Lines of Authority of the Following Apostles of the L.D.S. Church

Melvin J. Ballard, Jan. 7, 1919
John A. Widtsoe, Mar. 17, 1921
Joseph F. Merrill, Oct. 8, 1931
Charles A. Callis, Oct. 12, 1933
J. Reuben Clark Jr., Oct. 11, 1934
Alonzo A. Hinckley, Oct. 11, 1934
Albert E. Bowen, April 8, 1937
Sylvester Q. Cannon, April 14, 1938
Harold B. Lee, April 10, 1941

Ordained Apostles by Heber J. Grant who was ordained an Apostle October 16, 1882, by George Q. Cannon, who was ordained an Apostle August 26, 1860, by Brigham Young. *

George Albert Smith, Oct. 8, 1903 George F. Richards, April 9, 1906 David O. McKay, April 9, 1906 Joseph Fielding Smith, April 7, 1910 Stephen L Richards, Jan. 17, 1917 Richard R. Lyman, April 7, 1918 Ordained Apostles by Joseph F. Smith who was ordained an Apostle July 1, 1866, by Brigham Young. *

Rudger Clawson, October 10, 1898 Reed Smoot, April 8, 1900 Ordained Apostles by Lorenzo Snow who was ordained an Apostle Feb. 12, 1849, by Heber C. Kimball. *

John Henry Smith, Oct. 27, 1880 Abraham O. Woodruff, Oct. 7, 1897 Marriner W. Merrill, Oct. 7, 1889 Ordained Apostles by Wilford Woodruff who was ordained an Apostle April 26, 1839, by Brigham Young. *

Heber J. Grant, October 16, 1882 Anthon H. Lund, October 7, 1889 Matthias F. Cowley, Oct. 7, 1897

Ordained Apostles by George Q. Cannon who was ordained an Apostle Aug. 26, 1860, by Brigham Young. *

Francis M. Lyman, Oct. 27, 1880 George Teasdale, Oct. 16, 1882 Ordained Apostles by John Taylor who was ordained an Apostle Dec. 19, 1938, by Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball. *

* Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball were ordained Apostles by the Three Witnesses and the ordinations were confirmed by the First Presidency, Joseph Smith, Jr., Sidney Rigdon and F. G. Williams. Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery were ordained Apostles by Peter, James and John, ancient Apostles chosen by Jesus Christ. For further details see the following paragraph and the references named therein.

Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery were ordained Apostles in 1829 by the ancient Apostles Peter, James and John (Doc. and Cov. 20:2,3 and 27:12.) The power to call the first Twelve Apostles was given by revelation in June, 1829, to "search out the Twelve" (Doc. and Cov. 18:37.) Oliver Cowdery, David Whitmer and Martin Harris, the Three Witnesses to the Book of Mormon, were "Blessed by the laying on of the hands of the Presidency" of the Church "to make choice of the Twelve." * * * "the Three Witnesses laid their hands upon each one's head and prayed, separately." (Church History Vol. 2, pages 186, 187) Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball, through whom all of the brethren listed above trace their Priesthood Authority, were ordained Apostles February 14, 1835, and these ordinations were confirmed by the First Presidency, Joseph Smith Jr., Sidney Rigdon and F. G. Williams (History of the Church, Vol. 2, page 187 and footnote page 188. See also History of the Church, Vol. 5, page 412.)