

William Chandler Parkinson was born August 2, 1855 in Kaysville, Davis County, Utah. He was the son of Samuel Rose Parkinson and Arabella Ann Chandler. He moved with his parents to Franklin, Oneida County, Idaho in the spring of 1860. He was baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints by Elder William Woodward on November 24, 1867 and confirmed the same day by John Thompson. He was ordained an Elder by his father May 26, 1868.

He served as a home missionary in Cache Stake for about three years. He was also made a counselor in the first Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association organized in Franklin, Idaho. He received his Temple Endowments December 17, 1879.

On March 10, 1880 he was called on a mission to Europe, being the first missionary ever called, in the regular way, from Franklin. He labored in the Newcastle conference about seventeen months and then in the Liverpool conference until his release April 13, 1882.

On February 24, 1884 he was ordained a High Priest by Bishop Nahum Porter and on June 2, 1884 was ordained a Bishop and set apart to preside over the Preston Ward by Moses Thatcher. John Larson and George Taft Benson were chosen as his counselors. He remained in Preston, Idaho as Bishop for about fourteen years.

In January 1898 he was called on a short mission to the Northwestern States. August 8, 1898 he was called and set apart to preside over the Pocatello Stake of Zion by Apostle Heber J. Grant. William A. Hyde and Noah S. Pond were chosen as his counselors. He was called from Idaho to become President of the Hyrum Stake in Utah and was sustained in this position at a conference held in Logan, Utah on April 30, 1901. He was released from this position in 1920.

As a boy William worked on a farm and in the canyon hauling logs during the summer months and attended the district school during the winter. In 1871-72 he hauled freight from Corinne, Utah to Deer Lodge Montana with horse and mule teams. In the winter of 1872-73 he attended the Brigham Young College in Logan, Utah and again in the winter of 1873-74. In 1874-75 he attended school in Ogden, Utah

In the spring of 1875 he had his first experience in merchandizing, working in Wallace Foulger's store at Ogden. In the fall of 1875 he was hired to manage the Cooperative store in Franklin, Idaho which position he held until January 1877. After this he worked on the Logan Temple and also hauled material from the canyon and fenced one hundred and sixty acres of land situated about three miles north of Franklin. This land he had previously entered under the pre-emption law.

In August 1879 his father, having contracted to furnish lumber for the Z.C.M.I. and the Assembly Hall in Salt Lake City, put William in charge of hauling the lumber from the mill in Maple Creek Canyon to the Franklin depot. He served as Justice of the Peace for two years and four years as County Treasurer. In 1884 he bought a small mercantile business in Preston, Idaho which grew into a large general merchandise establishment known as W. C. Parkinson and Company. He also worked on the Preston and Cub River Canal. He served as a member of the Board of Education in the Oneida Stake for about ten years. While in Pocatello as President of the Stake he worked for the Studebaker Bros. Manufacturing Company.

On December 12, 1878 William married Ellen Elvira Nash. The marriage ceremony was performed in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City, Utah by Daniel H. Wells. They had eleven children, three of whom died in infancy and eight were raised to adulthood; three boys and five girls.

Believing in the law of plural marriage he took as his second wife Louisa Benson, daughter of George Taft Benson and Louisa Ballif. They were married on February 11, 1887 in the Logan Temple by Apostle Marriner W. Merrill. They had ten children; eight girls and two boys.