


LIFE SKETCH OF  
WILLIAM FRANCIS JAMES

**PERSONAL DATA:**

| <p>(Day-Month-Yr.)<br/>                 Born: <u>30 Apr 1857</u><br/>                 Married: <u>9 Aug 1877</u><br/>                 Died: <u>23 Nov 1916</u><br/>                 Buried: <u>26 Nov 1916</u><br/>                 Hobbies: _____<br/>                 Occupations: _____<br/>                 Other Names Known By: _____<br/>                 Discription: <u>About 5' 9" tall, muscular, dark brown hair, gray eyes.</u><br/>                 Schools Attended: <u>None. Self taught thru study, became very proficient in calculating mathamatics/ problems in his head.</u></p> |  | <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Town</th> <th style="text-align: center;">County</th> <th style="text-align: center;">State/Country</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>Ogden</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>Weber</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>Utah</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>Salt Lake City</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>Salt Lake</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>Utah</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>Ogden</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>Weber</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>Utah</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>Ogden</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>Weber</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>Utah</u></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>_____<br/>                 Farmer, carpenter, businessman<br/>                 _____<br/>                 William F., Bill<br/>                 _____</p> | Town | County | State/Country | <u>Ogden</u> | <u>Weber</u> | <u>Utah</u> | <u>Salt Lake City</u> | <u>Salt Lake</u> | <u>Utah</u> | <u>Ogden</u> | <u>Weber</u> | <u>Utah</u> | <u>Ogden</u> | <u>Weber</u> | <u>Utah</u> |
|---|---|---|------|--------|---------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------------|------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| Town  | County  | State/Country   |      |        |               |              |              |             |                       |                  |             |              |              |             |              |              |             |
| <u>Ogden</u>  | <u>Weber</u>  | <u>Utah</u>   |      |        |               |              |              |             |                       |                  |             |              |              |             |              |              |             |
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**PARENTS:**

Father: Joseph James Born 26 Feb 1830 At Halse Summerset, England  
 Mother: Sarah Holyoak Born 4 Aug 1835 At Yerdley Worchester, England  
 Their Children (My Bros. & Sis.) Joseph Henry, William Francis, George Richard, Edward Benjamin, Charles Willard, Sarah Hannah, Mary Elizabeth, Abinadi, Moroni, Frederick, Heber, Hyrum Robert, Harriet

SPOUSE: 1 Julia Ellen Whitehead Born 19 Feb 1860 At North Newton, Sumerset, Eng.  
 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Born \_\_\_\_\_ At \_\_\_\_\_  
 3 \_\_\_\_\_ Born \_\_\_\_\_ At \_\_\_\_\_

MY CHILDREN: William Henry, Julia Rosabell, Joseph Benjamin, George Morris, Mary Elisaeth Nephi Moroni, Clara Ellen, Sarah Lillian, Evelyn Louise, Florence May, Pearl Amelia, Myrtle Ada, Nellie Alberta, Alfred Robert and Mattie Laura

**KNOWN PLACES OF RESIDENCE:**

| Time Period        | Town                    | County           | State/Country           | Record Sources                  |
|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <u>1857 - 1879</u> | <u>Ogden</u>            | <u>Weber</u>     | <u>Utah</u>             | <u>Ogden 2nd. Ward</u>          |
| <u>1879 - 1886</u> | <u>St. John</u>         | <u>Apache</u>    | <u>Arizona</u>          | <u>St. John Ward Film #1248</u> |
| <u>1886 - 1889</u> | <u>Ramah</u>            | <u>Valencia</u>  | <u>New Mexico</u>       | _____                           |
| <u>1889 - 1891</u> | <u>San Pedro (Diaz)</u> | <u>Chihuahua</u> | <u>Chihuahua Mexico</u> | _____                           |
| <u>1891 - 1910</u> | <u>Ogden</u>            | <u>Weber</u>     | <u>Utah</u>             | <u>Wilson Ward # 8663</u>       |
| <u>1910 - 1916</u> | <u>Ogden</u>            | <u>Weber</u>     | <u>Utah</u>             | <u>Ogden 3rd. Ward</u>          |
| _____              | _____                   | _____            | _____                   | _____                           |
| _____              | _____                   | _____            | _____                   | _____                           |

**GENEALOGICAL DATA: (Source Records & Certificates)**

Reference Pedigree Chart No. 1 - 10 Family Records of Dwayne Delmont Jessop  
 Shown as Child on Family Group Sheet of: Joseph James  
 Shown as Adult on Family Group Sheet of: William Francis James  
 Certificates: Birth, Marriage, Death, Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other Records: Personal History, Obituary, TIB form, Will, Passport, News Clipping, Ward/Parrish Record, Other Patriarchal Blessing 22 July 1878.

**BRIEF LIFE HISTORY: (continue on reverse side).**

William Francis James was born in most humble of circumstances at Ogden, Utah (in a one room sod house with a dirt floor, located on 27th. Street, between Grant and Lincoln Aves.) His father Joseph had been converted to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and captized in Cardif, Wales on 15 Feb 1852, although he was born in Halse, Summerset, Eng. He immigrated the same year, on the sailing Ship "Galconder", the Voyage took about nine weeks, before they arrived at New Orleans, La. then up the Mississippi River to St. Louis.

He traveled across the plains with the David Jones Company from St. Louis, Mo. He was assigned to travel with the George Holyoak family and became acquainted with their daughter

Sarah, whom he married upon their arrival in Salt Lake, on 3 Oct 1854. Both worked for their board in Farmington, Utah that winter then in the spring of 1855 they came to Ogden to make their home. The only possessions they owned was a spade, an axe, one camp kettle and a chest she had brought from England.

The year William was born his father had to leave his little family in destitute condition to go to Echo Canyon to assist in the defence of Utah against Johnson's Army. William experienced many hard times with his parents and brothers. The year 1861 was especially hard on them. They had no shoes, suffered much from the cold and grew very hungry for lack of food to eat, all they had was a little bran bread. Most of the farm his father had purchased by the Weber River was washed away by high water. Then they rented another farm and as soon as the crops were growing good the grasshoppers & crickets came and destroyed everything. His father then acquired a six acre lot West of Wall Ave. between 27th & 28th street. William helped his parents plant an orchard on this lot which was to become the best orchard in the County. His father taught him how to graft and prune the trees and to care for the grapes and berries. Many varieties they had obtained in the mountains.

Williams early life was spent in experiencing the hardships of the Pioneer. At age 11 he was apprenticed to W.H. Stevens to learn the carpentry trade and served five years. Later he worked for Barnard White in a sash and door factory. He drove an oxteam to help make the grade for the first railroad to enter Utah and rode on the first Locomotive that came into Ogden. He was also a passenger on the first Train that ran between Ogden and Salt Lake

While yet in his teen years William experienced the death of his younger brothers George and Edward. This brought sorrow to his family. Williams parents were faithful Latter Day Saints, teaching and sharing the blessings of the Gospel with their children. William was blessed by Edward Bunker and baptized on 6 July 1865 by Robert McZuarry. He attended Church regularly with his family. Records have not been found yet to substantiate his Aaronic Priesthood callings and assignments, but he was ordained an Elder on 14 Sep 1874 by Elias Smith. He married Julia Ellen Whitehead of Ogden 9 Aug 1877 and then traveled together with another couple to St. George, Utah to be sealed in the Temple 5 Sep 1877. They were reported to be the first couple living North of Salt Lake City to be sealed in the St. George Temple. They were sealed by David Cannon. They returned to Ogden to make their home. Following the birth of their eldest son William Henry and their daughter Julia Rosabell in 1878 & 1879 respectively they received a mission call to labor amongst the Laminites in Arizona, New Mexico and Old Mexico. He was set apart for his mission by Joseph F. Smith and left Ogden with his family on 10 Nov 1879. They were gone twelve years laboring at St. John, Ariz; Ramah, New Mexico and San Pedro, Chihuahua, Mexico. During this time six more children were born. He was ordained a Seventy by Seamore B. Young 9 Nov 1884. Following the loss of his health due to the many privations and austere conditions under which they had to live he was released and returned home to Ogden to live. Their daughter Sarah Lillian who was about one and half yr's old was thought to have died on the train on their way home. The conductor was going to stop the train and put her off, but her father administered to her and she regained consciousness and they were able to continue on to Ogden. Many times he had exercised his Holy Priesthood to bless his family.

William was a carpenter, farmer, and businessman who established the James Coal & Ice Company. He and his sons worked together putting up ice from a pond that was located near the present location of the Ogden Stock Yards. They would cut blocks of ice from the pond in the cold weather months and pack it in sawdust. Then during the warm months several trips were made by team & wagon to Bear Lake where they caught fish by the wagon load, packed them in ice and returned to Ogden to sell them. He was ordained a High Priest by Samuel Blair on 31 Oct 1908. His children tell of their parents love and affection for them and of happy hours spent together. They also tell of the times when their father would buy and bring home about fifteen pairs of shoes at a time, and the children had to make do with what ever pair they could get their feet into.

William was instrumental in establishing the first artificial ice plant in Ogden which is still standing just East of Wall Avenue between 22nd. & 23rd. Street. Following their return from their mission the family was blest with seven more children. The family was living in the Ogden 3rd. Ward at the time of his death, but had previously lived in the Wilson Ward, North Weber Stake. He was loved by all who knew him. William died at age 59. He was survived by his widow and ten children (3 sons & 7 dau's), 19 grandchildren, Bro. Charles Willard James and Sis.'s Sarah Rushton & Mary Elizabeth Jones. Funeral was by Larkin & Sons Mortuary and interment was in the Ogden City Cemetery.