

William Adams was born on January 8, 1832, in Hillsborough County Down, Ireland.

My parents, altho not very regular attenders to religious worship, especially my father, They were very anxious that their children should attend the Protestant church, so I was brought up to be religiously inclined and in my reflections on the crucifixion and death of the Savior, I wished it had been my lot to have lived in the days of the Savior, how I would have defended him against his enemies; and the doctrine of everlasting punishment where sinners would be burning and roasting in hell for everlasting without end, which was the belief of the sectarian religion donominations. Wonder and horror and amazement would occupy my mind at the suffering of sinners. Often my mind would run on these and other principles of the sectarian world until the year 1840 when two Elders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints who were Theodore Curtis of America and Wm. Black of Manchester England, who proclaimed that the Gospel of Jesus Christ had been restored to the earth by a holy angel from heaven to Joseph Smith, a prophet of God in these last days. I believed their testimony; my heart leaped with joy and thanks to my heavenly Father for again revealing himself and restoring the Holy Priesthood again to man on the earth. My age at the time was a little over eighteen years and I was living at home with my parents, having received a common education. I read and studied the scriptures and defended the principles of the gospel of Jesus Christ to the best of my ability. I attended the meetings of the saints every opportunity and the more I attended the meetings my faith got the stronger. I cannot express the joy I had when at the testimony meetings that was held on Sabbath evenings where the gifts of the spirit was enjoyed, the speaking in tongues, the interpretation of tongues, prophesying and hearing and seeing I could not hold off any longer. I was baptized by Robert Hutchenson who held the office of a priest, on Saturday evening, March 26, 1842 and confirmed by William Johnston, presiding Elder of the branch on Sunday following, being easter Sunday. My age was twenty years, two months and eighteen days. I felt thankful to my father in Heaven for his blessings unto me and peace and joy filled my bosom and my friends and acquaintences turned against me because I had obeyed the gospel or hdd become a Mormon. In the summer following I was ordained to the office of teacher under the hands of Elder Andrew Henry who had been appointed to labor and preach in Ireland and a few believed his testimony and was baptized. Elder David ~~Adams~~ Wilkay of Pastley, Scotland, was appointed to visit Ireland and was the instrument in raising a branch of the church in Crawford's Burn County of Down, numbering about twenty members. I spent my time very pleasantly in attending to my duty as teacher and bearing my testimony to those I came in contact with, this was a great pleasure and joy in trying to convince people that the Gospel was true. In a day in October 1842 I took to me Mary Ann Leech to be my wife; she was a daughter of Hugh and Ann Jamisons Leech, a member of the branch. I was 1 my 21st year and she was about one year older than I was. She was a bonnet maker by trade and carried on the business in Hillsborough and on the sixteenth of September the year following I had a son born and we called him Charles, for his grandfather Charles Adams. Persecution was getting very strong against the saints at this time, led by one Thomas Downey, a Methodist class leader who made himself very officious in opposing the Elders and disturbing their meetings. He was encouraged by the Marquis of Downshire, the landed proprietor in the County of Down. His estate brought him 100,000 pounds or \$500,000 per year, being confiscated by conquest in the time of William Prince of Orange to Mr. Hill which is the family name of the present Marquis, another man by the name of Mr. Parry who made himself very conspicuous in persecuting the saints, being a clerk in the Marquis's office. My strongest desire was to gather with the saints to Nauvoo, Illinois, and on December 31, 1843, left home with my wife and child three months old, with a light heart bidding my father and mother, brothers and sisters and friends farewell. We arrived in Belfast, ten miles from Hillsborough the same day and took passage on a steamer for Liverpool the next day, the first of January, 1844. Ruben Wedlock and Thomas Ward presided over the English mission.

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