

William West Lane (William Lane)

William Lane was born in Sumner County, Tennessee on August 29, 1797. He was the son of James and Mary Phipps Lane. Not much is known about his early life, but he did meet and marry Mary Willis. Mary was the daughter of Merrill and Margaret Susan Cherry Willis. She was also from Sumner County, Tennessee and was born on January 25, 1806. The couple was married on July 22, 1821 in McLeansboro, Hamilton County, Illinois.

Margaret, Martha, Lewis, James, William Phipps, Catharine Mariah, Nancy Phipps, Merrill, and Lucretia, the couple's children, were all born in Hamilton County, Illinois. When the youngest child was about two years old, Mary Willis Lane passed away.

At some point, William and his children moved to Nauvoo where he met Maria or Mariah Burr in 1842. She was the daughter of Samuel and Concurrance Johnson Burr. She was born January 5, 1806 in Haddam, Middlesex, Connecticut. She was the oldest of five children. When she was ten years old, her parents died within three days of each other.

Mariah had married John W. Clark, the son of Pelatiah and Amy Wilcox Clark, on 24 July 1826 in Haddam, Middlesex County, Connecticut. They became the parents of five children: Harriet, Alpheus, Davis, Flora, and Enoch Alpheus Clark.

Mariah and John, along with several of her maternal uncles, joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in 1836. They followed the other converts to Kirtland, Ohio and then to Far West, Missouri. They were forced out of Missouri and went to Nauvoo. John was working in Quincy, Adams County, Illinois when he became ill with bilious fever. He died August 9, 1839 at age 31. Two weeks later their daughter Harriet died on August 21, and on August 27 their son Alpheus died.

Mariah and William's first child, Lavina, was born in 1843 in Nauvoo and then Sarah J. in 1844. Twin girls, Cordelia and Ciscelia were born on February 10, 1848 which may have been in Kaneshville since William oversaw a Church farm in that area. Emma was born on May 11, 1850, probably in Kaneshville. The 1850 U. S. Census listed the family as residing in dwelling #93.

William was listed as a member of the Big Pigeon Branch and early in the year of 1851 was listed in the Big Pigeon Tithing Record. William was asked to organize a company of about fifteen families to migrate west. The company left on June 24, 1852 from Kaneshville.

The group traveled only a few days when cholera broke out in camp and several died. William was stricken ill and the camp halted at Loup Fork for two days to allow him to recover. He felt somewhat better, so the company moved on. Mariah Burr Clark Lane became sick about 9 o'clock in the morning after the company had started. The company kept moving to find the next place with water, but Mariah passed away at 4 p.m. that afternoon, July 5, 1852. This was on her son's, Davis' twentieth birthday. The family peeled the bark off from a cottonwood tree to make a coffin for her. She was buried along the trail three days journey west of Loup Fork. The next day, the company moved on, but William's condition grew worse. On the eighth of July, just three days after the death of his wife, he too died. The train took some good boxes and patched them together

to make a coffin for him. Eight of Mariah and William's children on the journey were left orphans. Twelve others, besides William and Mariah, died of the cholera. Two other men were shot by Indians. The company arrived in the Salt Lake Valley on September 24, 1852.