

THE HISTORY OF WM. MARSDEN IS TOLD IN HIS OWN WORDS. COPIED FROM HIS DIARY

I am William Marsden, son of Abraham Marsden and Hannah Thornton, am now in the sixtieth year of my age. I was born on Thursdsy, about six o'clock in the morning, on the 16th of March 1814, in the town of Oldham, County of Lancashire, England. My father was by trade a cotton spinner. I was brought up in the cotton business, and followed the same until I was twenty-five, years of age. My parents were strictly Methodists, they belonged to what was called the New Connection Methodists. At the age of twenty four I joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, I was baptized on the 7th of October 1839 in the river Irnvel, Manchester County of Lancashire, by James Mahon Priest. I was also ordained a priest Jan. 5, 1840 by Parley Peter Pratt and Brigham Young two of the Twelve Apostles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The next day being Sunday, President Brigham Young requested me to go to Oldham to presch to the people as they did not have any Latter-day Saint preacher there. I did go having to make the journey on foot, a distance of seven miles. I invited Thomas Yates and James Mahon, Priests, to accompan me which they did. Thomas Yates and myself continued to labor there, in six weeks there were six persons baptized, each one belonging to a different denomination. I continued to labor there until a branch of the Church was organized. The branch was organized on Sunday February 17th, 1840.

I then went to labor in new places, wherever I could get an opportunity to preach to the people, on the 16th day of October 1840, I was ordained an Elder under the hands of Brigham Young and Willard Richards, the blessing pronounced on me were that I should have power over unclean spirits, and cast them out, and to heal the sick, I labored in Oldham and nearby places until April and in May I was appointed by Parley P. Pratt on a mission of Leeds in Yorkshire, I was there two weeks and returned home to Manchester County, a distance of 30 miles, the journey I performed on foot, being without purse of script, and found sickness in my family. A few days after my arrival home, my son Abraham died. Previous to being sent to Leeds I was in the employ of a Mr. Francis Parnell, who by reason of my religious faith, discharged me. he being prominent officer in the Methodist Church, and thought it a disgrace to

have in his employ any Latter-day Saint, in consequence of which I which I was
poor, yet the Saints came to my aid and assisted me so that I was able to bury
dead, soon after I was counsiled by Parley P. Pratt to emigrate to America and there
means to send for my family, consequently I sold my household furniture, and by
all donations from my friends was able to emigrate I left the shores of England,
the Liverpool docks, by the ship "Clifton" on the 23rd day of September, and
landed in New York the 12th of November 1840. I serched a few days for employment,
and could not obtain any, at this time the president of the branch of the Church
in that City, Br. L.R. Foster, invited me to make my home at his house. By his re-
quest I went with a Br. Burnett Smith to Rockway in the State of New Jersey. I
preached once, and soon after I was taken ill, forcing me to my bed for six days.
I then returned to New York City, but returned again to New Jersey and labored in
the town of Patterson, baptized quite a number of persons, then back to New York and
then to Trenton, New Jersey on the 18th of December 1840, and found my cousin Thomas
Manton. He was a blacksmith by trade, I remained with him 16 days, which time
I worked in a cotton factory for a Mr. Ives. On the 3rd of January 1841, I arrived in
the City of Philadelphia. Dr. Benjamin Winchester, president of the branch of the
Church in that state introduced me to Albert Lutz a shoe-maker, with whom I stayed
until the 20th. Then I was invited by Br. Aaron Burr, president of the branch of
the Church at Burlington, New Jersey, to go with him to that place and preside there.
I remained with the Saints for 8 days, preaching and teaching them the principles of
salvation. I was introduced to a Br. Wilford Mulford, who had received a small amount
of money the last of a small fortune left him by his grandfather, he wished me to
accompany him to Pittsburg, as he wanted someone to take care of his property, I did
and he paid my expenses, he then wished me to go to the city of Nauvoo, Illinois.
I left Burlington on the 12th of April 1841, traveling on the canal to Pittsburg,
I arrived at Nauvoo about the last of April. On my arrival there President Brigham
Young invited me to his house, he found me employment during my stay of 17 days, then
my family arrived from England. My wife Jane Appleby Marsden, my son Samuel, my
daughter Hannah Mariah, also my brother Samuel and his wife Sarah Wilkinson, they

all sailed from Liverpool, England in the ship "Hanover" to the New Orleans, from there by steamboat up the Mississippi River to Nauvoo. They landed in New Orleans on the 1st, day of May 1841 and arrived in Nauvoo on the 15th of May 1841. Myself and family stayed with President Young for about 3 weeks, during which time, my brother and myself made a house to live in Bro. Brigham let me have a city lot, and being poor and destitute of tools of any kind, we borrowed an axe and got some hazel-brush and drove sticks in the ground and wove in brush like basket or wicker work, we then dobed it with black mud inside and out, it had a board roof, the chimney and fireplace being made of sod, the size of the room was 10 by 12 ft. I then went to Qquaka, Henderson county, with Richard Hardman, we dug a well for Samuel Owens, for which we received two cows with young calves, we worked there two weeks, and then returned home to Nauvoo, bringing my cow and calf with me, which was very acceptable to my family, as they had been living on coarse corn meal and sour milk, the milk was obtained through the charity of the neighbors, soon after I moved my family to Qquawka, where I entered the employ of a Mr. Alex Phelps. I had been in his employ about 14 days when I was sick, and was sick for several weeks, although I stayed at the Phelps home, he did not charge me anything. My wife at the same time was doing house work for them, we remained in the employ of Mr. Phelps from October 1841 until January 18th 1842. We then moved into one of Phelp's houses and lived there free of rent until the first day of March. I then moved on a farm which I rented from Mr. David Brownly. On the following November 11th, my father and mother arrived in Nauvoo from England. I met them there and brought them to my home where they lived most of the time. My wife and I received our endowments in the Nauvoo Temple. Both my father and mother died on the 11th day of November 1849 and were buried in the Qquawaka, Illinois cemetery. They died of cholera. I also buried my wife Jane and three of our children. The Saints were preparing to leave Nauvoo in 1846, just previous I moved my family to Henderson Co.

On the 29th day of April 1855, I left the state of Illinois for Utah, traveling by ox team, and with my family, Hannah Mariah, Eliza Jane, Cornelia Phelps and Elizabeth, also a nephew Thomas Yardley, a son of my sister Sarah, arrived the city

of Salt Lake, September 3rd, 1855, and on October 3rd, I moved to Provo, Utah. I became acquainted with Lucius Nelson Scovill, on the the 16th day of September 1856 I married his daughter Sariah in the temple in Salt Lake City.

June 24, 1858 I went to Salt Lake City with Ebenezer Hanks and visited with Brigham Young. He told me to manage and assist Hanks to get machinery to manufacture cotton. I commenced to make drawings for cotton machinery. I went to the machine shop in Sugar House Ward, remained there and superintended the making of machinery until it was completed. Part of the iron we used was scrap iron left from Johnsons Army at Camp Floyd. October 15, 1861 I left Provo City for Parowan Iron County, with my family and I superintended the cotton factory until Oct, same year. Later, Jan. 1864 I spent 5 years superintending the factory until Feb 1869. I made the first cotton year ever made in Utah by machinery.

June 20th, 1868 he writes, 'My wife Sariah Scovill dies of child bed fever in evening. During her sickness she manifested a very meek and quiet spirit and fell asleep without a struggle. She was beloved and well respected by all who knew her. She lived according to the light and knowledge she had. She was a truly a day Saint. She died in Parowan. She was the mother of Lura, Ellen (Nellie Sariah) Lucius Nelson, Joseph and Roxa Lenora. On the marker of her grave we inscribed

"Mother we mourn to leave thee here
Beneath this silent Sod
But soon we hope to meet again
To dwell with Israels God."

A large concourse of people followed to the cemetery. The whole town came to the funeral.'

He married Mary Alice Benson on the 23rd of November 1868 in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City. She became a mother for his children. She and her husband owned and operated the first Mercantile Store in Parowan. He died the 4th of June in Parowan. All his life he held many positions of responsibility and trust, both church and civic, offices: 1st Lieutenant of Co. B. Infantry of the Melitia President of all Block Teachers of Provo City. Helped establish Mail routes between the Missouri

Territory of Utah.

Superintendent of Sunday Schools.

Superintended Picnic Party in Big Cotton Wood Canyon
celebrating the entrance of the Pioneers into this Territory. 2587 people attended.

October 9, 1857, all the Militia was ordered out to Echo Canyon to confront
the Troops sent out to Utah unlawfully by Pres. James Buchanan. I was appointed
commander of the Southern division. May 7, 1858 guarded President Young and family on
account of the U.S. Troops. Next day I presented President Young a gallon of
Molasses I had made from wheat. President Young made a note of this on the Church
Records as I was the first man in Utah to make Molasses from wheat. Members of the
Militia guarded President Young all during his stay in Provo June 24, 1861.

Supervised and established a cotton factory in Parowan. Was superintendent
of the cotton factory for many years.