

DANIEL AND RUTH WELTON TYLER

Written by Emily Cramer

Daniel Tyler
Born 23 Nov 1819
Died 7 Nov 1906

Ruth Welton
Born 25 Feb 1820
Died 14 Apr 1897

Daniel Tyler, son of Andrews and Elizabeth Comins Tyler, was born in Sempronious, Cayuga, New York on November 23, 1819.

At the early age of four years, fourteen years before he was baptized into the LDS Church, Daniel received his first vision. He had a serious sickness and was confined to bed in a room with a loft. One night during his illness, he had occasion to rise from his bed about midnight. Suddenly the room was filled with a brilliant light, lighter than noon-day sun. He looked into the fireplace only to discern a few smoldering coals covered with ashes. He gazed upon everything visible in the room; all seemed natural except that the light gave things a brighter hue. He looked overhead to an opening between two loose boards where his father usually kept his saw, auger, and other tools. There Daniel beheld a hand and wrist which were nearly transparent, with a wrist band whiter than pure snow. He called to his Mother, who awoke at the second call. He asked who was in the chamber. She answered that there was no one there and that if there had been, he could not have seen him in the dark. He answered that it was not dark, but was lighter than day light and that he could see to pick up a pin. He was told to go back to bed, which he did. Then the vision closed and it was so dark he could not see his hand before him. On relating the vision to his mother the next morning, she wept and said she feared he was not long for this world. However, he improved in health and received many other visions and words of warning.

In the Spring of 1832, Elders Samuel H. Smith and Orson Hyde called in the

locality of West Springfield, Pennsylvania. At the close of the first meeting Daniel picked up the Book of Mormon which the Elders had left lying on the table and began to read the preface. He hadn't read far when his brother, William, took the book out of his hands, remarking that good people said it carried with it a spirit of witchcraft. Daniel was then about fifteen years of age and believed every word of the discourse, but dared not make his belief known because of his youth and the bitterness of his father.

There was no human being to whom Daniel dared make known the fact that he believed in the teachings of the despised Mormons. He had, however, for some time been in the habit of engaging in secret prayer and now, in this hour of trial, he went to his place of secret resort and poured out his soul to the Lord. He made a covenant with Him that in case his only sister would believe and be baptized he would go with her. She believed and was taken on an ox sled two miles where a hole was cut through three feet of solid ice to reach the water and was baptized. Daniel remained at home during the baptismal ceremony, a heart-broken, bashful boy without stamina enough to come out and confront a wicked world.

Soon after this his father, mother, and two brothers were baptized. Daniel was on the bank by this time. His father, knowing nothing of the covenants, asked him if it was not hard for his parents, sister and brothers to leave him. With this he broke down and cried aloud. Not until then had the Father given him permission to be baptized. This was on Sunday and he waited until the following Wednesday, January 16, 1833, pleading with the Lord to forgive him of the

sin of covenant breaking. Not until he arose from the water did he feel that his prayers had been answered. The gift of prophecy was poured out upon him. He also received the gift of interpretation of tongues. His first and greatest gift was to speak easily and fluently in his own language. He was ordained a Priest in the Aaronic Priesthood on August 14, 1834 and immediately began preaching the Gospel at home and in regions around.

Ruth Welton, daughter of Asa and Clarissa Norton Welton, was born in Spafford, Onodango County, New York on February 25, 1820. Her father was quite a successful businessman. He had a home, acreage, and some sheep. Shortly before Ruth's birth, he bade his wife goodby to go on a short business trip. He never returned; no trace was ever found of him. It forever remained a mystery. The baby born was a girl and her mother named her Ruth. Her mother taught her to read from the Bible, and she became a great Bible reader.

At an early age she was sent to school. She was very studious. When she was eight years old, her mother married Daniel Pulsipher, nephew of Zerah Pulsipher, by whom she had two sons and one daughter.

From her early childhood Ruth was religiously inclined. When she was five years of age her mother was very ill. Little Ruth went in a room alone and prayed to God to heal her mother and to make her well. Her prayer was answered. Her mother recovered almost immediately.

At the age of nine years, Ruth wished to join the Methodist Church. She had read her Bible and learned that Jesus taught baptism by immersion; therefore, she asked for that kind of baptism. After considerable discussion, she was granted her request, although it was contrary to the general practice in that church at that time.

When Ruth was twelve years old, she heard some Mormon Missionaries preach in her home town. She accepted the Gospel

and was baptized by Elder Jared Carter in January of 1832. She was the first member of her family to join the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Two or three years later, she, with her parents and other members of the family, moved to Kirtland, Ohio. Here she met Daniel Tyler and married him. She was sixteen and one half years old. The marriage took place in Kirtland on the evening of September 11, 1836.

The following day they left in company with his father's family for Caldwell County, Missouri, a distance of about 1000 miles. Andrews Tyler and his younger son, Comfort, a youth of 18 years, died and were buried by the roadside. Because of sickness and deaths, they did not arrive at Far West, Missouri until August 3, 1837.

Early in the Spring of 1838 Daniel purchased ten acres of land. He cultivated part of it and planted corn. In the Autumn of the year mobs arose with a view to drive the Mormons out of Caldwell and Davis Counties. The people applied to the Governor of the State for protection. He answered that the war was between the mobs and the Mormons and that he would have nothing to do with it.

With their scanty supply of arms, the Mormons drove the mob from those two counties. The mob burned their own houses and field, then sent messengers to Governor Lindburn W. Boggs that the Mormons had driven them out and burned their houses to the ground.

The Governor then sent an army against the Mormons. They were compelled to leave the state of Missouri after signing away all of their property, real and personal, to pay the expenses which the mob themselves had inaugurated. In these and all other persecutions this young couple participated.

About November or December, 1838, after the surrender of Far West, Daniel was in

a company with several other brethren. He turned an old fashioned chair and lay upon it. Immediately he was lost to this world. His guide who was always with him said: "Gabriel will blow his trumpet directly three times. When he blows the first time you must go to your father's grave and call him up."

How he was to reach the grave was a question in his mind as it was two hundred miles distant. He resolved to start when the trumpet blew if he didn't get more than two or three steps. He says he thought he went out into the open air. Far up on the heavens he saw a man clothed in a long white robe with a trumpet which looked to be about two inches long in his right hand which he commenced to blow.

Daniel started toward the grave as he had determined. He had not gone over three steps when he was raised up in the air and placed on his feet at the head of his father's grave. He called three times at different intervals: "Father, come up." The last call he shouted with all the energy of his soul. Immediately the grave opened. His father raised up and walked toward him. Daniel reached forward his hand which was accepted by his father. After shaking hands he was helped out of the grave. He seemed dressed in his ordinary citizen clothes and looked as natural as life. Here the scene closed and Daniel was wide awake in his chair. He arose and related what he had seen to the company.

Sixty four years after this event transpired, Apostle Francis M. Lyman, knowing nothing of the forgoing, laid his hands upon Daniel's head and blessed him. Among other great blessings and promises he said: "You shall call up your dead."

After leaving Far West, Missouri on February 13, 1839 with an ox team and an old wagon, they went to Exedor, Illinois, and lived with Ruth's parents for several years. They moved to Griggsville, Pikes County,

Illinois, where their daughter, Perintha Olive was born on June 4, 1839. In the spring of 1840, Daniel was ordained an elder by Elder Harrison Burgess, and was sent to the southern states on a mission. When he had been gone one year, his wife and child joined him. She remained with him the last year of his mission, doing much good among the women in the mission. He was suffering with consumption at this time, and was strongly impressed to go to the southern states both for his health and to preach the gospel.

They returned home in October, 1842.

In September, 1843, Ruth gave birth to twin girls, Mary and Martha. She was not permitted to keep them very long. One died the next month and the other died later.

On the 24th of September, 1844, Daniel was ordained a Seventy and appointed to preside over the Southern district of Missouri. Ruth was again left alone to support herself and child.

The Prophet Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum were martyred in Carthage jail, Carthage, Hancock, Illinois on June 27, 1844. Daniel returned to Nauvoo for the October Conference of the church. He sailed to Nauvoo and set out on foot to meet his family.

Assassins had given Daniel poison earlier and Ruth had received word that he was dead. He did not die from the poison but was terribly bloated and ill when he met his wife on the road. She did not recognize him when they met, but of course he knew her. What a joyous greeting that was. At the October conference Brigham Young was recognized as their prophet because as he spoke his voice and appearance was as that of Joseph Smith.

In September 1845, they moved to Nauvoo, Illinois, where their fourth child, Ruth, was born in October and died in November the same year.

Ruth joined the first Relief Society organized by the Prophet Joseph Smith. She

received a Patriarchal blessing on April 20, 1836 under the hands of Joseph Smith, Sr.

Early in June of 1846, they crossed the Mississippi River and took up the march to follow the pioneers to the Rocky Mountains. When they arrived at Council Bluffs, Iowa, the Mormon Battalion was mustered into service of the United States to march to California in the Mexican War. Daniel was one of the 500 volunteers (16 July 1846)

Ruth was again left on the road in Indian country while her husband went away, this time to fight the battle of his country.

Ruth was unable to continue on with the pioneers. She remained in Council Bluffs, Iowa, where her fifth child, Emily Percinda, was born on the 28th of January, 1847, six months after her husband left with the Battalion.

The Battalion was discharged one year from the time of enlistment. Daniel arrived back to Council Bluffs on December 18, 1847. He was the author of the book, "The Mormon Battalion." His wife did all she could to help get this wonderful book into print and she also went around soliciting for the sale of it.

In June, 1848, they started with Amasa Lyman's Emigration Company to Salt Lake City. They arrived at the mouth of Emigration Canyon on October 18, 1848, and settled in Little Cottonwood. On the 25th of the same month, Ruth gave birth to another daughter who died the same day. In the spring of 1849, they moved into the city of Salt Lake where Daniel was appointed first counselor to Bishop David Pettigrew in the Tenth Ward.

On January 27, 1850, their son, Daniel Moroni was born in Salt Lake City. On September 12, 1851, Fitz Henry was born. He only lived a year.

On one occasion about this time, Daniel was camping for the night near the head of the Red Butte Canyon. Being very

tired of walking down the steep defiles of the canyon, he got upon his wagon to ride and to rest himself. In a few minutes an inward monitor told him he had better get off or he might get hurt. He answered that he would as soon as he reached the top of the hill. He reached it sooner than he had anticipated and the team suddenly commenced running down the road at a rapid pace.

He fell from the load. The rear wheel ran over his head, down his body, and broke his leg. As he was falling, the same inward voice told him that he would be badly hurt but not killed. His companions made a stretcher and placed him on the load. His breathing came at irregular intervals at first, then gradually got normal. He was confined to his bed for three months and unable to walk without crutches for seven months. Daniel says in his personal journal that had he obeyed these warnings, he would not have been injured. When he has obeyed the first promptings, everything has turned out alright.

At the annual conference of the church at Salt Lake City in April, 1853, he was called to go on a mission to Europe. After leaving for Liverpool, England on the sailing ship "Ashburton", a heavy storm arose, a thunder bolt striking near the ship. In the morning, the wind was desperate, the ships carpenter got his leg broken trying to reach the sails. The wind was so strong that it rocked the ship from side to side until it tipped nearly half-way over. Death now stared them in the face. There was no time to lose. Some of the Elders went into a closet, and prayed for the Lord to rebuke the storm. They commanded the wind and the waves to cease their raging. By this time, the water was getting deep over the deck and to their great joy, their prayers were answered. The ship again went on its way as usual. The Captain of the ship said he had traveled the seas for thirty years, but this was the most severe storm he had ever seen.

Daniel Tyler was appointed to take

charge of the Swiss and Italian missions. The German and French missions were added soon afterwards and Daniel was made President of the missions. By these appointments a blessing was fulfilled which was given him when he was hobbling on crutches--that he should have the use of his limbs, travel abroad and preach the Gospel in four different languages. While on this mission, he corresponded with Professor Karl G. Maeser, and through this means, Brother Maeser was converted to the church.

He was gone two years and released November 27, 1855 because of ill health. He came back to the United States to Iowa City and continued on to Salt Lake Valley with Captain Edward Martin's handcart company. He was counselor to the Captain and Chaplin of the company.

In 1861 Daniel and Ruth were called to Southern Utah to help strengthen a weak settlement. Their family accompanied them.

Daniel taught school here for three years, then was called to Beaver City for the same purpose. He taught there one year. They resided in Beaver the remainder of their lives.

In the year 1873 Daniel was ordained patriarch by George Albert Smith under Brigham Young's direction. Saints throughout the southern boundaries came to Daniel for blessings. He was blessed with miraculous spiritual powers of healing the sick, casting out evil spirits, and was recognized as an authority on Church doctrine.

Soon after moving to Beaver, Ruth was chosen President of Relief Society (1876) which office she held for a number of years. Again in 1886 she was chosen President and faithfully fulfilled this office until she was released to take the position of President of the Stake Relief Society, March 5, 1897. During her presidency two rock buildings were erected.

She was active in public and Church work. She was one who was ready and

willing to respond to every call. Her whole soul was in the work of the Lord from the time she was baptized until her death. Ruth was a devoted mother, faithful companion, a friend to the needy, and a comfort to the sick for whom she cared and administered to their wants.

Ruth and Daniel celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on September 11, 1896.

She departed this life on April 14, 1897 at the age of 77 after an illness of only three days. Daniel died on November 7, 1906, just 16 days before his 90th birthday. He is buried in the Mountain View Cemetery in Beaver, Beaver, Utah, beside his noble wife, who preceded him in death by nine years.