

The History of Richard Carlisle

Richard Carlisle was born in the town of Riseholme, Lincolnshire, England, April 30, 1798, the son of Thomas Carlisle, Jr. and Elizabeth Taylor.

At Willingham, Lincolnshire, on June 29, 1822, he married Jane Field(s). Jane was born November 10, 1795 in Willingham, Lincolnshire, England, the daughter of Matthew Field(s) and Dinah Fish.

Theirs was a case of love at first sight. Since Jane was eleven years the elder, it was rather difficult for them to marry just at the time of his proposal. So he asked her if she would wait five years for him. She replied, "Why certainly I'll wait, and not only five years, Richard, but ten if you wish it."

Their first child was Thomas Fields, born April 10, 1823 in Stow Parish, Lincolnshire. Mary was born September 10, 1824, at Sturton (in Stow Parish), Lincolnshire. Joseph was born July 21, 1826 at Sherwood, Nottingham. Benjamin was born May 18, 1828 but lived only seven days

Then triplets were born June 3, 1829: Matthew, Richard Jr., and Jane. Since triplets were very unusual they received many beautiful gifts. Even the Queen of England sent them quite a sum of money. However, on October 4, 1829 Matthew and Jane both died, being but five months old. Little Richard lived to the age of five years and died on July 28, 1834.

Martha was born March 16, 1831. She lived not quite five years and died April 18, 1836. This was a great sorrow to lose five of their children in so short a time. Then the family moved to Swenton, Nottingham, where John was born February 9, 1833. Alice was born October 9, 1835 at Nottingham in the shire of Nottingham.

Richard worked in the lace mills of Nottingham for a few years. However, as his boys grew older, he could see that it was not the place for them. They returned to Lincolnshire and settled at Kexby where Richard Matthew was born June 21, 1840.

Upon returning to Lincolnshire, Richard was employed as farmer and gamekeeper for a very wealthy English lord, brother to Sir Robert Peel of the English Parliament. This gave the children greater educational opportunities - a real blessing - since schooling was difficult to obtain then.

Richard and Jane were refined and noble characters. When they heard the gospel preached by Joseph E. Taylor, they were baptized. Richard was baptized July 30, 1849 by Edward Taylor¹ and was confirmed the same day by William Laythorp. Jane was baptized August 11, 1849. Both were re-baptized November 26, 1849 by Arza Adams and reconfirmed November 26, 1849 by Isaac Houston² (In the early days of the church the practice of rebaptism was common.) The same day Richard was ordained an elder by H. F. Culler (the surname was some what illegible in the record).

A branch of the church was organized and Richard was appointed Presiding Elder. Their home was always open for lodging for the elders.

With acceptance of the gospel their main object was to save sufficient funds to gather to Zion. With the help of their daughter Mary, who was working as a pastry cook, they were able to bring their whole family with them. Mary had a generous employer in whose service she was able to save a year's salary. Her employer died. In her will she left Mary a year's salary. This made it possible for the family to leave for America. They sailed on the ship "Ellen".

"52nd company 'Ellen' 466 souls.

"The ship 'Ellen' sailed from Liverpool on Monday, January 6, 1851, having on board a company of saints consisting of 466 souls under the presidential care of Elders James W. Cummings, Crandall Dunn, and William Moss.

"The ship remained anchored in the river opposite Liverpool until the 8th about 11 o'clock a.m. when anchor was weighed and the saints were soon under way with a fair wind. The good 'Ellen' ran at the rate of 7 miles an hour till about 11 o'clock at night when she struck a schooner thereby breaking her jib boom and main fore-yards. The following day the captain put into Cardigan Bay, North Wales, to repair and in a few days the ship was ready for sea again. But the wind on the very day the vessel put into port changed to an unfavorable quarter and remained there for three weeks. She remained in port and the saints considered the accident that had happened a blessing to them as they were comfortable in port while hundreds of people were being tumbled about on the face of the troubled seas. During the storm many vessels were also wrecked and hundreds of human beings consigned to a watery grave. The captain at length became impatient and although the wind still continued unfavorable the 'Ellen' again weighed anchor on the 23 of Jan. and put to sea. But the wind blew a strong gale from the direction the ship wanted to sail and consequently only a little progress was made for several days. On February 1, however, the wind changed to a favorable quarter, the 'Ellen' set out to sea and the passengers soon lost sight of the Irish coast. From that time they enjoyed pleasant weather and fair winds and on the night of 14 March the 'Ellen' anchored in the Mississippi River off New Orleans, making the passage from Cardigan Bay, which is 12 hours' sail from Liverpool, in 7 weeks.

"During the voyage 10 deaths occurred. Two adults, namely James Wright from Skellow and the wife of William Allen from the Birmingham conference, the remainder were children. Brother Wright and Sister Allen died of fever. Four of the children died with the measles. Three of consumption and one of the inflammation of the chest. The measles broke out among the immigrants the day they left the dock and nearly every child on board had them besides several adults. Altogether there were about 70 cases. Many of the children also suffered from what Elder Cummings terms the tropical cough which was something similar to the whooping cough.

“During the voyage six marriages were also solemnized and one birth took place. Immediately after leaving port the presidency on board divided the company into 12 divisions or wards allotting 10 berths to each division and appointed a brother over each; then these 12 divisions were divided into two and a president appointed to preside over each 6. So that there were 12 companies in the steerage with a president over each and two to preside over the whole. The second cabin was organized in like manner. The priesthood were also organized and presidents

appointed over them to see that they attended to their duties. This company organization was found to be of great utility in preserving peace, good order, and the health and comfort of the saints while on board. President Cummings and his two counselors watched over their flock with the utmost care and in meeting in counsel with the brethren who had charge of the smaller divisions they could easily learn the condition of every saint on board. If any were sick or in want or in transgression they were made acquainted with it and immediately adopted measures to relieve the wants of the needy and to prevent iniquity from creeping into their midst. Many were appointed to visit every family twice a day and to administer to the sick.

"In New Orleans the company chartered the steamer 'Alexander Scott' to take the immigrants to St. Louis, Missouri. They paid \$2.50 per head for adults, all luggage included, and half price for children. The company left New Orleans on the morning of March 19 and landed in St. Louis on the 26 after a good passage. Two children died coming up the river and one child was born."³

A number of the immigrants who were not prepared to continue the journey right away found employment in St. Louis while the others proceeded on their way to the Bluffs. The Carlises apparently remained in St. Louis until the following spring.

After reaching St. Louis, Jane was stricken with cholera and died on June 24, 1851.

Although a search of emigration records in the Church Historian's office has been made, the writer has been unable to find a record of Richard Carlisle and family crossing the plains. Therefore it is not known how many of his children accompanied him on the journey. Mary secured employment and remained behind (Probably in St. Louis) where she married a fine young man from the church.⁴

Some time later (the exact time has not been ascertained) she traveled to Utah. Thomas came with an independent company which brought the first sugar machinery. There is also a card in the Emigration files stating that Alice Carlisle crossed the plains in company of Capt. David Wilkins, leaving July 15, 1853, and arriving in the Valley that fall. Richard's daughter Alice married a David Wilkins; so this is probably the same person.

At any rate there is a record of "John Carlisle and five persons" crossing the plains in the Seventh Company under Capt. Henry Bryant Manning Jolley. John was one of Richard's children and was an adult. Therefore, we assume this to be the rest of the Richard Carlisle family, with two other people travelling with them. Captain Jolley's company left Kaneshville early in June of 1852 with a company of nearly 340 souls. The company arrived safely in Salt Lake City September 15, 1852.

When Richard reached the Valley he settled in Mill Creek or Cottonwood, as it was then called.

He was given a patriarchal blessing October 30, 1853 in Salt Lake City by the Patriarch to the Church, John Smith, and it is recorded in Vol. 12, p. 553.⁵

Richard was ordained a high priest July 1, 1860 by Reuben Miller.⁶

Richard Carlisle—1798

Sometime following their arrival in the Valley, his son Richard M., in visiting in the ward, met Mrs. Maria Crook Dunsdon, widow of Thomas Dunsdon. Her husband had also died of cholera at Council Bluffs while immigrating to Zion. On returning home Richard M. told his father he believed she would make him a good wife. Richard immediately went to see her. They talked things over and he proposed to her. She wanted a little time to make up her mind, saying she would go to Salt Lake and get the advice of Brigham Young⁷.

Later Maria Dunsdon consented to be his wife, but told him she wanted to be sealed to her first husband, Thomas Dunsdon.

Richard admired her for being loyal to her dead husband. On April 27, 1869 they went through the endowment House and had their endowments, and the sealing was done for their dead companions. Maria was proxy for Jane and Richard stood as proxy for Thomas. This sealing was performed by Joseph F. Smith, who became the President of the Church⁸.

Maria proved to be a very loyal, true wife to Richard. They later had temple work done for quite a number of their ancestors on both sides.

It is not known exactly when he moved to Alpine to make his home, but Journal History entries would lead us to believe that he moved there about 1855, since there are a number of references to Richard Carlisle from that time on.

July 24, 1855, Journal History, page 3, records that during the big celebration at Alpine City, at the afternoon meeting addresses were given by Isaac Houston, Morris Phelps, Thomas J. McCullough, Richard Carlisle, Thomas Carlisle, and others, interspersed with very appropriate singing by the choir, toasts, etc. music, dancing, comic songs, and other highly gratifying performances enlivened the remainder of the day and evening. One of the many toasts was: "The bee hive - may her honey increase and her drones depart." Committee of Arrangements: Isaac Houston, Morris Phelps, Thomas J. McCullough, David McOlney, Richard Carlisle, John McDaniel."

Richard must have been well esteemed in the community as well as a good speaker, because he also participated as a speaker .in other similar celebrations as recorded in the Journal History.

Together with a few of the leading citizens of Alpine he also signed a public proclamation representing the people of Alpine, in support of President Young's address and public notice protesting the government's sending prejudiced and unworthy officials to administer the law in the Territory of Utah. This proclamation was dated January 17, 1858.

A big territory wide display (probably the forerunner of the State Fair) was held October 9, 1859 for the purpose of encouraging greater skill, ingenuity, and industry among the citizens. The list of awards was published in the Deseret News. Richard Carlisle (along with a few others) received top rating for "Specimen Mountain Wine".

Richard Carlisle—1798

He held many important positions in the church, but the early ward records did not have information concerning calls to positions, etc.

Richard was stricken with rheumatism and Bright's disease which caused him great suffering for many years.

Before being crippled so badly he took great comfort in gardening. He made leather knee-pads so that he could work on his knees to pull the weeds. Finally he was forced to give up his work entirely.

He was a great Bible reader, being of a very studious nature. Although he was unable to work in later years, he was always pleasant and happy, and passed many enjoyable hours in conversing with his many friends who called on him at his home.

Men with characters like Richard Carlisle will never be forgotten, for they have left landmarks along the streams of time that cannot be hidden. He had often made the remark that he did not wish any costly monument; because a good, honest life was the way he wished to be remembered.

He died April 10, 1879 in Alpine, being 81 years old at the time.

May his beautiful life be a beacon light for all his children and many descendants.

- 1 The original history by Martha Healey Strong stated he was baptized by Jos. E. Taylor, but Alpine ward records gave Edw. Taylor. The name of the elder given in the history took the gospel to them, was retained from the original history.
- 2 Alpine Ward Records.
- 3 Church Emigration files and Ships' Stories filed in Room 310 Church Office Building (Index Office).
- 4 From Martha Healey Strong's original history.
- 5 Patriarchal blessing file, Church Historian's Library.
- 6 The card giving this information was in "Early Church" files and the stake was given as Cottonwood. This, however, conflicts with previous dates in Journal History, as related beforehand, where we find Richard busy with affairs in Alpine as early as 1855.
- 7 This information was taken from Martha Healey Strong's original history and at this writing it is not certain exactly where this incident occurred.
- 8 From Endowment House Records. Their civil marriage date is unknown. Because they are listed in Alpine Ward records with Richard's children, it is assumed that they were married and settled in Alpine long before they went to the Endowment House in 1869.

This history was written in November, 1956, by Dora D. Flack (wife of LeGrand Flack) from the original history written by Martha Healey Strong, to whom this writer is indebted: Additions and corrections were made from the family group sheet, records in the Historian's Office and the Church Records Archives, Alpine Ward Records, Early Church files.