

I come from an awesome line of ancestors. We can trace our family history all the way back to the Pilgrims on the Mayflower. Some of my ancestors even served with George Washington in the Revolutionary War.

I have pioneer ancestors that crossed the plains to Utah. They provided a legacy for my family that continues today. One of these extraordinary ancestors of mine is Gardner Godfrey Potter.

Gardner Godfrey Potter was born on July 7, 1811, at Fort Ann, Washington County, New York. He was the son of Thomas Potter and Wealthy Weiler. To the East of Fort Ann was the Atlantic Ocean, to the west lay the boundaries of the some unfriendly Indians?

Tomas potter was born in Fort Ann in 1774. Tomas married Wealthy Weiler, Wealthy Weiler was the daughter of Amos and Marian Weiler they were the first settlers of Weiler's hill near Fort Ann, they had 10 children all born in Fort Ann.

Gardner Godfrey Potter was a close friend and associate of Hosea Stout who was a known Mormon leader. Gardener and Hosea were members of the Navoo Legion, which was the second largest military body in that time period; they were also in the same pioneer company. Gardener and his family were driven out of their homes and were forced to cross the icy Mississippi river, and struggled to Iowa were they stayed at winter quarters. Gardner and Hosea crossed the plains to Salt Lake together. Gardner was also a close friend of Brigham Young, who asked Gardner to take his family from Winter Quarters and go with nine other men and live with the Indians to teach them

how to plant crops. The hope was if the Indians had their own crops they would not

steal Brigham's crops in the winter.

Gardner was murdered for standing up for his beliefs and his religion, while

defending their way of life Gardner's life ended. Years later Gardner Godfrey Potter's

grandson, William Potter was the one to provide the tangible legacy for our family that

remains today. William cumulated lots of land in Northern Utah, that land is still owned

and used to this day by our family.