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## The Twelve Apostles

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**Abstract:** Biographical essays on early Latter-day Saint apostles John Henry Smith, George Teasdale, Heber J. Grant, and John W. Taylor.

inclosure. Previous to the building of the meeting house in the fort, religious services had been held in private houses.

About this time the name of Taylorsville was given to that part of the Ward now embraced in North Jordan. A post office was also established, but this was subsequently discontinued for a number of years and then reopened under the name of Taylorsville.

In 1856 a number of families removed from the Ward to Rush Valley, Tooele Co.

During the absence of Elder Harker on a mission to the Salmon River country in the summer of 1856, and again in 1857, John Ben- nion had temporary charge of the Ward.

In 1858, most of the West Jordan Saints moved in a body to Pondtown and Spanish Fork, Utah Co., where they remained a few weeks, after which they located temporarily on the shore of the Utah Lake, between the mouths of Spanish Fork River and Peteet- neet Creek. In July they returned to their farms on the river Jordan, peace having been established between Utah and the Fed- eral government. In May, 1858, while the West Jordan Saints were encamped at Pond- town, Wm. A. Hickman was chosen as Counselor to acting Bishop Harker, instead of McGee Harris.

After the move a log school house was built near the spot where the present North Jordan ward house stands. This served for all school and meeting purposes until 1866, when it gave way for a more substan- tial rock building, which is still standing.

Elder Harker presided until the fall of 1858, when Archibald Gardner was ordained Bishop of the Ward, with D. R. Allen and Royal B. Cutler as Counselors. Before this change in the Bishopric, there was a branch organization at the upper part of the Ward, comprising that tract of country now inclu- ded in the West Jordan, South Jordan and other Wards. The present West Jordan ward house was built in 1864 and dedicated in 1867.

Counselors Allen and Cutler removed to Utah County, to fill the vacancies caused thereby. James Turner and John Hill were ordained High Priests and set apart as Coun- selors to Bishop Gardner, Jan. 7, 1866.

At a special meeting held in the West Jordan ward house, June 17, 1877, the West Jordan Ward was divided into four Wards, the middle part only being retained and re- organized under the original name. Archi- bald Gardner was continued as Bishop with James Turner and John Hill as Counselors. The new Wards organized at the same time were North Jordan, South Jordan and Her- riman Wards.

WILLOW CREEK, a small moun- tain stream, rises in the Wasatch Mountains east of Draper. It flows in a westerly direction through a small canyon until it emerges into Salt Lake Valley above Draper, where the people utilizes its water for irrigation purposes. Originally it emptied into the river Jordan.

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## THE TWELVE APOSTLES.

### JOHN HENRY SMITH,

A son of the late Pres. George A. Smith and Sarah Ann Libby, was born at Carburna, near Kaneshville (now Council Bluffs), Pottawattamic Co., Iowa, September 18, 1848. His grandfather, Patriarch John Smith, was one of the seven sons of Asahel and Mary Smith (see page 89). His mother was the daughter of Nathaniel Libby (and Tirzah Lord), who was the son of Captain Charles Libby (and Sarah Pray), who was the son of Charles Libby (and Abigail Hil- ton), who was the son of Deacon Benjamin Libby (and Sarah Stone), who was the son of John Libby and

Agnes. John was the son of John Libby, the immigrant, who was born in England, about the year 1602, came to America in 1630, and was employed for a number of years at Scarborough, Maine.

At the time of John Henry's birth his parents were fleeing before the bigotry and intolerance of their countrymen. In 1847 his father came with the Pioneers to G. S. L. Valley, returned to the Missouri River the same fall, and went to work to prepare for the removal of his family to Utah. June 22, 1849, he started with his family for his new home in the mountains and

reached G. S. L. City, October 27, 1849.

John Henry's mother, who had been an invalid for years, died June 12, 1851, of consumption. The boy was then put into the care of his mother's sister, Hannah Maria, who was also his father's wife. To her he owes very largely the success he has attained so far in life. She was an industrious, high-spirited woman, ever ambitious to be advancing in everything that was good. Her faith in the Gospel was as firm as the rocks. At that time she had a son of her own, Charles Warren, four months younger than the subject of this sketch. The father was absent from home when John Henry's mother died.

In July, 1852, his father moved his wives Lucy and Hannah to Provo, and here John Henry lived under the watch-care of two good Christian mothers, who both tried their best to guard him and keep him in the path of honor. His father's family were at that time widely scattered, some resided in Salt Lake City, others in Provo, and some in Parowan. The head of the family spent but a very small portion of his time at home, the duties of his Apostleship demanding almost his entire attention. The schools in these days were poor, but an effort was made to give each child as good an education as possible. Sept. 18, 1856, John Henry was baptized and confirmed a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints by his father. His grandfather, Patriarch John Smith, gave him an inspired Patriarchal blessing, Jan. 18, 1852, which has been the guiding star of his subsequent life. He attended school at Provo and Salt Lake City, and obtained a moderately good education for the times.

While residing at Provo, he had a very miraculous escape from drowning in the Provo River during the very high water of 1862. On June 8th, of that year, he together with Thomas and George M. Brown were

crossing the river in a small boat which capsized, John Henry became entangled in some driftwood and was kept under water for some time. People who were standing on the shore had given him up for lost, when suddenly an unseen power seemed to lift him bodily onto the bank. It was afterwards learned that at that very time his father had become forcibly impressed with the feeling that his son was in extreme danger, and he went and robed himself in his Priestly apparel and prayed the Lord to save his son, which was done in the manner named.

Oct. 20, 1866, John Henry married Sarah Farr, daughter of Lorin Farr and Nancy Chase, of Ogden. After their marriage the young couple moved to Provo, where John Henry worked as a telegraph operator. Sometime during the summer of 1867 he was chosen by Bishop W. A. Follet, in connection with H. C. Rodgers, to be his Counselor, and aid him in the government of the Fourth Ward, Provo. He remained in this position until the time the Pacific Railroad was nearly completed, when he left Provo and hired out to Benson, Farr and West, aiding them in the building of two hundred miles of the Central Pacific Railway. When this work was completed, he was offered a good situation in Sacramento, Cal., by Governor Leland Stanford, but his father requested him to come home to Salt Lake City and labor with him. This he did and spent a number of years in his employ.

During the session of the Territorial Legislature of 1872, John Henry was assistant clerk of the House of Representatives; he also acted as assistant clerk in the Constitutional Convention. Among the members were George Q. Cannon, Frank Fuller, T. C. Akers. David E. Buell, Thomas Fitch and many others of all shades of faith. A constitution was drafted and adopted having a minority representation clause in it.

John Henry traveled in various parts of the Territory with his father, and by this means became acquainted with many people. He also became intimate with Pres. Brigham Young and asked him many questions in regard to Church government. Among other things Pres. Young told him that it was the right of the senior Apostle (in order of ordination) to preside in case of his (Pres. Young's) death, but no man that had ever faltered or turned back could lead.

At the General Conference of the Church held in May, 1874, John Henry was called to go on a mission to Europe; his father gave him a blessing and Apostle John Taylor set him apart for his mission. He was also ordained a Seventy by Pres. Joseph Young, and set apart to preside as one of the Counsel over the 65th Quorum of Seventies. In the latter capacity he, however, never acted, as some mistake had been made, the quorum being already full. He left Ogden to fulfil his mission June 29, 1874, and reached New York City July 4th. He paid a visit to his uncles (mother's brothers) in New Hampshire. They received him kindly. July 14, 1874, in company with David McKenzie and L. John Nuttall, he sailed from New York in the steamship *Idaho*, and landed at Liverpool July 26th. He visited a few days with his cousin, Pres. Joseph F. Smith, and was appointed to labor in the Birmingham Conference, under the direction of Elder Richard V. Morris. Subsequently he visited most of the conferences in Great Britain, and in 1875, in company with Pres. Joseph F. Smith, F. M. Lyman, E. N. Freeman and M. H. Hardy, visited Denmark, Germany, Switzerland and France.

His father being taken very sick, John Henry was ordered home in July, 1875. He arrived in time to spend fifteen days at his father's bedside, who died Sept. 1, 1875.

After this John Henry was in the employ of the Utah Central Railway

Company for several years. Nov. 22, 1875, he was ordained a High Priest and Bishop by President Brigham Young, Geo. Q. Cannon and Joseph F. Smith, Pres. Young being mouth, and set apart to preside over the Seventeenth Ward of Salt Lake City. He chose John Tingey and George Dunford for his Counselors. In this position he was sustained by the people of the Ward, and enjoyed his labors very much.

At the city election in February, 1876, he was elected a member of the city council from the Third Precinct. He was re-elected twice and served six years altogether. In Aug., 1882, he was elected a member of the Territorial Legislature. During the excitement attending the passage of the first Edmunds law, he and Moses Thatcher were sent to Washington, D. C., to labor with Elder George Q. Cannon, using their influence against the passage of that law. They found it impossible to approach public men owing to the excitement, and after about a month's sojourn at the Capital they returned home.

In April, 1877, John Henry yielded obedience to the principle of plural marriage by marrying Josephine Groesbeck, a daughter of Elder Nicholas Groesbeck.

He was ordained an Apostle Oct. 27, 1880, President Woodruff being mouth, in answer to prayer.

After the October Conference in 1882, he was sent to preside over the European Mission, and was away from home two years and five months, during which time he traveled extensively in England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales. He also visited the Isle of Man, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, France, Germany, Switzerland and Italy. Since his return from this mission abroad, and during the excitement incident to the execution of the Edmunds law, he has labored incessantly among the Saints in Utah and surrounding Territories. He was arrested in July, 1885, on the charge of unlawful cohabitation,

and was discharged by the Commissioner.

In connection with Apostle John W. Taylor he organized the Uintah Stake of Zion, May 9, 1887.

#### GEORGE TEASDALE

Was born in London, England, Dec. 8, 1831, and was baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Aug 8, 1852. The following synopsis of his life is taken from an article published in the *Millennial Star*, Vol. 48, No. 50:

After being baptized Brother Teasdale was associated with the Somers Town Branch, in the city of London, where he took his degrees in the Priesthood, until, as an Elder, he presided over that branch of the London Conference in 1855-56. In 1857 he was appointed to preside over the Cambridge Conference and in 1858 to the charge of the South Pastorate, comprising the South, Wiltshire and Land's End Conferences. In 1859 he left that field of labor to preside over the Churches in Scotland—the Edinburgh, Glasgow and Dundee Conferences—where he labored until the year 1861, when he emigrated to Utah, crossing the ocean in the ship *Underwriter*.

On his arrival in Florence, Nebraska, he was called to assist Elder Jacob Gates in keeping the accounts, etc., of the emigration, owing to which he did not leave there until the last company of the season arrived, then he crossed the plains in Captain Sextus E. Johnson's company, which arrived in Salt Lake Valley Sept. 27, 1861. Here he found a new experience, and for the first six months taught school in the Twentieth Ward, Salt Lake City. He also became associated with the Tabernacle choir, under the leadership of Brother James Smithies. In 1862 he was engaged to take charge of President Brigham Young's Merchandise Store, by which he had the privilege of becoming familiar with that excellent man and his family. In the fall of 1867 he took charge of

the General Tithing Store, and in 1868 was appointed on a mission to England. He crossed the plains with mule teams, and on his arrival in New York stayed to assist in that season's emigration, at the close of which he crossed the ocean in the steamship *City of Antwerp*, with Elder Albert Carrington, who was on his first mission to England, and Jesse N. Smith, who was appointed to the charge of the Scandinavian Mission. On his arrival in Liverpool, Sept. 9, 1868, he was appointed to labor in the *Millennial Star* office.

The next year, being called to assist Elder William C. Staines in the emigration business at New York, he crossed the ocean in the steamship *Colorado*, and remained there until the close of that season's emigration, returning home in the fall of 1869. Zion's Co-operative Mercantile Institution was then being started, and he obtained employment in that institution, from one responsibility to another, until he had charge of the produce department.

In 1875 he was appointed on a mission to the Southern States, and labored in Tennessee, North Carolina and Virginia. On being released in the fall of 1876, he returned home by way of Philadelphia, visited the Centennial Exhibition and the Niagara Falls. On reaching Salt Lake City, after resting awhile, he was again employed in Zion's Co-operative Institution.

In 1877 he was called to the charge of the Juab Stake of Zion. This caused him to resign an excellent position in Z. C. M. I., but he soon found suitable ways and means by which he could comfortably sustain his family, and enjoyed many positions of trust and responsibility in the town of Nephi, where he made many friends. In his ministerial duties he exceedingly enjoyed laboring in the Sunday Schools, as Superintendent of the Stake. It was a labor of love in which he was very much interested.

In October, 1882, he was called

into the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, by revelation, being ordained Oct. 16, 1882. In 1883 he took a six months' mission to the Indian Territory, returning to Salt Lake City in October, 1883. In 1884 his labors were chiefly among the Saints from Snake River, Idaho, north, to St. George, Washington Co., Utah, south. He also visited the Temples of Logan and St. George, attending to work in ordinances for the dead, etc.

In January, 1885, he left home on a visit to the Saints in the southern country, in Nevada and Arizona. From there he went to Old Mexico, and assisted in forming a colony in that land. From there he was called on a mission to Europe, to assist Pres. Daniel H. Wells, and afterwards to succeed him in the Presidency of the European Mission. He arrived in Liverpool Nov. 30, 1886, and after traveling quite extensively in the various conferences of Great Britain, he entered upon the responsible duties of his office as President of the mission in February, 1887.

#### HEBER JEDDIE GRANT,

A son of the late President Jedediah M. Grant, was born in Salt Lake City, Utah, Nov. 22, 1856, a few days before his father's death. He received a common school education and was baptized into the Church June 22, 1864, when nearly eight years old. While yet very young he went into business and at once became very successful in all his financial enterprises. For a number of years he figured as a prominent insurance agent, and is at present the leading spirit in a number of business corporations in Salt Lake City.

When the first Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association was

organized in the Thirteenth Ward, Salt Lake City, June 10, 1875, Heber J. Grant was chosen as one of the Counselors to Elder H. A. Woolley, the President of the association. In 1880 he was called to succeed Elder F. M. Lyman as President of the Tooele Stake of Zion, a position which he occupied until he was called by revelation to be one of the Twelve Apostles. To this responsible position he was ordained Oct. 16, 1882; since then he has spent most of his time in the ministry.

#### JOHN WHITTAKER TAYLOR,

At present the junior member of the Quorum of the Twelve, is a son of the late President John Taylor and Sophia Whittaker, and was born May 15, 1858, in Provo, Utah Co., Utah. At the age of 14 years he was ordained to the office of a Deacon, and two years later to that of a Teacher; in the latter capacity he labored in the Fourteenth Ward of Salt Lake City, about three years. When 18 years old he was ordained an Elder, received his endowments, and was called on a mission to the Southern States, where he labored as a Traveling Elder and performed a good work, returning to his mountain home in 1882, after about two years' absence. He was a member of the Fourteenth Ward Y. M. M. I. A. from the time of its organization, and acted as Counselor to Joseph H. Felt, President of all the young men's associations in the Salt Lake Stake of Zion, until he was called to the Apostleship in the spring of 1884. At the time of his ordination, which took place in Salt Lake City, April 9, 1884, the First Presidency and all the members of the Twelve, except John Henry Smith, were present.