

Bertha Kunzler

BERTHA KUNZLER
1881–1883

Bertha was the first child of Jacob and Louise Ott Kunzler born on New Years Day, January 1, 1881 in Rosette, Box Elder, Utah. She was obviously named after her Father, Jacob's sister Bertha, who had burned in the tragic fire and died on September 24, 1882 in St. Margrethen, St. Gallen, Switzerland.

In 1882 an epidemic of diphtheria hit Rosette and Park Valley. Some families had one or more die from the dreaded disease. They had no doctors so they used home remedies, steeped herbs, and relied on the Priesthood to heal the sick. The Kunzler's dear neighbors, the Christian Hirschi family, with whom Jacob came to Rosette with, had contacted diphtheria. Jacob loved them so much and seeing them in trouble, he went to help. They were losing one child after another over a period of a few days. Although Jacob took every precaution not to bring the disease home to his little ones, Bertha contacted the disease and died at two and a half years of age on June 24, 1883 at their home in Rosette. Baby Louise did not get the disease as she was still a nursing baby. All of the Hirschi children died except their son David. Later the Hirschi's were blessed with four more children, Rose, Emma, Fred and Sadie.

Jacob made a little wooden casket for Bertha. His sister, Babetta Kunzler, lined the casket and made the little burial clothes. The victims of diphtheria were buried at night without a funeral service. Only a prayer was given at the grave site. Bertha was buried in the Park Valley Pioneer Cemetery, north of the present day Park Valley School.



Berth's name is 11th from the top