

**Polygamy and Mormon Church Leaders**  
**Lorenzo Dow Young**  
**October 19, 1807 – November 21, 1895**

Biography of Lorenzo Dow Young by James Amasa Little

Utah Historical Quarterly; 13:1-4 (194), 26-132;

"In the autumn of 1816, when about nine years old, Lorenzo had a peculiar dream which he has told as follows:

...The carriage and harness appeared brilliant with gold, and the horses traveled with the speed of the wind. It was manifested to me that the Savior was in the carriage, and that it was driven by His servant. It stopped near me and the Savior inquired, "Where is your Brother Brigham?" After answering His question He inquired about my other brothers, and concerning my father. His queries being answered satisfactorily, He stated that He wanted us all but especially my brother Brigham. The team then turned about and returned the way it came. So powerful was the impression made on me that I slept no more that night. The idea seized me that some great evil was about to befall us. I then saw no other interpretation to the dream. Subsequent events proved that it foreshadowed our future. It was evidently fulfilled, when my father and all of his family entered into the new and everlasting Covenant. I told my father the dream and my fears. He comforted me with the assurance that he did not think my interpretation correct." [emphasis mine]

In the spring of 1831 Lorenzo Dow Young didn't heed the voice of warning in his dream and followed in the footsteps of his older brothers Brigham, John and Phineas and joined Mormonism. See Utah Historical Quarterly reference above.

Mr. Young was the eleventh of thirteen kids and the youngest male child of the Young family. His mother died when he was around seven years old from consumption (Tuberculosis) putting an obvious strain on family life for all the kids. He worked a few odd jobs here and there before his father shipped him off to live with his brother-in-law John Greene. A few years later he was then moved again to live with another brother-in-law, James Little. It was while being an apprentice for him that Young learned his trade of farming as Mr. Little was a botanist.

We found the length of time that spanned from his birth in 1807 to the time his youngest child died in 1963 to be surreal. Typically one generation is around forty years so having two generations span over 150 years is quite unusual. Lorenzo was only twenty years old at the birth of his first child who was born in 1827 and his two youngest were born to different mothers three days apart in 1870 making him a father again at the age of 63.

Lorenzo married his first wife Persis in 1826 and together they moved to Mendon, NY which would be the first of many towns they resided in and as many resources state, the main reason Persis was

always sick. Because we're dealing with Mormonism, you'll want to remember no two sites provide the same information about anything. When I looked around for reasons why the marriage of Persis and Lorenzo ended after twenty years I was no closer to a solid truth than I was before I started. Nevertheless, they had been married for seventeen years before he began practicing polygamy by marrying Harriet Page Wheeler. Persis left him three years later and married fellow Mormon Dr. Levi Richards on January 27, 1846, becoming his second wife.

Young served as a missionary throughout most of his Mormon life and [Ancestry.com](#) states that he was a member of the Quorum of the Seventies when he and his wife Persis resided in Kirtland, Ohio. After that he never made it higher in the ecclesiastical levels of Mormondom than a bishop, but at the end of his older brother Brigham's life he was given the title of "patriarch".

From 1826 to the time he left for the Rocky Mts. with Brigham's company in '47 he and his family moved eight times spanning the areas of New York to Ohio, Missouri, and Illinois before finally settling in Utah. (Also see Utah Historical Quarterly, Vol. 14)

I'd have to say the only other remarkable event to remember about this man was the dream he had and ignored. He ended up marrying eight women and fathered 24-25 kids.

	Wife/Age @ marriage (Young's age)		Marriage date	Kids	Other info	Wife's marital status
1	Persis Goodall Young Richards – 20 (18)		6/26/1826	10 or 11	Born 3/15/1806 New York Died 9/16/1894 SLC, UT Joined Church in 1831 when they had two boys.	Single

They set out  
for MO. She got  
sick so they stayed  
in Pittsburgh & he  
left for a mission.  
While he was gone  
she gave birth to a  
daughter. They moved  
to Kirtland where  
she gave birth to 2  
kids. Oldest daughter  
Lucy died in a fire in  
Kirtland. They moved  
to Winchester, MO and  
had 2 more kids.  
Then moved to Nauvoo  
and w/in four years she  
had given birth to 3  
kids (1 single birth and  
set of twins) all of  
which died.  
When she got  
older she lived with

					<p>her stepson Levi Richards' son (Levi was her 2<sup>nd</sup> husband).</p> <p>Levi's son, Levi Willard Richards was married to her granddaughter Persis Louisa Young.</p>	
2	<p>Harriet Page Wheeler – 39 (35)</p>		<p>4/9/1843</p>	2	<p>Born 9/7/1803 Hillsboro, NH</p> <p>Died 12/23/1871 SLC, Utah</p> <p>She's the mother of wife #6 for Brigham Young.</p> <p>She gave birth to Clara Decker by her 1<sup>st</sup> husband, Isaac Decker. She &amp; Isaac divorced</p>	Div.

after 16+ yrs of  
marriage and 6  
kids later. She &  
Decker moved to  
MO w/ the Saints  
but lost everything.

Lorenzo  
furnished them  
w/ a wagon and  
supplies.

Not long after they  
settled in Nauvoo  
she was chosen  
to be an original  
pioneer by the  
Church but her  
husband didn't  
think she'd do well.

She felt otherwise  
and left him to  
move out  
west. She married

Lorenzo Young and

					had 2 more kids w/ him.	
3	Susan Ann Ashby – 15  (38)		1/26/ 1846	0	Born 2/1/1830 Salem, MA Died 4/28/1896 SLC, UT She married Lorenzo in 1846 and then Married Briant Stringham in 1850.	Single
4	Electa Jane Lee		11/22/ 1855	0	Born 1829-1831 Died The only information on this woman comes from <a href="http://Geni.com">Geni.com</a> , <a href="http://werelate.com">werelate.com</a> <a href="http://ancestry.com">ancestry.com</a> and <a href="http://wingetgenealogy.com">wingetgenealogy.com</a> None of these sites give detailed info other than	Div. ???

listing the same date  
for marriage to Lorenzo.

A woman w/ the same  
name is listed on  
[ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) and has  
her married to Young  
and one other person –  
George Washington  
Edwards w/ very  
limited info.

We're providing her  
name here as a wife  
because the Church  
has also recognized  
her marriage to  
Edwards in 1859  
but lists her  
endowment in the  
Endowment House  
on 11/22/1855.

[Familytreemaker.com](https://www.familytreemaker.com)  
lists her marriage to  
Young along with

					her AFN #.	
5	Hannah Ida Hewitt – 16  (48)		4/29/ 1856	4	Born 7/11/1839 Windom, NY Died 9/25/1888 SLC, UT Her youngest child lived until 1963.  This makes these 2 generations of people spanning 156 yrs. Their daughter Clara was born in 1870 when Lorenzo was 63 yrs old.  Snow's youngest child Francis was born to Annie Larson (wife #8) just 3 days after his sister Clara.	Single
6	Eleanor Jane "Ellen" Jones – 26  (49)		11/24/ 1856	5	Born 11/16/1830 Pantmaur, Wales Died 2/3/1912 Vernal, UT	Single

					<p>Known as a mother to the motherless – she opened her home to more than a dozen less fortunate children.</p>	
7	<p>Christiana Nelson – 23 (54)</p>		<p>9/13/1862</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>Born 1836-1842</p> <p>Died</p> <p>As with Electa above we've found little to no information on this woman other than a handful of sites listing her as a wife of Young, including the Church.</p> <p>See <a href="http://theyoungmeltingpot.info">theyoungmeltingpot.info</a> <a href="http://werelate.com">werelate.com</a> &amp; <a href="http://familytreemaker.com">familytreemaker.com</a> which also gives her AFN #.</p>	<p>Single</p>

8	(Johanna) Anna Augustsson "Annie" Larson – 19 (55)		4/18/ 1863	3	Born 8/23/1843 Stockholm, Sweden Died 5/8/1925 Logan, UT  She married Lorenzo  100 yrs before his youngest child  from wife #5 died.	Single
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