

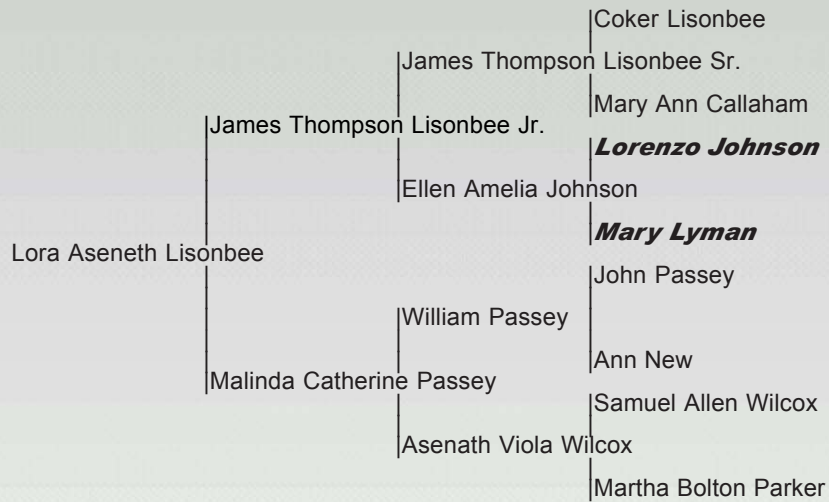
Excerpt taken from: *Perry & Lora; Their Roots & Branches* by Dixie H. Krauss

The author based her conclusions on research and interesting tales passed down in the family. She made a dedicated effort to present accurate information but recommends independent verification before accepting the material as fact or using the data for genealogical purposes.

© 2003 Deseret Pioneers

No part of this work may be reproduced by any means without the express written permission of the author or Deseret Pioneers Inc. This PDF can be printed for family history and non-commercial uses.

Fourth Generation Ancestors



Lorenzo Johnson
Born: 1813 Connecticut



Mary Lyman
Born: 1811 Connecticut



Lorenzo Johnson & Mary Lyman

Lorenzo Johnson, son of Didymus Johnson and Rheuana Stevens, was born on 17 Apr 1813 in Haddam, Middlesex, Connecticut. He died on 25 Apr 1872 in Monroe, Sevier, Utah.

Lorenzo married (1) **Mary Lyman**, daughter of Samuel Lyman and Hannah Mitchel, on 30 Dec 1832 in Haddam, Middlesex, Connecticut. Mary was born on 10 Oct 1811 in Middleton, Middlesex, Connecticut. She died on 7 Jan 1904 in Monroe, Sevier, Utah.

They had the following children...

William Didymus Johnson	22 Oct 1833	Haddam, Middlesex, Connecticut
Eunice Lucinda Johnson	8 Nov 1835	Royal Oak, Oakland, Michigan
Harriet Fidelia Johnson	27 Aug 1837	Royal Oak, Oakland, Michigan
John Wesley Johnson	9 Sep 1839	Royal Oak, Oakland, Michigan
Julia Maria Johnson	14 Sep 1842	Royal Oak, Oakland, Michigan
Ellen Amelia Johnson	12 Dec 1847	Winter Quarters, Douglas, Nebraska
Emily Miranda Johnson	30 Sep 1849	Council Bluffs, Pottawattamie, Iowa

Lorenzo also married (2) Ruth Sawyer Drury on 23 Mar 1854 in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah. They were sealed on 10 Nov 1855 in the Endowment House.

He also married (3) Mary Ann Hall on 1 Mar 1857 in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah. They were sealed on 1 Mar 1857 in the Endowment House.

He also married (4) Emma James on 1 Mar 1857 in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah. They were sealed on 1 Mar 1857 in the Endowment House.

Mary also married (1) William Johnson, son of Didymus Johnson and Rheuana Stevens, in 1830.





Life Sketch of Lorenzo & Mary

Lorenzo Johnson

1813 Connecticut - 1872 Utah Territory

Mary Lyman

1811 Connecticut - 1904 Utah Territory

Lorenzo's childhood...

Lorenzo, son of Didymus Johnson and Rheuana Stevens, was born on April 17, 1813, in Haddam, Connecticut. He was the twelfth of thirteen children all of whom were given a great faith in God and an abiding concern for one another by their parents.

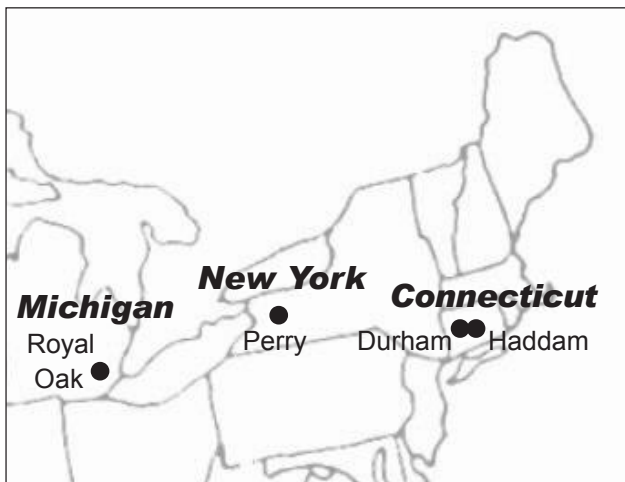
Mary's childhood...

Mary Lyman was born on October 10, 1811, to Samuel Lyman and Hannah Mitchel. Mary was their sixth child. The Lyman family lived in Durham, Connecticut.

In her tender years, Mary was deprived of the care of her loving mother Hannah. After Hannah died, the children were separated and lived with relatives and friends. While living away from home, she had to work hard and was taught to spin yarn.

William and Mary...

About 1830 Mary met, fell in love, and married William Johnson, an older brother to Lorenzo Johnson. They lived in Perry, New York. The next year William



Early homes of William Johnson, Lorenzo Johnson, and Mary Lyman.



Early pioneer trail of Lorenzo and Mary Lyman Johnson.

and Mary had a precious baby daughter, Mary Ann, who came to bless their home on August 3, 1831. Their happiness was short lived, for William was taken by death, leaving Mary a widow. Her father-in-law, Didymus Johnson, sent for her and her baby bringing them back to Haddam, Connecticut.

William's younger brother, Lorenzo Johnson—even though he was only nineteen—married Mary, his brother's widow, on December 30, 1832, and took on the responsibility of her and her baby. When Lorenzo and Mary had their first son, he was given the name of William Didymus in memory of Mary's first husband.

A family and a new faith...

Lorenzo took his young family to Royal Oak, Michigan in 1834, where he worked on the first railroad built in Michigan. Four more children joined their family.

Lorenzo was baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1837 in Kirtland, Ohio. He was at the residence of his two brothers, Huntington and Aaron Johnson, who were already members of the Church. Mary also joined the Church which was but a few years old.

Lorenzo moved his family to Nauvoo, Hancock, Illinois, arriving on March 8, 1846. The first camp of Saints had already crossed the Mississippi River and was encamped on Sugar Creek in Lee County, Iowa.

That same month Lorenzo and family crossed the Mississippi River and started west.

They overtook the first company at Garden Grove, Iowa, where they stopped the remainder of the season. Garden Grove was settled just a few weeks earlier by fleeing Saints among whom was Brigham Young. It served as a way station for traveling Saints.

Lorenzo built a home and planted crops. After harvesting the crops, he took two yoke of oxen and a wagon, then made three trips from Garden Grove to the Mississippi River and rescued families driven from Nauvoo by mobs.

In the spring 1847 of Lorenzo moved his family to Winter Quarters, Nebraska, where he built another home and raised another crop. That same year Lorenzo was ordained a Seventy on July 10, 1847; and they were blessed with the birth of little Ellen Amelia Johnson on December 12, 1847. Lorenzo returned back to Garden Grove to bring some poor families to Winter Quarters.

The following spring he was compelled by Indian agents of the Government to recross the Missouri River. He built yet another home, this one in Council Bluffs, Iowa, where little Emily joined the family. For three years in succession, Lorenzo built a home, split rails, fenced his land, plowed, and raised a crop to sustain his family.

Heading west...

Lorenzo and family crossed the plains in a fine wagon which Lorenzo and his brother Aaron invented and

Lorenzo Johnson	35	M
Mary	40	F
William	17	M
Prudence	14	F
Harriet	13	F
John	11	M
Julia	9	F
Ellen	13	F
Emily	11	F

Lorenzo Johnson family in the 1850 Census taken on September 3, 1850, in Pottawattamie County in Iowa.



Mary Lyman Johnson with daughter Ellen Amelia Johnson Lisonbee. Mary gave birth to Ellen at Winter Quarters in 1847.

made with their own hands. It did not have a scrap of iron in it, and the wheels had rawhide tires. The wagon bed projected out over the wheels so there was room for a sleeping bed. Brigham Young examined the wagon and pronounced it sound. Mary drove a team of horses, with the help of her girls, the entire distance.

Along the way baby Emily was taken ill with cholera and died. She was only two years old. Lorenzo and Mary bravely left her behind on the plains in an unmarked grave. Each day as they continued on, tears were near the surface for their deceased child.

Life in Utah Territory...

They arrived in Salt Lake on September 25, 1852, and left directly for Springville in Utah County. Lorenzo was one of the founding fathers of this little community and became an active citizen. During the winter of 1853-54, Lorenzo helped build a wall around Springville. In 1856 Brigham Young called him to build saw mills in Big Cottonwood Canyon. Lorenzo helped build five or six mills. He served on the Springville City Council for two terms, was elected mayor of Springville for the years 1859 and 1865-1867, and was a member of the first grand jury in Utah.

A year after their arrival in Utah, Lorenzo entered into the prevailing sacred principle of plural marriage. He married a second wife, Ruth Sawyer Drury, another

widow, on March 23, 1854. They had three sons, one of which died. Lorenzo's second wife Ruth also died, so Mary raised the two motherless boys. Lorenzo married two more noble women, Mary Ann Hall and Emma James on the same day, March 1, 1857.

In 1868 President Brigham Young called Lorenzo and others on a mission to colonize at the Muddy River in southern Utah. Mary Lyman stayed in Springville.

Widowhood again for Mary...

After returning to Springville, Lorenzo moved his wives, Mary Lyman and Emma James—Mary Ann Hall was to follow—to Monroe, Utah. He hoped to establish homes for his families, but his health failed. He had serious nosebleeds that reduced his strength and immunity. He died on April 25, 1872, of pneumonia. He was only fifty-nine years old. He was the first person to be buried in the Monroe Cemetery.

Mary and four of her daughters were widowed at the same time. Three of them remarried. Mary went to live with the fourth, Ellen Amelia Johnson Lisonbee,



Lorenzo Johnson and Mary Lyman buried their baby on the plains. Monument of pioneer parents burying their baby. Located in foyer of the Church Office Building. Original at Winter Quarters in Omaha.

Lorenzo took his third wife, Mary Ann Hall, and their four children with him on a mission to the Muddy River in southern Utah. They traveled 400 miles by wagon. One morning they woke to three feet of snow. They had to stop at St. George for ten days and live in a dugout. A little daughter who was sick said to her father Lorenzo, "If you don't leave this place I will die."¹ When morning came, Lorenzo loaded the wagon and left.

He built a home on the Muddy River in West Point, later known as Overton, of woven willows and poles with a thatched roof covered with dirt. Lorenzo's family knew suffering and privation but shared with the starving Indians. They were finally released to return home, because water was scarce and the crops would not grow.

and children where she was provided and cared for and deeply loved. She was pleasant and cheerful and a great comfort in the home. She did beautiful sewing for her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and many friends. At that time, sewing machines were unknown.

During her years with Ellen, Mary was honored as *Utah* in Springville at about eighty years old, and again in Monroe. Mary lived with her daughter Ellen for twenty-six years. Up to the time of her death, Mary was perfectly well and able to knit and read without her glasses. Then when her daughter Ellen died, Mary followed within two weeks. Mary died on January 7, 1904, in Monroe at age ninety-two.

Mary wished she could be sealed to her first husband, William Johnson. With President Heber J. Grant's consent, this was done for her.

Tribute to Lorenzo...

"She [Mary Lyman] often told us that through all the trying hard times, and though her husband was always extremely kind and generous to those in need, she never remembered ever being without bread in the home. She often told us of the good, kind man her husband was: an excellent provider, very ambitious, and extremely resourceful. What he needed by way of tools and implements, he always made."

—Mary E. Winget and Zelaina L. Nielsen, granddaughters

Tribute to Mary...

Mary was a quiet, patient, and lovely woman who deeply loved her family and all who knew her. “The pleasure of her presence was an inspiring impression to all. Among many grand blessings and promises given in her patriarchal blessing was the statement that the Lord was well pleased with her and had endowed her with His own attributes. . . . Under her expert fingers, lovely things were fashioned, hoods for babies; stockings and shoes; shawls, beautifully knitted of yarn made by her own hands; marvelous bedspreads of rare beauty and design—of which she made nine after she was eighty years old . . . knitted with stitches so small as to be indiscernible. Everything she did was a masterpiece.”

—Mary E. Winget and Zelaina L. Nielsen, granddaughters

Bibliography

Bancroft, Mary A. Lyman, *Obituary of Mary Lyman Johnson*, *Woman's Exponent*, Vol. 41, p. 34.
Clyde, George D, Governor, State of Utah, *My Heritage*, Governor's Tribute, Aaron and Lorenzo Johnson

Family Reunions, Springville, Utah, June 28, 1958.
Finley, Mary J., *A History of Springville*, 1988, Family History Library, Salt Lake City, 979.224/S2 H2f.
Johnson, Alan P., *Aaron Johnson Faithful Steward*, Publishers Press, SLC, 1991.
Jenson, Andrew, *LDS Biographical Encyclopedia*, 1951, Family History Library, Vol. 1, p. 366-367.
Johnson, Don Carlos, *A Brief History of Springville, Utah*, FHL, Salt Lake City, 979.224/S2 H2h.
Krauss, Dixie Hancock, *Interview of Jamie McDonald, M.S*, Hereditary Hemorrhagic Telangiectasia Clinic, University of Utah, April 2000.
Membership of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1830-1848, FHL, Salt Lake City, fiche 60315596 no. 46-47.
Thorn, Sarah Eliza J., daughter, *History of Lorenzo Johnson*, Lorenzo Johnson File, Nauvoo Restoration, Inc., Land and Records, Nauvoo.
Winget, Mary Ellen and Zelaina L. Nielsen, daughters, *Ellen Amelia Johnson Lisonbee; Lorenzo Johnson; Mary Lyman Johnson*.



Mary Ann Johnson, only child of William Johnson and Mary Lyman.



Eunice Lucinda Johnson, second child of Lorenzo Johnson and Mary Lyman.

Four daughters of Mary Lyman
who became wives of Aaron Johnson
brother to William and Lorenzo Johnson



Julia Maria Johnson, fifth child of Lorenzo Johnson and Mary Lyman.



Harriet Fidelia Johnson, third child of Lorenzo Johnson and Mary Lyman.