

MOSES MOSIAH TRACY

Born: 7 Sept 1838 Far West, Missouri

Age: 18

Rescuer

Moses Mosiah Tracy (known as Mosiah) was the third of eleven children of Moses and Nancy Naomi Alexander Tracy. The births of his nine brothers and one sister chronicle the persecution of Church members in the early days of the Church.

Mosiah's parents were both born and then married in Ellisburg, New York. Their first baby was born there in 1833. Two years later their second baby was born in Kirtland, Ohio, the place where the Prophet Joseph Smith had called the Saints to gather. This baby was named Lachoneus Moroni, reflecting the parents' newfound faith and testimony of the Book of Mormon.

1838 found the Tracy family in Far West, Missouri, having followed the call of their beloved Prophet once again. In Missouri they hoped to build the latter-day Zion. Mosiah was born in Far West in the midst of much tribulation as Joseph Smith was imprisoned and the Saints were driven from Missouri even as Mosiah was an infant.

The Tracy family found short respite in Nauvoo, Illinois, where four more children were born. The first three born in Nauvoo also died there at the ages of two, three, and one respectively. The fourth Nauvoo child was born in the midst of being driven from Illinois in 1846. This son lived to be 78 years old.

The Tracy family, and other persecuted and driven Church members, soon reached Council Bluffs, Iowa, where the Tracy's second son, age 11, died upon arrival. Another son was born to the Tracy family in Council Bluffs.

The last three Tracy children were born in the Rocky Mountains of Utah, within the confines of Mound Fort and Bingham's Fort in Weber County, reflecting the need for protection from Indians. The 11th child was born in September of 1856, and Mosiah finally had a sister.

Mosiah was serving in the Shoshone Mission, and living at Fort Supply in 1856.¹ He had faithfully answered the call to leave Weber County and the girl he intended to marry, in order to do this. In October 1856, Mosiah went with others on a search and rescue mission to save the immigrants who were late coming to Utah that year. He later returned home to find that his sweetheart had grown weary of waiting for him and married someone else.

Mosiah soon determined to leave Utah and go to the gold fields of California to seek his fortune. His mother begged him not to go, telling him that she knew if he did they would never see him again. Undaunted by her pleadings and with the fire of youth burning in his broken heart, Mosiah left anyway. His family heard from him last in 1858 as he was planning to come home to Utah, but he never arrived. It is not known how or where Mosiah died.²

Mosiah's mother was a prolific journal keeper, and wrote about much Church history as well. She found comfort in her testimony of the restored Gospel of Jesus Christ as reflected in her own words: "This kingdom will roll on and eventually triumph over all others. This gives me consolation and satisfaction to know that eventually we shall become the head and not the tail. This is worth living for and if need be, to die for. I never sought notoriety, neither affluence, but I have sought the riches of Eternal life that fade not away. I have desired to so order my life that I would meet the approbation of my Heavenly Father and tried to use my influence in this direction with my family and my friends. I thank the Lord that He has given me enough of His Spirit to keep me from being contaminated with the influences of Babylon and Sectarianism. I have drunk the bitter cup to the dregs, yet the Lord has sustained me and been merciful to me and has not forsaken me. Yes, I have been preserved and now if I could only see the families of my children and their children living their religion with the Spirit of the Gospel in their hearts, I would feel to say in my soul, O Lord, it is enough. Let thine handmaid go in peace."

Source: Family records of Nancy Naomi Alexander Tracy in possession of Jolene S. Allphin, obtained from descendants. Nancy's original diaries are housed in the Bancroft Library at UOC, Berkeley, California.

¹Mosiah's brother, Eli A. Tracy was also at Ft. Supply. See his story in rescuer section of *Tell My Story, Too*.

²There is some indication that John Cole, a boy Mosiah's age who also had a brother at Fort Supply, may have gone with Mosiah to California. There is ongoing research.