

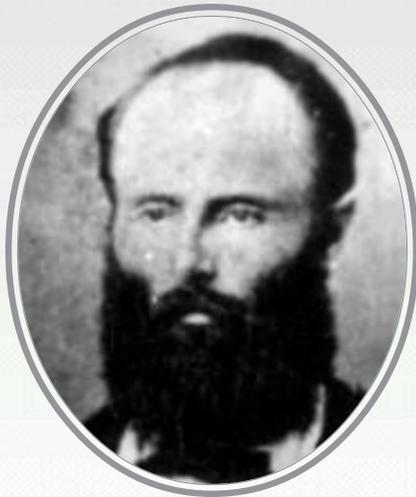
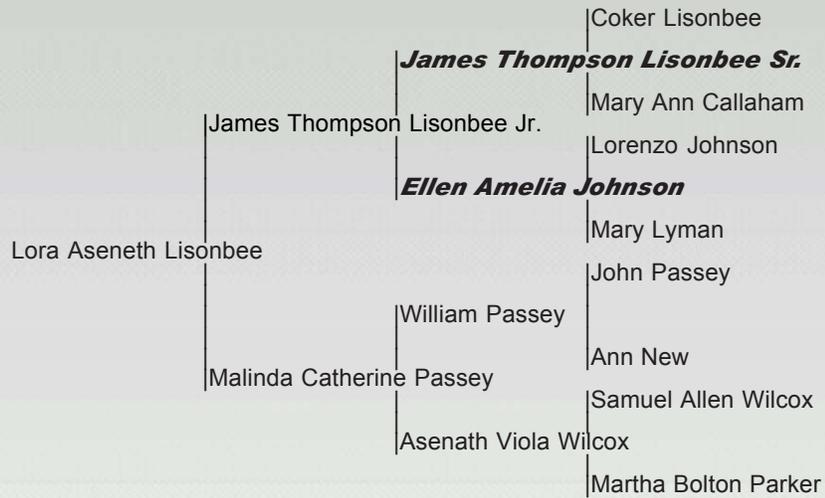
Excerpt taken from: *Perry & Lora; Their Roots & Branches* by Dixie H. Krauss

The author based her conclusions on research and interesting tales passed down in the family. She made a dedicated effort to present accurate information but recommends independent verification before accepting the material as fact or using the data for genealogical purposes.

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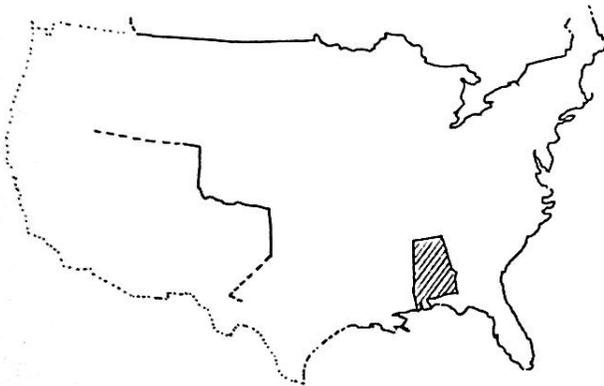
Third Generation Ancestors



James Thompson Lisonbee Sr.
Born: 1839 Alabama



Ellen Amelia Johnson
Born: 1847 Nebraska



James Thompson Lisonbee Sr. & Ellen Amelia Johnson

James Thompson Lisonbee Sr., son of Coker Lisonbee and Mary Ann Callaham, was born on 15 Nov 1839 in Pickens County, Alabama. He died on 9 Dec 1877 in Springville, Utah, Utah.

James married **Ellen Amelia Johnson**, daughter of Lorenzo Johnson and Mary Lyman, on 20 Apr 1862 in Springville, Utah, Utah. Ellen Amelia was born on 12 Dec 1847 in Winter Quarters, Douglas, Nebraska. She died on 25 Dec 1903 in Monroe, Sevier, Utah.

They had the following children...

James Thompson Lisonbee Jr.	30 Sep 1863	Springville, Utah, Utah.
Lorenzo Lisonbee	7 Jul 1864	Springville, Utah, Utah
Mary Ellen Lisonbee	28 May 1868	Springville, Utah, Utah
Zina Lisonbee	14 Aug 1870	Springville, Utah, Utah
Zelaina Lisonbee	25 Aug 1873	Annabelle, Sevier, Utah
Dora Lisonbee	22 May 1875	Monroe, Sevier, Utah





Life Sketch of James Sr. & Ellen Amelia

James Thompson Lisonbee Sr.
1839 Alabama - 1877 Utah

Ellen Amelia Johnson
1847 Winter Quarters - 1903 Utah

James' childhood...

James Thompson Lisonbee Sr.'s parents lived on the frontier in an area that had been settled only a few years. He was born November 15, 1839, in Pickens County, Alabama, to Coker Lisonbee and Mary Ann Callaham—the seventh of ten children.

At the tender age of nine, James lost his father to the harsh and rugged wilderness of Alexandria, Missouri. The family had just moved there and was making preparations to move west.

In 1854 when James was twelve, his fatherless family crossed the plains to Utah and settled in

Springville, Utah. He went back across the plains when he was called to be a teamster and brought waiting Saints from the Missouri River to the Salt Lake Valley.

Ellen's childhood...

Ellen Amelia Johnson was born at a critical time in the lives of her parents, Lorenzo Johnson and Mary Lyman. Before her birth her parents suffered religious persecution and were driven from their home in Nauvoo. Her parents were living at a refugee camp, Winter Quarters, Nebraska, when she was born on December 12, 1847.

In 1852 when Ellen was four years old, she traveled across the plains to Utah where her parents settled in Springville in Utah County.

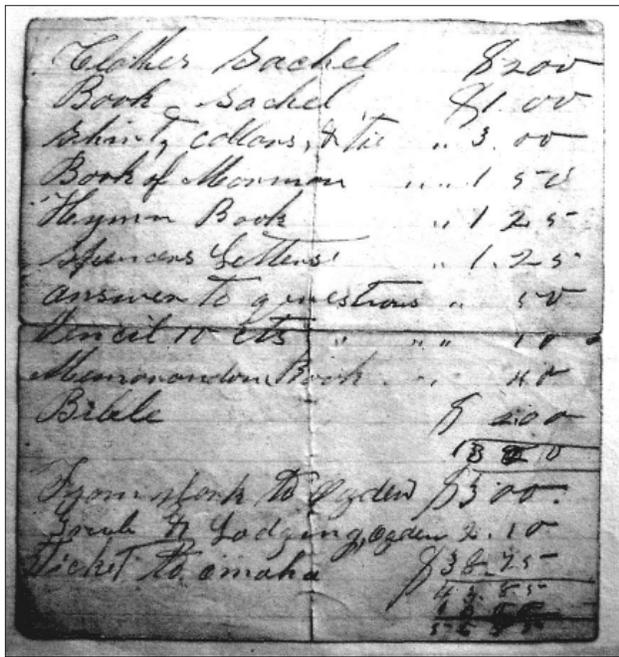
Ellen received very little formal education but was so studious that she assisted in teaching school at an early age. When she became a mother, she taught her children to read.



James Thompson Lisonbee Sr.



Ellen Amelia Johnson



Ledger of items purchased by James T. Lisonbee Sr. in preparation for his mission. Includes satchels, clothing, books, and travel expenses.

Home and family...

James and Ellen married on April 20, 1862, in Springville, Utah. Shortly after their marriage, James volunteered and went yet another time to the Missouri River after stranded Saints. He and Ellen had five children during their years in Springville.

In 1865 James became an officer in the Black Hawk Indian War. He traveled about one-hundred miles south to Sevier and Sanpete Counties and helped protect the Saints from Indian attacks.

In the spring of 1871, James returned to Sevier County with his wife Ellen and family and helped settle Monroe, Utah. Then James bought land outside of Monroe. They endured many hardships. The family lived there in a dugout for some time while James built a log room. The family wasted no time moving in. They occupied their little log room before it had a floor, door, or window. They lived there until they were called to moved back to Monroe. Ellen gave birth to two more children, one before and one after their return to Monroe.

James spent the remainder of his life in service to his Church. He received a call to be the bishop and president of the United Order in Monroe in 1874. In 1876 he was called on a mission to the Southern States. He was released as bishop during his mission, and the Monroe United Order was disbanded.

James was thankful for his mission call and responded with wholehearted commitment despite the

very real hardship to his family. They were very poor. His wife Ellen made his cloak for him out of a blanket. She was left with the responsibility of making the living and caring for their six children, ages eleven to one.

Ellen returned to Springville hoping to find work. She and her sister Harriet, who also had the responsibility of a family, rented an orchard and dried fruit. They also sewed and did any work they could get. After the fruit was dried and sold, Ellen took her family back home to Monroe.

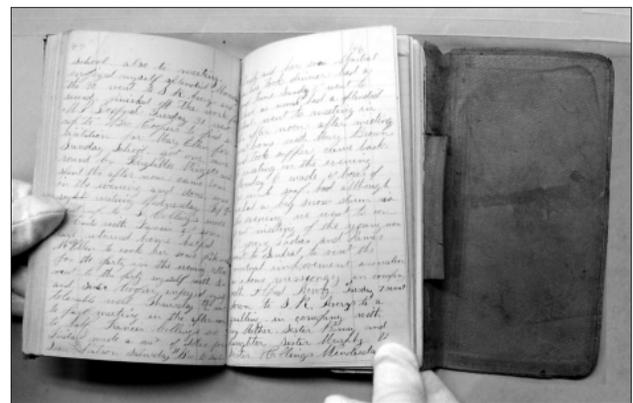
Mission days...

The first time James crossed the plains it took over four months by wagon. This time he traveled two-thousand miles in sixteen days. He paid fares and hitched rides on freighters, trains, and steamboats.

He traveled to Mississippi where James—Elder Lisonbee—could find no listening ears. Being alone and without really knowing why, he packed up his clothing and started for the mountains of northern Alabama, urged on by a Spirit that would not let him rest. Day after day he walked on, foot sore and weary, in dire financial straits in a land of strangers. He met rebuffs and then kindness, was sometimes well cared for, and again hungry.

One night he found shelter with a man. They sat up and talked until a late hour on the principles of the Gospel. The next morning as he prepared for another start, his host suggested that he stop and preach. They secured a log cabin which was a church, announced a meeting, and a crowd gathered.

After the meeting, one in the audience invited him to dinner where listeners were ready to hear his



Missionary journal of James T. Lisonbee Sr. is five by seven inches and leather bound, has a place to store a pen and a cover flap. It was donated to the Church Historical Department in Salt Lake City.



1877—Elders John Morgan and James T. Lisonbee Sr. of Southern States Mission. James labored in Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, and Georgia.

teachings. On January 11, 1877, with ten inches of snow in Alabama, Elder Lisonbee broke the ice and started baptizing. The following Sunday he organized the Grove Oak Branch. The local ministers became alarmed and tried to banish him from the community.

In the aftermath of the Civil War, the rural South was a violent place. Elder Lisonbee was subject to much persecution because he was alone. He was threatened many times—not only by ministers and mobs—but by the Klu Klux Klan. These threats did not curtail his labors. He fellowshipped small branches, baptized and confirmed, buried the dead, blessed and healed the sick, blessed children, held services, and preached. Elder Lisonbee’s converts were alive with hope and began preparations to emigrate west.

During his mission, Elder Lisonbee saw his eldest sister Rachel whom he had not seen for twenty-two years and other relatives. She rejoiced to see him.

On March 14, 1877, Elder Lisonbee slipped into a hole while crossing a stream and got very wet. The wind was blowing very cold. He became ill with chills and fever, and he contracted malaria. He was given an honorable release due to his illness, but he felt inspired

to stay. He extended his mission five months, then wanted to return home because of his family’s impoverished circumstances. But he did not have the fare. He spent eighteen months in the mission field.

Because he stayed, he had the privilege of leading out, by the same road he came, a goodly company numbering sixty to seventy souls. His dream of a haven in the distant west became their quest. Elder Lisonbee accompanied them to Kansas City, Missouri. Then he took the train to Utah, and his little band of Saints went on to settle in the San Luis Valley of Colorado.

Widowhood for Ellen...

In anticipation of James’ return, Ellen and their six children made a one-hundred mile journey to Springville to meet him. She brought the children by horse and wagon from Monroe. She and her sister Harriet made clothing for the children to wear for the occasion. They spun, wove, and sewed suits and dresses. James finally arrived in Springville on November 28, 1877.

Sadly, two days later James was diagnosed with pneumonia. He died in Springville eleven days after his return on December 9, 1877, at age thirty-eight and was buried on Ellen’s thirtieth birthday. He never made it home.

Once again Ellen was left to provide for her family. Filled with sorrow and disappointment, she returned home to Monroe. How thankful she was that she had taken her children with her to greet their father on his return. And how deeply grateful she was that her widowed mother, Mary Lyman, was there to give her the strength to carry on.



Courtesy of Garth N. Jones

James Thompson Lisonbee Sr. preached at Kilgore School in McClemores Cove, Georgia, on July 1, 1877.

One fall Ellen left her children in Monroe and went to Springville to harvest a fruit crop. With her earnings, she bought dress material for her daughters. When she got home, she received notice of an allotment for \$25 on the Manti Temple. She called her four daughters to her and asked them how they felt about giving their new dresses to help pay on the allotment. They were happy for the privilege.

The journey home to Monroe was filled with difficulty and peril. One night it snowed. Eastern settlers in the area were unfriendly and would not give them shelter from the winter storm. Ellen bedded down her four eldest children on the ground, and she and her mother, who came with her, held the two youngest through the night. By morning the bed on the ground was completely covered by a mound of snow.

Ellen worked hard to make a living. She carried home very heavy bolts of material and made men's jumpers and overalls by the dozen for a co-op store. She provided and cared for her children, for her widowed mother, Mary Lyman—for twenty-six years, and for her blind mother-in-law, Mary Ann Callahan.

Towards the end of her life, Ellen and her youngest son traded her home in town for more land about four miles out of town. They hoped to make a living by farming but experienced much adversity and loss. So she continued to sew and care for the homeless and the helpless.

On December 25, 1903, Ellen died in Monroe at age fifty-six. She had fought a good fight. With Ellen gone, her ninety-six year old widowed mother followed two weeks later.

Tribute to James...

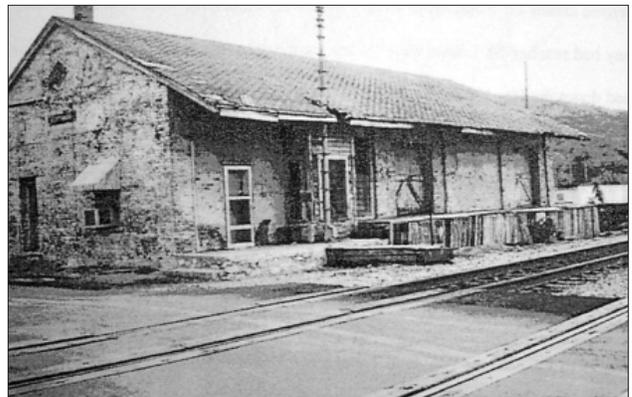
James was a fearless man that could not be easily intimidated. He was well versed in the Bible and could turn to any passage. He was passionate, full of good will, a source of great strength. He was much loved by the people to whom he taught the Gospel. His name continues to appear with thanks and gratitude in fourth and fifth generations of family histories of his southern converts who migrated to Colorado. He spent his life answering the call to do the Lord's work and gave his full measure.

Tribute to Ellen...

Ellen was a remarkable woman and a loving mother. She took pride in attending Sunday School with her family every Sunday morning. She was untiring in her efforts to be kind to others and care for the sick. Even though she was a widow and faced many discouraging situations, her sincere faith in the Gospel gave her courage and determination to carry on in a spiritual as well as a temporal way. Her cheerful and uncomplaining nature proved a great help to her in enduring the burdens that she carried in life.

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Courtesy of Garth N. Jones

Scottsboro Alabama Railroad Station where James T. Lisonbee Sr.'s converts departed for Colorado on November 21, 1877.