

# Culbert King



Culbert King was born in Marcellus, Onondaga County, New York 31 Jan 1836. He was the second child of Mitilda Robinson and Thomas Rice King. When Culbert was small, he moved with his parents to Nauvoo, Illinois. In March 1847 the family was in Winter quarters (Now Florence, Nebraska) when their son, Volney was born. Volney's daughter, Mrs. Etta Lythgoe of Cowley, Wyoming writes: "Grandfather Thomas Rice King writes in history of raising corn three years at Florence, Nebraska near Omaha so they could immigrate in comfort. Grandmother said they had three wagons of their own and their boys drove stock belonging to them. The family traveled across the plains with the Vincent Shurtliff Company. Culbert drove two yokes of oxen. They arrived in Salt Lake City in October 1851 and in company with other immigrants for the states they went to what was later

named Millard County, where a fort was built as a protection for the Indians. On the 21 Nov. 1851 the county was named Millard; the town, Fillmore, in honor of Millard Fillmore, who was President of the United States. The Thomas Rice family stayed in Millard County for 1851 to 1876--twenty-five years--built homes, married and had families."

Culbert King had three wives and 24 children. He married his first wife, Eliza Esther McCullough on Feb. 5, 1855 at Fillmore, Utah. He married Elizabeth Ann Callister in 1865 and Sarah E. Pratt in Nov. 1878. Sarah was a daughter of Parley P. Pratt. One of Parley P. Pratt's wives is buried in the Antimony cemetery. The inscription on her tombstone gave the following information "Sarah Houston Pratt, 1823-1826". All Three of Culbert King's wives were buried in Antimony, Utah.

"In 1877 Thomas Rice King and his sons, William, Culbert, Volney, John, and Thomas and their families were sent by the President Brigham Young to establish the United Order in Piute County. The town was named "Kingston." Including the Kings, it contained some 30 Mormon families. (The order was discontinued in 1883). Thomas Rice King was President, Joel White, Vice President and John Wilcox, Secretary. William King was the first Bishop and Culbert was one of his counselors. It is the testimony of all who lived in this order, that it was the happiest time in their lives. Everything was established for their convenience. Houses were all built alike. There was a large vegetable garden, with an expert gardener. The dairy was in Grass Valley, thirteen miles away, where grass and food were plentiful. John King Robison was overseer of the dairy. They had sheep and woolen mills were built, where they spun and wove their own cloth, blankets, yarn, etc. The old mill still stands as does the Grist Mill where their flour, corn meal, bran and shorts were made."

Later Culbert moved his family to Coyote, Garfield County (now Antimony) and was bishop of the Marion Ward there for twenty-two years. When he was released as Bishop of Marion Ward,

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Culbert was ordained a patriarch and served as such until his death, Oct. 29, 1909. After his death, his chair on the rostrum of the church was kept there for many years, as a tribute to his long service in that ward."

Culbert was an Indian interpreter and had the love and confidence of Chief Kanosh and his people. May 29, 1887, he baptized 85 Indians of the Kanosh Tribe.

Culbert served six months in the state prison (for practicing polygamy) rather than renounce his families. His career was one of great activity and he was loved and respected by all, both Mormons and non-Mormons.

Culbert King was bishop of Petersburg four years, of Kanosh for 16 years, and the Marion Ward for 22 years (42 years in all). He was a Bishop's counselor in Kingston for six years. When he resigned as bishop in Coyote, his son, Culbert Levi, succeeded him as bishop.

In "Who's Who" Culbert is listed as "militia man, Indian Interpreter, Scout, Express Carrier." He was a breeder of thorough-bred cattle. His hobby, however, lay in his skill as a teamster and his breeding of fine stallions.

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The following is from the Pioneer Heritage Library

King, Culbert

LDS Biographical Encyclopedia, Andrew Jenson, Vol. 2, p.185

King, Culbert, Patriarch in the Panguitch Stake, Garfield county, Utah, was born Jan. 31, 1836, in the State of New York. His parents joined the Church and moved to Illinois, where the family became intimately acquainted with the Prophet Joseph Smith. They joined the general exodus of the Saints in 1846 and crossed the plains in 1851, settling at Fillmore, Millard county, where they built the first house erected at that place. The subject of this sketch served as a soldier during the Indian troubles both in the Walker and the Black Hawk wars, but afterwards became a great friend to the Indians and quite proficient in speaking their language. In 1863 he was called to Kanosh, where he acted as Bishop for fifteen years, after which he moved with his family to Circleville, Piute county, where he lived in the United Order for a number of years and also served as a member of the Bishopric there until the breaking up of the order. He then moved to Grass valley and in 1882 was made Bishop of the Marion Ward. From December, 1885, till June, 1886, he served as a prisoner in the Utah penitentiary for conscience sake. He labored as Bishop at Marion until 1901, when he was honorably released and ordained a Patriarch by Apostle Francis M. Lyman. Patriarch King has ever been a true and staunch friend to the cause of truth, kind to his family and loyal to the Priesthood of God.

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Culbert King, pioneer of 1851, was arrested December 22, 1885, for practicing polygamy. December 25, 1885, he was sent to the penitentiary where he remained until his discharge

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Monday, June 28, 1886. While a prisoner, Elder King wrote to his daughter and son. Submitted by Utahna R. Gottfredson:

Delilah and Volney  
Our Pioneer Heritage, Vol. 12, p.411

Dear Children;

Yours of the 4th came to me on the 9th, I was very thankful to hear from home and that you were well and all in a prosperous way. I was somewhat anxious as I most always be about my good folks at home. I know not what I would do if I did not get letters often from some of you.

I am still in the enjoyment of good health and spirits and the time is sliding by, only 18 days yet and then I hope to be [p.412] soon with you and participate in the blessings of home associations, which to me is a great boon.... .

Delilah, you spoke about you and Caroline being called as teachers. You must take hold and do the best you can, and be humble and trust in the Lord, He will make you sufficient for every duty. Your Pa was called when he was very young and inexperienced, I thought I was the poorest material there was in Fillmore, and I guess I was, but the Lord helped me and I got along and done some good.

Well Volney, I hope you and Willie, Lonie and Roy will be able to attend to all of that grain and run the ranch, but I fear you will have to work too hard, but then I expect that Roy thinks he is going to California with his mother, that is if Dute don't out talk her, but I guess Dute will not want to leave Pa after he has been gone so long.

We had quite an interesting experience here on the 9th. Four Ladies came here and gave each one of the prisoners a nice bouquet with a little card attached with a passage of scripture printed on it. A young lady in the east, who is an invalid by the name of Jenny Casady wished to show her Christian feeling towards all of the prisoners confined in prisons and took this plan of doing so, it being her birthday. After the flowers were distributed they (the Ladies) read a few passages of scripture, sang a hymn and repeated the Lord's Prayer. Then Brother Snow, in behalf of the prisoners, thanked them and invoked the blessings of the Lord upon them and they departed. All considered it was a very nice affair.

I hope you will read the papers and take good care of the nice pieces in the Deseret News. It would be a source of great satisfaction if all of the boys as well as the girls would strive hard to learn the principles of the gospel which teaches us not to do wrong but always be on the right side and have faith in God and the principles of truth. The bravest is them that dares to do right, take pride in doing that that will bring the praise of the good. Never mind the flattery and the praise of the unbelieving, for they will lead you in to the principles of infidelity. When a person is lost to the principles of the Gospel their condition is awful and is to be sorrowed over. I do not write these things because I think there is a great deal of danger of my children becoming infidels, but they come to my mind, and they will do no harm to read them. We can't be too firm in relation to the principles of the Gospel.

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Well give my regards to Charlie and all of the boys and girls and in fact to everybody that inquires after my welfare, do not think that I will ever forget any of my folks or friends.

Praying the Lord to bless you and prosper you is my desire, I am as ever Your Loving Father  
Culbert King