

Polygamy and Mormon Church Leaders
Hyrum Smith
February 9, 1800-June 27, 1844

It goes without saying Hyrum Smith was the number two man in Mormonism. His death, along with his younger brother Joseph, is still viewed as martyrdom in the annals of Mormon historical records.

Hyrum was the third of eleven kids born to Joseph Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith. While there's not a lot of information about his personal childhood, it's well documented the family was desperately poor. At one point the family was living on property they promised to pay off and as the time drew nearer for the bills to come due Hyrum and his older brother Alvin would find work outside of town solely for the purpose of paying the family's debt.

He was one of the eight witnesses who "saw the golden plates", albeit with spiritual eyes, not physical. He became an ardent supporter to his brother's calling and found himself behind a pulpit in lieu of the horses and plow he was accustomed to in farming. While traveling on missions to proselytize for his brother he found himself more times than not having to cover for him and even landed in jail more than once.

Hyrum seemed to live in the shadows of his younger brother Joe Jr. who by all accounts was bigger than life to those in the family. He was the unwitting cover man for Joseph's shenanigans and for reasons unknown he chose to lie about the polygamous activity that would be the eventual downfall for both of them.





In the last handful of years in his life he ended up marrying five women. He lived a monogamous life with his first wife Jerusha who died eleven years into their marriage. Left with six young children must've been difficult for the young man (he was 37 when she died), but bachelorhood wouldn't be in this man's future as it didn't fit in with his brother's lifestyle, nor the lifestyle of the Mormon god.

Two months later Smith would marry Mary Fielding whose family was recent converts to the Church. He was monogamous with her for awhile, but six years into that marriage he began adding to the family. During this time it's argued when he became privy to his brother's philandering ways, but one thing is certain. He began lying about polygamy being practiced by the Mormons.

What made his statements even more damning is at the time he denied the Mormon Church was engaged in a polygamous lifestyle, he had six wives!

He served in many capacities for the Church which included missionary work, quarry foreman for the building of the Kirtland Temple and a recruiter for the Mormon militia. While awaiting trial and being transferred from the jail in Liberty to Boone County, Hyrum, along with Joseph and a handful of others escaped and fled for Nauvoo, Illinois. They'd been charged with murder, treason, burglary, arson, larceny, and theft and stealing.

On June 27, 1844 he was sitting in yet another jail awaiting trial when a mob in Carthage, Illinois stormed the building and opened fire. Hyrum was shot in the face and killed instantly, his brother Joseph jumped out the window and was shot and killed as well. The other two prisoners, Willard Richards and John Taylor, both survived. Two of the Carthage Greys who stormed the jail were shot and killed by Joseph Smith before he died.

		Wife/Age @ marriage (Smith's age)	Marriage date	Kids	Other info	Wife's marital status
1		Jerusha Barden – 21 (26)	11/2/1826	6	Born 2/15/1805 Died 10/13/1837	Single
2		Mary Fielding – 36 (37)	12/24/1837	2	Born 7/21/1801 in England Died 9/21/1852 SLC. Older sister of Mercy. After death of Hyrum she married Heber C. Kimball. Mother of Joseph F Smith – 6 th prophet of Church.	Single
3		Mercy Fielding Thompson – 38 (43)	8/11/1843	0	Born 6/15/1807 Died 9/9/1893 In SLC. Younger sister of Mary. Married to Robert Blashel Thompson who died in 1841. 1 st person to be sealed to dead spouse. 1 daughter w/ him. Married for time to John Taylor after death of Hyrum.	Widow
4		Catherine Phillips – 24 (43)	8/1843	0	Born 8/1/1819 in Philly, PA. Died 9/26/1905. Her signed and sworn testimony of her marriage to Smith is listed in	Single

					“Blood Atonement and the Origin of Plural Marriage”.	
5		Lydia Dibble Granger – 53 (43)	8/1843	0	Born 4/5/1790 Died 9/5/1852 in Keokuk, IA. Widow Of Oliver Granger. Married John Taylor In 1846 after death of Smith.	Widow
6		(Mary) Louisa Sanger – 31 (43)	9/17/1843	0	Born 3/26/1812 Died 8/3/1877 in Joliet, MO. Joined the Strangites after Hyrum’s death but left them by 1850. Had one son William. Her brother & father worked on Erie Canal.	Single