

Sketch of the Life of Francis Webster

Utah Pioneer of 1856

Prepared by Himself

For the Old Fort Camp, Cedar City, Utah

I Francis Webster, second son of Thomas Webster and Mary Go-ward Webster, was born on the 8th day of February 1830. In the Parish of Wymondham County of Norfolk, England.

From the time I was three years old till I was six my health was very poor, and my parents had but little hopes of my living to be a man. I went to school from the time I was six until I was twelve, but most of the time I was only taught to read, consequently my deucation was limited.

I lived with my father untill I was between 15 and 16 years old, laboring for Mr. Godfry Weston. I afterwards lived with West-ten for two years, but getting weary of working so hard and being so closely confined, I resolved to leave him. I obtained another situation where my work was lighter, being employed in the gardens most of the time. My master, Mr. John Cann was very kind to me during the time I worked for him and when I left him to go to Au-stralia.

In March of the year 1848, I first heard the elders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, I heard them preach a few times and I decided they had the truth according to the scriptures and my own ideas of truth. I was baptized into the church about the 17th of April 1848 by Elder John Licarice.

Being very ignorant and knowing but little about my duties as a Saint of God, I started as an imigrant to Australia on the 28th of May 1848. After a favorable passage, with the exception of ~~the storm~~ in which our ship was dismantled I arrived in Sydney about the twentieth of October.

On my arrival in Sidney I started to work for Doctor Halper. I worked for him about three months, performing all kinds of duties, such as cleaning floors, cooking, taking care of the horse and carriage. Then I got work onboard a small vessel on the coast of Australia till the twenty-ninth of October 1849. I then started for San Francisco, California.

On my journey to California I visited New Zealand, Tahti, and the Sandwich Islands, staying several days at each group. Arriving in San Francisco on the 31st of April and secured board and lodging for twelve dollars a week. I then got a job helping to cut a street through Clarks Point in the city of San Francisco. I worked at this for about six weeks, receiving five dollars a day. I next worked on a boat plying between San Francisco and Stockton.

I pitched my tent on the Calaveras River and started to prospect for gold. I worked here until February 16, 1852. I then closed up my affairs and started for home. When I left San Francisco on the first day of March 1852, aboard the Clipper Ship, Hornet, I had fifteen hundred dollars in gold dust. I arrived in Panama on the sixth day of April and crossed the Isthmus, on mule to Gargona, some distance by canoe and eighteen miles on railroad to Aspinwall Navy Bay. I then took passage aboard the Serra Nevada Steam Ship on the seventh of April. I arrived in Kingstone Jamaica on the leventh and in New York on the sixteenth of April.

During my stay of eight days in New York I visited the Crystal Palace, Barnum's Musium and other public places. The twenty-fourth of April I took passage on the mail steam ship, Herman for England, four years lacking twenty days.

During my stay in England I visited many public places, especially in and around London.

I found that I had lost my standing with the Saints through going to Australia thence to Californian without the counsel of the church. I often attended their meeting and always found them very interesting. When I left for California on the twenty-third of June 1852. I took several of the Church Works with me to read during the journey.

I took passage at south Hampton on the steam ship, Washington, and arrived in New York on the eighth of July. I bought a through ticket in New York on the steamers Sierra Nevada and Unicorn via Jamaica and Panama. I arrived in San Francisco on the twenty-first of August 1852. This was my second trip to California.

I again settled down on the Calaveras River in September and opened a provision store in partnership with William Smith. In October I contracted Diarrhea, which continued to trouble me for seven months. During this sickness I sold out my interest in the store. In the summer of 1854 I sent my father and mother one hundred dollars. In the general smash up of banks in 1854 I would have lost eight hundred dollars which I had deposited in the Wright's Savings Bank, but I had the good fortune to sell the certificate for four hundred dollars thus losing only half.

I sold out my claims in the mines for 150 dollars in 1855 and left San Francisco with twelve hundred dollars on the Golden Gate Steamship. I arrived in Panama, crossed the Isthmus by railroad on the third of July, boarded a steamship on the fourth, put into Kingston Jamaica on the seventh, and arrived at New York on the twelveth, left New York on the sixteenth and arrived in South Hampton on the twenty-eighth of the same month.

During my stay in England I visited the Crystal Palace at

Lydenham. I renewed my acquaintances with the saints and was rebaptized on the thirteenth of October 1855 by Elder James G. Bleak. I was Married on the fifth of December 1855 to Ann Elizabeth Parsons. I was ordained a priest on the twenty-third of December.

On the twenty-third of May 1856 I started for Utah with my wife. We left Liverpool on board the ship, Harizon, and I payed the fare for nine persons besides myself and wife to Salt Lake City. We landed at Boston on the third of June, traveled through the States by railroad to Iowa City, We left there with hand carts to travel to Salt Lake City on the twenty seventh of July. I had the diarrrhea all the way from Iowa City to Florence. It was so bad that I sat down on the road and was administered to, by the elders, I then got up and pulled my cart with renewed vigor. I started from Florance on the third of September. At Wolf Creek on the Platt, my wife gave birth to our first child, a daughter, Amy Elizabeth, on the twenty-seventh of September. We arrived in Salt Lake City on the thirteenth of November 1856. On the second day of December I started with the brethern for Cedar City. I paid my tithing on the little clothing I brought with me and signed the Articles of Consecration five days after my arrival in Cedar City. My feet were badly frozen during the journey.

We settled here and my son Francis was born here on the seventh of April 1858.

I was ordained an elder by Isaac C. Haight February 19, 1860. February 20, I was appointed one of the Bishop's teachers.

My son Thomas Josiah was born March 18, 1860.