

## **Polygamy and Mormon Church Leaders**

### **Willard Richards**

**June 24, 1804 – March 11, 1854**

Brigham Young's cousin went through one physical calamity after another in his relatively short life.

Falling and hitting his head at the age of four left **Willard Richards** partially paralyzed which determined his future vocation as that of a teacher.

After some years of teaching he found an interest in medicine and pursued that career in Boston. While practicing medicine in Boston in 1835 Richards had apparently decided no true church existed on the face of the earth and it was during this time when his cousin Brigham and his younger brother Joseph paid him a visit.

As they began talking about religion Brigham handed him a newly published Book of Mormon. Willard said he read it cover to cover not once but twice in ten days, sold his medical practice, packed his bags and moved to Kirtland, Ohio. On the very last day of 1836 **Willard Richards** was baptized into the Mormon Church.

Two months after his conversion Willard was ordained an elder and sent to serve a three month mission to the Eastern States. After being home for one day they sent him out again only this time he served in Great Britain. While serving his mission there he met and married his first wife Jenetta Richards who was the daughter of Reverend John Richards.

While still in Britain Richards was ordained as an apostle in 1840 and in 1841 he and Jenetta moved to Nauvoo, Illinois. Not long after his arrival he was installed as Joseph Smith's personal secretary and then became the official Church Historian writing over 1,800 pages of Joseph Smith's comings and goings and the Church's business affairs. Today those writings have been incorporated into the History of the Church which was edited by BH Roberts.

Richards' name will forever be emblazoned in Mormon history because he was one of the prisoners in the Carthage jail with Joseph and Hyrum Smith when they were shot and killed in June 1844. The other prisoner was John Taylor who later became the third prophet/president of the Church.



A cursory glance over his marriage records makes his own history as confusing as the Church's.


Richards fathered 27 kids and was married to 14 women, albeit 3 of those were posthumous marriages with one of those being a daughter-in-law.

A short bio of Willard can be read on the site of BYU Studies [here](#).

	Wife/Age @ marriage (Richards' age)		Marriage date	Kids	Other info	Wife's marital status
1	Jenetta Richards - 21 (34)		9/24/1838	3	<p>Born 8/1817 England</p> <p>Died 7/1845 in Nauvoo</p> <p>Her father was a pastor in England. While visiting friends in neighboring village she came across Heber Kimball &amp; Orson Hyde.</p> <p>Two days later she was baptized into the Church.</p>	Single

					<p>Kimball wrote Willard a letter after her baptism (Willard was serving in another part of England) and told him that he baptized his wife that day. Willard took him seriously.</p> <p>They married 6 mos after they met.</p> <p>First child (boy) died of smallpox.</p>	
2	<p>Sarah Longstroth – 16 (38)</p>		<p>1/18/1843</p>	4	<p>Born 2/19/1826 in England</p> <p>Died 1/26/1858</p>	Single

					<p>Utah.</p> <p>Their daughter</p> <p>Sarah Ellen Richards married Joseph Fielding Smith 3/1868.</p> <p>Younger sister of Alice (wife #4) and older sister of Nanny (wife #5).</p>	
3	<p>Amelia Elizabeth Peirson – 20 (41)</p>		<p>12/22/1845</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>Born 4/1825</p> <p>Died 2/1850 – Utah</p> <p>Our-genealogy reports she died 4/23/1851.</p>	<p>Single</p>
4	<p>Alice Longstroth – 21 (41)</p>		<p>1845</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>Born 1/1824 in England</p> <p>Died 11/21/1909 in</p>	<p>???</p>


					<p>Utah.</p> <p>Older sister of Nanny.</p> <p>Find-a-Grave reports she married Moses Whitaker abt 1843 w/ no mention of Richards. The majority of all genealogy sites for Willard list her as his wife, including LDS.</p> <p>Older sister of wives Nanny &amp; Sarah.</p>	
5	Nanny Longstroth - 17 (41)	 <p><small>Nanny Longstroth Richards</small></p>	1/25/1846	3	<p>Born 4/1828</p> <p>Died 1/7/1911</p> <p>Salt Lake Find-a-Grave</p>	Single


					<p>reports marriage to Willard in June 1846.</p> <p>Married Franklin Dewey Richards (Willard's nephew) on 3/6/1857.</p> <p>They had 3 kids. Youngest of 3 sisters married to Willard.</p>	
6	<p>Mary Thompson – 18 (41)</p>	 <p>Mary Thompson Richards</p>	<p>1/27/1846</p>	2	<p>Born 10/1827</p> <p>Died 9/10/1905 Utah</p> <p>Find-a-Grave reports she married Franklin Dewey Richards 3/6/1857 in Salt Lake</p>	<p>Single</p>

					<p>City.</p> <p>They had</p> <p>4 kids.</p> <p>Franklin was</p> <p>Willard's</p> <p>nephew.</p>	
7	Jane Hall – 19  (41)		1/27/  1846	0	<p>Born</p> <p>2/18/1826</p> <p>Died</p> <p>Date unknown</p> <p>Salt Lake City, UT</p>	???
8	Susannah Lee Liptrot Walker – 36  (41)		2/6/  1846	0	<p>Born</p> <p>5/1809</p> <p>England</p> <p>Died</p> <p>12/28/1872</p> <p>Utah</p> <p>Find-a-Grave</p> <p>lists her as a</p> <p>nurse, no kids,</p> <p>married Willard</p> <p>in 1846.</p> <p>Signature Books</p> <p>lists her marriage</p> <p>@ 1843.</p>	???
9	Ann		2/6/	0	Born	Widow

	<p>Reed (Read) Braddock – 51  (41)</p>		<p>1846</p>		<p>3/1794  Died  1872 in  Utah.  A Book of Mormons  lists her name as  Ann Rees Babcock.  Our-genealogy reports 1<sup>st</sup> marriage to Thomas Braddock &amp; had 9 kids.</p>	
<p>10</p>	<p>Susannah Bayliss – 35  (43)</p>		<p>12/22/  1847</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>Born  5/1812 in  Leigh, England  Died  4/17/1891 in  Utah.  Married Willard in  Winter Quarters. Married Franklin Dewey Richards,  Willard's nephew on</p>	<p>Single</p>



					11/6/1857.	
11	Rhoda Harriet Foss – 21  (47)		11/30/ 1851	5	Born 4/1830 in Maine.  Died 11/19/1881  In Utah.  Married Franklin Dewey Richards, Willard's nephew.  They had 4 kids.  Find-a-Grave  Reports those 4 kids' father as Willard, w/ birth date of 1860.  Familytreemaker.com reports they had 2 kids, Calvin & Sarah Elizabeth w/ Sarah born in 1862 – this can't be his daughter.	Single

					Mother-in-law to Emma Irene Walker	
12	Emma Irene Walker – 18  (68)		12/24  1872 or  1/4/  1875	8	Born  7/28/1854  Died  Buried in 1893  w/ conflicting data on death  Ancestor-genealogy & Find-a-Grave reports she was married to Calvin Willard Richards 12/1874.  Calvin is son of Willard & Rhoda.	???
13	Sarah Edna Hinman – 65  (88)		6/9/  1893	0	Born  2/28/1828  Died  2/25/1896/7  in Parker, Colorado  Hinman family site	???

					<p>reports her marriage to Josiah (Antoine Joachim) Mooso (Mousseau) with whom she had 11 kids.</p> <p>Marriage to Willard was obviously posthumous.</p> <p>Listed as Edna Sarah Hinman on Find-a-Grave</p>	
14	Ann Elizabeth Fox -			0	<p>Born 2/17/1815 England</p> <p>Our-genealogy lists marriage w/ no other info</p>	???