

DESCENDANTS OF BRIGHAM YOUNG TO HOLD ANNUAL MASS MEETINGS



THE descendants of Brigham Young have decided to perpetuate the memory of the late President of the Mormon Church by keeping up a family association and holding a reunion once each year. When a family assumes the proportions of that left behind by Brigham Young a reunion possesses all the aspects of a whole town full of people getting together for a public demonstration. To keep the organization together and operating smoothly will require the services of as many officers as are required to preside over a municipality.

Although Brigham Young died as recently as 1877, he left more than 1,000 direct descendants. He had twenty-six wives, fifty-six children, of whom forty-seven survived him. In addition, there are 294 grandchildren and 745 great-grandchildren in the family circle. There is not in Salt Lake City an available building large enough to hold the family when it gets together for the great reunion, so it has been arranged to hold the affair in the open air.

The chief interest in this interesting family centres about the six old women, widows of the man who made plural marriage a vital issue of the Mormon religion. They range in age from sixty to eighty years, and since the death of the Mormon leader have occupied exalted positions in Mormonism. Some of these women expect to be summoned from the grave on resurrection morning, not by Brigham Young, but by Joseph Smith. These were sealed to Young for "time" only, and previous to that had been sealed to Joseph Smith for "time and eternity."

Zina D. Young is the most conspicuous of the widows for "time." When she was fifteen years old one of Joseph Smith's missionaries in New York made her a convert. She followed the new prophet through all his stormy career, leaving a husband and two children.

She was finally "sealed" to him in celestial marriage. She claims at one time to have had a vision and to have been endowed with the gift of tongues and interpretation. After the death of Smith this wife turned to Brigham Young for care, and was "sealed" to him for time only. She crossed the plains in his cavalcade, driving oxen, cooking, washing, and enduring many hardships.

Emily D. Partridge Young is a "second time" wife. She and her sister were made wives of Prophet Smith in Nauvoo, Ill. After Smith died the sister Emily became one of Young's wives. A third widow, who owns a more perplexing name than any of the others, Naamah Kendel Jenkins Carter Twiss Young, expects to be claimed on the last day by John S. Twiss, to whom she was married first by Brigham Young himself, says The Chicago Tribune. A fourth, Margaret Pierce Young, has been sealed for eternity to Morris Whitesides.

Brigham Young's favorite and his youngest wife was exalted over all the old wives in the last days of the old Mormon leader's life. She was one of the most beautiful of the young Mormon women in Salt Lake, and her charms remained with her even in old age.

Her name is Harriet Amelia Folsom Young. The Folsoms went to Utah from

Ohio. At twenty-five Harriet Folsom was the most courted woman in Mormondom.

Two young suitors, one of whom it was supposed she intended to marry, were suddenly sent away by Brigham Young on a foreign missionary tour, and before their return the young woman became the wife of the Church's head. For her he built the palace which stands to-day opposite the plainer abodes of his other wives. Harriet Folsom was the only woman who could sway the bold Mormon leader. Her word was law in the household.

For those wives who remained faithful to the leader the Mormon Church has provided much notable work in high positions. One of these labors is the tracing out of progenitors of the Young families. According to Mormon doctrines, no one obtains the highest salvation unless he is baptized on earth by some one who has received authority.

Joseph Smith, in order to prevent the condemnation of millions of innocent persons, declared that living people might be baptized for the dead ones, under the names of the deceased. Napoleon, Queen Elizabeth, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and others have thus been snatched as brands from the burning.

The doctrine of polygamy was sprung upon the Mormons by Young during the Summer of 1852, and the announcement created a great furor among the followers of Joseph Smith. Young claimed that a revelation commanding multiple marriages had been made to Smith during his lifetime, but the widow and sons denied ever having seen or heard of any such revelation.

The result was a split in the Church. Many withdrew and formed a separate organization under the leadership of one of the sons of Smith, but Young really exerted the hand of power and gave a practical illustration of the unpopular doctrine he taught. The Mormons still hold his memory sacred and hail him again as an infallible leader.