

William Y. Black
Presented by Don V. Black
Great Great Great Grandson

William Young Black
Born: 20 August 1784
Place: Lisburn, County Antrim, Ireland
Father: William M. Black
Mother: Mary Gardiner

William Y. Black was born 20 August 1784. He was a product of a religious home environment, his spiritual vitality was a pillar of strength to him and his family through the years.

His father was William "M" Black and his mother, Mary Gardiner. The only formal education came through the home and the church. The teachings and practices of a devout home rounded out a solid foundation on which William Young built his life.

The threat of Napoleon conquering the world was a time for families to give their sons to protect the freedom of their country. William, age 16 enlisted in the British Army in 1800. William was in the 72nd regiment and served 4 years in Ireland and 17 years abroad.

When world peace was restored, William returned to England about March of 1821. Before returning, he sent a message to his parents in Lisburn, Ireland. Having "not heard from him for many years, they believed he was dead so that his arrival was like life from the dead. The joy was too great for his mother, who was overpowered by it, and died the following Sabbath, while hearing a sermon in the Chapel" His father informed him of his mother's death upon his arrival home.

His father related how his friend, Daniel Johnston had died four years previously and left to his guardianship his daughter, Jane.

Twenty-one years bring many changes. Here was William, almost 37 years old, 5 feet 9½ inches tall, black hair, large, deep blue eyes, well matured in mind and body. William decided to take up his father's trade with the equipment and clientele already accumulated over a period of 56 years. His previous experience as a young man working with his father, helped him to learn more readily the finer points of the trade from the master hosier. The income from the business and the army pension offered a comfortable living for a family. William spent many hours at the looms.

Since his return home, he had observed the young lady in his father's household. Jane was born 11 June 1801 at Lombeg, Antrim County, Ireland. She was much younger than he. Mutual respect grew into love for William and Jane. During the ensuing few months, their beautiful courtship culminated in marriage on 31 July 1822. Their first son, Gorge, was born 6 May 1823. Their only daughter Mary was born 25 April 1825. The second son, William was born 21 February 1832 and their last child, Joseph, was born 14 July 1836.

With the industrial age gaining rapidly in England, William's hosiery trade was placed in a precarious state due to the manufacture of cotton goods in the textile mills in Manchester, England. Manchester was mentioned as a place where employment could be found. It was the cotton manufacturing center of the world.

William and Jane went to Manchester to find employment. New found friends invited them to hear of a new religion being preached in that community. The meeting was held in what was called "Harris' Cellar". These "preachers" were missionaries representing the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. They were Elders William Clayton and Joseph Fielding. Elder Clayton served as Secretary to the Prophet Joseph Smith. Elder Clayton baptized William and Jane, 14 January 1839 at Manchester, England.

William was so enthusiastic about these new found truths that he wanted to take them to his native land for his relatives and friends. At a succeeding meeting held 7 July 1840, he was called on a mission and his desire was fulfilled.

Elder John Taylor sailed for Ireland from Liverpool, 27 July 1840. He was accompanied on this mission by Brother McGuffie and William Black. This was the introduction of the Gospel into Ireland. In September of the same year, William was called from his labors to return to Manchester to help arrange passage to Zion for his wife and three sons. Mary had preceeded them with the first group of Saints to leave England. With this accomplished, and with no feeling of insecurity for his family on this account, William now prepared to return to his labors as a missionary. Because of the pending General Conference of the saints in England, he remained in Manchester and was assigned to labor in Oldham, a few miles north of Manchester, and build up a branch. The minutes of the next General Conference at Manchester, 7 April 1847, lists William Black as President of the Oldham Branch of 86 members. Brother John Kerigan was appointed as his companion. The Lord blessed their labors and by their faithful efforts built up 2 branches. Oldham and Rochdale.

When William's two year mission was completed he was released at the October Conference of the Church in 1842. In December of the same year, he began his journey to America to join his family.

He arrived in April and heard the Prophet Joseph Smith preach to a congregation of Saints on the unfinished first floor of the Temple in Nauvoo. He joined his family in Augusta, twenty miles distance from Nauvoo. However, in the summer of 1843, the family moved to Nauvoo and bought a lot and began to build a home.

While earning their livelihood they were closely associated with the leadership and activities of the Church. George, at the age of 19 was a body guard to the Prophet Joseph, Jane, upon the recommendation of Brigham Young, who had known her in England, was set apart as mid-wife and nurse by the Prophet Joseph. As there was no opportunity for William to pursue his trade as a hosier, he worked as a laborer plus odd jobs he picked up now and then. During this time, the persecution of the leaders and the people

was rapidly increasing until they reached the tragic climax of the martyrdom of Joseph and Hyrum. In this dark hour John Taylor was also shot and so severely wounded that his life was despaired of. He was driven to Nauvoo and immediately upon his arrival called for Jane to dress his wounds and be his nurse.

With the death of the Prophet Joseph, there grew conflicts and dissensions over the right to Church leadership. The family of William and Jane remained staunch and true to the leadership of Brigham Young.

With the completion of the Nauvoo Temple, William, Jane and George their oldest son, received their endowments 6 January, 1846. On 17 January 1846, William and Jane were sealed to each other. Theirs was the privilege and opportunity to be among the first of the Church membership in this, the Dispensation of the Fullness of Times, to receive these ordinances in the Nauvoo Temple.

Wednesday, 4 February 1846, the first Saints left Nauvoo and crossed the Mississippi River on the ice in their journey to the West. Before leaving England, arrangements were made by William to draw his pension in Canada twice a year. Early in the month of September 1846, he left on the journey. When he returned to his family he found them in the camp with the Saints on the West bank of the Mississippi River in Iowa.

During his absence, the last of the saints had been driven from Nauvoo. The Black family had a wagon but no team. They pushed the wagon down the river where it was ferried across. The family camped at Montrose, Iowa. Sickness, inclement weather and shortage of food was the common lot of all. It was here that quail by the thousands came to their camp and supplied food.

Hatred for the saints caused much violence among the refugees. Jane, George, William and Joseph witnessed the street fighting up to September 16, 1846 and left with the others September 17, 1846. Before they left mobsters came into their home, but Jane had a pistol and threatened to kill them if they came any closer. They left!

The Black family was among the last to leave Nauvoo because Jane was continuously caring for the sick. William was in Canada to draw his pension.

Daughter Mary's baby boy was born 29 November 1846 but she died in childbirth. After her death, William McDonald brought the child to his maternal grandparents at their camp in Iowa and returned to Illinois. They never heard from him again. William and Jane named the baby William Johnston McDonald.

The family continued to make their way west to Council Bluffs on the bank of the Missouri River to prepare for the trek west with the main body of the Saints. They were to stay near there at Kanesville for more than three years, until June 1850. While in Kanesville, William Y. and his boys worked tirelessly in helping their wagon company make ready for the trek. Jane

in addition to caring for her infant grandson, continued to care for the sick.

12 June 1850, the Captain James Pace Company, consisting of 100 wagons, left Kaneshville. It was the fourth of eight companies to leave the Winter Quarters area in 1850. Richard Sessions was leader of the first 50 wagons and David Bennett was leader of the second 50 wagons. The William Black family were in the Richard Sessions group. They arrived in the Salt Lake Valley in the fall of 1850.

About two months after entering the Salt Lake Valley, President Brigham Young called William Y. Black and family to go to Sanpete County with other Saints. They settled in Spring City. In 1853 they were called back to Salt Lake Valley until the Indian leaders were brought under control. William Y. and his three sons volunteered as part of the army used to quiet the Indian uprising. In 1855 after the Indian war was settled and with the coming of Johnston's Army to Utah, the families returned to Sanpete Valley. They now settled in Manti.

William Y. built a rock house at the foot of the hill where the Temple now stands

April 6, 1850, son George married Susan Jacaway. In 1852 he married Mary Ann Donelley Groe, in Salt Lake City. This was the first plural marriage in the William Y. Black family.

Orson Hyde was chosen by Pres. Brigham Young to select a number of families from the south and center counties of Utah to settle the Rio Virgin and Santa Clara River valleys in Southern Utah. Again William Y. and his three sons and their families were called to go. In 1861 they were a part of the great colonizing program of the Church to go to Utah's Dixie. William Y., now in his 76th year with his family built their first homes in Springdale. Pres. Brigham Young released the families to William Y. and his sons from the Dixie Mission, February 16, 1869. William Y. and Jane preferred to remain in Dixie. Their years of migrations, serving the Lord, their fellowmen and colonizing new areas was at an end. They lived until 28 January 1873 when William Young Black died. Jane continued to live in their home in Rockville until 1878, when she moved to Deseret in Millard County to live with her children. She died 20 January 1890. Services were held in Deseret and Rockville, Kane County where she was buried beside her life's companion, William Y. Black