

William Poulter and Caroline Strubell Poulter



William Poulter and Caroline Strubell Poulter are the second great grandparents of Rama Anderson Ford.

From Sketch of the lives of William Poulter and Caroline Strubell Poulter

William Poulter, our grandfather, was born in Esher, Surrey, England 3 March 1820, the son of Thomas and Sarah Davis Poulter.

We know little of his life prior to his joining the Church. He married Caroline Strubell on the 10 March 1844 in Parish of St. Giles without Cripplegate, London. She was the daughter of Richard and Mary Ann Davis Strubell and was born 23 January 1820 in West Molesey, Surrey, England and christened the 11 May 1820. In 1844, Caroline was married to William Poulter in Surrey, both at the age of twenty-four. Caroline was baptized into the Church August 1846, by Elder Squires. Grandfather was baptized August 1846 also by Elder Elisha H. Davis and ordained an Elder 27 February 1848 in London. He was ordained a Seventy in the 53rd Quorum of Seventys, 13 September 1857.

William and Caroline Poulter heed the call of Brigham Young to gather to Zion from 1848 to 1854

Many people were emigrating from England to Australia about this time and Grandfather wanted to go there, but after joining the Church, this couple decided to come to America instead. Two children had been born to them in London, William, born 19 March 1845 died 29 April 1845; George, born 25 November 1846.

This small family set sail for America from Liverpool, 7 September 1848, in the ship "Erin Queen," with 232 other Saints under the direction of Elder Simon Carter. The ship arrived at New Orleans 29 October 1848 after being on the ocean 52 days. They traveled by boat up the Mississippi River to St. Louis but could go no farther because their funds were about exhausted.

The Latter-day Saints' Millennial Star.

AUGUST 15, 1848.

REMEMBER all *Post Office Orders* for Books and Stars must hereafter be sent to ORSON PRATT, No. 15, Wilton Street.

EMIGRATION.—The ship "Erin's Queen" will sail from Liverpool for New Orleans on the (5th) fifth day of September, carrying a load of Saints. Those who have paid their deposit, are requested to be in Liverpool on the (2nd) second day of September, so as to make ready to sail. As soon as you arrive, your luggage, &c., can probably be taken on board, where you can be lodged for 2 or 3 nights, until the ship sails. The fare will be,

For adults £3 12 6 | Children under 14 years and over 1 year, £2 12 6
 Infants under 1 year, Free.

There is still room on the ship for 30 or 40 more passengers. Any others who will *immediately* send £1, can have their berths secured.

CONFERENCE MINUTES.

GENERAL CONFERENCE.

Manchester, August 14th, 1848, Monday Morning, 10 o'Clock.

Elder Orson Pratt, one of the Twelve, being present, offered up prayer to the Most High God.

The officers present were, of the Twelve, 1; High Priests, 15; Seventies, 7; Elders, 75; Priests, 27; Teachers, 6; and Deacons, 6.

On Sunday, 13th, there were many more officers present, whose business this day prevented them from attending.

REPRESENTATIONS.

CONFERENCE.	PRESIDENTS.	MEMBERS.	BRANCHES.	ELDERS.	PRIESTS.	TEACHERS.	DEACONS.	APPARENT INCREASE SINCE MAY 31, 1846.
Wales	Captain Dan Jones	2747	50	150	195	130	59	2161
Edinburgh	W. Gibson	1051	16	30	38	27	13	700
Glasgow	Graham Douglas	1438	20	67	56	59	34	*255
Manchester	Richard Cook	2102	30	84	145	64	32	892
Liverpool	Simeon Carter	813	11	48	57	25	11	312
London	John Banks	958	19	50	47	18	15	*617
Birmingham	Thomas Perks	1306	15	62	54	46	36	*564
Sheffield	Crandall Dunn	1050	22	48	67	36	18	578
Bradford	James Marsden	649	20	34	69	20	7	*357
South Conference	John Halliday	571	10	15	37	19	17	407
Preston	G. D. Watt	529	11	39	30	24	4	* 10
Warwickshire	Thomas Smith, jun.	522	11	25	42	13	8	370
Herefordshire	John Eido	521	17	24	31	15	5	*235
Derbyshire	Ditto	364	13	42	28	10	11	*130
Leicestershire	Ditto	167	4	9	20	6	3	* 9
Cheltenham	John Johnson	518	17	36	38	18	14	*150
Worcestershire	L. D. Butler	386	10	13	25	5	8	170
Clitheroe	John Cottam	357	8	16	30	15	5	* 33
Staffordshire	James Locket	342	11	39	33	13	13	
Bedfordshire	Robert Martin	303	11	26	23	9	4	50
Macclesfield	Charles Miller	274	7	16	24	11	5	* 51
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	William Speakman	224	9	21	17	4	5	* 32
Norwich	Thomas Smith, sen.	212	2	8	13	4	3	212
Pointon, Lincolnshire	W. C. Mitchell	200	7	13	19	8	0	73
Hull	James Ure	163	7	11	10	6	5	* 66
Isle of Man	Hetherington	102	2	11	5	2	4	33
Southampton	T. B. H. Stenhouse	33	1	2	2	1	1	33
Ireland	Not represented .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total .....	.....	17902	350	929	1185	608	341	8467

In the table of increase above, those marked * are perhaps not very correct, having been obtained by taking the difference between the present representation and those of 1846, but as some have emigrated since that, these are in some instances less than the real increase. Again, in Staffordshire and Hull, there appears to have been no baptisms, but such is not the fact; some have removed, some emigrated, some been cut off, probably, and some dead; and this will account for these and other apparent discrepancies in the numbers marked * which were not given by the presidents, but approximate the truth.

An Emigration notice for the September 5, 1848 voyage of the Erin Queen from Liverpool to for New Orleans was posted in *The Latter-day Saints' Millennial Star* on August 15, 1848.

Grandfather was an expert mason, plasterer and interior decorator, so he worked at his trade for almost six years before being able to accumulate enough money and necessities to continue to Salt Lake City. The following children were born to them while in St. Louis: Ephraim, born 11 March 1849, Sarah Jane, born October 1851, died 1852 and Thomas born

19 July 1853.

Wild game was quite plentiful in the near woods and people depended on it for much of their food. While walking through the woods one day, Grandfather ran into a litter of little wild pigs. He had no gun with him, but he could not afford to let this opportunity pass by to get some meat, so he managed to catch one. Immediately, its squeals brought the mother to the rescue. Grandfather managed to get up into a tree with his pig to escape the vicious mother, thinking she would eventually tire and go away. Instead, more pigs arrived and they made such a commotion under the tree and showed no inclination to leave the spot for so long Grandfather finally dropped his pig to the ground. Immediately all the pigs disappeared into the woods, and much relieved, Grandfather returned home feeling badly about having to give up his pig.



After six years of hard work and anxious waiting, the Poulterers finally obtained a wagon, 3 oxen, a cow and supplies necessary to make the trip to Utah. They crossed the plains in Captain Field's company. Not long after they started on this overland journey, their cattle stampeded one night, and it was two days before Grandfather returned to camp with them. He had to hide and dodge Indians and was fortunate to return alive with the animals.



After a long, wearisome journey and suffering many hardships, this family arrived in Salt Lake City 29 September 1854. For a year they lived on Main Street between 4th and 5th South.

In the fall or early winter of 1855 our Grandparents moved to Ogden and lived in a one room adobe house on

the corner that is now 12th Street and Washington Blvd., then called Mound Fort. There was a little lean-to at the back of the house where winter firewood was stored.



Daughters of Utah Pioneers Marker, No. 343, erected 1969, Site of Mound Fort: Mound Fort as a settlement began in 1848 when the first pioneers arrived in this locality. Others followed and erected a fort on an Indian burial mound. Its steep west slope, cut to a perpendicular face 10 feet high topped with a 3-foot breastwork, served as a lookout. Mud walls were begun on the others sides. Cabins were built. A spring furnished water. Meetings and school were held in private homes. Indian threats subsided and the fort fell into disuse.

The marker location is shown in the image below.



Conditions in the settlement hardly allowed much comfort. The settlers had to toil with the most rudimentary equipment for their very life bread. In the autumn, when the harvest was ready, father went up into the canyon and brought home a large sandstone.

This was used to sharpen the scythes. Before that, however, it had to be cut into slices, and that was mother's work. Sometimes it took her two or three hours to saw off a slice of the stone.



After the grain was cut and hauled, mother strapped her baby on to her back and went out and gleaned the field in order to save every kernel of grain.

At that time the Indians were very troublesome and would steal whenever they got the chance. Once day an Indian came to mother's door begging for bread. She save him the last bit she had, as she was afraid to offend him. As he went around the house by her bedroom window he stole a pair of white blankets. Forgetting her fear, she ran after him, but he was too swift for her.

Severe winter in 1855-56 (year before the Martin Handcart Company journey)

The winter of 1855-56 was a very severe one and in January one of the worst blizzards the that Ogden ever experienced, struck. The night of 6 January 1856, the weather was so terrible, Grandfather Poulter brought their only milk cow into the house to keep her from freezing to death. And it happened as the cow stood in one corner of the dirt floor room a sixth child was born, in the opposite corner. This was their sixth child and a son whom they named Moroni. The next morning, their chickens were all frozen on the roost, with little icicles hanging from their beaks. Much of the stock that was out in the weather that night in Ogden, froze to death. Grandmother said many people chopped the flesh off the carcasses as late as in March and cooked it for food to keep from starving to death.

In the Spring of 1857, Grandfather made adobes and as Grandmother carried the bricks to him, he laid up the walls of a new home for them. This house was located on Grant Avenue, near 24th Street.



William heeded the call of Brigham Young to serve in the State Militia when word was received that Johnston's army was enroute to wipe out the Mormons

During the summer of 1857, word was received that Johnston's army was enroute to wipe out the Mormons. Brigham Young called every available man into the State Militia. The U.S. Army reached Ft. Bridger, Wyoming that fall and later decided to winter there, but in September 1847, 1250 men from the Ogden area were sent into Echo Canyon, under the command of Daniel H. Wells. They dug trenches, constructed a dam across the bed of the canyon to back up the drainage water, and loosened rock along the Canyon's rim that could be rolled into the floor of the canyon onto the enemy. Grandfather was among these men, in fact he was also a member of Ogden's first Brass Band, which accompanied the Militia.

Grandfather had a cheerful disposition and a sense of humor that helped him and others over many rough places. He had the ability to compose impromptu rhymes to suit whatever the occasion brought to mind. Often he would compose these verses to familiar tunes and sing and dance to them and entertain the men during the trying days in Echo Canyon. The following are a few verses that have been preserved:

So now we'll laugh and now we'll sing,
With our voices make these mountains ring,
The time's at hand we'll make them howl.
So while you dance on the nimble toe,
Prepare your hands to strike the blow.
And if they dare to cross our mountain line,
We'll send them to hell with the devil to dine.

There's a good time coming boys,
A good time coming.
If we are faithful, watch and pray,
We all may live to see the day.
The good time's a coming.
For Uncle Sam, he swears he'll come
He'll make his Army stronger,
He swears he'll hang up Brigham Young.
Only he must wait a little longer.

William called by Brigham Young to work as a stone mason on the Salt Lake Temple



Also at this time Grandfather was called by Brigham Young to work as a stone mason, on the Salt Lake Temple. He also worked on the Ogden Tabernacle.



See also: Salt Lake Temple, Wikipedia; Weber Stake Tabernacle, Wikipedia. The Salt Lake Temple was dedicated by Wilford Woodruff on April 6, 1893, exactly 40 years after the cornerstone was laid.

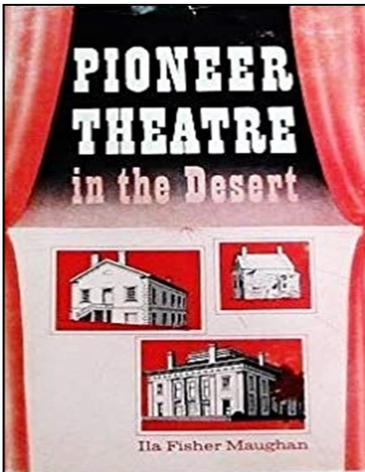
Ogden, Utah, Daughters of Utah Pioneers, Marker No. 265: In 1855-56 people of Ogden area started construction of this tabernacle, under direction of Stake President Lorin Farr. About fifty families donated labor, materials, etc. Wm. Nicol Fife, architect and builder and Walter Thompson were sent from Salt Lake City by Brigham Young to take charge of the erection. The foundation was rock, walls adobe, two feet thick, and interior finished with red pine from Strong's Canyon, floated down Ogden River and sawed at Farr's mill. Roof arches were fastened with wooden pegs. Dedicated Oct. 10, 1869, and remodeled in 1896 at a cost of \$15,000, it was used until 1956 for stake conferences.



William was one of the earliest players on the stage of the Salt Lake Theater, following a performance for Brigham Young's family by the Mechanics Dramatic Association

In the fall of 1859, Phil Margetts organized the Mechanics Dramatic Association. Grandfather was a charter member. This was entirely independent of the Deseret Dramatic association or of any suggestion of Brigham Young. These players had no proper place to produce their

plays. Harry Bowring was building a new home on 1st South between 3rd and 4th East. Before partitions were constructed, he offered the ground floor to them as a temporary Theater. It soon became known as Bowring's Theatre. One day Mr. Margetts invited Brigham Young and his family to attend the theatre on a certain night as guests of the company. President Young and Heber C. Kimball decided to attend that evening and they were so pleased with the performance they returned the next evening with their families, ninety in all. The theatre was not too large and played to capacity houses every night. That night there was little room for anyone else and Brigham Young was impressed with the necessity for a large building and decided the time was ripe for the erection of a large theater. He immediately set plans in motion for the construction of a large theater which was opened officially 6 March 1862. William Poulter was one of the earliest players on the stage of this Theater. He also performed Scottish dances dressed in full highlander's costume in between acts. His oldest son George took his father's lunch to him many times so Grandfather could eat it as he painted scenery to be used in the night's performance.



From the book, *Pioneer Theatre in the Desert*, by Illa Fisher Maughan I quote the following: "For a change, Phil Margetts did the dramatic roles and performed them with distinction while Henry Bowring became the comedian. William Poulter, in addition to his acting roles, filled the tedium of interludes with excellent singing and dancing."

The actors, actresses and musicians had been serving for over thirteen years without remuneration. Originally all had given their services free of charge but by 1864 those doing administrative work, the treasurer and stage carpenters, painters and designers were salaried. There was some rumbling among the group. At the close of the season in May 1864 a meeting was called to consider the question of whether to open the theatre again during the summer. The performers were tired after playing once each week for six months.

President Young asked each actor and actress individually if they were willing to continue playing as they had done heretofore, and all agreed save William Poulter, who explained that he had contracted debts from neglect of duties while being at the theatre so continuously through recent seasons. President Young then asked the members of the orchestra the same question. All agreed save David Evans. This encouraged Phil Margetts to arise and state his case.

The spell was broken. Others spoke. No one quite said so, but the intimation was plain - no pay, no work. A salary list was eventually drawn up. It was not large, but the payments were helpful. Also, benefit performances were held for the performers. One such, given in the spring of 1865 netted \$673.75. The proceeds were pro-rated among the performers. They also received special prestige and special opportunities. Brigham Young also continued his gracious entertainments for them. (*History of the Poulter Family in Europe and America*, Raymond G. Poulter, 1992)

Great Salt Lake City
April 15th 1864

Mr William Poulter
dear Brother:

Inclosed please find Twenty five dollars, being amount assigned to you out of the proceeds of the Benefits recently given at the Theatre.

Appreciating your faithful services and the alacrity with which you have contributed to our amusement during the past and other seasons, I pray God to bless you and increase your ability to do good.

Your Brother in the Gospel.

Brigham Young



Letter to William Poulter dated April 15, 1864, from Brigham Young enclosing \$25 from the proceeds of the Benefit recently given at the Theatre.