophet Joseph was jailed and the Saints were kicked out of Missouri. After Warren's health improved he joined his family and started to defend the prophet again. People at this time were threatening to kill the prophet. As the Prophet Joseph Smith had predicted his own death to Warren, he told Warren to go West in case the Prophet was slain. Warren told the Prophet that he would avenge his death. They then embraced and Joseph told him "this is a everlasting covenant between you and I". Warren gathered a team to fight against the mob. When Warren and his team assembled, Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum had already been murdered. Warren thought it was his fault they had been killed. Joseph Smiths wife said "Warren come with me to see my husband". This was an experience that would have a lasting effect on his life. Warren wrote to Brigham Young and told him not give up on the church. Warren's experiences in defending the Prophet in life and witnessing his mangled body in death, seemed to persuade him that one of his callings in life would always be to "stand between" Prophets and Saints and danger. I liked learning about my Great Great Great Grandfather and the things that happened in his life.