

## *William Randolph Teeples*

Birth 7 Jun 1833 at Huron, Huron, Michigan

Death 5 Jun 1883 at Pima Arizona

Father George Bentley Teeples

Mother Hulda Colby

Married Harriet Betsey Cook 21 Aug 1859

Sealed Endowment House 25 Sept 1862

Arrived in Utah 1849 in the company of Heber C. Kimball

Person submitted this story Essie Calder Gardner, May 1984

Source of information found among genealogy papers 2 pages.



William Randolph Teeples, the second child and oldest son of George Bentley Teeples and Hulda Colby, was born 7 June 1833 at Huron, Huron Co. Michigan.

His parent had joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in 1834 and went to Nauvoo early in 1843. William was baptized by Elder Zenos H. Curley. He remembered Joseph and Hyrum Smith well and told of his grief over their death. Although he was only ten years old he remembers well of their bodies being brought back from Carthage for burial.

At a younger age he was in Far West, Missouri though all the hardships and persecutions where they suffered near starvation. He could remember the feeling of gratefulness he had upon taking refuge in Nauvoo where his father worked on the Temple and helped build up the beautiful city. He could also remember the despair he felt when they were driven out and crossed the Mississippi River on the ice. They camped on the west side of the river and later made their way to Omaha, Nebraska. They left in Heber C. Kimball's company in 1848 and William drove an ox-team for "Widow Smith," the mother of Joseph Fielding Smith. He was only 15 years old but very responsible for his years.

William's father left him in Salt Lake City in charge of the family in 1849 and went to California to seek gold or a better place to move his family. He returned the same year and told his children that the real riches were in Utah, the land of refuge and promise. They moved to Provo, then called Cedar Creek, and in years following they moved to Ogden, to Fort Supply, back to Ogden, and finally to Holden, Millard County. William stayed in Salt Lake City much of this time and worked for Brigham Young. At Provo he and his brother, Sidney, both served in the Walker War. Later he served in the Black Hawk War (1865) and in the Echo Canyon Campaign.

He married Catherine Chamberlain in 1856, the only child of this marriage was Sarah Elizabeth, who was born while William was on a scouting trip to California, sent there by Brigham Young.

He was snowed in the mountains for a long time and could not get word to his wife. He and two others were fetching a pack of mules they had bought to help with the plans of Brigham Young.

When he arrived home he found his wife had been persuaded by her parents to divorce him and marry a Mr. Burgess who already had two wives. The baby was several weeks old. William tried for a reconciliation, but her parents would not even allow her to see him. To keep away from the temptation of killing Burgess he left Salt Lake and went to Goshen to work for Phineas Cook, who was a Bishop and Colonizer of the new town.

William met Harriet Betsy, this Bishop's daughter, and after a year they were married. Her father performed the ceremony in their home. This was August 21, 1859 and three years later received their call and were sealed in the Endowment House, Sept 25, 1862. Until then they had lived in Goshen, where in 1861, April 25<sup>th</sup>, their oldest child, Harriet Rita, was born.

In the fall of 1861 he moved his family to Salem for only one year, then moved to Provo and built a nice little home. He had learned blacksmithing when young and in all these places he worked at his trade.

In the fall of 1863 he was called to help settle Bear Lake country and they left with Harriet's Father and family, who were also called. They made this trip with ox team and the 300 mile trip was a struggle. They were 10 days from Franklin, Idaho to Paris, only 45 miles.

They lived in wigwams while building a log house. On March 31, 1864 their 2<sup>nd</sup> child was born. The first white child born in Bear Lake. She was named Beatrice Ann Eliza, she later married Marion Owens of Fillmore.

That winter was an open one, the little now gone early enough to plant early. But by August a frost took everything and they would have starved except for the wild meat and fish from the hills and lake. The next winter they lived in Montpelier and had flour brought from Logan. Oregon immigrants had stopped to have wagons repaired and horses shod, so this gave William money to buy a few necessities which were scarcely ever available except by making the laborious trip through the mountains to Logan. It was well for them that they had food, for the winter brought snow which completely buried their little log house. In some instances they dug their way out, but there seemed to be a little channel on one side of each house where the wind blew the snow away enough to provide an air channel, and they cut steps up to the now level and walked on snowshoes to make sure other people were faring as well.

The next summer they went to Holden where William's people were to escape another treacherous winter, and lost their team so they could not return in the spring as they planned. In 1866 William joined the militia of the Black Hawk war and helped move everyone on the outskirts into town for protection from the Indians.

In April 1866 their first son, William George, was born. He died when 4 years old, results of a falling log accident. Their second son, Alonzo Randolph, was born the 10 May 1870. (He later married Sara Peck, 1888) Also at Holden, Phebe Henrietta was born the 30 Mar 1873. (She married Edward Simmons Calder in 1890) Their third son, David, was born February 6, 1875

and died in March. The 4<sup>th</sup> daughter was born September 1877, Alice. She married Royal Pope, December 1896.

Then when the family was so happy and prosperous in the lovely home they had established here in Holden, came the shock of their lives. A call to go to Arizona and settle that hot and barren state.

They left on October 29, 1878 on the long and perilous journey. William had previously been with scouts to select a place. They arrived at Cluff's Ranch near Snowflake, by Christmas and pitched tents there for the winter.

William headed the scouting party of five men. They went by horseback to the Gila River and decided to settle there. However, the other four men were afraid to and face the adventure, so William organized another company.

They arrived there April 8, 1879 and selected a town site. William built the first house on the Gila River, of rough Cottonwood logs. They named the place Smithville in honor of Jesse N. Smith, president of Snowflake, who came and organized this little settlement into a ward. When they applied for a Postoffice they found another town in Arizona called Smithville, so the name Pima was given by the Government and William was appointed Postmaster. He also built and ran a small store. While William ran the large ranch and worked as Bishop's 1<sup>st</sup> counselor in Pima, Harriet acted as Postmistress and storekeeper. She had two pony express mails each night to take care of.

In December 1880 Eunice, their youngest child, was born. She married Thomas McCann of Fishaven, Idaho.

William let people have good from the store on time, until it kept the wolf at his own door most of the time. Being the generous person he was, he would take his last shirt off for one who needed it.

While living in Holden, a young girl from Sunderland England came to live with some neighbors of William's and Harriet's. They treated her cruelly when she fell ill and could not work for her keep. She was strange and bashful and brokenhearted so William and Harriet took her in and cared for her until she was well. Then, after months of caring for her, they could not turn her out, so at Harriet's suggestion, William married her, Caroline An Scofield, and Harriet divided the house and all her possessions with Caroline. Harriet nursed her through her confinements and this marriage was blessed with seven children, namely, Phineas Henery, John Albert, Charles Welcome, James, Sidney Lee, Caroline Hulda, and Margaret Ellen. William was kind and considerate of this wife, but still worshiped his real first helpmate, Harriet, who mothered their eight children.

Phebe often said she had to stop to think which were her whole brothers and sisters and her half sisters. Phineas and Phebe were near the same age and grew up like twins.

In Arizona, William built two houses alike with a 20 foot breeze way between. This was roofed over and enclosed with willow lattice and was an outdoor living and dining room for both families.

At the time William married Caroline (in 1868) in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City, he, by pleading request from his boyhood sweetheart and first wife, Catherine Chamberlin Burgess, had her sealed to him third wife and also the daughter, Sarah Elizabeth.

Now life was quite worthwhile for poor Catherine, who had regretted her rash step. She told of her misery as a 3<sup>rd</sup> wife of Burgess and of his cruelty to her. She had given birth to an imbecile child who had long hair grow all over it's body and it was born with a long tail, and this was severed by the Doctor at birth, but it finally died with measles and Catherine feeling this was a punishment to her, never lived with Berges after that, but William never took her back as she desired. But, in delirium, Harriet said he called her name so he will have her in death. Poor Catherine was always an object of pity to William and Harriet, and he loved Sarah as he did any of his children, though the Chamberlain grandparents kept her away from him if at all possible.

In Arizona, life for William's family was hard, but through all the work and heartbreaking experiences incident to his pioneering. William was always cheerful, more than willing to do his share and more for others.

In the Spring of 1883 chills and fever was raging in Pima and died the 5 June 1883. Many died of this fever and chills. Harriet tells of William swimming the river nine times and back in one day to take food and medicine to the sick. The sun was hot and the water cold. He was stricken with a sun stroke and developed an abscess on the liver. After suffering for weeks he died on June 5<sup>th</sup> at the age of 49. Still a young man in years, but having served his country, church, and God in nobleness, and was loved by all who had known him.

He left with his great posterity a faith and a heritage we all appreciate.