

Dedication of Graves and Monument
for
Jeremiah Leavitt II and Levi William Snow
by
Dixie Leavitt
Bonaparte Cemetery, Bonaparte, Iowa
Thursday, September 18, 2003

Our Heavenly Father,

As we're gathered on the near banks of the river here, which caused to be brought about the establishment of Bonaparte. We remember that our noble ancestor and friend, Jeremiah Leavitt returned again to this place, after having once passed through, to gather in his son and his wife and their little child. We remember also that his purpose was to obtain food to see his family through the winter at Mt. Pisgah. We are thankful for this beautiful spot on the river. We are thankful for the information and knowledge that we have of his life, of his devotion, and of his love. We honored his good wife and companion on her 200th Birthday through the placing of a memorial statue.

Today we wish to honor him along with his grandson. We remember little Levi William Snow. Who died away as they were pushed out of Nauvoo. We remember the anguish of that night, as he succumbed from the fury of the elements that awful night at Montrose. We wish to acknowledge and remember him here on this monument and we do so at this time.

We would ask a special blessing to be upon our family members, all of us here---those who come directly through Jeremiah II. But also, all of those who are with us who come from brothers and sisters; that they in turn feel the spirit of this special occasion and also this special spot. All of us honor Jeremiah who died here at Bonaparte

And for us, now at this time, we rejoice that we have the honor to establish a monument for him and pay homage to him. We pray that we might do so in keeping with thy holy mind and will and that it be acceptable to thee. And we would pray that Jeremiah himself will find joy in his posterity and know the intent of our hearts to demonstrate our gratitude and our love at having come through him.

Wilt Thou especially bless us, as we conduct our own lives, that we can conduct them as he would have us conduct them – honestly, vigorously, enthusiastically; with a willingness to serve and to do the things that thou, Father, would have us do. We pray that each of us can conduct our lives accordingly.

Now, by the power of the Melchizedek priesthood which I bear, I would at this time dedicate this monument and this spot as a haven, that thy spirit may attend and watch over, and that it will be protected from the elements and that it indeed will serve the purpose for which we have established it. Father, please be with us here at this time that, as we mingle, that we feel Thy spirit and likewise feel his presence.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.