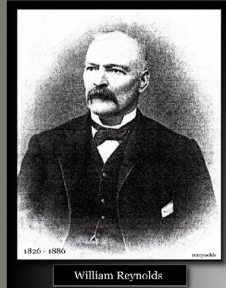


A Matter of Perspective



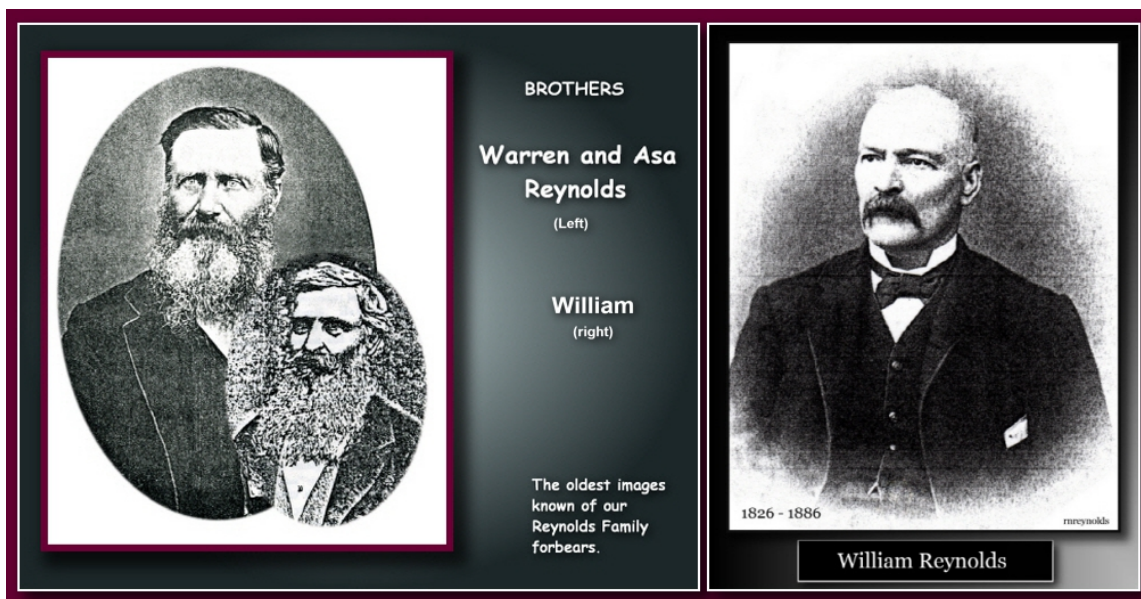
William was born in Avon, Livingston County, New York, September 25, 1826. He moved to Michigan with his widowed mother when ten years of age; later walking through the Michigan frontier to Saline, Washtenaw County, Michigan where he took up the trade of miller with his older brother Levi Hull. In 1846 William left for the West with his older brother Warren F. and Warren's new bride Edna Merrell. At Council Bluffs, Iowa, William enlisted as a private in Co. C of the Iowa Volunteers of the Mormon Battalion in the War with Mexico. After completing one of the longest marches in military history he returned to Michigan in 1847 where he married Calista Climena Carver. He continued as a miller while serving as a County Supervisor and for two years the Sheriff of Ionia County. He died at Hubbardston on 5 December 1886. On January 29, 1887 his wife Calista was granted a monthly pension of \$8 dollars for his military service.

An old English proverb states: "He who has no fools, knaves, or beggars in his family was begot by a flash of lightning." A ten year search for Reynolds family line artifacts has given a broad perspective of what kind of family I came from. Generally, I am pleased. Generally, my Reynolds forebears were "stay-to-gather," long-lived folk, and generally they were loyalists of the flag and nation we call America. Coreligionists, they all have been -- but, characterized more by a "bent to descent" than to blindly conform. So it was with Warren F. Reynolds, the only one of eleven siblings of a Baptist raised family who converted to Mormonism. So also it was with Warren's younger brother William. In early 1846 the two left Michigan together willing to risk their futures in the westward movement that involved the Latter-day Saint expulsion from Nauvoo, and the subsequent trek of a large body of Mormon immigrants to the Great Basin of Utah.

Warren married his sweetheart, Edna Merrell, and according to family folklore, was baptized in the Mississippi River. Younger brother William, at age 20, enlisted in the Mormon Battalion at Council Bluffs and marched all the way to Los Angeles while

...serving, first as a teamster and later as an assistant to the Battalion surgeon, Dr. George B. Sanderson, or "Dr. Death," as he became known. At the conclusion of the Battalion's march to California, William was selected as one of fifteen good soldiers by General Stephen Watts Kearny to ride horse and mule, while serving as an escort to return Colonial John C. Fremont to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas -- and he did it all in the course of one year, but William never joined the Mormons.

At age 60, on 5 December 1886, William died a Mason just like his father, Asa D. Reynolds. He is buried a couple of blocks from the Tuscan Masonic Lodge at Hubbardston, Michigan. After his death his wife, Calista Carver Reynolds, applied for William's Mexican War pension. From an extensive portfolio of 79 pages of affidavits and documents, Calista proved that she was the one and only wife of William Reynolds and that he never joined the LDS church. At the time of her application Mormons in Utah were actively being pursued by the Federal government for their practice of plural marriage. So it was that Federal agents gave special scrutiny to Calista's application, making certain that she was appropriately entitled to a pension. Her efforts were finally awarded with a monthly stipend of eight dollars. Calista died in Hubbardston on 27 October 1913.



By great-grandson, Robert N. Reynolds.