

# **Sketch of the Life of Erastus Bingham and Family**

## **Utah Pioneers of 1847**

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**Erastus Bingham home, 249 West 2nd Street. Built in 1851. Still standing.**

#### PREFACE

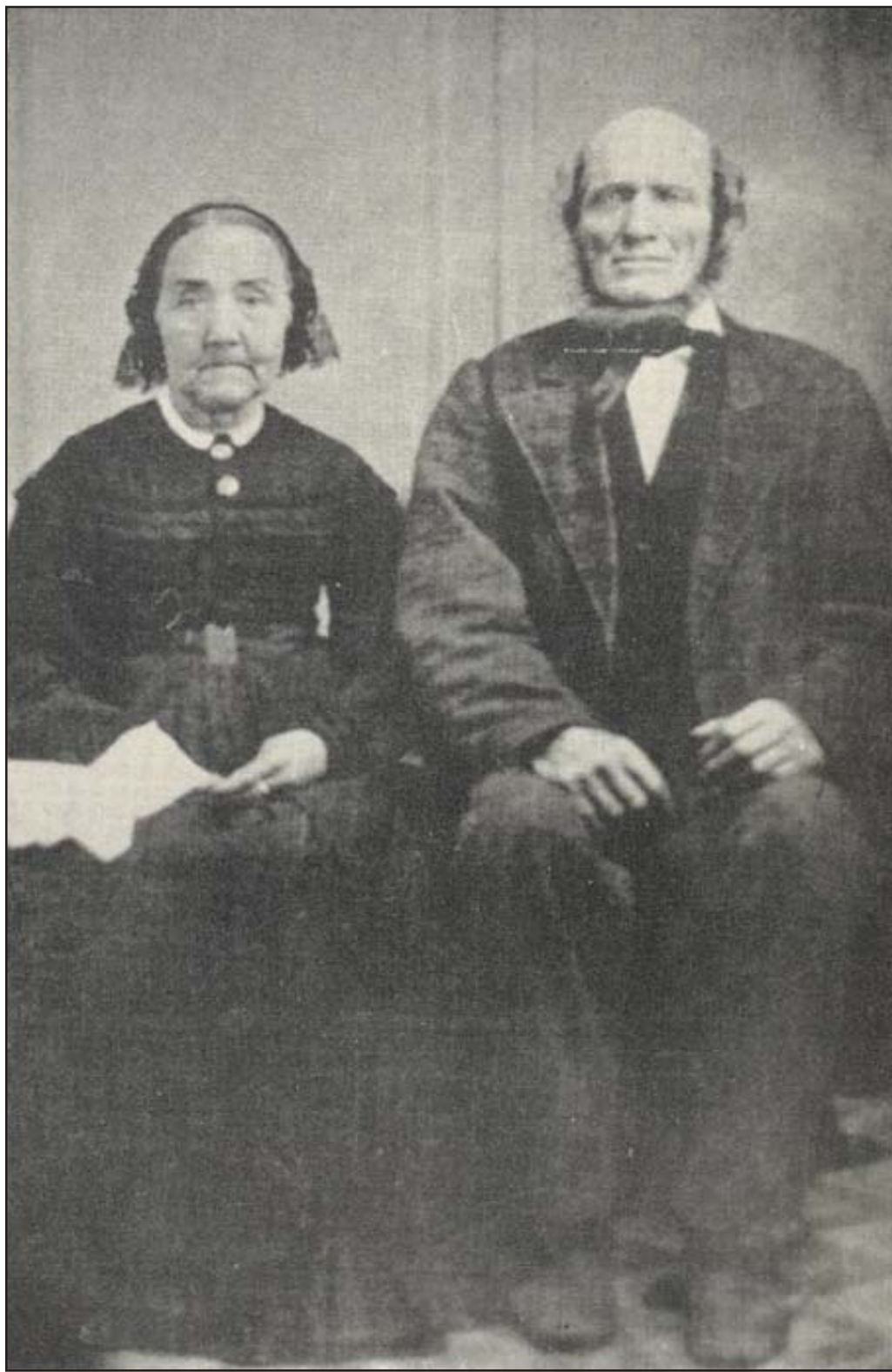
"Of all the affections of man those who connect him with ancestry are the most natural and generous.

They enlarge the sphere of his interests, multiply his motives to virtue, and give intensity to his sense of duty to generations to come, by the perception of obligations to those that are past". -- Josiah Quincy

This book has grown out of a need felt by the compilers for a history of Erastus Bingham and his ten children. We hope as the descendants of this pioneer read the accomplishments of- their ancestors there will be born in them a desire to add to the vast structure of civic and religious enterprise, he helped to create.

If these few pages will stimulate, a love for family and admiration for the sterling traits of character Erastus Bingham possessed and passed on to his sons and daughters, his descendants will understand why we are enjoying this wonderful common wealth.

He recognized the value of family ties, and value of record keeping as taught by the restored gospel of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.



**Erastus Bingham and Wife, Lucinda Gates Bingham**



## ERASTUS BINGHAM

The Bingham name appears prominently in English history from the Norman conquest of 1066 to the present day. Our first American ancestor came from England to America in 1649.

Thomas Bingham, number one in the Bingham family history, emigrated to America with his mother and settled in Connecticut, where he was known as a leader and a devout man.

His tombstone in the old churchyard in Connecticut bears this inscription: "Here lies the body of that Holy man of God, Deacon Thomas Bingham". He was a man eminent for his piety, love, and charity. He died in the 88th year of his life, leaving a large posterity, and we find the Bingham family firmly entrenched in America, the land of promise.

Research reveals the church played a prominent part in their lives, and among them were many church dignitaries and missionaries. From this stock descended Erastus Bingham.

"He was born March the 12th, 1798, in Concord, Essex County, Vermont, a son of Elisha Warner Bingham and Sally or Sarah Perry, No. 1904 in Bingham Family History by. Col. Theodore Bingham.

His line of descent from the first settler is Elisha Warner Bingham, No. 1904. Jonathan No. 236, Jonathan No. 28, Able No. 3, Thomas No. 1; and his father, Thomas O., of Sheffield, England."

Erastus Bingham's father died when Erastus was four years old; and as soon as he was old enough, he worked on the farm to help the family income. He continued in the farming occupation throughout his life. On the 21st of March, 1819, he married Lucinda Gates at St. Johnsbury, Vermont. Lucinda Gates was the daughter of Thomas Gates and Patty Plumly. She was born the 19th of September 1797 or 1799 at Ackworth, New Hampshire, and died January 3, or 27th, 1874, at Ogden, Utah.

Erastus Bingham owned a farm at Concord, Vermont, at the time of his marriage to Lucinda Gates. Four of his children were born there, Mary, born April 1, 1820; Sanford, May 3, 1821; Erastus Jr., September 30, 1822, and Thomas July 19, 1824. About 1825 they moved to Littleton, Grafton County, New Hampshire, where two of his daughters were born, Lucinda, born April 15, 1826, and Lousia Maria, born June 23, 1828. He moved back to his old farm in Concord, Vermont, where two of his sons were born, Willard, born February 19, 1830, and Edwin, born May 5, 1832.

Erastus Bingham had now reached the age of 34 years and had never affiliated with any religious denomination. He never indulged in intoxicating liquor, was industrious and cautious in his financial affairs, and was honest and exemplary. He first heard the Gospel preached in the spring of 1833, when Elder John E. Boyington came to that vicinity expounding the newly revealed principles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He was very much impressed, read the Book of Mormon soon after, and received a strong testimony of the truthfulness of the record. He and his wife, and daughter, Mary, and two sons, Erastus, Jr., and Thomas, were baptized and confirmed members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on November 11, 1833, at St. Johnsbury, Vermont, by Elder Evans.

His son, Sanford, was baptized and confirmed at the same place by Elder Evans on the 18th of November, 1833.

In the fall of 1835, the first Quorum of the Twelve Apostles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints were traveling as missionaries through the New England states and holding conferences. They all stayed one night at the Erastus Bingham home and held a council meeting in the evening. Brigham Young, one of the twelve, told Erastus Bingham while he was living in Nauvoo, Illinois, that the council meeting held at his home in Vermont was the only one held at which they (the twelve) were all together after the organization of the Quorum.

In the spring of 1836, Erastus sold his farm at Concord, Vermont, and prepared to go west to the then gathering-place of the Saints. They started the 8th of June, accompanied by Willard Snow, Joel Harvey, and families and others.

They arrived in Kirtland, Ohio, about the 6th day of July, 1836. While at Kirtland, they had the privilege of hearing the Prophet Joseph Smith preach in the Kirtland temple and enjoyed that heavenly and ennobling influence which was constantly with the Prophet while speaking.

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