

Captains Three

The three oldest sons of Persis Goodall and Lorenzo Dow Young became Captains of Mormon pioneer companies traveling overland from Iowa to the Valley of the Great Salt Lake in Utah territory. These were not self appointed or sought after positions but were callings by their ecclesiastical leaders which often required great expense and sacrifice to themselves and their families. In some cases the callings coincided with the return leg of an overseas missionary calling.

William Goodall Young (1827-1894)

Oldest son, William Goodall Young married Adelia Clark on 1 January 1846. Due to the persecutions at Nauvoo, the young couple joined the exodus and traveled across Iowa to Winter Quarters. There on 28 November 1846, Adelia gave birth to her first child, a daughter named Dolinea Adelia. Amid harsh living conditions, the baby died the same day and was buried in the northwest corner of the old burialground. Five months later, Adelia's father also died. The next winter Adelia gave birth to another daughter on the other side of the river. Maria Adelia survived.

Within a few months after the birth of their second child, the Youngs were ready to continue their journey to the west. The family of three left Winter Quarters in June with the Brigham Young Company of 1848, taking Adelia's widowed mother with them. They arrived in the Salt Lake Valley 20 September 1848.

Returning from a mission to England, William was placed in charge of twelve wagons which arrived at Florence, Nebraska June 8, 1857 and left on the 12th of the same month with 19 wagons, a small company, numbering besides women and children, twenty-two men, well armed. On Saturday, the 26th of September, Captain William G. Young's train arrived in Salt Lake City with the last of the season's immigration.

Joseph Watson Young (1828-1873)

Joseph Watson Young was 19 when he emigrated with the Jedediah M. Grant-Joseph Noble Company of 1847. Joseph was called to lead companies across the plains in 1853, 1860, 1861, and 1864.

John R. Young (1837-1931)

John R. Young's callings included leading a freight company across the plains in 1862 as a twenty-four old, and a year later leading a company of Danish converts. His experiences were carefully recorded and make for interesting reading. It should be noted that a fourth brother, Lorenzo Sabieski Young, who had

accompanied his father in the first 1847 company of pioneers, accompanied his older brother John R. on the 1863 trek.

Of the five living sons of Persis Goodall and Lorenzo Dow Young, only Franklin Wheeler Young did not become involved in later pioneer treks. Franklin had his hands full however serving a mission to the Sandwich Islands and in callings such as the “youngest Bishop in the church” in the Payson Ward at age 20 and later as Bishop of Grafton. He also was called to settle a number of Utah frontier towns.



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