

Polygamy and Mormon Church Leaders
Hosea Stout
September 18, 1810 – March 2, 1889

In 1824 Joseph Stout buried Anna Smith, his first cousin and childhood sweetheart. The previous 26 years hadn't been kind to the couple who faced hardships of losing children, homes and farms. They fared up remarkably well considering everything until Consumption (tuberculosis) drained the life out of his beloved wife. Anna left Joseph with 8 kids (originally there had been 12), the youngest just two years old. ([Our Pioneer Ancestors, Genealogical and Biographical Histories of the Cox-Stout Families](#))

Hosea, the 8th child born to John and Anna Stout was a product of two people who hadn't followed the Lord. He's portrayed in LDS history books and family genealogy sites as a hero role-model who lived an exemplary life free of questionable character. Each diarist paints their picture of Hosea with heavy strokes of sympathetic indulgence and repeatedly points out that 'trumped up charges' against him seemingly came out of nowhere.

Truth: he was investigated for murder and viewed as the probable cause for the death of [Joseph and Hyrum Smith's brother Samuel](#) who mysteriously died after their deaths at Carthage. (Also see [House Documents of the 13th Congress](#))

Still another example is found in [Brigham's Destroying Angel](#), p 125, who reports Stout went into the camp of a sleeping Robert Yates and used a hatchet to smash in his head and kill him. One other item of note is found in his own diary which is heavily relied upon by Mormons and non-Mormons alike. The story goes that an order was put out for a misbehaving man in the community to be castrated because he had an affair with a woman. Stout went into great detail about the event without implicating himself, making it odd he'd have such intimate knowledge of what took place the night they avenged their god. The man later died from his injuries. (See [The Mormon Delusion, Volume 3](#), pp 187-188)

These and other blood atonement scenarios can be found peppered throughout Hosea's lifespan making claims of innocence a hard pill to swallow. It'd be difficult to extricate oneself from all the murderous duties of a [Danite](#) vigilante group and hold the reputation of a choir boy.

Looking at the other side of [Hosea's life](#) is akin to reading a rewrite of Jekyll and Hyde. Before enlisting in 1832 for the Black Hawk War he became a Methodist and taught school until 1837 when he moved to MO. The following year the 28 year old Stout married the first of his seven wives, 17 year old teen, Samantha Peck and decided to join [Mormonism](#) later that same year.

Fleeing from the feds, or in Mormon lingo, 'fighting in defense of the Saints', he and 25 other Mormon men made their new home in IA, but shortly after meeting up with Hosea in Sugar Creek (1839) his young bride died from exposure to the elements and a lung infection.

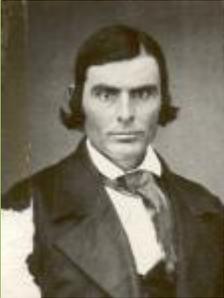
During his years in Nauvoo Stout became Smith's bodyguard and began a lifelong career in law and law enforcement. He also began another lifelong trend; marrying teenagers. One year to the day after Samantha's death he married another teen, Louisa Taylor, wife #2. The tragic part of this story can be seen in what Stout was doing at the time of her death.

True to form, he put the Church before family just as countless other Mormon leaders had done before him, and half way through her last pregnancy in 1853 Hosea left with a handful of other 'faithful' Mormon men to set sail for a mission to China. It was her 8th child in 13 years and a month or so after his arrival, Louisa and her baby both died from complications. One notable quote amongst all the info on this guy was his outlook on polygamy. In his blind devotion to Smith and the 'principle' he often referred to his marriages as 'social gatherings'.

The man was one of the first people from Utah to be admitted to the bar, he was the first **Attorney General** of Utah Territory, and served in the legislature for a number of years.

He was also chairman of the code commissioners, a territorial prosecutor, and **U.S. Attorney**. In addition to all that, from 1856 – 1857 he was the speaker of the house.

While Stout was running about establishing and upholding the law for Utah and the U.S., he kept himself busy with his numerous wives and 19 kids. You can read short bios on the wives below which includes imbedded links for further info on each. Unless otherwise noted, vital stats on each wife came from George D. Smith's Nauvoo Roots of Mormon Polygamy.

		Wife/Age @ marriage (Stout's age)	Marriage date	Kids	Other info	Wife's marital status
1		Samantha Peck (Pack) – 16 (27)	1/7/1838	0	Born 10/12/1821 NY Died 11/29/1839 IA Findagrave says she was probably buried near Sugar Creek, IA, where she and	Single

					<p>Hosea lived.</p> <p>Earlylds reports they baptized her in 1899.</p> <p>A family genealogy site records that Samantha joined up w/ Hosea after he and 26 other Mormon militia men fled for IA after the Battle of Crooked River. Once there, Samantha died from Dropsy & exposure to inclement weather. She was 18.</p>	
2		<p>Louisa Taylor – 21 (30)</p>	<p>11/29/1840</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>Born 10/19/1819 KY Died 1/11/1853 UT Nauvoo Demographic Report lists 8 kids</p>	<p>Single</p>

w/ Stout, but
Earlylds.com says 3.
The 3 they list
all died by age
of 2 yrs.
Church re-baptized
her 1/1965 &
performed endowments
for her parents in
Denver Temple 1994.
In summary, Taylor
Family Assoc. reports
Louisa had 8 kids in
13 yrs & died 2
days after her 11
day old son died –
Hosea was in
China on LDS
mission at the
time – LDS Bio notes
he left on
11/24/1852.
His diary noted after

					<p>several months of proselytizing in China</p> <p>no one joined LDS Church.</p>	
3		<p>Lucretia Fisher – 15 (34)S</p>	<p>4/20/1845</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>Born 3/13/1830 NH</p> <p>Died ???</p> <p>Earlylds reports her b/day as 3/13/1831.</p> <p>This would make her 14 at time of marriage. She deserted Hosea a year after their marriage.</p>	<p>Single</p>
4		<p>Aseneth Harmon (Gheen) – 30 (43)</p>	<p>1/9/1854</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>Born 11/12/1823 IN</p> <p>Died 6/20/1899 UT</p> <p>Earlylds lists</p>	<p>Widow</p>

marriage to Wm.

Gheen – 2 kids

(1 died in childhood)

Taylor Assoc &

Harold Glen Clark

family mentions Asenath

as the widow of Wm.

Gheen (died in 1852).

They had 5 kids.

She married Hosea

1/9/1854, but

divorced a few

months later.

Findagrave omits

marriage to Stout

but mentions marriage

to Ed. Mumford

10/1854.

Ancestry.com lists an

Asenath Harmon who

married a Wentworth

in NY. This family

isn't compatible w/

					Asenath mentioned here.	
5		Marinda Bennett – 18 (34)	8/26/1845 or 6/30/1845	1	Born 8/26/1826 TN Died 9/26/1846 NE Marinda died the day after delivering a stillborn daughter. They were living in a camp-like setting after getting kicked out of Nauvoo. The Church performed sealing work for her parents in SL Temple in 1990.	Single
6		Elvira (Alvira) Wilson – 21 (44)	7/19/1855	11	Born 4/21/1834 OH Died 3/20/1910 UT	Single

Earlylds.com lists

her name w/ no

other indicators,

but FamilySearch

has pix for her,

the kids and

Hosea.

After returning from

mission in China,

he married Alvira.

They had 11 kids,

the last 2 were

a set of twin boys.

There's little to

no independent

info on Alvira's

life other than

what's mentioned

in Hosea's many

journals.

7



Sarah
Cox
(Jones) –

36
(58)

5/23/
1868

0

Born
2/28/1832
IN
Died
5/27/1885
UT
Earlylds lists
1st marriage to
David Jones – he
died 1865 w/
no kids. Findagrave
shows 1 son.
David was killed by
Indians. He was
member of Mormon
Battalion.
Wm. Stout
genealogy site
reported Hosea &
Sarah moved to
Holladay, UT in
1877. They lived
there until his
death in 1889.

Widow