

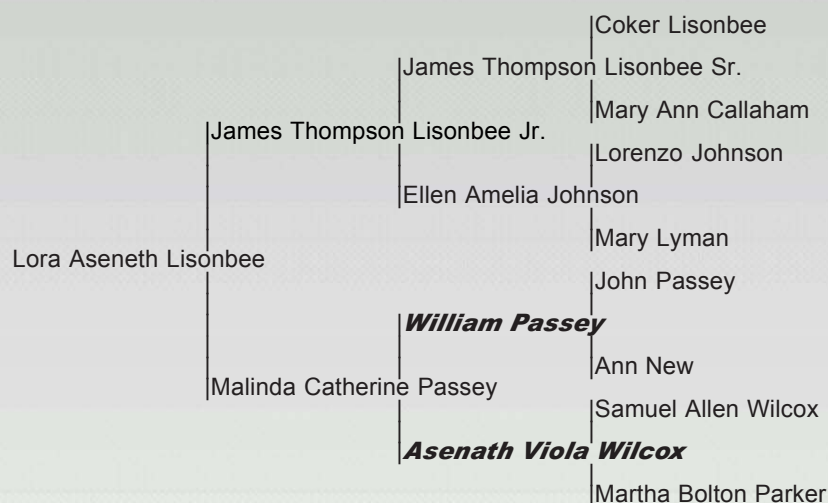
Excerpt taken from: *Perry & Lora; Their Roots & Branches* by Dixie H. Krauss

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.

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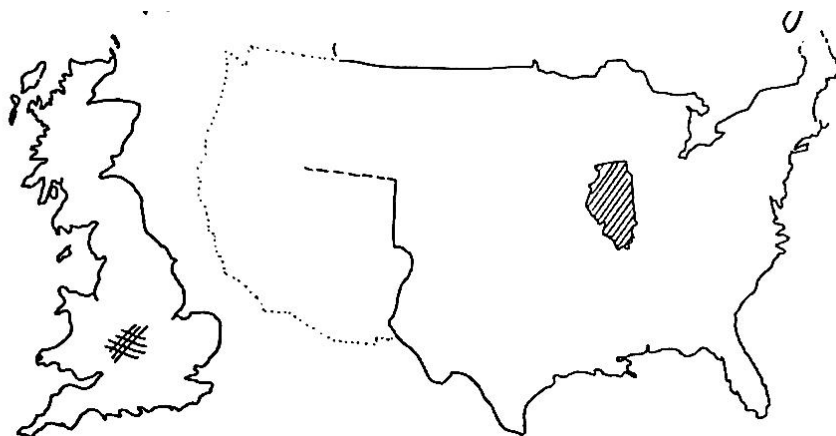
Third Generation Ancestors



William Passey
 Born: 1839 England



Asenath Viola Wilcox
 Born: 1845 Illinois



William Passey & Asenath Viola Wilcox

William Passey, son of John Passey and Ann New, was born on 29 Dec 1839 in Strensham, Worcester, England. He died on 3 Jan 1929 in Mesa, Maricopa, Arizona.

William married **Asenath Viola Wilcox**, daughter of Samuel Allen Wilcox and Martha Bolton Parker, on 29 Oct 1865 in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah. Asenath was born on 1 Apr 1845 in Nauvoo, Hancock, Illinois. She died on 27 Aug 1927 in Mesa, Maricopa, Arizona.

They had the following children...

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|
| Malinda Catherine Passey | 9 Aug 1866 | Paris, Bear Lake, Idaho |
| John Passey | Sep 1867 | Paris, Bear Lake, Idaho |
| Samuel Allen Passey | 11 Aug 1868 | Paris, Bear Lake, Idaho |
| Martha Ann Passey | 23 Aug 1870 | Paris, Bear Lake, Idaho |
| William Boyd Passey | 29 Feb 1872 | Cedar Fort, Utah, Utah |
| Fredrick Arson Passey | 7 Sep 1874 | Dingle Dell Isle, Bear Lake, Idaho |
| James Spicer Passey | 21 Jan 1876 | Dingle Dell Isle, Bear Lake, Idaho |
| Comadore John Passey | 26 Dec 1877 | Dingle Dell Isle, Bear Lake, Idaho |
| Joseph Almarion Passey | 22 Aug 1879 | Dingle Dell Isle, Bear Lake, Idaho |
| Adam Ira Passey | 4 Apr 1881 | Mesa, Maricopa, Arizona |
| Albert George Passey | 2 Mar 1883 | Mesa, Maricopa, Arizona |
| Asenath Becca Passey | 29 Nov 1885 | Mesa, Maricopa, Arizona |
| Ernest Passey | 28 Aug 1887 | Mesa, Maricopa, Arizona |



Life Sketch of William & Asenath

William Passey

1839 England - 1929 Arizona

Asenath Viola Wilcox

1845 Illinois - 1927 Arizona

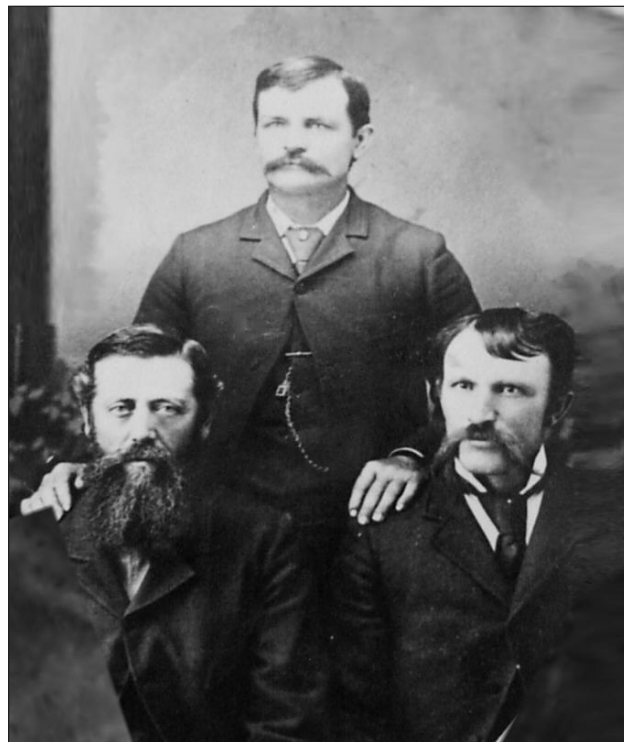
William's childhood...

William Passey was born in Great Britain on December 29, 1839, in the small village of Strensham, England—a farming community. His parents, John Passey and Ann New, had seven children—five of whom grew to maturity.

The family joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Strensham, England in 1851. Because of prejudice against the Church, they lost their tenancy of the land. This proved to be a blessing. They moved to Birmingham and prospered. William worked



William Passey and Asenath Viola Wilcox were wed.



William Passey, left, as first counselor in the first bishopric of the original Mesa Ward. Top: Bishop Elijah Pomeroy. Right: Wellington Richins, second counselor.

at a wire factory that supplied wire for the Atlantic cable. The family stayed in Birmingham for nine years and was able to save money for passage to America.

William was twenty when the family set sail for America on the ship *Underwriter* on March 30, 1860. They landed in New York on May 1, 1860. The Civil War had begun, and recruiters tried to get young William to fight. But he came to America not to look for war, but peace with the Saints in the Rocky Mountains.

The Passeys traveled to Florence, Nebraska, and began their trip across the plains on July 1, 1861, with Joseph Horne's Company. Their food consisted of salt bacon, game, gravy and bread. William drove three yoke of oxen—the first he had ever seen. Before the company reached the Salt Lake Valley, the crack of William's bull whip could be heard a mile, and his long even stride was the envy of many. They arrived in the Valley on September 13, 1861. It took the family ten years, since they were baptized into the Church, to join the Saints in Utah.

Asenath's childhood...

Aseneth Viola Wilcox was the daughter of Samuel Allen Wilcox and Martha Bolton Parker. The Wilcox and Parker families were highly respected and well-to-do citizens of Eastern Canada. In 1839, soon after Samuel and Martha were married, they heard the Gospel and joined the Church. They traveled to Nauvoo to join the Saints, arriving in October 1840. Asenath was born in Nauvoo, April 1, 1845.

When the Saints were driven from Nauvoo in 1846, it was winter. The Wilcox family was not prepared to cross the Plains, so Samuel made a mud and willow house for his family. Samuel rented and purchased farm land along the Mississippi River for the next fifteen years. Asenath spent her childhood deep in Fremont County, Iowa. She loved it there. When the first guns of the Civil War fired in April 1861, Samuel said, "Well Mother, we must get out of here, for South Carolina has seceded just as Joseph said it would."

In May 1861 the family started for Salt Lake Valley with a considerable number of cattle and horses. Asenath was sixteen years old. Her mother Martha put the money they got for their farm in a straw bed. In preparing for the move, she emptied the straw bed, never thinking of the money. They had just gotten started when Haden Allred came full speed after them. "Have you lost anything? I found this in kicking the straw around." Asenath's father was so grateful, for this was all the money they had. He rewarded Mr. Allred by giving him twenty-five dollars.

Asenath's family went on to Cedar Fort, Utah, which gave promise of good feed for her father's cattle and horses. This is where they remained.

Marriage and family...

Asenath was now a beautiful young lady with brown eyes and wavy brown hair. She was full of fun, happy,



Carpenter shop of William Passey in Mesa. He made and repaired furniture, cabinets, and coffins.



From left: William and Asenath Passey with son, Adam Passey, who was born in a tent that first year in Mesa. See photos of homes in James T. Lisonbee Jr. section.

and jovial in disposition. She was five feet and one inch tall. William, who was six feet two inches, met her at church in Cedar Fort, Utah, while visiting an uncle. On seeing him, something said to Asenath, "There is your husband." They met again at a dance. When it was ladies choice, Asenath asked William to dance. William's father and family moved to Cedar Fort, so the courtship between William and Asenath continued.

They made plans to marry by stopping at the Endowment House in Salt Lake City on a cattle drive to Bear Lake, Idaho. To their disappointment, the Endowment House was closed, and they were forced to go on. It was impossible to feed the cattle that near the city. William went to Brigham Young for advice. When he went back to camp, the cattle drive was leaving and would not go without him. William felt great sorrow and wept when he could not keep faith with the Prophet's counsel and keep faith with his commitment to help move the cattle. William and Asenath were married for time on October 29, 1865, in Salt Lake City and continued on to Bear Lake. Four years and three children later, they made it back to Salt Lake and were sealed. One child was stillborn and did not require sealing. One was sealed in the Mesa Arizona Temple when it opened over sixty years later.

William and Asenath left Bear Lake, their home of eight years, and settled on an island called Dingle Dell near Paris, Idaho. William was called to be the Presiding Elder over the small group of Saints on October 31, 1877. The first meeting was held in their home. While building a church, a log fell on William, and by a Higher Power he escaped injury.

Pioneering in Arizona...

During the severe winter of 1879, on the day before Christmas, William nearly froze to death while herding

cattle. When he got home he had two icicles hanging from his mustache, and his feet and ears were frozen. Asenath put his frozen feet in a tube of ice water to thaw them out. As soon as he was warm enough to speak, he said to Asenath, "Mother, I am going to Arizona where I can get thawed out. Do you want to go?" Asenath said, "Yes I do," for that is where she wanted to go.

On August 29, 1880, after nearly fifteen years in Idaho, William and Asenath took their eight children and headed south to the land of perpetual sunshine. Asenath was with child and very ill during the journey. They traveled with a company of eight wagons going by way of Lee's Ferry. The milk cow tied behind one of William's two wagons furnished milk the entire journey. They arrived on November 21, 1880. The settlement of Mesa was but two years old.

The homes in Mesa were made of adobe without mortar, willow houses, or tents. The roofs and floors were generally dirt with gunny sacks for carpets. When William and Asenath arrived in Mesa, they were offered a place to camp—a shed with a dirt roof. Then William traded a harness for an acre of land on Second Street and Sirrine. There he pitched a tent and built some brush sheds.

Asenath had a baby, Adam, in this tent. When he was six weeks old, it rained day and night for ten days until the tent no longer held out the water. Every stitch of clothing was soaked. Little Adam caught a cold and then pneumonia which greatly reduced his hearing.

They had been in Mesa but two years and had nine children at home when William was called to the bishopric. Asenath was concerned about how she

Handwriting of Asenath Wilcox Passey. Note reads: I will now close hoping to hear from "u" all soon. From your loving mother, Asenath V. Passey.

would manage. She was given this promise by the bishop. If she supported her husband in this calling, her purse would always be full and every need would be met. Their cows had milk, their hens laid eggs and their products sold. Asenath bore her testimony many times that her purse was always running over as the servant of the Lord had promised. William served for twelve years in the bishopric—as first counselor and then as bishop—from 1882 until 1894 when he lost most of his hearing and eye sight.

William was a splendid addition to the community. He was a mortician, a carpenter, and cabinet maker. He assisted in building homes in the city. He also became a civic leader and was elected to the city council in July 1883. One of the council's first items of business that year was a smallpox epidemic sweeping in the territory.

The Indians in the area were not hostile. Asenath had a friendly, kind way with them and often sold them melons or traded farm products for wood. Sometimes she bought their pottery to help them out.

William purchased land on the northwest corner of the original square mile and built an adobe home for his family. They had been in Mesa but a year. Then in 1909, William and his sons built a lumber house kitty-cornered from their adobe home on forty acres. Asenath made beautiful quilts and crocheted articles to brighten her home.

Through the years their homes were places of refuge for their children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. Many of their descendants visited them and enjoyed ice cold milk, homemade bread, potatoes

Handwriting of William Passey. Letter by him April 12, 1902, from Mesa to his wife Asenath in Provo, Utah.

and gravy, and the love that filled their home. Some of their grandchildren were even born in these homes.

When Asenath died on August 27, 1927, William missed her terribly. Night after night he begged the Lord to let him come home where he could be with his Asenath again. On January 3, 1929, William died in his sleep. He was not even sick at eighty-nine.

Tribute to William...

William spent his life as a pioneer. He helped pioneer Salt Lake City, Cedar Fort, Bear Lake, and Mesa. He was a man of great faith. No matter how little he had, he never forgot to thank Heavenly Father for it.

“Before retiring, he knelt beside his bed and said his prayers out loud. I never meant to eavesdrop but could hardly help it as he spoke out plainly and only a cloth covered the window between the kitchen and his room. Such gratitude and humility as flowed from his lips I could never forget. . . . I love my Grandpa Passey, and I’m grateful for the lesson he never knew he taught me.”

—Lora Lisonbee Hancock, granddaughter

Tribute to Asenath...

Asenath loved to pick up her skirt and step dance all around the room. She was pretty, little, and cute.

“She was a wonderful woman, kind to everyone,



Malinda Passey Lisonbee, left, with her parents William Passey and Asenath Viola Wilcox Passey.



Five children of William Passey in 1954. From left: Joe Passey, Adam Passey, Malinda Passey Lisonbee, Fred Passey, and Jim Passey.

self sacrificing, generous, witty, and talented. She would share her last crust of bread, if needed. Her smile was beautiful and contagious. Even when her heart was aching at the loss of her beloved children, she would smile and make it pleasant for the rest of her large family. . . . She was deeply religious and remained true to her convictions.”

—Victoria Johnson Passey, daughter-in-law

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Malinda and her mother, Asenath Passey.



Malinda Lisonbee and her mother, Asenath Passey.



China bowl of Asenath Passey

Asenath gave this bowl to her daughter Malinda Lisonbee who gave it to her daughter Lora Hancock who gave it to her daughter Bonnie Peterson.



1928 Malinda Lisonbee with father, William Passey.

William Passey Family



1889 Back from left: James, Boyd, Malinda, Samuel, Martha, Frederick, and Joseph. Center: Albert, Comadore, parents William and Asenath, Adam. Front: Lorenzo or Ren Lisonbee (Malinda's first child), Asenath, and Ernest.

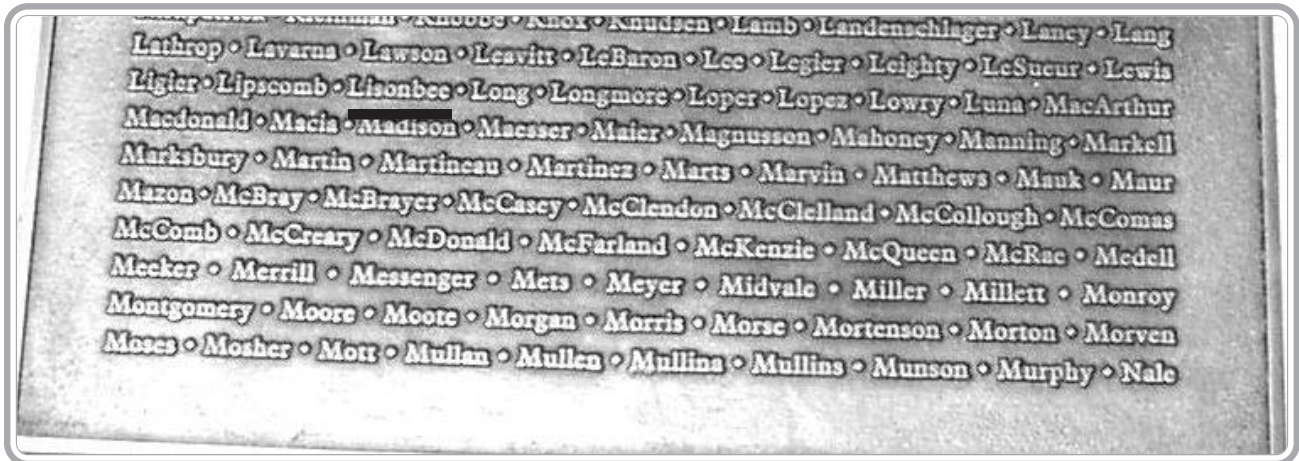
Pioneer Park



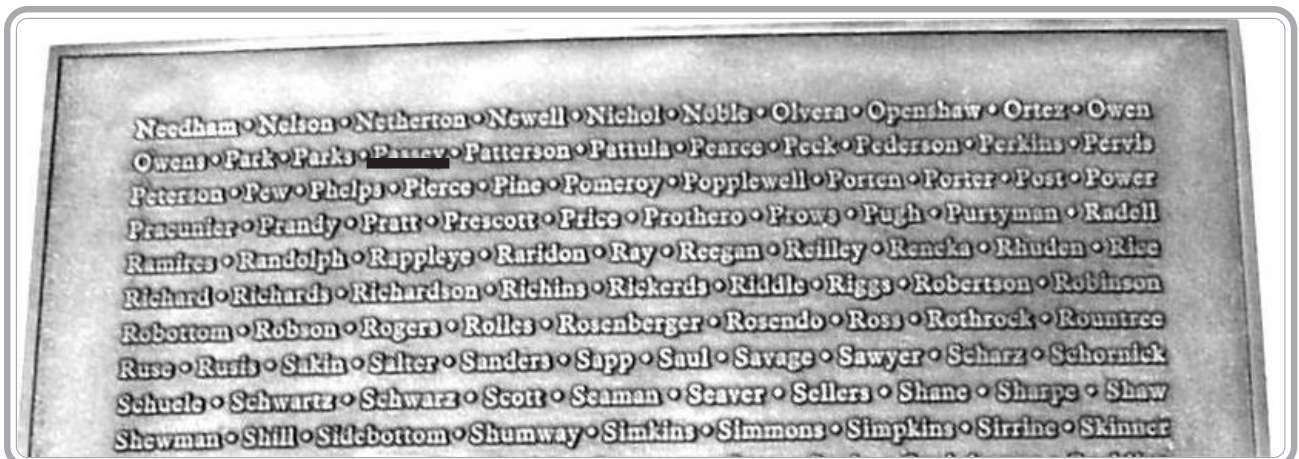
Sign marking Pioneer Park in Mesa, Arizona.



Monument dedicated to the Mesa pioneer settlers.



Lisonbee name refers to James Thompson Lisonbee Jr. on this plaque with names of Mesa pioneer settlers.



Passey name refers to William Passey on plaque with additional names of Mesa pioneer settlers.