

Francis M. Lyman

Son of Amasa Mason Lyman and Maria Louisa Tanner

1840-1915

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Francis M. Lyman

Francis Marion Lyman ([12 January 1840](#)—[18 November 1916](#)) was a member of the [Quorum of the Twelve Apostles](#) and a [General Authority](#) of [The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints](#). He was the [President of the Quorum](#) from [1903](#) until his death.

Francis M. Lyman's father was [Amasa M. Lyman](#). His son was [Richard R. Lyman](#). Both his father and son were also [apostles](#) in the church.

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[\[edit\]](#) Early life

Francis M. Lyman was born [January 12, 1840](#) as the first son to [Amasa M. Lyman](#) and Louisa Maria Tanner in [Goodhope, Illinois](#). That spring the family moved to [Iowa](#). From there, about one year later, they moved to [Nauvoo, Illinois](#) to be with the church. In [1843](#), they moved again to [Alquina, Indiana](#). After the martyrdom of [Joseph Smith, Jr.](#), they moved back to Nauvoo in [1844](#).

His father left with the first group to travel on the [Mormon Exodus](#) to the West. His family moved to [Winter Quarters](#) in June of [1846](#) under the care of his maternal grandfather. His family set out to the [Salt Lake Valley](#) to join the [Latter-day Saints](#) in [1848](#). Though only 8 years old, he helped drive a yoke of cattle and the wagon. He was baptized by his father in the [Elkhorn River](#) on [July 1, 1848](#). He arrived in the Salt Lake Valley [October 19, 1848](#).

By [1851](#), at 11 years of age, his father had purchased land along with Elder [Charles C. Rich](#) in [San Bernardino, California](#). Together, he helped drive the animals from Salt Lake to [California](#). They settled there and he became busy with tending the animals and driving them between [Utah](#) and California across the desert. He was present at the laying of the cornerstone of the [Salt Lake Temple](#) in April of [1853](#).

[\[edit\]](#) Adult Life and Service

In [1856](#), at about 16 years of age, he was given the [Melchizedek Priesthood](#) and ordained an [elder](#) by his father. In [1857](#) he was called on a mission to [Great Britain](#). He was stopped at [Salt Lake City, Utah](#) and told to turn back and bring the settlers in California in to the valley. The [Utah War](#) had prevented his mission at this time.

He married Rhoda Ann Taylor on [November 18, 1857](#).

In [1859](#), his family settled in [Farmington, Utah](#). His ordination to the seventy followed shortly thereafter. John S. Gleason ordained him on [January 7, 1860](#). Prior to his departure on his previously called mission, he built a cabin in [Beaver, Utah](#) for his wife and one son. He left for his mission in the spring of [1860](#).

[edit] *Mission in England*

Arriving in [Kirtland, Ohio](#), he was shown through the [Kirtland Temple](#) by [Martin Harris](#) himself. He left through the port of [New York](#) and arrived by steamer in [Liverpool, England](#) on [July 27, 1860](#).

He served diligently for roughly two years. Upon release from his mission, he accompanied about 800 immigrants back to the [United States](#). They arrived in New York on [June 25, 1862](#). In New York, he was appointed president of the group. By early July, they had arrived in [Florence, Nebraska](#), which is now a neighborhood on the [north end](#) Omaha. It was not until the middle of October that he arrived back to his wife and homestead in Beaver.

[edit] *Fillmore*

In March of [1863](#), [Church President Brigham Young](#) asked Francis to settle in [Fillmore, Utah](#). The next fourteen years of his life were spent there, and he engaged himself in leadership in church, politics, business, and manufacturing there. Among his positions and honors were:

- assistant assessor of United States internal revenue
- lieutenant-colonel of the first regiment of militia in the Pauvan District at 25
- member of the House of the General Assembly of the [State of Deseret](#)
- a member of the 17th, 18th, 22nd and 23rd sessions of the [Utah Territorial legislature](#)
- county clerk and recorder
- superintendent of schools
- prosecuting attorney

When a stake was formed in Fillmore, he was ordained to the office of [high priest](#). Later he was called to the [High Council](#).

On [October 4, 1869](#), he practiced [polygamy](#) by marrying his second wife, Clara Caroline Callister. Her grandfather was [John Smith](#), [Joseph Smith](#)'s uncle, and her son [Richard R. Lyman](#) would go on to serve as an apostle from [1918](#) to [1943](#).

He was called to a second mission to [England](#) and left [Salt Lake City](#) on [October 20, 1873](#) and arrived in [Liverpool](#) on [November 12](#). During his mission, he also visited and proselyted in [Wales](#), [Scotland](#), [Denmark](#), [Germany](#), [Switzerland](#) and [France](#). He arrived with 300 saints in Utah, returning to Fillmore on [October 11, 1875](#).

[\[edit\]](#) Tooele County

In April of 1877, he was called to preside over the Tooele Stake, which was organized [June 24, 1877](#) in [Tooele County, Utah](#). He involved himself in the politics of that county as well. By August of [1878](#), he was elected county recorder and representative to the legislature.

At that time, since [1874](#), Tooele County was in the hands of the [Liberal Party](#), and nicknamed the [Tooele Republic](#). The legislature in 1878 passed a resolution providing for the registration of voters. After allegations of corruption and excessive spending by the Liberal Party, leaving the county in deep debt, the [People's Party](#) won the election of 1878. However, the Liberal Party officials refused to count the votes, and declared themselves the winner of the election.

Francis M. Lyman was key in challenging the election and after hearing cases in the district and supreme courts, the People's Party were declared the winners on [March 29, 1879](#). He earned a reputation for fighting corruption due to his zeal and effectiveness in winning this battle.

[\[edit\]](#) Apostleship

At the October General Conference held [October 10, 1880](#) he was called to be a member of the [Quorum of the Twelve Apostles](#) along with [John Henry Smith](#). Having been on a mission to survey parts of southern Utah, [Nevada](#), and [Arizona](#), he wasn't ordained until [October 27](#) by Church President [John Taylor](#). Upon his call and ordination, he completely devoted himself to church service.

Elder Lyman visited nearly every town that had members of the church in the West during his apostleship. He also maintained a daily record of his business as an apostle in detail.

In early [1883](#), he served a mission to the Indian people of the Uintah and Ouray in Utah at the call of President Taylor. He was overwhelmed with the calling. Climbing to the summit of a mountain on the borders of the Indian territories, he found a flat spot and felt inspired to pray. He poured out his heart on the mountain, and turned towards the work. Facing [anti-Mormon](#) Indian agents and working among a people he knew very little about was a daunting task.

With his company of men, he set out and preached vigorously. The Indian agents were receptive and allowed them to preach freely. Members of the [Utes](#) had joined them, and they were most effective in preaching to their brethren. Many Indians received the Book of Mormon and their preaching and were baptized. He served the Indians both spiritually and temporally.

He returned to [Provo, Utah](#) on [May 28, 1883](#) and continued serving diligently in other callings.

Elder Lyman was called to minister over the European Mission in [1901](#). He set about several key reforms and expanded the number of mission homes throughout Europe.

In the spring of [1902](#) he visited [Palestine](#) and offered up a solemn prayer on the [Mount of Olives](#).

In [1903](#), [Brigham Young, Jr.](#) died, making Elder Lyman the [President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles](#). He returned to Utah in [1904](#).

Soon after returning home, he went to [Washington, D.C.](#) to testify in the [Reed Smoot Investigation](#) before the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections.

President Lyman died in his home [November 18, 1916](#). [Stephen L Richards](#) was called to replace him in the Quorum of the Twelve after his death. [Heber J. Grant](#) replaced him as President of the Quorum. Elder Lyman's style was that of reconciliation and the ability to say unpleasant things in an uplifting way. He was known for his sincerity and at times sharpness. But everyone who met him came away a better person, no matter what his personal message was for them. He was hardened by years of hard work starting with crossing the plains at the age of 8 and driving livestock to California at the age of 11, yet he was known for his kindness and sincerity by members of the church.

[\[edit\]](#) External resources

- [Grandpa Bill's biography of Francis M. Lyman](#)

Preceded by Brigham Young, Jr.	President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles April 11, 1903–November 18, 1916	Succeeded by Heber J. Grant
Preceded by Moses Thatcher	Quorum of the Twelve Apostles October 27, 1880–November 18, 1916	Succeeded by John Henry Smith

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Amasa Mason Lyman Junior

1845-1937

son of Amasa Mason and Louisa Maria Tanner Lyman

Amasa Mason Lyman Jr. Was born the son of Amasa Mason Lyman Sr. and Louisa Maria Tanner, on February 22, 1846 at Nauvoo, Illinois.

He came to Utah in 1848 and married Hannah Olive Felshaw on January 6, 1867 at Fillmore, Utah. To this union three children were born. Hannah died of childbirth at the age of 24.

He married Cynthia Wright and of this union three more children were born. Cynthia Wright died also of childbirth.

He married Rosanna Reynolds and to them was born eight children. Rosanna became mother to the surviving children of the first two marriages.

In 1848 he settled at Little Cottonwood, but moved to San Bernardino, California in 1851. He returned to Utah in 1855 and to California again in 1856. In 1859 he again went to Utah and settled at Cedar City, and from here moved to Beaver in 1870. He was one of the first settlers in Beaver and later moved his family to Teasdale, Utah.

In 1862 he drove a team of mules to Sacramento, California for his uncle Freeman Tanner. In 1864 he went with Captain John R. Murdock to the Missouri River with a six-mule team to assist a company of immigrants to Utah.

He served in the Black Hawk Indian War under James C. Owens. He also assisted in the erection of the O.K. Flour Mill in Fillmore in 1866. In 1879 and 1880 he went with a company of saints into San Juan County and assisted in construction of the road known as the "Hole in the Rock." Here the wagons were let down with ropes.

He moved to Rabbit Valley in 1873 where he resided for seven years, assisting in developing the Country. From here he moved to Boulder and resided there for 20 years and did much in reclaiming the Country and making it habitable. Later he moved to Teasdale where he lived until his death in February 21, 1937 from causes "Incident of old age."

The Family of Amasa Mason Lyman and Hannah Olive Felshaw

Hannah Olive Felshaw First wife of Amasa Mason Lyman Jr. 1848-1872

William Felshaw and his wife Mary Harriet Gilbert, both born in New York State, became members of the LDS Church on May 10, 1832. By 1836, they moved west where William worked as chief carpenter on Temples in Kirtland, Ohio (1836) and Nauvoo, Illinois where he was located between the years of 1839 and 1845, before they moved to Iowa. In 1851 the family crossed the plains to Utah where William worked on the Salt Lake Temple and later was sent to Fillmore as Supervisor of Construction on the Territorial State House.

The William and Mary Felshaws were the parents of 13 children. My great grandmother Hannah Olive was their 11th child. She was three years old when the family arrived in Utah. As she matured she embraced her parent's quest for truth and their admonition to keep the faith.

At age 19 Hannah Olive married Amasa Mason Lyman Junior, in Fillmore on January 6, 1846. He was born two years before Hannah in Nauvoo on February 22, 1846; she was born November 2, 1848 in Galland Grove, Pottawattamie, Iowa. Their first child, my Mother's Mother was Olive Ethel followed by a son Amasa Mason Lyman III. Another son William Milton died six weeks after his mother who died in childbirth at the age of 24. In her short time on earth Hannah Olive knew the hardship and privation of pioneer life, but was blessed with loving parents, an affectionate husband and beautiful, precious children.

Sometime after her marriage, Hannah Olive Felshaw Lyman made some quilt blocks that had not been set together. These single blocks have been preserved by her daughter Olive Ethel Lyman Taft. They were passed down to my mother Olive Ethel Taft Smith and someone gave me two of the blocks. I gave one to my sister, Audra Taft Smith Hendrickson. The other which is hand stitched, I had framed. It is a rare and choice treasure, a legacy – about 130 years old at this time. We honor our Great-grandmother Hannah Olive Felshaw Lyman, her life, her family, and her sacrifice. The artistry of her handwork reflects her dignity, gentility and love of beauty.

By Geneve Taft Smith Cornell Deuel

[Retyped October 5, 2006 for Beth Lyman by Cecile B. Curtis using Word with spell check that may have automatically changed some words from the original transcript].

Of the three children in this family only Olive Ethel Lyman and Amasa Mason Lyman lived to adult hood, married and had families. The last child William Milton died six weeks after his mother Hannah Olive Felshaw Lyman died from complications of child

birth.

Life Sketch of Olive Ethel Lyman

first child of Amasa Mason Lyman Jr. and Hannah Olive Felshaw.

Written by her daughter Hattie Taft Baker

15 March 1938

Olive Ethel Lyman was born October 30, 1867 at Fillmore, Millard County, Utah, the first child of Amasa Mason Lyman Jr. and Hannah Olive Felshaw. When she was four years old she suffered the greatest loss that can befall a child, the death of her mother, who died after giving birth to her third child. The baby died also leaving young Ethel and her brother Mason who was two years younger.

Her father married again soon but this wife lived only a few years, then Olive was left motherless again. She then lived with her grandmother Lyman for several years. Her grandmother was a good woman, but very strict, believing that children should "be seen and not heard."

Ethel, as she was called, was baptized on August 7, 1879 by Elder Haden Church and confirmed the same day. Her father married the third time when Ethel was about fourteen years of age. She lived with them afterward and she often said that she had three of the best mothers in the world.

She commenced school in Fillmore, Utah but they moved to Holden and later to Panguitch, Utah. She remembered all these places very well. When she was sixteen years of age she migrated with her father and his family to Thurber, (later Bicknell) Wayne County, Utah. They were among the first settlers in this new section of the country.

On September 23, 1885 she married Seth Taft. Brother David Cannon performed the ceremony in the St. George Temple. To them was born nine children, six sons and three daughters eight of whom have lived to maturity. She was given a Patriarchal Blessing by E. K. Hanks on December 12, 1915. She was always courageous and uncomplaining and endured the inconvenience of a new country and farm life cheerfully. When she was left a widow at the age of thirty-nine with a large family to care for, she did this to the best of her ability and always taught her children to be honest, dependable and true Latter-day Saints. She had the joy of seeing two of her sons fill honorable missions.

Her health was always exceptionally good. She went out a great deal caring for the sick and many live to bless her memory as an angel of mercy in times of sickness and death. In a Patriarchal Blessing she was promised that "the hearts of many shall be made glad with thy voice." This was certainly fulfilled.

She served as president of the Y.L.M.I.A. in the Thurber Ward of Wayne Stake for eighteen years, as counselor for two years, a teacher in the adult class in Sunday School for many years, a teacher and social service class leader in Relief Society for many years. She was a member of the Wayne Stake Relief Society board while Mary a. Brinkerhoff was President, was chosen as Second Counselor to Sister Brinkerhoff in the spring of 1928 and held this position at the time of her death. She was Librarian in the Bicknell Library for three years, also a member of the Wayne County Library Board.

When she was sixty years of age her eldest daughter died leaving seven children. She took the children and cared for them, but it was too great a strain on her in her advanced years and she lived only ten months. She died very suddenly on March 4, 1929 of a cerebral hemorrhage, at Bicknell, Wayne, Utah.

Pages could be written on the wonderful disposition she had, of her courage, patience, refinement and love of her children and fellowmen. Although at her death she was greatly missed, I am certain that everyone rejoiced that she would join the companion she had been separated from for the exact number of years she had lived with him in this life. (22 years)

Olive Ethel Lyman Taft

1867-1929

By Geneve Taft Smith Cornell Deuel
- Granddaughter -

My grandma Taft helped deliver my twin and me. I know the story well –of my Grandmother’s shock and surprise when the Doctor told her there was another baby that turned out to be me!

My first memory of her was when she came to assist in the delivery of my sister Audra, in February of 1928. She could not find her glasses—she’d pushed them up on her head and this delighted Afton, Lasca and me to tell her where they were. As we children talked about something we had that was “gooder” than the others, she kindly reminded us that you didn’t say “gooder or goodest”, but “better or best” were the correct words to use. I never forgot her instruction and am grateful to her for making me aware of grammar, growing up as I did in a community where there was precious little regard for it among the average citizens.

The next recollection of my serene, reserved and beautiful, red-haired grandmother was when I was 8 years old. We received the news that on March 4, 1929 that at age 60, she had died from a cerebral hemorrhage. I’ll always remember my Mother’s grief and how hard it was, after losing her beloved sister, Delia one year earlier, to also lose her mother.

Olive Ethel Lyman was born October 30, 1867 at Fillmore, Utah, the daughter of Amasa Mason Lyman Junior and Hannah Olive Felshaw. Amasa’s father was Apostle Amasa M. Lyman Sr., who came to Utah in Brigham Young’s original Company. And who was sent to

colonize San Bernardino in California among other assignments. Hannah's father, William Felshaw was the architect and builder in the construction of Utah's first statehouse in Fillmore.

When Ethel was four years old, she suffered the greatest loss that can befall a child – the death of her mother, who died giving birth to her 3rd child. The baby also died, leaving young Ethel and her brother Mason, who was two years old. Ethel's father remarried soon, but death again struck and Ethel was left motherless for a second time. She lived with her Grandmother Lyman for a time and when she was 14, her father married Rosanna Reynolds. From this marriage came nine more children, from the second marriage were three more children added to the three from the first marriage totaled 15 children. Ethel was the oldest, four of the children died as infants. Ethel always said she had the three best mothers in the world.

She started school in Fillmore, moved to Holden, then to Panguitch, and when she was sixteen, moved again, this time to Bicknell. It was here, two years later that this lovely, modest, intelligent girl married Seth Taft, a handsome, dashing, dynamic entrepreneur. They were married in the St. George Temple; of this union came nine children, only one of whom did not live to maturity. My mother, Olive Ethel was the eighth child.

Grandpa Taft was killed when Ethel was 40 years old; this left her to raise her seven unmarried children. Ethel became a midwife and in the next 20 years delivered hundreds of children in the county. She served for 18 years as President of the YMMIA, as teacher of the adult class in Sunday School, as Class Leader in Relief Society, as well as Counselor in the Stake Relief Society. She was Librarian of the Bicknell Library and a member of the Wayne County Library Board.

When Ethel's daughter, Delia died in May of 1928, she took Delia's seven children, ages 2 to 14 to live with her. Ten months later she passed away on March 4, 1929. She was loved and revered by all whose lives she had touched, and mourned as "Mother of the Ward."

Life Sketch of Seth Taft IV

1860-1907

Seth Taft was born November 14, 1860 in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County, Utah, the eldest son of Seth Taft III and Eliza Jane Dykes. He lived in Salt Lake City during his childhood. When he was three years old his father died. His mother was a nurse and was matron of the St. Marks Hospital. She was away from home so much and left Seth and his only brother, Latinus, almost entirely in the care of his father's first wife. These boys loved her very much.

When he was about seventeen years old he and his mother went to Pine Valley in Southern Utah and later to Thurber, Wayne County, Utah on May 30, 1880. This was new country then and she and he "proved up" on land for a farm and pasture a mile and a half south of the present town site of Thurber. (later Bicknell) the old town site adjoined the farm, however.

He was ordained a teacher by Harrison Burgess; and Elder by William Burgess, on 6 March 1884, a Seventy by George A. Burr on January 18, 1885.

He was married to Olive Ethel Lyman on Sept 23, 1885 by Brother David Cannon in the St. George Temple and received his endowments then. Nine children were born to this union. He received a Patriarchal Blessing given by John Smith on April 12, 1886.

He filled a mission to the Northwestern States between April 12, 1886 to May 18, 1888. He also filled a five months mission to San Juan Stake under the auspices of the Y.M.M.I.A. in the winter of 1899-1900.

He held many offices of trust in the Church. He served as Mutual President, Superintendent of the Sunday School, was a member of Wayne Stake High Council. He was also active in the civic affairs of this country. He served as Notary Public and was Justice of the Peace. He was a Representative of Wayne County in the State Legislature of Utah at the time of his death.

His occupation was farming and livestock raising. He was especially interested in purebred stock. Throughout his entire life, he was a very conscientious, justice loving man.

He was killed in a railroad accident at Bingham Canyon, Utah on February 22, 1907 while the members of the Legislature were having a holiday. He was brought home to Thurber for burial and at his funeral the building would scarcely hold the vast crowd of people who came to pay him tribute.