

Polygamy and Mormon Church Leaders
Perrigrine Sessions
June 15, 1814 – June 3, 1893

The old saying 'the apple doesn't fall far from the tree' has never been more fitting than it is with Perrigrine Sessions. This guy is the poster child of what it looks like when you begin indoctrinating your kids at a young age; they become miniature portraits of yourself.

Perrigrine (sometimes Perrygrine) was the firstborn of David and Patty Bartlett Sessions in Newry, Maine in 1814. The Sessions had 8-9 children in all, but reports on how many are extremely varied. Perrigrine's father David was a well-to-do farmer who also owned a grist mill, saw mill and other helpful and much needed farming machinery so Perrigrine spent his childhood and into his early adulthood working on his father's properties.

Although being lifelong members of the Methodist church, the families joined Mormonism sometime between 1832-1834 with Perrigrine's mother Patty being the family's first convert. Perrigrine married his first wife Julia Ann Kilgore in 1834 and shortly thereafter the entire clan moved to Kirtland, OH to help the persecuted saints.

Seven weeks later they were packing their bags again to follow Joseph Smith into Missouri. Julia Ann died in January 1845 leaving Perrigrine to raise their two small children alone. He wouldn't stay a bachelor for long as he met and married the Call sisters, Lucina and Mary, about five months later in June 1845. (Some reports say 12/1845)

He was enlisted into the Mormon 'Protective Police Force', aka Danites, in 1843 and became a personal body guard for Joseph Smith. To give the reader an idea of how Mormons looked at and treated 'outsiders' we've included an excerpt from his personal diary. The following was retrieved from a family genealogy website www.idahofallsvielots.com;

"Father also related an important event, which occurred in 1838 while on his way out to Missouri, near Palmyra, in company with Father Smith (the father of the prophet) and Carlos Smith, in a blinding snowstorm. Quoting Father's words, "We called at a farm house to buy some corn and stay all night. Father Smith asked the man of the place if we could stay and camp and buy some food. He asked, "Are you Mormons?" Father Smith answered „yes" and he said, "damn you, you can't stay here", also with many other insulting and threatening words.

We all turned from him and when we were in the road, Father Smith took off his hat in reverence and facing the blinding snowstorm, with uplifted hands he said, "In the name of the Lord whom we serve, let this man be cursed in his basket and in his store, and let his name be cut off from Heaven". We all said amen. When I traveled this road two years later, this was brought fresh to my mind, for behold, there was nothing to mark the spot but the ruins of his house, burned to ashes, his orchard broken down, his farm a picture of desolation, his wife and three children had been burned to death in their home, and he at that time was in close confinement of the insane. Here I saw the power of the Priesthood made manifest, for at the next house we had been received kindly and Father Smith's blessings on this place, home and

family, were fulfilled to the letter and all were prosperous, and happiness prevailed supreme. This had passed and both men were ignorant of the cursing or blessings placed upon them.””

The above scenario obviously shows a hardened attitude for non-Mormons that would be passed on from one generation to the next. Being kicked out of one state after another never gave anyone pause to wonder what was wrong with their behavior or make them question amongst themselves why everyone in the world, including Christians, were so adamantly against their lifestyles.

After the Smith brothers were killed in the shootout while imprisoned at Carthage jail, pressure from the locals to leave the area only intensified and the family found themselves packing their wagons once again in the fall of 1846.

Perrigrine led many Mormon handcart companies back and forth over the plains in the Mormon exodus to Utah from 1846-1850 which subsequently earned him the respect of many in his adopted faith.

Behind the accolades of Perrigrine’s heroic travels of crossing the plains six times and founding the city of Bountiful, Utah, lies a story of unquestioning blind faith and oblivious devotion to a false prophet and god.

Perrigrine was the father of 56-60 kids and the husband of eight or nine wives and just like the Mormon polygamists before him, he too had a liking for teen brides. If he were alive today he’d be sitting in a prison cell for pedophilia; his youngest wife was 13 years old and he was 37. The average age for female marriages at this time was 22, not 16 and definitely not 13.

His story and ‘work for the Lord’ doesn’t reflect any major deviance from those who went before him in the world of Mormonism. His parents David and Patty Bartlett Sessions were some of Joseph Smith’s first converts. His mother and sister were both married to Joseph Smith – at the same time no less, and for the record, his mother’s marriage was polyandrous.

He served as a first counselor to the local bishopric, in addition to being ordained a Seventy by Brigham Young and served on numerous missions until 1878. He died after a lingering illness in June 1893, a few days shy of his eightieth birthday.

		Wife/Age @ marriage (Perrigrine’s age)	Marriage date	Kids	Other info	Wife’s marital status
1		<u>Julia Ann Kilgore</u> – 19 (20)	9/21/ 1834	2	Born 6/24/1815 ME Died 1/25/1845 IL	Single

					<p>Married Perrigrine & joined Church.</p> <p>Moved from ME to OH, to MO then IL.</p> <p>Died from TB while in Nauvoo.</p> <p>Earlylds.com shows sealing to spouse 2/1846 – 13 months after her death Short bio provided by idahofallsvieview lots.com</p>	
2	 <p>Lucina Call – 26 (31)</p>	6/28/1845	5	<p>Born 9/29/1819 OH</p> <p>Died 6/29/1904 UT</p> <p>Earlylds.com shows sealing to spouse 2/1993 in St George</p>	Single	

Temple. Sister to

Mary Call, wife

#3 & aunt to

Fanny Loveland,

wife #4.

Lucina helped raise

Mary's kids after

Mary died. There

are many sites

w/ diaries of

Perrigrine, but little

to no info on each

wife individually.

When they are

mentioned it's

acknowledged he

married them w/

no other definitive

info.

The most info

found was for

Sarah Crossley

who survived

					Martin Handcart disaster.	
3		Mary Call – 20 (31)	6/28/ 1845	6	<p>Born 2/21/1824 OH Died 11/25/1865 UT</p> <p>Younger sister of Lucina, wife #2 & aunt of Fanny Emmorett (wife #4). Unable to find definitive info on why she died so young. Many sites mention her sister Lucina raised her children after she passed away. Her son Byron settled Byron, WY. Earlylds.com shows sealing to spouse in 12/1992</p>	Single

					in Alberta Temple.	
4		Fanny Emmorett Loveland – 13 (37)	9/13/ 1852	11	Born 12/13/1838 OH Died 5/18/1917 UT Rebaptized in Salt Lake temple 10/1967 Earlylds.com also gives incorrect endowment date of 1/3/1846 in Nauvoo Fanny was the niece of Mary & Lucina Call. They were sisters of her mother, Fanny Royal Call. Two of her sons died early, 3 other sons were in major	Single

					<p>accidents;</p> <p>1 lost an arm &</p> <p>the other lost</p> <p>an arm & leg;</p> <p>another son</p> <p>was stabbed while</p> <p>patrolling as sheriff.</p>	
5		<p>Sarah Crossley – 17 (46)</p>	<p>3/2/ 1861</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>Born</p> <p>1/29/1843</p> <p>England</p> <p>Died</p> <p>1/24/1906</p> <p>UT</p> <p>One of the</p> <p>Overland Travel sites</p> <p>recorded her</p> <p>observations</p> <p>when she & others</p> <p>were stuck in a</p> <p>blizzard in WY</p> <p>with Martin</p> <p>Handcart Company.</p> <p>Sarah was</p>	<p>Single</p>

12-13 yrs old at the time. Another site has info on Martin Handcart incident, but mentions she married Perrigrine @ 18 yrs old. Her brother died on trek west. Perrigrine asked if she could live w/ him when she was

The above sites look as if they're exact copies of her autobiography you can read [here](#).



Elizabeth
Gabrielle
Birdenow
(Beirdneau) – 38
(50)

9/29/
1865

1

Born
3/6/1827
OH
Died
10/8/1903
UT
idahofallsvielots
com reports she
had one child
who died at birth.
geni.com gives
generic vital stats.
Earlylds.com shows
marriage but main
page for Perrigrine
doesn't acknowledge
her at all –
also lists her
name as
Elizabeth Gabriella
Birdenow.
BYU studies paper
mentions her briefly
by saying Perrigrine
probably married

Single

					her so she could take care of his mother.	
7		<p>Sarah Ann Bryson - 16 (52)</p>	<p>9/29/1866</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>Born 5/21/1850 Scotland</p> <p>Died 12/23/1934 UT</p> <p>Earlylds.com shows rebaptism 3/1993 and endowment 8/1993 in Denver temple.</p> <p>Familysearch.org gives brief history of 'Ann Bryson' - she emigrated from Glasgow to US in 1855. She was the maid for Perrigrine's brother David when she met &</p>	<p>Single</p>

					<p>married him.</p> <p>She had 11 kids, 63 grandkids & 204 great-grandchildren as of 1957.</p>	
8		<p>Esther Mabey – 18 (54)</p>	<p>11/22/ 1868</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>Born 7/4/1850 England Died 5/22/1930 UT Mytrees.com lists the names & b/dates of all 10 kids she had in 20 yrs. Idahofallsviewlots. com gives bio of her life in England. She was baptized in 1861, emigrated to US in 1862. She worked</p>	<p>Single</p>

					in the Sunday School Assoc, MIA & baptized by proxy for the dead over 2,000 times.	
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