

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day-Saints and The Richins

compiled by Laural Bushman

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Note: information was taken from a story written by Hazel Richins (Richins surname Association Genealogist) May 1991, additional information was taken from 'The Restored Church' by William Edwin Berrett, Deseret book Co. 1965, p. 132.

In Luke 8:5-8 Jesus tells his parable of the sower. In verse eight he says, "And other seeds fell on good ground and sprang up, and bear fruit an hundredfold." The seed of the gospel found fertile soil in the Richins family.

"On the 20th day of July 1837, the first missionaries alighted from the ship 'Garrick' in the harbor at Liverpool, England. The success of the Elders would be far beyond their expectations. The Church membership in England in the succeeding years would double and redouble at an amazing rate. Soon a stream of emigrants would be crossing the ocean in search of the New Zion." (Berrett)

1837?

In 1849, while still in Far West, Missouri the Lord, in a revelation to the Prophet Joseph Smith, called upon the Twelve Apostles to lay the cornerstones of the Far West Temple and then leave to go on missions to England. The mob in Missouri bragged that it was one of Joe Smith's revelations that would not be fulfilled.

They laid the cornerstones without incident but Satan was determined to stop them from going on their missions to England. The Lord allowed them to be tested and the Apostles and their families, along with many of the other Saints, were attacked by illness. Some of the Apostles' families were sick and without adequate shelter and they did not have money for passage on a ship. However, in January 1840 these faithful men placed their loved ones in the hands of the Lord and though some of them were too sick to stand or walk, they left on their missions laying down in the back of a wagon. They left without purse or script, and the Lord opened the way for them to obtain the food, clothing, and money they needed along the way.

As we see the results, we can understand why Satan tried so hard to stop them. Branches of the Church were soon organized throughout the Liverpool

area and spread outwards. Apostle Wilford Woodruff, after much success in Stratfordshire and Herefordshire, then opened the counties of Worcestershire and Gloucestershire for the teaching of the Gospel. The Cheltham Conference was organized in 1840 and Elders Charles Shill and Charles Blackwell were sent to the area of Painswick and Sheepscombe in Gloucestershire.

There they found fertile ground in the Richins family and the families that they married into. These were choice spirits that our Heavenly Father had prepared to strengthen the Church at that time. There had been a spirit of apostasy among the members in America and it was the faithful European converts who, came to Zion and served wherever they were called, that strengthened the Church.

The first to be baptised was Charles, son of Richard and Priscilla Richins. He was baptised by Charles Shill on 26 Dec 1849. On 1 Jun 1850 he was ordained a priest and then able to baptise his cousins Leonard and Peter, sons of William Richins, on 7 Jul 1850. William and Charlotte Richins were baptised on 1 Jan 1850 by Elder Charles Schill and the rest of their children were baptised; Joseph on 1 Jan 1850 by Charles Blackwell, Enoch on 21 April 1850 also by Charles Blackwell, and Meriam on 3 Nov 1856 by Robert Jones. William was ordained an Elder on 27 Aug 1854 by J. W. Edwards.

Except for George Richins who emigrated to Canada, all of Richard Richins' surviving sons were converted and baptised; Thomas (who later married Harriet Deveraux) was baptised 1 Jan 1850 by Charles Shill, Edward was baptised 28 Feb 1853 by George Humphries, and John was baptised 2 Feb 1854 by George Taylor. Some of the second generation were also baptised.

In Luke 8:15 the Savior gave the interpretation of the sower. "But that on the good ground are they, which in honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience." How proudly we should carry the name of Richins.

Note: Both Henry and Sarah Richins were not buried until a week after their deaths. At that time there was no means to keep a body that long without deterioration. Perhaps the reason for the delay was because of the Mormon missionaries teaching the Richins family. In many parishes, the ministers refused to bury the dead of a Mormon in the Churchyard.