

## WILLIAM CHANDLER PARKINSON

William Chandler Parkinson, the son of Samuel Rose Parkinson and Arabella Ann Chandler, was born August 2, 1855, at Kayville, Davis County, Utah. His father, Samuel Rose Parkinson, was the son of William Parkinson and Charlotte Rose and he was born April 12, 1831 in Barrowford, Lancashire, England. His mother, Arabella Ann Chandler, was born February 27, 1824 in Cheltenham Gloucester County, England. Her parents were Esther Glover and George Chandler. William had a twin sister Charlotte besides other brothers and sisters.

He moved with his parents to Franklin, Oneida County, Idaho in the spring of 1860. Being pioneers they had only the bare necessities of life. Everyone had to help. As a young man William worked through the summers on the farm and in the canyons and went to school about four months during the winter. When he was about sixteen years of age his father had a small store and this is where he gained his first experience in merchandising. His father also owned and operated a sawmill and sometimes William worked in the mill and in the canyon getting out the timber.

During these times the white boys and Indian boys often associated together but sometimes they had very serious Indian troubles. One time an Indian became drunk and his companions put him on a horse. He raced wildly up and down the street trying to run over everybody that came in sight. He knocked a lady down, beat her with a club and was trying to make his horse step on her when a white man who was working on a threshing machine near by jumped on a horse, rode over to where the Indian was and shot him. At this time about five hundred Indians were camped near the town. They were greatly angered and captured two white men. They held them prisoners threatening to kill them unless the white people would deliver the man who shot the Indian. In the meantime this man had escaped by traveling south through the settlements of Richmond, Smithfield, Logan, Hyrum and Wellsville, leaving word through these settlements that the Indians were on the war path and the people of Franklin needed help. The women and children left their homes and gathered in a big log school house. There they spent the night anxiously waiting and expecting any minute to hear of fighting and bloodshed. When daylight appeared next morning they were greatly relieved to see hundreds of men coming in from the settlements to the south, all armed and equipped for war. When the Indians saw them they were willing to make peace. Wise men from both sides met together and settled the difficulty by paying the Indians five cows and six hundred pounds of flour. The men who were held as prisoners were released and the women and children went back to their homes. Peace was restored and the minute men who came to assist returned to their families.

William witnessed many similar experiences in those early days. He himself became a minute man whose duty it was to guard the people against the Indians and send out warning when there was trouble.

William 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 England, being the first full time missionary to be called from Franklin, Idaho. He labored in the Newcastle conference about seventeen months and then in the Liverpool conference until his release April 13, 1882. While in Great Britain he visited his mother's birth place in Cheltenham, also his father-in-law's people in Wales. In both these places he met many relatives and gathered important family genealogy. On returning home he stopped at St. Louis, Missouri where he found an Aunt who came to Utah with him and was baptized into the Church.

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. Moses Thatcher once remarked that Bishop Parkinson and his counselors were the most united Bishopric in the Church.

During the time that William was Bishop a townsite was located and surveyed and a new meeting house built for the church. The following named public grounds were also purchased: A ten acre public square, a tithing lot, a meeting house lot, a burial ground and a forty acre missionary farm. Three district school houses and the Oneida Stake Academy were erected and the Mink Creek Canal was located, surveyed and partly constructed. The Ward grew from about thirty families until three other wards were organized from it. Bishop Parkinson also built a comfortable home for his family during this time.

In the spring of 1896 he accompanied his brother Frank on a trip to Portland, Seattle, Victoria, San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Bernardino. Having been set apart as a missionary prior to starting on this trip he enjoyed his missionary work and the companionship of the Elders with whom he came in contact.

In February 1898, together with his brother Samuel, he was called on a short mission to the Northwestern States. They labored very successfully and with great pleasure, opening up missions in Baker City, Walla-Walla, Pendleton, Vianto, Portland, Oregon City, Salem, Vancouver, Astoria and other places. After being in the mission field about two months they were released and returned home by way of California in April 1898.

August 8, 1898 William was 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. Before taking his departure from Preston the people of the ward arranged a farewell festival in his honor and as a token of their love and esteem they presented him with a beautiful gold watch.

On April 30, 1901 President William C. Parkinson was invited by Brother Mathias Cowley and Brother Woodruff to attend a Church Conference at Logan, Utah. At this Cache Stake Conference the Stake was divided into three Stakes. Joesph Morrell was called to be President of the Cache Stake, William Lewis to be President of the Benson Stake, and William C. Parkinson was called from the Pocatello Stake and appointed to preside as President of the Hyrum Stake. He was released from this position in 1920 after nineteen years of dedicated service.

At the 87th annual conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints held in the Tabernacle in Salt Lake City, Utah in April 1917 President Parkinson was called upon to speak. He gave a very fine talk in which he said he had attended general conference for thirty five years, which certainly shows his dedication to the church and its principles. In this talk he said, "Some people say, 'I guess they could get along without you, Brother Parkinson, if you don't go this time.' No doubt they could, but I want to say it is a very hard thing for me to get along without them, hard for me to feel as I should and keep the faith and spirit of the gospel and up with the times, unless I come closely in contact with the spirit of inspiration and revelation that emanates from the Prophets of God. I feel that I ought to be pretty close to the powers that be and to the things of our Father in Heaven if I may successfully resist the influences of the world and maintain my standing in the Church and finally win out in the great battle of life and obtain the reward of the righteous." Every member of his family should have a copy of this talk and be familiar with its contents.

In 1871-72 William 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 gained experience in merchandising by 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 William's father, having contracted to furnish lumber for the Zion's Cooperative Mercantile Institution 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, Idaho depot. This work he conducted very successfully. 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. At the time of his retirement from this company he was presented with a handsome ebony and gold cane with the following inscription: "Presented to William C. Parkinson from the Stockholders of the W. C. Parkinson and Company in his retirement from its management January 31, 1899. A token of regard and appreciation."

In 1882 William was a contractor in the building of the Preston and Cub River Canal. He served as a member of the Board of Education in the Oneida Stake for about ten years, during which time he was chairman of the executive committee, treasurer and assistant secretary. While in Pocatello as President of the Stake he worked for the Studebaker Brothers Manufacturing Company and traveled during the year in nearly all the counties of Southeastern Idaho.

He spent twenty years in the merchandising business and at the same time was engaged in farming and in the sheep and cattle business. For fifteen years he was engaged in buying and selling grain and all kinds of farm produce.

During the winter of 1878 William built a two-roomed log house and on December 12, 1878 he married Ellen Elvira (Nellie) Nash. The marriage ceremony was performed in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City, Utah by Daniel H. Wells. Eleven children were born of this union, five boys and six girls, three of whom died in infancy.

Believing in the law of plural marriage William 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. At the time of their marriage William was Louisa's Bishop and her father, George Taft Benson, was his counselor. The story is told that when they were settling tithing Brother Benson announced that his tenth child had been born and Bishop Parkinson said, "It is time you turned one in for tithing. I'll take the oldest one." This was Louisa.

What a wonderful tithing it was as their life together was very happy. They were always most devoted to each other. Although his Church, business responsibilities and having two families to care for kept him away from home a great deal his influence was ever present and his children had great love and respect for him. He was always kind and gentle and evenings spent with him when he was at home were really something to remember. He loved the simple things of life and had a great sense of humor and always a story to tell. Evenings at home were spent singing together around the piano, popping corn, eating apples, making candy and often the children would take turns standing behind his leather chair combing his hair while he would read his newspaper. He always brought a treat, sometimes oranges or candy. When it was candy there was a special variety for mother of her favorites. He was a refined gentleman; very affectionate, gentle, modest and kind. He always enjoyed excellent health. It was like a holiday every day that he was at home. Mother would cook his favorite food and it was a time of joy for all of us.

He was a humble and unassuming man and ranked high among his brethren for his integrity and faithfulness to the cause of truth. His great reverence for God and the authorities of the Church, his obedience to parents and respect for old age and his considerate treatment of all his associates has made him popular and beloved by all who knew him.

He died in Salt Lake City, after a short illness, on November 17, 1929 at the age of 74.

**Children by Ellen Elvira Nash:**

Mary Nash  
Lillian Nash  
(Elva) Nellie Elvira  
Irene Nash  
Ray Nash (girl)  
William Nash  
Willis " "  
Waldo Chandler  
Frank Lane  
Bartlett Ross  
Eda Nash  
Infant son (still-born)

**Children by Louisa Benson:**

Louisa  
Marie  
Charlotte  
Clara  
George Benson  
Adeline  
Wilbur Chandler  
Carmen  
Evelyn  
Wanda

**Brothers:**

Samuel  
George  
Frank

**Sisters:**

Charlotte (twin)  
Esther  
Caroline