

History #14

A History of James Washington  
and Matilda Mc Clellan Loveless.

Edited by Cyril M. Kearl from  
documents about them.

History #14 - History of James Washington  
and Matilda Mc Clellan Loveless

James Washington Loveless was the second child of John Loveless and Mahala Anderson Loveless born on December 23, 1828 in Perry, Fairfield, Ohio. His father was born in Ross County, Town of Coldream, State of Ohio, on June 24, 1807.

His grandfather, Joseph Loveless, was born in Maysville, Kentucky on March 2, 1787. His great grandfather, John Loveless came to this country from England in about the year 1770. I think that he came down the Ohio River from Ft. Duschesne (Pittsburgh) and settled at Limestone Creek Station, a frontier settlement about 50 miles above what is now Cincinnati, Ohio. On October 10, 1788 this John was deeded 270 acres of land in Bourbon County (now Kentucky),

After the Revolutionary War the lands in the Northwest Territory (Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois) were opened for settlement and John moved across the Ohio River and up into Ohio. In 1829 John, the grandson of the above John moved from Ohio to Indiana and settled on a farm in Fountain County, near Attica, on the Wabash River.

After having been converted by two Latter Saint Missionaries and baptized into the church on July 7, 1831 the entire family

moved to Jackson County, Missouri, arriving there in August of 1833.

The family of John Loveless, including young James were in the thick of the mob violence and persecutions which characterized the lives of the Saints, first in Missouri and then in Illinois. After leaving Missouri they had gone to Quincy, Illinois, to Warsaw and then to Nauvoo.

After the Saints were forced to flee from Nauvoo, they stayed at Council Bluffs, Iowa. John and his family got there in June of 1846 and started to farm once again. His farm was on the Little Pigeon River, seven miles from Kaneshville, where he lived with his family until he left for Utah in 1851.

Young James married Matilda. Mc Clellan on March 9, 1847. The members of the Loveless and Mc Clellan families had long been closely associated. They had attended the same church and farmed in the same section when they were Missouri.

James and Matilda continued to live on their fathers farm until their first child was born. Shortly after that event they moved back to Attica, Indiana where James had accepted a

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HUSBAND James Washington LOVELESS-129

LDS ORDINANCE DATA

BORN: 23 Dec 1828 PLACE: Perry, Fairfield, Ohio  
 CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 7 May 1888 PLACE: Provo, Utah, Utah  
 BUR.: PLACE: Provo, Utah, Utah  
 MARR: 9 Mar 1847 PLACE: COUNCIL BLUFFS, Pottawatomie, IOWA  
 FATHER: John LOVELESS-457  
 MOTHER: Rachel Mahala ANDERSON-458

B: Aug 1839  
 E: 28 Mar 1853  
 SP:  
 SS: 28 Mar 1853 eh  
 has other marriages  
 PARENTS' MRIN: 123

WIFE Matilda Elizabeth MCCLELLAN-130

BORN: 15 Dec 1829 PLACE: Shelbyville, Bedford, Tennessee  
 CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 1 Mar 1909 PLACE: Provo, Utah, Utah  
 BUR.: 4 Mar 1909 PLACE: Provo, Utah, Utah  
 FATHER: James MCCLELLAN III-163  
 MOTHER: Cynthia STEWART-164

B: 28 May 1938  
 E: 28 Mar 1853  
 SP:  
 PARENTS' MRIN: 21

CHILDREN

1. NAME: Jane Caroline LOVELESS-131

---- BORN: 25 Mar 1848 PLACE: KANESVILLE, Pottawatomie, IOWA  
 F CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 18 Feb 1898 PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 SPOUSE:  
 MARR: PLACE:

B: 28 Nov 1967  
 E: 30 Apr 1926 LA  
 SP: 22 Oct 1959 LA

SS:

2. NAME: Cynthia Angelina LOVELESS-132

---- BORN: 14 Jul 1850 PLACE: KANESVILLE, Pottawatomie, IOWA  
 F CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 14 Jun 1934 PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 SPOUSE:  
 MARR: PLACE:

B: 24 Oct 1967 LA  
 E: 30 Apr 1869  
 SP: 22 Oct 1959 LA

SS:

3. NAME: James ANDERSON LOVELESS-120

---- BORN: 19 Jul 1853 PLACE: Provo, Utah Co., Utah  
 M CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 7 Feb 1924 PLACE: Provo, Utah Co., Utah  
 BUR.: 10 Feb 1924 PLACE: Provo, Utah Co., Utah  
 SPOUSE: Eleanor JULIA EKINS-121  
 MARR: 23 Oct 1876 PLACE: Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah

B: 6 Nov 1967  
 E: 23 Oct 1876  
 SP:  
 MRIN: 15  
 SS: 23 Oct 1876 eh

4. NAME: Sarah Louisa LOVELESS-133

---- BORN: 12 Aug 1855 PLACE: Provo, Utah, Utah  
 F CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 22 Feb 1939 PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 SPOUSE:  
 MARR: PLACE:

B: 24 Oct 1967  
 E: 29 Mar 1875  
 SP: BIC

SS:

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HUSBAND James Washington LOVELESS-129  
 WIFE Matilda Elizabeth MCCLELLAN-130

Yr of Birth 1828  
 Yr of Birth 1829

CHILDREN (continued)

5. NAME: Deseret Matilda LOVELESS-134

--- BORN: 12 Oct 1858 PLACE: Provo,Utah,Utah  
 F CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 17 May 1930 PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 SPOUSE:  
 MARR: PLACE:

B: 28 May 1865  
 E: 23 Oct 1876  
 SP: BIC  
 SS:

6. NAME: Elizabeth Juliette LOVELESS-135

--- BORN: 7 Mar 1861 PLACE: Provo,Utah,Utah  
 F CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 29 Jul 1936 PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 SPOUSE:  
 MARR: PLACE:

B: 20 Apr 1869  
 E: 4 Dec 1879  
 SP: BIC  
 SS:

7. NAME: Harriet Una LOVELESS-136

--- BORN: 29 Apr 1865 PLACE: Provo,Utah,Utah  
 F CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 13 Sep 1939 PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 SPOUSE:  
 MARR: PLACE:

B: 15 Jun 1873  
 E: 25 Sep 1889  
 SP: BIC  
 SS:

8. NAME: Vilote Alice LOVELESS-137

--- BORN: 2 Jun 1867 PLACE: Provo,Utah,Utah  
 F CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 21 Jun 1952 PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 SPOUSE:  
 MARR: PLACE:

B:  
 E: 10 Dec 1953  
 SP: BIC  
 SS:

9. NAME: Joseph Wilburn LOVELESS-138

--- BORN: 24 May 1870 PLACE: Provo,Utah,Utah  
 M CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 5 Feb 1937 PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 SPOUSE:  
 MARR: PLACE:

B: 29 Jun 1878  
 E: 19 Feb 1959  
 SP: BIC  
 SS:

10. NAME: Hylette Maud LOVELESS-139

--- BORN: 14 Dec 1874 PLACE: Provo,Utah,Utah  
 F CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 15 May 1882 PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 SPOUSE:  
 MARR: PLACE:

B:  
 E:  
 SP:  
 SS:

them, James and William B. Head had four wagons and four teams of oxen for their long journey. The wagons were so heavily loaded that only the children could ride and then only if absolutely necessary. Furthermore, Matilda and her sister, Mary each had to drive a yoke of Oxen, which of course meant that they must have walked the entire distance.

When they arrived in Salt Lake City, on September 3, 1851, James was counseled to settle in Provo, Utah, just as his Father, John Loveless, had been counseled to do one year earlier. In Provo, he filed on a homestead and started to farm. His first home consisted of a one room adobe house, built on the north west corner of 9th West and 6th South Streets. Here his first son, James Anderson Loveless, was born. However, the indians became so hostile that he was requested by the authorities to move into town. They were forced to be one lookout for indians all of the time and built forts to protect themselves. His next home was built in 1853, a little East of 7th West Street, on 2nd South. This house is still standing and is still occupied.

James Washington Loveless, was commissioned as Major in the State Militia, 1854, and took an active part in the Walker Blackhawk War. Besides being a successful farmer, he became prominent in local affairs. He

was road supervision for a number of years, his assistants being Charles Miller and Abraham G. Conover. He was a city Councilman during the years of 1864-65, and also from 1874-65 under Mayor William Miller. He was always active in Church affairs and became one of the councilors to Bishop Scott in the second ward in the year 1862. He was the acting Bishop of that ward in 1866, was ordained Bishop in 1874 and was Bishop until his death in 1888.

James Washington Loveless believed firmly in the doctrines and teachings of the church. In accordance with these beliefs regarding plural marriage he married three women. Matilda contributed to a petition that was sent to congress defending polygamy (it is on file in the National Archives) however one of her children wrote that she cried when her husband spent the night with one of the other wives so I guess that deep down she didn't like it too much. His second wife was Mary Britton, to who he was married on September 1, 1865. His third wife was Josephine Caldwell, to who he was married on November 3, 1859. From these three marriages were born thirty seven children.

James W. was prosecuted for violation of the Edmunds Tucker Law and was arrested on a Utah Central Railroad train, charged with unlawful cohabitation on



Thursday the 8th of July 1886. The Deputy Sheriff who tried to arrest him didn't have papers and James refused to accompany him however he promised to give himself up which he did at the appointed time and indicted. His case was tried on September 29, 1886. His wife Matilda was called to testify. She said that she was the wife of the defendant, married in 1847 at Council Bluffs, Iowa and that Mr. Loveless was a single man until she married him and has continued to live with him since. It was ruled that she was not a competent witness to be sworn in in this case, being the first wife. Mary Britton Loveless was called. She said that she had lived with him as his wife for 30 years. She said that she knew Josephine Loveless, who was the third wife. Other witnesses were sworn in, the jury instructed and James W. was found guilty and was sentenced to six months imprisonment in the State Penitentiary at Sugar House and fined \$300.00 and costs, a total of nearly \$600.00. To raise that amount of money he had to sell his ten acre farm in the Ft. Field and a team of mules.

James W. was a very proud man, and to be confined in the State Penitentiary and to be compelled to wear a striped uniform. Taking off his garments and wearing the prison under clothing seemed to worry him terribly. His health deteriorated badly and when he was released on

Sunday the 20th of March 1887 he was not nearly the healthy man that had entered the penitentiary. He seemed to fail from then on and in less than a year he had a stroke and died on May 7th 1888 at the age of 60.