

WILLIAM EDWARD BASSETT

25 December 1851 - 11 January 1919

William Edward Bassett was the oldest child and son of **Thomas Bassett** and **Margaret Edward**. He was born on **25 December 1851** in Newtown (near Canton), Powys County, in the southern part of Wales - a textile area along the Severn River. He was named after his mother's father - William Edward. Shortly after his birth, his parents moved to a village named Leckwith, the place where William Edward and Rebecca Williams, his mother's parents and his maternal grandfather and grandmother lived. They lived in an old fashioned thatch house which is common in many of the rural districts of Wales and other parts of Great Britain. At the age of six years old, he attended a country school in the village of Llandough - two miles away from his residence. He walked to and from the school every day.

On **04 August 1854**, *Mary Bassett*, a daughter, was born to Thomas Bassett and Margaret Edward in Leckwith, Wales. Three years later, on **09 March 1857**, *Rebecca Bassett*, a daughter was also born to Thomas Bassett and Margaret Edward in Leckwith, Wales..

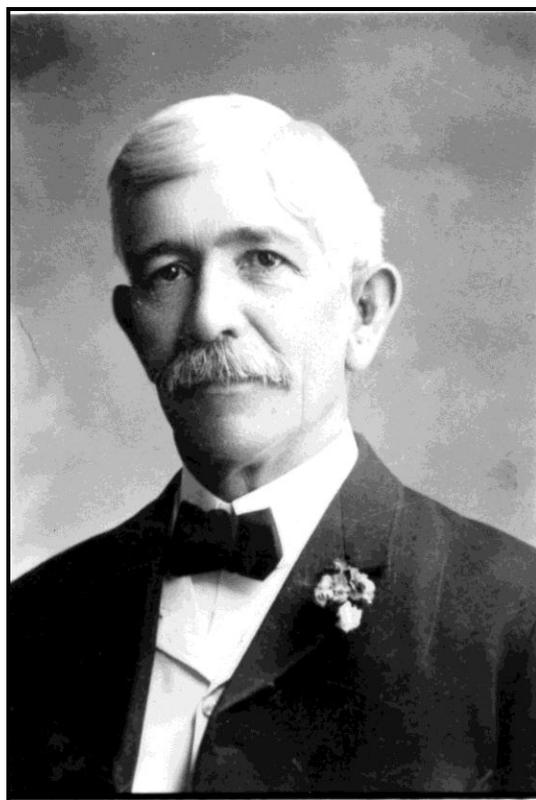
While living in Wales, the Thomas Bassett family had a comfortable home with four bedrooms upstairs and four rooms downstairs. Both Thomas and Margaret were devoted Baptists. There was happiness and laughter in the home. There was a garden around the home that supplied vegetables for the dinner table and flowers for the parlor.

The entire family enjoyed music. Thomas Bassett and Margaret Edward were intent upon rising above the humble circumstances of their births and encouraged this attitude in their sons and daughters. The children were admonished not to speak Welsh - the language of the poor. Instead, they were encouraged to speak English. In fact, so much pressure to succeed was put on young William Edward as the eldest son, he developed a stutter that would affect him for many years.

On **26 September 1859**, *Margaret Bassett*, a daughter, was born to Thomas Bassett and Margaret Edward in Leckwith, Wales.

In 1860, after the death of his grandparents (William Edward died on **24 December 1856** and Rebecca Williams died on **01 December 1859** - both in Leckwith, Wales), his own parents, Thomas Bassett and Margaret Edward, moved to Canton, Cardiff, Wales, where Thomas Bassett had leased a tract of land formerly leased for many years by his father, Richard Bassett.

During the childhood years of the Bassett children, William Edward would awaken Rebecca, his younger sister, and the two would creep downstairs and out onto the meadows where they hunted for fresh mushrooms and plucked bluebells. The entire family looked forward to excursions into Cardiff where they would fish for eels.



William Edward Bassett



Thomas Bassett



Margaret Edward

On **26 November 1862**, *Thomas Edward Bassett* a son, was born to Thomas Bassett and Margaret Edward in Canton, Wales, and on **01 April 1865**, *Sarah Ann Bassett*, a daughter, was born to Thomas Bassett and Margaret Edward in Canton, Wales,

William Edward spent his time working on the land leased by his father and attending school until he was fourteen years old. In 1865, he traveled to London to learn telegraphy and later became employed at the Great Western Railway Station at Cardiff as an operator.

The Great Western Railway (GWR) was a British railway company founded in 1833, linking London with the southwestern and western regions of England and most of Wales. The GWR was called by some "God's Wonderful Railway" and by others the "Great Way Round" but it was famed as the "Holiday Line", taking many people to resorts in England. The company's locomotives, many of which were built in the company's workshops at Swindon, were painted a Brunswick green color while the passenger coaches used a two-tone "chocolate and cream" livery.



He continued in that capacity for two years and was then promoted to a clerkship in the locomotive department of the company. He retained this position for eighteen months. His father, Thomas Bassett, had been employed as a foreman in the coal mining business in Cardiff for many years. The Coffin & Company, coal proprietors and shippers, then offered William Edward a position as a clerk in their establishment. He accepted the position, but due to declining business, became unemployed within a short period of time. He next obtained a position in the public accounting firm of Barnard, Thomas & Company.

On **16 February 1867**, a daughter, *Jane Bassett*, was born to Thomas Bassett and Margaret Edward in Canton, Wales.

For many years, beginning as early as 1854, Thomas Bassett had been listening to the doctrine preached by local missionaries of the Mormon Church. However, Margaret Edward, his wife and the daughter of a Baptist minister, would have no part of it. Margaret was incensed at the suggestion of learning anything about the Mormon religion and would never consider exposing her children to the doctrine. She was further committed to avoiding the missionaries since converts in Wales were ridiculed and ostracized by the public.

On one occasion, while listening to the missionaries, Thomas was late returning home for the evening meal. Margaret was so furious that she threw a pan of cold and greasy dishwater at him. When he rebuked her for the disrespectful act, Margaret countered with the remark that she would like to throw scaling water on every Mormon who was trying to entice him away from the Baptist Church.



The father of Margaret Edward - William Edward - held the opinion that the true church had yet to be restored on earth and did not recognize the Mormon Church as the means of restoration. He died on 24 December 1856 - a devout Baptist. The father of Thomas Bassett - Richard Bassett - died on 02 December 1855, firmly opposed to the Mormon Church and the doctrine.

In 1867, upon returning home one evening, William Edward was invited by his father (Thomas Bassett) to accompany him into Cardiff. When they reached Newtown, and while passing through the streets, they saw a sign in large letters that said 'Latter-Day Saints Hall'. A meeting was being held at the time and Thomas and William entered the hall and listened to the sermon. William was impressed by the doctrines and told his father that he would like to attend another meeting.

Both of them visited the hall again and William Edward became more interested in the doctrines. They both continued their attendance at these meetings, and after thirteen years, Margaret Edward finally gave her consent to

the baptism of her husband (Thomas Bassett) and her eldest son (William Edward Bassett), and on **10 February 1868**, Elder Evan Avery baptized Thomas and William Edward Bassett into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. After the baptism of Thomas Bassett, he was appointed to preside over the Cardiff Branch of the Church.

For weeks Thomas and William Edward had tried to convince Margaret to allow the missionaries into their home and talk to her. Finally they asked if they might not invite the elders to come for supper. After much coaxing, she finally consented to get supper for them and while the family ate the dinner, she stayed in the kitchen and her daughters served the meal.

After dinner they started to play the piano and sing hymns. Before the evening was over, Margaret came into the room and remained to listen.

On **12 April 1869**, *Fredrick George Bassett*, a son, was born to Thomas Bassett and Margaret Edward, in Canton, Wales. From the time he was born, he had never been entirely healthy after receiving a smallpox vaccination. Tragically, *Jane Bassett* (a sister) died of pneumonia on **16 December 1869** and was buried on **21 December 1869** in Leckwith, Wales.

Finally, on **20 October 1869**, Margaret Edward was baptized into the Mormon Church. After the baptism of Margaret Edward, their home was a meeting place of the Church and the missionaries in that district were under their care. Among those who called at their home was Joseph F. Smith. The Bassett children were allowed to decide for themselves whether or not they wanted to be baptized into the Mormon Church. On **18 May 1870**, both Mary and Rebecca Bassett were baptized.

A short time after his baptism, William Edward became anxious to immigrate to Utah and unite with other church members. Unfortunately, he did not have enough money to afford him passage to America. He told his father that he would like to work for him in the coal business in order to earn enough money to come to the United States. Although Thomas was hesitant to have his son leave office work and work in the coal industry, he consented and William began working at the coal company.

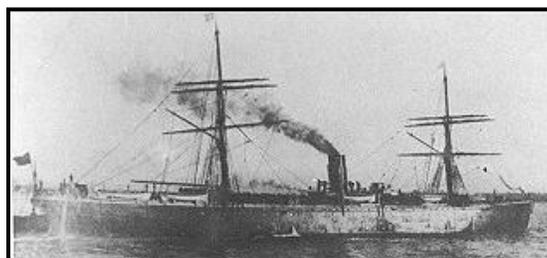


Sarah Ann Williams

On **12 April 1872**, *Fredrick George Bassett*, the youngest child of Thomas Bassett and Margaret Edward succumbed to diphtheria while living in Canton, and was buried on **18 April 1872** in Leckwith, Wales.

While working at the coal company, William became acquainted with Sarah Ann Williams, daughter of Thomas Williams and Mary Phillips, and although some claimed that Thomas Bassett was not pleased at the union, William Edward Bassett and Sarah Ann Williams were married on **02 May 1872** in Cardiff, Wales.

On **Wednesday, 26 June 1872**, at 2:00 P.M., William Edward Bassett and Sarah Ann Williams immigrated to the United States aboard the *SS Nevada*, a mail steamship owned by Guion & Company, with Captain Forsyth in command. They set sail from Liverpool, England for New York, having on board 396 LDS members from Scandinavia, 28 LDS members from the British Isles (including William Edward Bassett and his wife, Sarah Ann Williams), and 2 LDS members from Holland, for a total of 426 Mormon immigrants.



SS Nevada

For the most part, the immigrants were given berths in the back part of the ship. On this voyage there were also several LDS missionaries who were returning to their families and friends in Utah including George Reynolds, who had been laboring in the Liverpool Office for a year but who was released because of ill health; John Roberts,

who had been laboring for a year in Wales; Erik Peterson, who had been laboring for the past three years in the Stockholm Conference; Jacob H. Jensen, who had been laboring for three years in the Aalborg Conference; Poul Poulsen, who had been a traveling elder for a year in the Aalborg Conference, and Anthon H. Lund, who had been laboring for a year in the Copenhagen Conference, principally in the Scandinavian Sterne Office.

As was the usual practice, the passengers were all approached the first evening by the Guion Company's agent, and their tickets confiscated and examined to apprehend any possible stowaways aboard the ship.

On **Thursday 27 June 1872**, at 12:00 noon, the ship arrived in Queenstown, Ireland, where a large number of fishermen boarded and were put down into the hold. As the ship continued the voyage, a storm ensued for several days and most of the emigrants became seasick and didn't dine for dinner.

On **Friday 28 June 1872**, Erik Peterson, one of the LDS leaders on board, organized the Mormon passengers and appointed Hans Sorensen to preside over the emigrants as chaplain and divided the ship into seven wards (six wards for Scandinavian speaking members and one ward for English speaking members) with a president to preside over each ward.

Throughout most of the journey, the passengers enjoyed themselves, and though the English and Scandinavian members could not talk to each other, they discovered they could sing some hymns to the same tunes, which became a bond of fellowship. The assistant stewards fulfilled their duties with a zest and tact that would make one think it had been their business all their lives.

Over the course of several days, the ship continued on the journey to America, averaging over two hundred miles per day. On **Saturday, 06 July 1872**, the LDS leaders raised the necessary funds to pay the custom house officers once the ship arrived in the United States.

On **Monday, 08 July 1872**, at 8:30 A.M., the ship passed Sandy Hook, New York and shortly thereafter, the company arrived at New York. Once in New York, all passengers, including William Edward Bassett and Sarah Ann Williams went through the necessary customs procedure. The next day, they boarded a train for Salt Lake City, Utah. On **19 July 1872**, they arrived in Salt Lake City, Utah and became residents of the Seventeenth Ward in the Mormon Church. For a short period of time, they resided in Little Cottonwood. Upon their arrival into the country, William Edward accepted various types of labor where he could earn a living including mining and smelting.

On **12 January 1873**, back in Wales, another guest at the Thomas and Margaret Bassett dinner table was Henry Hughes, a missionary and the Bishop of Mendon (Cache) Utah, who would later entice their young teenage daughter, Rebecca Bassett, into a plural marriage. Hughes, who was already married to two wives back in the United States, found Mary Bassett (21 years old) and Rebecca Bassett (17 years old) to be of special interest and discussed the possibility of the girls immigrating to the United States under his supervision when it was time for him to return home to America.

On **08 May 1873**, *Mary Margaret Bassett*, a daughter, was born to William Edward Bassett and Sarah Ann Williams in Salt Lake City, Utah (County), Utah.

On **18 March 1874**, Margaret, Thomas Edward, and Sarah Ann Bassett, brothers and sisters of William Edward Bassett, while still living in Wales, were baptized into the Mormon Church.

For over a year, Mary Bassett, a daughter of Thomas Bassett and Margaret Edward and sister to William Edward Bassett, had met a young man who was unequivocally opposed to the Mormon Church and doctrine. If she were to wed outside the Bassett's newly adopted faith, it would mean a permanent separation from her parents because Thomas and Margaret intended to immigrate to America as soon as they could afford to finance the passage. Both Thomas and Margaret were convinced that Mary would abandon Mormonism if she married her young man.

The Bassett's were not uninformed about the practice of polygamy currently raging rampant among the Mormon culture in the United States. One outspoken relative, referred to as "Aunt Kate" warned Mary and Rebecca "Indeed

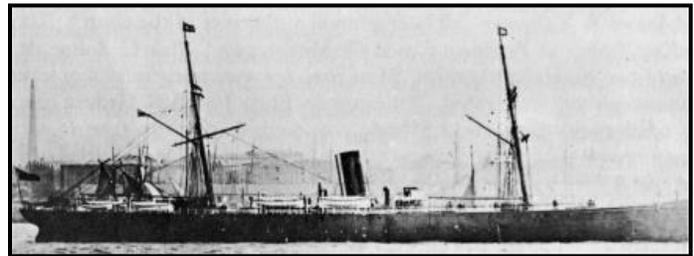
to goodness! I think your father and mother have lost their minds. Old Brigham Young will get you. They have got a wall around Salt Lake City and he gets all the pretty girls who go there and you will never get away." As a means to protect their daughter Mary by eliminating the chance of her marrying outside the Mormon faith, and to allow both girls a chance of a better life, and with a feeling of despair and anticipation, Thomas Bassett and Margaret Edward agreed to allow their two daughters, Mary and Rebecca Bassett, to emigrate to the United States under the supervision of Henry Hughes.

As a final condition of Mary and Rebecca immigrating to America, both Thomas Bassett and Margaret Edward exacted a solemn promise from Henry Hughes that he would NOT allow either of their daughters to become a plural wife in the practice of polygamy. Henry Hughes gave his solemn promise to guard the girls from plural marriage.

On **07 March 1875**, *Mary Margaret Bassett* died in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah, and was buried on **08 March 1876** in the Salt Lake City Cemetery, Plot I-8-6-3E.

Mary Bassett was already mourning the loss of her young man and had already committed to herself that she would never marry during her lifetime. Rebecca, on the other hand, was bubbling with anticipation and enthusiasm about the upcoming adventure. On **12 May 1875**, at 2:40 P.M, aboard the *SS Wyoming*, Henry Hughes, Mary Bassett and Rebecca Bassett left Wales (via London, England) for America. Henry Hughes had a first-class ticket while Mary and Rebecca were relegated to common emigrant status and given inferior accommodations aboard the ship.

The *SS Wyoming* carried more Mormon passengers than any other steamship - 10,473 in thirty-eight voyages. The ship was built in 1870 and was three hundred feet in length. There were lifesaving boats all around the edge of the giant steamer. The ship had three decks.



SS Wyoming

The top deck was flat with an iron railing all around the ship. The first and second class passengers, including Henry Hughes, were housed on the second deck in nicely furnished rooms and apartments. The kitchens were also housed on the second desk. The lowest deck, referred to as steerage or third class, was the least expensive and lowest class of travel. This is the deck where Mary and Rebecca Bassett were housed. The steerage section of the ship was like a great long loft in a barn with two long narrow tables and benches on each side of the tables nailed to the floor. Along the outer walls of the ship were the bunks made of rough lumber and nailed up like big square boxes one above another. Three or four of these bunks could lie side by side. There were no springs or mattress on the beds. The older passengers generally occupied the lower bunks and the younger ones had to step on passengers occupying the lower bunks and crawl up to the top bunks. Some passengers had feather beds, but after a time, even they became hard. Steerage passengers had to furnish their own bedding, but were advised not to take unnecessary items since most third-class passengers were poor and could not afford to pay excess baggage charges.

Two days later, the wind rose at sea and the *SS Wyoming* tossed back and forth across the waves. Many of the passengers, including Mary and Rebecca, suffered from sea sickness, but within a few more days, the sea was calm and devotional services were held in the saloon for the first-class passengers and services for Mary and Rebecca Bassett were accommodated in the steerage area. During the course of the voyage, a concert was given and an iceberg was sighted. After nine days at sea, the musicians gave a farewell performance in the steerage area.

On **22 May 1875**, at 3:30 P.M., the pilot came aboard to guide the *SS Wyoming* into the harbor. By 6:00 P.M., the ship passed Sandy Hook, New York, and at 7:30 P.M., the sailing vessel dropped anchor off Staten Island, New York. Once the passengers were taken off the ship, it took thirty minutes for the doctor from the Bureau of Immigration to complete the physical examinations. By 9:00 P.M., the *SS Wyoming* was safely settled in the North River.

On **25 May 1875**, Henry Hughes, Mary and Rebecca Bassett climbed aboard a chartered train at the Jersey City Station and arrived in Omaha, Nebraska on 29 May 1875. On 02 June 1875, Henry Hughes and Mary and Rebecca

Bassett arrived in Ogden, Utah. Both Mary and Rebecca were to have joined their brother, William Edward Bassett, and his wife, Sarah Ann Williams immediately after arriving in Utah. However, due to the Union Pacific baggage car being delayed, Henry Hughes convinced Rebecca Bassett to accompany him back to Mendon where he promised that she would be an honored guest in his home.

It has been strongly suggested by many people who were close to the family that William Edward Bassett was more than willing to allow his younger sister, Rebecca, to travel with Henry Hughes to Mendon - with the full knowledge of the true intention of Henry Hughes to entice Rebecca, a naïve Welch girl, to succumb to plural marriage. Regardless, Rebecca Bassett, did, in fact, travel to Mendon with Henry Hughes. Upon arrival at his home, even the sons of Henry Hughes - Charles, John and Thomas - found Rebecca to be beautiful and desirable. Henry Hughes finally took out his gun and threatened to shoot any son who dared approach Rebecca without his permission.

On **07 June 1875**, *Sarah Ann Bassett*, a daughter, was born to William Edward Bassett and Sarah Ann Williams in Salt Lake City, Utah (County), Utah. Several months later, on **22 October 1875**, Sarah Ann Bassett (daughter), died in Salt Lake City and was buried on **22 October 1875** in the Salt Lake City Cemetery, Plot UK3338.

Over the course of a few weeks, Henry Hughes courted Rebecca with all the cunning that his experience with women could provide and just sixty days after Henry Hughes had sworn to Thomas and Margaret Bassett that he would not allow either of their daughters to become plural wives, on **12 July 1875**, this disgusting and lustful old goat of Mendon traveled to the Endowment House in Salt Lake City and Rebecca Bassett became the fourth wife of Henry Hughes.

It was now time for the remaining Thomas Bassett family members who were still in Wales to make the journey to the United States. On **Wednesday, 28 June 1876**, at 3:00 P.M., Thomas Bassett and Margaret Edward left Wales with their remaining children who were still at home (Margaret, Thomas Edwards and Sarah Ann Bassett) as part of the Second Company leaving Liverpool, England on the *SS Idaho*, owned by Guion & Company.



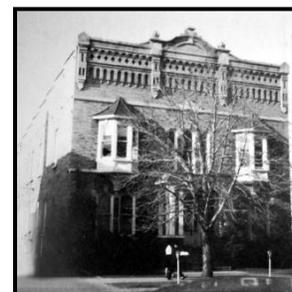
SS Idaho

There were 628 passengers - 398 from Scandinavia, 121 from England (including Thomas Bassett and his wife Margaret Edward Bassett, and their children Margaret Bassett, Thomas Edwards Bassett and Sarah Ann Bassett), and 109 from the Swiss and German Mission. The LDS emigrants were overseen by Nils Christian Flygare who was appointed to take charge of the company, assisted by George Lionel Farrell and John Ulrich Stucki.

On **18 July 1876**, they arrived in Ogden, Weber (County), Utah, and traveled on to Mendon, Cache (County), Utah - the location where William Edward Bassett and Sarah Ann Williams were living at the time. Upon arrival into Cache Valley, Thomas and Margaret Bassett were outraged to learn of the plural marriage of their daughter, Rebecca, to Henry Hughes and were consumed with an unquenchable hatred toward Hughes, this purported man of God who had broken his sacred promise. They were also enraged at William Edward Bassett, their son, for supporting Hughes and allowing his teenage sister to be trapped into plural marriage.

Unfortunately, there was nothing that Thomas and Margaret could do about the marriage, so the next best thing they could do was to have the entire Bassett family settle nearby where they could supply as much moral support as possible. Thomas and Margaret contacted William Edward Bassett and Sarah Ann Williams and admonished them to move to Logan to support them in their desire to act as guardians for Rebecca Bassett (Hughes).

In the fall of 1877, William Edward received a letter from George Lionel Farrell, who was now chief clerk at the Tithing Office in Logan, Cache, Utah, stating that they needed an assistant. During the early years in Cache Valley, the tithing office became a community center for business in the settlement of Logan. It was natural for the mail to be received and distributed from this place. Farrell also acted as clerk to receive and distribute the mail from this office.



Tithing Office-Logan, Utah

William accepted the position and moved his family from Salt Lake City to Logan, Cache (County) Utah. He worked there until March of 1878 when the office no longer needed his services. Farrell then offered William employment at his farm near Mendon, Utah.

Later, Superintendent Charles O. Card informed him that his services were needed to measure lumber at the temple saw mill in Logan Canyon. He continued to labor at the saw mill until he was called to accept the position of assistant bookkeeper at the Logan Temple Office.

In 1877, *William Robert (Edward) Bassett*, a son was born to William Edward Bassett and Sarah Ann Williams in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah, but on **14 January 1878**, he died in Salt Lake City and was buried in the Salt Lake City Cemetery on **14 January 1878** in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah, Plot I-8-6-3E.

The temple fork sawmill was established in September of 1877 as the primary source of lumber used in the construction of the Logan Temple. It also supplied ties for the Utah & Northern Railroad. Sawmill workers were paid in mill products and were able to build their homes. It is estimated that during the period of its operation the mill produced more than two and one-half million board feet of lumber, 21,000 railroad ties, 900,000 laths, two million shingles, 50,000 pickets, charcoal, and an uncounted number of broom handles. The mill ceased operation in December, 1883, and burned to the ground in the winter of 1885-86.

On **05 December 1878**, *Royal Clarence Bassett*, a son, was born to William Edward Bassett and Sarah Ann Williams in Mendon, Cache (County), Utah, who was the only child born to the couple who would carry on the blood line for William Edward Bassett and Sarah Ann Williams. All the other children had either died at a young age or never married and had no children, which was the case for Charles Windon Bassett.

In **March of 1880**, William Edward was elected as the city recorder of Logan City - a position he held for four years. During this time, George Lionel Farrell was appointed as Bishop of Smithfield and William Edward was appointed as chief clerk in the Logan Tithing Office.

The United States Census records for **18 June 1880** for Cache County in Utah show William Edward Bassett and Sarah Ann Williams living in Mendon, Cache, Utah. His profession is listed as the head temple clerk. Royal Clarence Bassett, a son, is listed as being one year old (born 05 December 1878). A note also indicates that Thomas and Margaret Bassett are living next door with Mary, Thomas Edward and Sarah Ann Bassett (children).

On **10 October 1881**, William Edward Bassett and Sarah Ann Williams were married at the Endowment House in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah - a place similar to a Mormon Temple, which provides for eternal marriage.

On **16 February 1882**, *Lyman William Bassett*, a son, was born to William Edward Bassett and Sarah Ann Williams in Logan, Cache (County), Utah. The following month on **06 March 1882**, a municipal election was held at Logan in the Territory of Utah to elect various officials. William Edward Bassett was re-elected as the Logan City Recorder with 374 votes. Several months later, on **11 August 1882**, *Lyman William Bassett* died and was buried in the Logan City Cemetery.

On **29 May 1883**, *Charles Windon Bassett*, a son, was born to William Edward Bassett and Sarah Ann Williams in Logan, Cache (County), Utah.

In the **spring of 1884**, William Bowker Preston was appointed as the Presiding Bishop of the Mormon Church, and asked William Edward to take a position of chief clerk in the General Tithing Office in Salt Lake City, Utah. He accepted the offer and in April of 1884, he began his new duties and the following month, he moved his family from Logan back to Salt Lake City.

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POLYGAMY

Because Utah was a territory and not a state, Congress had absolute power to govern, regulate and even dictate the affairs of the area and its citizens.

On 1 July 1862, Congress enacted the Morrill Anti-Bigamy Act. Bigamy was defined as having one undivorced spouse living and marrying another and was punishable by a maximum five-year prison sentence and a fine of \$500, making it a felony. In addition, the act annulled the Articles of Incorporation of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as passed by the legislature of the State of Deseret. The Mormon Church could not legally hold more than \$50,000 worth of property, with the excess subject to seizure by the federal government. Enforcement of this act was irregular due to the Civil War and Reconstruction.

In 1874, Congress passed the Poland Act that organized a more effective enforcement mechanism in the territory through the offices of the United States Attorney and the United States Marshal. It severely limited the jurisdiction of the Mormon dominated probate courts and required that polygamy prosecutions, as well as all other criminal matters, be heard in federal (United States) territorial district courts. The Territorial Supreme Court, made up of federal officers, appointed by the president and affirmed by the United States Senate, was empowered to appoint "commissioners" to assist them.

In 1879, the United States Supreme Court case of *Reynolds versus United States* resulted in the landmark freedom of religion ruling which held that Americans had the right to any religious *beliefs* they wished, but that Congress had broad powers to limit the *practice* of those beliefs.

On 4 March 1881, President Arthur A. Garfield in his inaugural address said, "The Mormon Church not only offends the moral sense of manhood by sanctioning polygamy, but prevents the administration of justice through ordinary instrumentalities of law". After Garfield's assassination, his successor, Chester A. Arthur, proclaimed polygamy as "this odious crime, so revolting to the moral and religious sense of Christendom" and urged statutory repeal of the traditional spousal privilege in polygamy cases, as well as strict new laws requiring the public registration of all marriage ceremonies. In 1882, Congress addressed all presidential and judicial issues by passing the Edmunds Act. The bill was first introduced as a report from the Senate Judiciary Committee named after George F. Edmunds of Vermont. The act declared polygamy to be a felony carrying a maximum sentence of five years in prison and a \$500 fine.

The act gave prosecutors the additional option of a misdemeanor charge of cohabitation with a maximum six-month jail sentence and \$300 fine. With regards to unlawful cohabitation, the act read: "That if any male person, in a territory or other place over which the United States have exclusive jurisdiction, hereafter cohabits with more than one woman, he shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, on conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not more than three hundred dollars, or by imprisonment for not more than six months, or by both said punishments, in the discretion of the court."

Jurors who were polygamous or sympathetic to the practice were excluded from sitting on these cases, effectively removing Mormons from any part in deliberations. Polygamists were declared ineligible to vote or hold office. In one sweeping provision, Mormons were purged from all levels of government and the courts as Congress declared all elected or appointed offices vacant and annulled all existing voter registration. The President of the United States was awarded broad authority to make deals for amnesty with any Mormons prepared to leave the Mormon Church.

In 1887, Congress enacted the Tucker Amendment to the Edmunds Act that further strengthened the hand of the federal prosecutors by expressly repealing the common law spousal immunity which enabled wives to refuse to testify as to marital communications with the husbands. It allowed prosecutors to jail witnesses until a trial date if they suspected them to be uncooperative, added the crimes of adultery, incest, and fornication and required an anti-polygamy oath of all jurors, office holders and voters. All future marriage ceremonies were to be tightly regulated and recorded with criminal penalties for failure to follow the law.

On 19 May 1890, polygamy ended in the Mormon Church with the United States Supreme Court's decision in *The Late Corporation of the Church of Jesus Christ versus United States*, which upheld the seizure of Church holdings by the federal government. Within a matter of weeks of that decision, President Wilford Woodruff issued the first Manifesto suspending the performance of new polygamous marriages.

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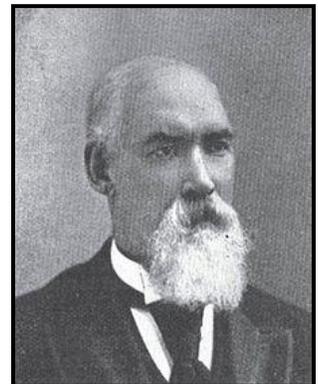
BASSETT COURT CASE

The events leading up to the sensationalism of the Bassett Court cases started in August of 1884. Although a large majority of men during this time period were enjoying the sexual benefits offered by polygamy, this particular case is considered as being one of the major cases involving polygamy that was brought before the United States Supreme Court. Although many of the women despised the practice, they were powerless to challenge the Mormon Church, mainly because of their own unstable economic condition but also because of the prevalent male-dominated society and environment controlling the Territory of Utah at the time. Perhaps one of the reasons the Bassett case was highlighted to such an extent was because Sarah Ann Williams refused to be party to polygamy and was willing to expose it for the demeaning and humiliating practice it was for the women of the era. All parties - William Edward Bassett, Sarah Ann Williams and Catherine Gurney Smith - had their own agenda and perspective as to the integrity, honor, decency and nobility of their actions during the course of the proceedings that began in 1884 and finally ended in 1890.

Although the descendants of William Edward Bassett and Sarah Ann Williams will no doubt make judgment as to the truthfulness of the testimonies presented in the courts by these ancestors - we will more than likely come to a conclusion on who was actually telling the truth - who had the most to lose or gain by lying - who was right and who was wrong - who was the perpetrator and who was the victim. The descendants can decide as to the overall level of integrity, honor and nobility of William Edward Bassett in his attempt to force Sarah Ann Williams to submit to the practice of polygamy and the courage and strength of Sarah Ann Williams in refusing to submit to the shameful and degrading practice so prevalent among many of the Mormon leaders of the Church. In the end, it will be Bassett, Williams and Smith who will stand before the final judge and argue their individual cases.

The case between William Edward Bassett and Sarah Ann Williams has been given a prominent place in the history of Utah, as illustrative of the United States' prosecution of representative Mormons for polygamy and unlawful cohabitation. In some sense, many at the time considered this case as a sequel to that of Bishop John Sharp, of railroad eminence, who was the Bishop of the Twentieth Ward in Salt Lake City, Utah, as part of the LDS Church, and who after the trial of his offense of unlawful cohabitation (under the Edmunds Law) resigned the bishopric and was succeeded by William Edward Bassett.

The historical importance of the Bassett case has been derived from that of Bishop John Sharp, and the considerable amount of effort thrown into the prosecution against Bassett was the consequence of his being Sharp's successor. The prominent male members of the Mormon Church and those employed by the *Deseret News*, the newspaper owned by the Mormon Church, judged that the prosecution from its inception to the pronouncement of the sentence desired to make an example of Bassett for the public good as had been done to John Sharp. Furthermore, Mormon leaders and those practicing polygamy and unlawful cohabitation at the time surmised there was no sufficient evidence produced at his trial to find Bassett guilty of the crime of polygamy and for which a United States judge sentenced him to five year's imprisonment in the penitentiary and a \$500 fine.



John Sharp

After the resignation of John Sharp as the Bishop for the Twentieth Ward (Salt Lake Stake) in Salt Lake City, Utah, on 27 August 1886, William Edward Bassett was chosen by the Mormon Church to fill the position of the veteran bishop who had presided over the Twentieth Ward of Salt Lake City from the beginning of the ward. Those journalists in the Mormon Church who covered the court case were adamant about the fact that William Edward Bassett had never been considered as a polygamist prior to his appointment as Bishop of the Twentieth Ward of Salt Lake City. As one journalist adamantly stated:

"This fact may be attached to his life, as a mark of honor or dishonor it matters not, so far as concerns the mere review of his case for it is not the question whether he has yielded obedience to a

certain law of his Church, but rather was he guilty of a violation of the Edmunds Law - and from all the evidence produced at his trial, from the general repute of his family relations as understood by his most familiar friends, and judging also from the notes of his life in the possession of the writer, William Edward Bassett was not guilty of a violation of the Edmunds law touching polygamy."

The *Deseret News* (owned by the Mormon Church) reviewing the case during the trial stated:

The whole case against the defendant rested on the single statement of a jealous woman, who had threatened to give him away that he had confessed the plural marriage to her previous to the divorce. This alleged admission was, if made - a confidential communication from a husband to his wife, and should have been excluded, as the law and the practice have regulated for centuries, the time honored rule having never been set aside until the William H. Dickson Theory was adopted by the courts of Utah. But even allowing the evidence admissible, the unsupported statement of the divorced wife was contradicted by a mass of unimpeachable evidence. In any court outside of Utah, and in any case but that of a Mormon on trial for supposed infraction of the Edmunds law, it is not at all likely that a sane jury would convict on such a threat of doubtful evidence cut asunder by the force of such overwhelming opposing testimony. But the district attorney had set himself to the task of getting a verdict and as usual, the jury was compliant.

The question naturally presets itself, why was this case not prosecuted before, if, as alleged, the plural marriage took place in August of 1884. The answer explains the animus with which this case has been conducted. The defendant was chosen and appointed as the Bishop of the Twentieth Ward of Salt Lake City and a howl was immediately raised against him, followed by this prosecution. It is not the first time that the ecclesiastical position of a Mormon official has been made the provoking cause of hostile official proceedings. Bassett as an ordinary Mormon was unassailed. Bassett as a ward bishop was a shining mark for official target shooting. The ecclesiastical standing of the accused seems to be a greater offense in the eyes of some officials than any supposed violation of the secular law.

There were obviously many who believed that there was no legal grounds for the charge of polygamy, however, there were many others who were eager to have Bassett convicted for the crime of polygamy to set a strong example before the watchful eye of the Mormon community, since he was now one of the prominent bishops of the territory, the secretary of the Presiding Bishop of the Church, and what was still more salient in the case, the successor of John Sharp.

In August of 1884, according to George Calvin Bassett, a grandson, one evening William Edward Bassett came home and told his wife, Sarah Ann Williams, that he had taken a second wife named Catherine (Kate) Gurney Smith. According to the story told by George Calvin Bassett, Sarah Ann grabbed a broom and chased William Edward out of the house and down the street. During the course of events, it was suggested that there was a violent quarrel when William Edward told his wife that he had married Catherine Gurney Smith. There were also accusations during the course of the trial that when told of the marriage, Sarah Ann Williams used profane and indecent language and had physically threatened Bassett, but although she admitted that both of them had used severe words during the course of the quarrel, Sarah Ann Williams denied ever threatening Bassett with a knife.

Events Leading up to the Court Case

According to Sarah Ann Williams, they were living happily together as husband and wife in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake (County), Utah. In **July of 1884**, Williams claimed that during a conversation with her husband, William Edward Bassett had made the comment that he did not believe in polygamy. She told him that she, too, did not believe in polygamy.

On **12 August 1884**, Bassett told Williams that he was going to Richmond, Cache (County), Utah on church business. On **14 August 1884**, according to court records, William Edward Bassett married Catherine Gurney Smith while in Logan, Utah. On **16 August 1884**, according to Williams, when he returned home around dinnertime, he behaved strangely - he did not kiss the children (Royal Clarence and Charles Windon) as he always did when he returned from a business trip. At that time, he told her that while in Logan, he had married Catherine

(Kate) Gurney Smith. A quarrel ensued between William Edward and Sarah Ann about this plural marriage. It was at this time, that supposedly Williams chased Bassett out of the house and down the street with a broom.

On **17 August 1884**, according to Williams, Bassett went to his office and Williams sent for him. When he arrived at the home, she asked him if he thought he had acted right by the way he had treated her and the children and if he did not think he had done wrong in marrying Catherine Smith. He told her that she could do nothing and that no one would take her word regarding him. She told him that she did not intend to report him or do anything with him if he would support her and the children. If he would do this, she would not bother him. At that time, Williams told Bassett to leave the house as she would not live with him, and he left. Bassett then stayed for a short time at a hotel, and subsequently took his meals at a restaurant, and at night he slept in the Bishops Office.

After several days, Williams sent for Bassett and told him she was going to move to Logan, Cache (County), Utah, and the next day, Bassett sent a carpenter to pack up the goods and telegraphed his mother (Margaret Edward Bassett) in Logan to meet her. On the morning she started for Logan, Bassett went as far as Ogden with her. He gave her a deed for their house and a lot in Logan, but refused to deed the vacant lot because he wanted that for another purpose. Over the next year, Williams and the children lived in Logan.

According to Bassett, after he had left the house on **17 August 1884**, he lived alone in Salt Lake City without a home for over a year when he apparently became tired of that manner of living, and on **24 November 1885**, he applied to the Probate Court of Salt Lake County for a divorce. The application was granted.

At the end of **1884**, Thomas Bassett and Margaret Edward, parents of William Edward Bassett, leave the Cache Valley area in Utah and relocate to Rexburg, Madison (County), Idaho.

On **28 November 1885**, a summons from the divorce court was served by the sheriff of Cache County on Sarah Ann Williams in Logan indicating that she must appear before Elias Asahel Smith at the Probate Court in Salt Lake City on **05 January 1886** to show cause why the divorce should not be granted.

On **Friday, 31 December 1885**, when traveling from Logan to Salt Lake City to defend the divorce suit before Probate Judge **Elias Asahel Smith**, Bassett met Williams at the train and said "Hello Sarah" and being answered and asked where he was going, said he had come to meet her.

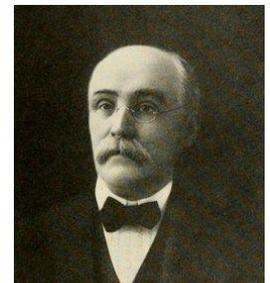
He took her to the **Valley House** where he said he had a room for her. According to Williams, she told him if he persisted about a divorce, she would hand letters she had to the government authorities and he said, "Don't give them to Dickson (attorney who prosecuted polygamists) for if you do, it means five years for me." She told him "You can take that or withdraw your suit". He answered that he would withdraw the suit.

Williams further informed Bassett that she had letters to give to a lawyer and he told her they had already closed their offices and to wait until the next day. One of the letters was from C.J. Goodwin of Logan who she had asked to represent her in court and the letter was an answer to that request. She read the letter to Bassett while at the Valley House that he might understand that she intended to contest his suit for a divorce.

According to Williams, Bassett and she argued about another letter that she would not give to him until she had spoken to her attorney, **Parley Lycurgus Williams**. After consulting her attorney, she produced these same two letters that were later placed into evidence. These letters were in response to employment of an attorney and having Bassett indicted for polygamy.



Elias Asahel Smith



Parley Lycurgus Williams

P.L. Williams was an attorney for the Harriman Railroad Company in Utah. In 1887, when the government confiscated the property of the Mormon Church, Williams was appointed attorney for the receiver of the property - the United States Marshal Dyer, and continued in that position until the receivership ended and the property was returned to the Mormon Church.

Elias Asahel Smith was a cousin of Joseph Smith, a convert to the Church, a resident of Kirtland Nauvoo, a pioneer of Utah, editor of the *Deseret News*, and probate Judge of Salt Lake County in the Territory of Utah. In 1809, Elias was visited by Joseph Smith, Sr., who had made the trip from Palmyra to inform his relatives about the Book of Mormon and the organization of the Mormon Church. Elias did not immediately accept the doctrine, but he began an investigation which resulted in his baptism by his cousin Hyrum Smith on 27 August 1835. The following year he moved with his father and family to Kirtland, Ohio.

In 1838, he moved to Missouri and settled at Far West. He was present during the persecutions in Missouri, and when the Saints were expelled from that state, he moved with them to Illinois. At Nauvoo he was employed in the office of the *Times and Seasons* and the *Nauvoo Neighbor* newspapers.

After the death of the Prophet, Elias Smith joined the Saints in their exodus to the West. In September of 1851, he arrived in Salt Lake City and in the following November was employed by Willard Richards as business manager of *The Deseret News*. He was also named as postmaster of Salt Lake City, and in March of 1852, was commissioned by the Territorial Legislature as probate judge of Salt Lake County until March of 1884. After the death of Willard Richards, he became the editor of *The Deseret News* and continued in this work until 1863. Judge Smith was eighty three years old when he died in June of 1888.

The next day was New Years Day (**Saturday, 01 January 1886**) - a holiday - and she could not see the lawyer. On **Sunday, 02 January 1886**, the next day, she went to see Mrs. Jones in the Nineteenth Ward at the house of William White, but she was down in the Seventh Ward, where there was diphtheria. Bassett said to her "Sarah, you had better go home tomorrow. If you stay here, you will give our children diphtheria and scatter the disease."

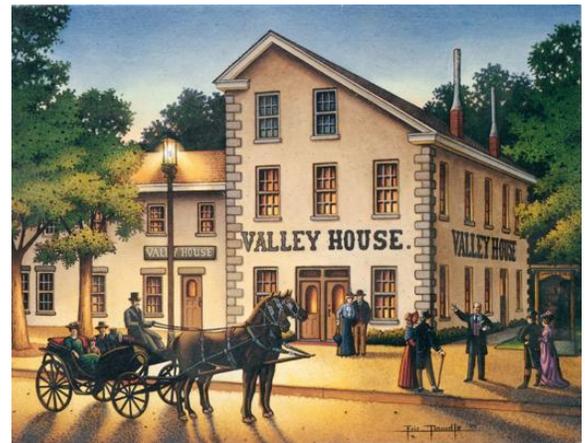
She asked him about the suit and he said he would dismiss it the first thing Monday morning. She told him, "It is pretty hard to trust you after what has passed". He answered, "Trust me this once and you will never regret it. I will go down first thing and withdraw it." She answered, "Well if you betray me this time, I will get even with you."

However, according to Bassett, during their conversation at the **Valley House**, he told Williams that he was going to obtain the divorce and she told him that she would give him a divorce if she could apply for it through the Probate Court in Logan. He agreed and waived the matter for the time being so that she might return to Logan and make the application. After two weeks, he discovered that no such application had been made by his wife nor was it her intention to do so; he then demanded that the divorce be granted by default.

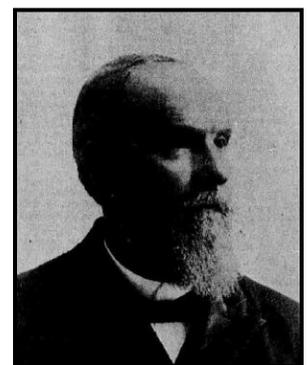
On **15 January 1886**, in the Probate Court of Salt Lake County, the divorce was granted by Judge Elias Asahel Smith. Sarah Ann Williams later learned through a publication that Bassett had got a divorce through her default to contest it.

On **25 January 1886**, William Edward Bassett was married to Catherine (Kate) Gurney Smith by Bishop **Adam Speirs**, Justice of the Peace who performed the marriage ceremony at the Tithing Office in Salt Lake City, Utah.

On **27 August 1886**, William Edward Bassett was ordained a High Priest and a Bishop and was set apart to preside over the Twentieth Ward in Salt Lake Stake under the leadership of Apostles Francis Marion Lyman and Heber J. Grant.



Valley House owned by Andrew Christian Brixen



Bishop Adam Speirs
Justice of the Peace-SLC

On **Friday, 15 October 1886**, William Edward Bassett was first arrested for unlawful cohabitation. On the same day, he appeared before Commissioner William McKay, plead *not guilty* and was placed under a \$1,500 bond. On **Monday, 18 October 1886**, he again appeared before Commissioner William McKay and was arrested for polygamy. He plead *not guilty* and was placed under a \$15,000 bond to await the action of the grand jury of the Third District Court in Salt Lake City.

Preliminary Hearing - District Court - Third Judicial Court - Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah

On **Wednesday, 20 October 1886**, the *Deseret News* reported the following:

The preliminary hearing in the case of Bishop William Edward Bassett of the Twentieth Ward in the Salt Lake Stake was heard by Commissioner William McKay. Judge James Z. Stewart from Cache County, Utah, Sarah Ann Williams, Annie L. Cowley and other witnesses from Logan, Cache, Utah were present.

Sarah Ann Williams was sworn in as the first witness and testified that she currently lived in Logan, Cache, Utah and was married on 02 May 1872 to William Edward Bassett in Cardiff, Wales. LeGrand Young (District Court - 3rd Judicial Court) objected to the remainder of the testimony on the grounds that a wife could not be compelled to testify against her husband. The testimony was allowed to go into the record subject to the ruling by Judge Charles Shuster Zane. Williams continued with her testimony stating that she had lived with William Edward Bassett until 17 August 1884 and had not lived with him since that time. She said that she had not been acquainted with Catherine (Kate) Gurney Smith but knew who she was by sight for several years since 1879 and that William Edward Bassett had told her that Catherine Smith was now his wife.



Joseph Lafayette Rawlins

Sarah Ann Williams also testified to the following:

- In May of 1884, Bassett and Williams moved from Logan to Salt Lake City, Utah
- On 12 August 1884, William Edward Bassett said he was going to Richmond on Church business
- On 16 August 1884, Bassett told Williams that while in Logan he had married Catherine Smith
- On 17 August 1884, Williams severed relations with him
- He (Bassett) left the house that night and has not lived with her since
- He (Bassett) claims to have received a divorce
- Williams received a summons from the Salt Lake County Court
- Williams understands that Catherine Smith was now his wife

Judge **James Z. Stewart** testified that he was the Probate Judge of Cache County and had held the office for three years. He stated that there was no record in Cache County during that time of a divorce between William Edward Bassett and Sarah Ann Williams.

The letters discussed between Bassett and Williams during the evening at the Valley House was also covered in the hearing. Williams testified that her attorney had mentioned that she should advise the officers of the marriage between Bassett and Smith and take it before the grand jury. **Joseph Lafayette Rawlins** (for the defense) asked her "You presented the letter to Bassett to frighten him?" Sarah Ann Williams answered that she did not present it to him - but that she read it to him. Furthermore, she did not send him a telegram to even let him know that she was coming to the city.

Rawlins suggested to the court that Williams came to Salt Lake City with the purpose of threatening and intimating Bassett and that there was a conspiracy between Sarah Ann Williams and C.J. Goodwin (an attorney who had been contacted by Williams in Logan) to make Bassett cease his efforts to obtain a divorce and if she did use threats, she had no case in the court. Williams adamantly stated that she was not advised by C.J. Goodwin to give the letters to Bassett.



**Catherine Gurney Smith
as a young woman**

Rawlins asked whether or not it was for the same purpose that she read the letter to Bassett to intimidate Bassett into not getting a divorce. Sarah Ann Williams replied that she wanted to give him (Bassett) a chance to withdraw the suit and that she did not rely more on these threats than on his promise to withdraw when she returned to Logan. Sarah Ann Williams made it clear to Rawlins and the court that she had meant what she said when she told him that he must withdraw the divorce suit or take the consequences.

Williams then addressed Commissioner William McKay and stated that she was summoned to appear in Probate Court at Salt Lake City in January of 1886 because Bassett had filed for divorce and she was being called to address the issue in the court. During the last week of December in 1885, while traveling to Salt Lake City to appear in court, Bassett had met her at the train and took her to the Valley House to discuss the divorce issue. In retrospect, it was her current belief that while at the Valley House, he had manipulated her into believing that there was no need for her to appear in court because he had promised to dismiss the pending divorce suit. She then returned to Logan in the belief that he would keep his word. He later received a divorce from the Probate Court in Salt Lake City on default because she had never appeared in court and several weeks later, Bassett had married Catherine Smith. She learned about the divorce being granted after reading about it in the newspapers and at that time, Williams brought action in the Third District Court to have the divorce set aside, because it had been fraudulently obtained.

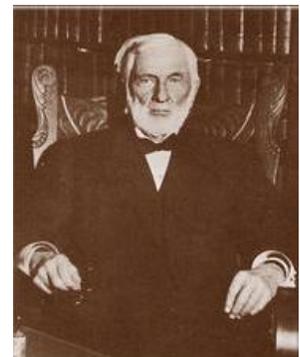
A complaint charging Bassett with having committed polygamy at Logan, Cache, Utah on 14 August 1884 by marrying Catherine (Kate) Gurney Smith while he had a wife living, was sworn to by Charles Stetson Varian. Varian had sent Deputy Smith out with a warrant of arrest for Bishop William Edward Bassett on the charge of polygamy. Bassett was arrested, arraigned on the charge and pleaded *not guilty*. The defendant asked that the examination be waived and the request was denied.

Catherine (Kate) Gurney Smith then testified that she was married to William Edward Bassett and resided in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake (County) Utah. LeGrand Young (for the defense) then objected to the testimony of Smith but it was overruled. Varian (for the prosecution) asked Smith if she was married in Logan, Utah. Smith answered that she was married in Salt Lake City, Utah. Margaret D. Smith was also sworn in to testify. She stated that she had never been married to William Edward Bassett and in fact, had never been previously married. After a private consultation between Young and Varian, the witnesses were subpoenaed to appear before the grand jury.

At this point, Commissioner William McKay addressed William Edward Bassett and asked him if he was a Bishop of the Twentieth Ward, to which Bassett confirmed. McKay then told Bassett that on the polygamy charge, bail was set at \$10,000 and for unlawful cohabitation; bail was set at \$5,000 for a total of \$15,000. Moyle (for the defense) then objected to such an exorbitant bond, to which the Commissioner replied that in these cases, he wanted the bail to be high now and in the future. He said "I want these people to understand that this thing must be stopped. It makes no difference what he is worth in property." With the \$15,000 bond levied against William Edward Bassett, and the \$500 bonds set against Catherine Gurney Smith and Margaret D. Smith, the defendant (William Edward Bassett) testified that he was thirty-five years old and had no property, having turned it over to Sarah Ann Williams as part of the divorce settlement. He further stated that he could not get a \$15,000 or a \$10,000 bond. The Commissioner let the bond stand and the witnesses were ordered to appear on Friday, 22 October 1886 at 2:00 PM before the grand jury of the United States First District Court in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Grand Jury Hearing - United States First District Court - Salt Lake City - Territory of Utah

On **Friday, 22 October 1886**, Catherine Gurney Smith appeared before the grand jury, but refused to testify on the grounds that she was William Edward Bassett's legal wife, and by her refusal, sustained the fact of the priority of the divorce of Bassett from his former wife, Sarah Ann Williams, before his marriage with herself. She was taken before Judge **Charles Shuster Zane** the same day still declined to testify on the same grounds. The court, however, ruled that she was a competent witness and ordered her back to the grand jury room again, where she still declined to testify. Richard Mackintosh, the foreman of the grand jury in the case, then authored a document to the Honorable Charles Shuster Zane, the presiding Judge of the Third District Court for the Territory of Utah.



Charles Shuster Zane

On **Wednesday, 27 October 1886**, Mackintosh submitted the document to Judge Zane. In the document, the grand jury reported that in their investigation of the charges against William Edward Bassett, on behalf of the United States, of unlawful cohabitation and polygamy, evidence showed that in 1872, the defendant (William Edward Bassett) was married to Sarah Ann Williams, and then and there had her for his wife. In the year 1884, in the Territory of Utah, and while Sarah Ann Williams was still his living wife, William Edward Bassett married Catherine (Kate) Gurney Smith.

The evidence also showed that in 1886, William Edward Bassett and Catherine (Kate) Gurney Smith went through a subsequent ceremony of marriage in the Logan Temple while Sarah Ann Williams was still alive. The place and time of the alleged second marriage was undetermined and in doubt based on the evidence. After the introduction of the evidence and the place and time of the second marriage was yet undetermined, Catherine (Kate) Gurney Smith was sworn in as a witness and was asked the following questions:

1. Did you go through a marriage ceremony in Logan, Cache, Utah with William Edward Bassett prior to your marriage with him in Salt Lake City, Utah.
2. Did you at any time in 1884, go through any ceremony of marriage with William Edward Bassett in the Logan Temple in Logan, Cache, Utah.
3. Have you gone through a marriage ceremony with William Edward Bassett at any other place in the Territory of Utah except in Salt Lake City, Utah.
4. Were you not married to him in 1884, and have you not since lived with him as his wife in the Territory of Utah.

To all of these questions, Catherine (Kate) Gurney Smith refused and declined to answer any of the questions. The grand jury requested that the court determine whether or not the questions were proper to be asked, and if so, requested the court to require Catherine (Kate) Gurney Smith to answer the questions.

On **Saturday, 23 October 1886**, Catherine Gurney Smith was again brought before the grand jury and Rawlins, counsel for the defendant (Bassett) presented the decree of divorce dated 15 January 1886 from Sarah Ann Williams and certificate of the subsequent marriage to Catherine (Kate) Gurney Smith dated 25 January 1886. The court then instructed the grand jury to further investigate the matter.

On **Wednesday, 27 October 1886**, the grand jury came into the Third District Court in Salt Lake City, Utah, having spent time considering the case against William Edward Bassett, and presented the document to the Honorable Charles S. Zane, the presiding judge of the Third District Court for the Territory of Utah. Although the grounds on which Catherine (Kate) Gurney Smith refused to testify was that she was the legal wife of William Edward Bassett and under the law could not be compelled to testify against him, the court instructed her that the questions were proper and must be answered.

On **Tuesday, November 23, 1886**, the grand jury of the United States First District Court in the Territory of Utah found an indictment for polygamy against the *plaintiff in error* (William Edward Bassett, the party who appeals decision of a lower court), charging him with having married Catherine (Kate) Smith on 14 August 1884, when his lawful wife, Sarah Ann Williams, was still living and not divorced.

The *Salt Lake Tribune* printed the following opinion in the newspaper regarding the grand jury testimony:

"The Deseret News (owned by the Mormon Church) reviewed the testimony given in the Bassett trial and concluded that had the defendant (Bassett) not been a Mormon, the verdict would have been different. It is not, however, fair in its statement of the case. It thinks the testimony of the second wife (Smith) flatly contradicts that of the first wife (Williams), but fails to note that the story of Williams was straight while that of Smith was crooked. For instance, this Kate Smith Bassett directly testified that she never married until last year and told a perfectly straight story, but when asked why she refused to answer before the grand jury whether she had ever been married before

1886, she was dumb as an oyster. There was no secret in the matter. The jury believed the testimony of Sarah Ann Williams and did not believe Catherine Smith. Further, that jury, when it heard the straight testimony of Sarah Ann Williams (Bassett), and then saw that man (William Edward Bassett) who had promised in her girlhood to be her protector, sit there and listen silently as his hired attorney denounced that poor woman, and tried to carry the idea to the jury that she had not told the truth, they simply despised the miscreant and coward beyond the power of words to portray. Then, jurors are only human, and cannot fail to be influenced by actual knowledge. It has been thoroughly well known here for a long time that Bassett was in polygamy. He has confessed it more than once. It was a clear case that when by stealth, he obtained a divorce from his wife (Williams) and then, a Bishop, one of the anointed, one of the sanctified, one of the Melchisedek select ones, one of the genuine thoroughly distilled, segregated scoundrels - went and was married by a Justice of the Peace - every knew this was a blind, and a blind concurred in, if not planned, by the chiefs, else he would, for that very act, have been fired out of his office. The Deseret News thinks it was prejudice that produced the verdict. It was a sentiment as old as the world that caused it - and the more perjury the Mormons indulge in, the more active that sentiment will become. Men will not listen with philosophy when a man, "married for time and eternity" by a trick, seeks to annul the Almighty decree, and then, through the help of a common Justice of the Peace (Bishop Adam Speirs), seeks to tide over his immediate needs until a happier day dawns." (13 January 1887)

On **Monday, 20 December 1886**, William Edward Bassett was again arrested on a warrant issued from the First District Court, in Ogden, Weber, Utah, charging him with polygamy.

On **Monday, 27 December 1886**, he was arraigned before Judge Henry P. Henderson (territorial judge of the Territory of Utah under the Cleveland Administration) and pleaded *not guilty* once again.

On **Wednesday, 29 December 1886**, the *Deseret News* reported that Deputy Cannon had arrested Bishop William Edward Bassett of the Twentieth Ward in Salt Lake City, Utah, on a warrant issued by Judge Henry P. Henderson from Ogden, Weber, Utah. The warrant stated that on 23 November 1886, the grand jury of the First District Court in Salt Lake City, Utah indicted William Edward Bassett on polygamy and the bail was fixed at \$10,000. Dickson required three sureties for this amount with John H. White, W.C. Staines and F.A. Mitchell becoming bondsmen. James H. Moyle asked that the former bonds assigned by Commissioner William McKay be dismissed but Dickson objected. Moyle then brought up the issue of two bonds for one offense and of holding the defendant for \$25,000 when the Court had indicated only \$10,000. The District Attorney consented to the release of the former bonds of \$15,000. William Edward Bassett was then notified that he would be required to go to Ogden, Utah on Thursday, 30 December 1886, to plead to the charge made against him.

On **30 December 1886**, William Edward Bassett appeared at the court in Ogden, Weber (County), Utah and plead *not guilty* to the indictment of polygamy.

United States First District Court - Salt Lake City - Territory of Utah

On **Tuesday, 04 January 1887**, the trial commenced. The testimony and facts presented were as follows:

For the defense, Catherine Smith testified that on 25 January 1886, she was married to the defendant in the Tithing Office in Salt Lake City, Utah. She also stated that she had not been previously married to him nor had she been in the temple with him. According to Smith, during the time stated as the three days when he was in Logan, she was a clerk at the Fourth Ward Cooperative Store in Salt Lake City. The daybook of the establishment was produced with entries in her handwriting made on the three days when Bassett was in Logan.

Bishop Adam Speirs (21st Ward - Salt Lake City), who was a Justice of the Peace in Salt Lake City, Utah, testified to marrying William Edward Bassett and Catherine Gurney Smith on 25 January 1886 in Salt Lake City, Utah. Mrs. Harriet Robbins corroborated the evidence in regard to the entries in the day book and the presence of Catherine Smith at the store.

Joseph E. Wilson, a clerk at the Tithing Office in Logan, testified that at the time of the defendant's visit in August of 1884, Bassett had wanted to discuss certain business matters pertaining to that office. Other witnesses stated that the defendant had boarded regularly at restaurants in Salt Lake City from August of 1884 to April of 1886 and that Hilton, the night watchman at the Tithing Office in Salt Lake City testified that the defendant had slept there with the exception of four nights, from August 1884 to April 1886. The evidence of others went to corroborate these facts.

As part of the prosecution, Sarah Ann Williams testified at the trial that in August of 1884, her husband (William Edward Bassett), who had been absent for three days, had on his return informed her that he had been to Logan and had married Catherine Gurney Smith. She then refused to live with him but did not want a divorce. However, he subsequently obtained a divorce from her on the grounds of desertion, the summons from the divorce court being served on 28 November 1885.

William H. Dickson (for the prosecution) said if the defendant was a Gentile, bishop, priest or official of any religious or other society, counsel would have no hesitancy in saying that with the evidence that is now before the jury, they would convict him of the crime with which this defendant is now charged. He would say as his friend, **Ogden Hiles** had said that the defendant was as characterless a scoundrel as ever disgraced society which his conduct to his wife proves. Dickson further stated that Bassett ought to be whipped with a scorpion whip. He deserved to be sent to the penitentiary for the remainder of his days. He said the downright meanness, infamy and treachery perpetrated by him towards his wife is without a parallel in the history of crime and there is no evidence to prove that all of these years of married life, she has not been a truthful, dutiful and loving wife.



Ogden Hiles

Dickson attempted to quote from the revelation of celestial marriage - "Bassett depended on the threat that the woman who opposed that revelation should be destroyed, to influence, comfort, pacify and reconcile his wife to his plural marriage, and to prevent her from delivering him to the officers of the law". Dickson again, in a most vehement manner, and in burning words, denounced Bassett as an infamous hypocrite and then said, "He, the anointed of the Lord! No. He is the anointed of the devil! He a Saint? If heaven is filled with such Saints as Bishop Bassett, God preserve us from such a resting place." This peroration was greeted with applause by some of the audience. In closing his remarks, he said, "this good, saintly Bassett has lived up to his faith, and as a reward of

In 1886, under orders from the Attorney-General's office in Washington DC, the office was directed to vigorously prosecute offenders against the Edmunds Law and Edmunds-Tucker laws prohibiting polygamy. It was a known fact in the community that the people of Utah were living under a theocracy. This state or condition was disclosed by the examination of witnesses or jurors assigned to sit on grand juries.

From 1886 to 1889, Ogden Hiles moved to Utah to accept an appointment as assistant United States Attorney for the Territory of Utah. He continued in this position for 3 ½ years. While he was in the United States Attorney's Office and during what were called the polygamy prosecutions (including the case against William Edward Bassett), he drew more indictments and prosecuted more cases under the Edmunds law and the Edmunds-Tucker law than any other officer. His duties called him to all parts of the Utah Territory.

According to Hiles, if a Mormon was asked whether he would obey the laws of the United States, or the laws of the church, he would say that he would obey the law of the Mormon Church. The judge would then offer the defendant who was convicted clemency if he would obey the law in future. The defendant would say no and claim that he chose to obey the law of God rather than man-made laws. If the government suggested that the laws of the Republic were mild and that anyone of standing might live under them without being hostile to them, the defendant would say it made no difference. If we asked him what the law of God was, he said it was that which was revealed to them in their Doctrine & Covenants and in the Bible, and was expounded to them by the authorities of the Mormon Church. He goes on to say that after the 1887 Edmunds-Tucker Act, that his court took advantage of the added offense of unlawful cohabitation or adultery and immediately took advantage of that in every case where they could bring a case of adultery. As a result, there was a lot of pressure upon the people of the Territory into obeying the law of the land.

his baseness and perfidy has been elevated to the Bishopric." Dickson asked the jury to find a verdict of guilty against Bassett, as charged in the indictment.

The *Deseret News* provided the following opinion after the prosecution had made their closing remarks:

"Outside of a court, scarcely any person would have dared to apply such language to Bassett as that lavished on him by the United States Prosecuting Attorneys, or even dreamt that anyone could for a moment deem such language applicable to him, for there are few men in any church community in the United States to whom such language could be more unjustly applied. Indeed, the prosecutor too plainly showed his motive, his animus and his aim when in closing his address to the jury he said, 'the saintly Bassett had lived up to his faith, and as a reward of his baseness and perfidy had been elevated to the bishopric. This signified, as the Deseret News intimated, that it was not for being a polygamist, but because he had recently been made a bishop of his Church and yet more because he was the identifiable bishop who had succeeded John Sharp, that Bassett was prosecuted, found guilty by a jury chosen for that purpose, and sentenced to five years' imprisonment in the penitentiary and a \$500 fine."

On **Tuesday, 04 January 1887**, William Edward Bassett and Sarah Ann Williams went back to court to determine the question of law as to whether or not Sarah Ann Williams could be deemed competent to testify in the case, based on the fact that she was the wife of the defendant.

On **Wednesday, 05 January 1887**, the presiding judge in the court stated that he was inclined to believe that the defendant (William Edward Bassett) was endeavoring to shield himself under a technicality and that in his opinion, the judge felt that bigamy was a greater crime against the wife than adultery, and that the objection of the defendant's counsel should be overruled.

Sarah Ann Williams was called to the witness stand, and testified that she had a conversation with her husband, William Edward Bassett on 16 August 1884 where he admitted to having married Catherine (Kate) Gurney Smith in Logan, Cache, Utah. He had left their home on 12 August 1884 for Richmond to take care of business. During the time of his absence, he had bought her (Sarah Ann Williams) a new dress, and had taken it to her upon his return. When he came back home after this absence, he kissed her, and said he would like to have her act in such a way that he could think of her as he had when he first married her. According to the testimony of Sarah Ann Williams, her husband (William Edward Bassett) thought he had done nothing wrong in marrying Kate Smith. During the interrogation, William Edward Bassett was in tears and appeared to feel very badly. Sarah Ann said that she was not angry, but indulged in crying at the time.

On **Thursday, 06 January 1887**, according to the *Salt Lake Herald* concerning this court appearance:

Sarah Ann Williams stated that she was a member of the Mormon Church; was born in Wales; and came to the United States during the summer of 1874.

Under cross examination by Rawlins (defense attorney), the following questions and answers were addressed:

Rawlins - You knew that polygamy was a tenet of the Mormon faith, did you not, when you joined the church?

Williams - *I had heard while in Wales that polygamy was a tenet of the Mormon faith, but did not believe in it.*

Rawlins - You had talked with Mr. Bassett about it?

Williams - *Mr. Bassett was more thoroughly posted than I was.*

Rawlins - Did he ever ask your consent to his taking another wife?

Williams - *He knew I would never live with him if he had another wife.*

Rawlins - How frequently did you talk together about this?

Williams - *I decline to answer*

The Court instructed Williams that the question was proper and she replied - "Not very often." She further stated that she had seen no evidence to indicate that William Edward Bassett and Catherine Gurney (Kate) Smith were married and had no idea that there was a romantic relationship between them. She had never seen anything to

indicate that they were married at any subsequent time. Williams stated that the next conversation between William Edward Bassett and herself was on **Friday, 22 August 1884**. According to Williams, during this conversation, Bassett said he thought he had done right in marrying Kate Smith, that he would do right by me and my children and that I could please myself about living with him. Williams also stated that another conversation was held in the Valley House in December of 1885.

William H. Dickson, the United States District Attorney for the prosecution, then asked Sarah Ann Williams if William Edward Bassett held any office in the Mormon Church in May of 1884, for the purpose of showing that Kate Smith could not have visited him at the time on church business. The defense objected, and the Court sustained the objection.

Dickson continued by asking Williams if she was in a state of mental distress at the time of the conversation with Bassett and whether or not she was crying at the time. Williams indicated that she was distressed and was crying. She said that she had told Bassett that she would make trouble for him if he ever married another woman. Sarah Ann Williams was then excused from the witness stand.

Rawlins (defense attorney) then moved to have the testimony of Sarah Ann Williams stricken on the grounds of incompetency and proceeded to argue the proposition. The motion was overruled and the Court adjourned for the noon recess.

At the reopening of the case in the afternoon Sarah Ann Williams was recalled to the witness stand and stated to Dickson that Bassett had told her that he had been a guest of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis in Logan for supper on Saturday, 16 August 1884 - the night before their conversation. Furthermore, Mrs. Lewis had sent her regards to Sarah Ann Williams by the defendant.

Benjamin Sheeks (for the prosecution) then asked Sarah Ann Williams whether or not William Edward Bassett and she had ever ceased to live together as husband and wife and if they had ever separated prior to the time of the alleged plural marriage. There was as long pause and Sarah Ann Williams answered in the affirmative. Williams also stated that she had never directly or indirectly told the government officers about Bassett's second marriage but she had told her friends.

Van Cott (for the prosecution) asked Williams how many children she had with her husband (Bassett). When Rawlins objected to the question, Van Cott said that the defense had tried to show they had not lived happily

William H. Dickson began his service as United States District Attorney when the Territory of Utah was practicing polygamy. During the first months of his term he prosecuted the initial polygamy case in the period, the Ruder Clawson matter, as well as other important test cases produced under the Edmunds Act and later the Edmunds-Tucker Act.

He was born on 29 August 1847, in Canada. In 1882, Dickson moved to Salt Lake City where his law partner, Charles Varian, soon followed and they resumed their partnership in Utah. On 5 February 1884, he was nominated by President Chester A. Arthur as Territorial District Attorney for Utah, and selected Varian as his Assistant. In October of 1885, Dickson submitted his resignation as District Attorney but in late December, he withdrew his resignation because of a story that was being circulated stating that he had sold out to the Mormon Church and that they had paid him to resign.

Sixteen months later, the *Salt Lake Herald* reported that Dickson resigned at the request of the United States Attorney General. Chief Judge Charles Zane was also temporarily relieved of his duties at the time from a decision by President Cleveland to replace the federal officers in Utah who were perceived as acting being vindictive. This decision was reversed two years later by President Benjamin Harrison when Zane returned and Charles Varian was appointed as United States Attorney.

Dickson died in Los Angeles on 18 January, 1924.

together and the evidence was material to the case. The objection was overruled and Williams stated that they had six children prior to separation (Mary Margaret, Sarah Ann, William Robert (Edward), Royal Clarence, Lyman William and Charles Windon Bassett). In addition, shortly after the separation, and due to the stress involved in the circumstances, she had lost twins - a boy and a girl in 1884.

The register of the Valley House was shown and Williams recognized the handwriting of Bassett under 29 December 1885 - the time that she went there. According to Williams, Bassett had escorted her there that day. The proprietor of the Valley House, A.C. Brixen, testified that at dinnertime on that day, Bassett had indicated he wanted a room for Williams for the night. Brixen saw Bassett register and said he recognized Williams. Brixen further testified that Bassett had brought her to the hotel, Williams stayed there several nights, and Bassett took meals with her.

The prosecution also called Mrs. Margaret Lewis to the stand. Lewis testified that while visiting Salt Lake City with her husband in February of 1885, they had visited Bassett and conversed with him. According to Lewis, Bassett made the comment "If Sarah thought as much of me as you do of Mr. Lewis, I would never have married another woman". According to Lewis, she and her husband had known William Edward Bassett and Sarah Ann Williams since they had lived in Logan, had visited them often, and they got along splendid together.

The case for the prosecution rested.

Joseph Lionel Rawlins (for the defense) made a brief opening statement in which he stated that the defense proposed to provide evidence that Bassett did not go to Logan at all during 1884, except on one occasion from 12 through 16 August 1884, when he went on business. They also intended to prove that Catherine (Kate) Gurney

Smith was engaged as a saleswoman in the store owned by Charles Burtis Robbins during that entire time when Bassett was in Logan, and that Bassett never married Kate Smith or any other woman in August of 1884 or at any other time, and that he was not guilty of polygamy as alleged in the indictment. The decree of divorce between William Edward Bassett and Sarah Ann Williams was introduced to the court.

Catherine (Kate) Gurney Smith was called to the witness stand. She testified that she was married to the William Edward Bassett on 25 January 1886 with Adam Speirs (Justice of the Peace) performing the ceremony in Salt Lake City, Utah. Prior to that time, she lived in Logan, Cache, Utah and was a clerk in a store managed by Charles Burtis Robbins. She further stated that she was employed there constantly until February of 1885 and on a part time basis after that time. As part of her job duties, she wrote entries in the day book when she sold goods on credit. Apparently, Robbins was sick during the greater portion of the summer in 1884 and Catherine would take her dinner at the residence of Robbins but ate her supper and breakfast at the residence of her father (Thomas X. Smith) where she lived at the time.

Rawlins handed the account book to her and Catherine identified the day book used in the store and identified and checked some entries that she had made in the book. She said, "I did not meet Bassett at all in Logan during August of 1884 and did not know he was in town until he left the place." She further testified that she had only a slight acquaintance with Bassett during the time that he lived in Logan. She went to Salt Lake in October of 1884 to attend general conference; stopped at the Valley House three nights, at the Continental one night and at M.R. Evan's for two nights. She stated that she met Bassett at the Tithing Office and with other members of the Logan choir, shook hands with him and engaged in general conversation. She then went to the theatre while in Salt Lake City with Mr. and Mrs. Cardon.

As part of the cross examination by Dickson, Smith stated that she had a mere passing acquaintance with Bassett for about nine years, had been intimately acquainted with him for about eighteen months, and had corresponded with him about four months prior to their marriage. The proceedings were then interrupted by the advent of the grand jury.

Dickson - Can you tell me, Mrs. Bassett, when your husband first began paying his addresses (paying her bills)?

Smith - About the month of October, I think

Dickson - Can you tell us, Mrs. Bassett, when you became engaged to your husband

Smith - I was engaged to him conditionally in December of 1885. The condition was that he got a divorce.

Dickson followed these questions up and asked her why it was she permitted Bassett to pay her expenses before he had obtained a divorce from Sarah Ann Williams. The witness was badgered considerably on the point. Dickson then asked some questions about the witness' testimony given before the grand jury in Salt Lake, and asked why she refused to answer the question asked her as to whether she was ever married to Bassett before January of 1886. Catherine replied that she did not consider the legal wife compelled to testify against her husband, and for that reason, she declined to answer the question.

Catherine stated that she had gone to the temple in Logan in June of 1884 to take out her endowments and again in December of 1884. She claimed that she never met Bassett in the Logan Temple and that there was never any ceremony of marriage performed between Bassett and herself prior to January 25, 1886.

Several witnesses were then called to the stand to corroborate the testimonies of both William Edward Bassett and Catherine (Kate) Gurney Smith as follows:

- Adam Speirs, Justice of the Peace of Salt Lake City was called to the stand and testified to having performed a ceremony of marriage between the Bassett and Smith in June of 1886.
- Emma Smith Balliff, sister of Catherine (Kate) Gurney Smith, corroborated the testimony of her sister, relative to Catherine's visit to Salt Lake City.
- Florence Smith, sister of Catherine (Kate) Gurney Smith, corroborated the testimony of her sister, relative to Catherine's visit to Salt Lake City.
- Lucy Smith Cardon, sister of Catherine (Kate) Gurney Smith corroborated the testimony of Catherine Gurney Smith, relative to Catherine's visit to Salt Lake City.
- Harriet Robbins, wife of Charles Burtis Robbins, corroborated that Catherine Bassett had been at the store on a continual basis from 12 though 16 August 1884. To Dickson, Robbins stated that she had seen Bassett at the store where Smith worked once before he moved to Salt Lake. She had heard a rumor that Bassett had married Smith some time ago; it must have been some four or five months after the 15 of January 1886.
- Joseph E. Wilson, tithing clerk at Logan, testified he had succeeded Bassett in that position. Bassett was at Logan to assist in correcting and closing up some accounts.
- David Griffith, a restaurant keeper of Salt Lake testified that Bassett was boarding at his place from the middle of August 1884 to 11 February 1885. He could not definitely state whether Bassett was there every day. Mrs. Griffith corroborated her husband's testimony only was more positive about Bassett having been at the restaurant every day.
- J. Gallagher, another restaurant keeper, testified that Catherine Smith went to his place with Bassett in January of 1886.
- Hilton, the night watchman at the Tithing Office in Salt Lake testified that Bassett had a bed and slept at the Tithing Office every night from the last of August 1884 to 1885.
- Susannah Gaudin Cardon (wife of John Paul Cardon) of Logan testified that Bassett stopped at the Valley House for two or three days in August of 1884. He slept at a hotel every night while in Logan.
- Thomas Barthelemy Cardon of Logan corroborated that Catherine Smith was in Salt Lake and stopped at the Valley House. Cardon did not see Bassett in Salt Lake at all during that visit.

Rawlins moved to discuss the case based on the grounds that the evidence was not competent and to set aside the judgment of the Probate Court on the testimony of Williams would be an injustice to the court. Rawlins stated that Williams had exacted a promise from Bassett under threats and that she had warned him that the district attorney, the officers and the grand jury and five years in the penitentiary would be resorted to by her as punishment unless he promised to discuss the divorce suit. Rawlins reminded the court that persons must come into a courtroom with good motives and must not be actuated by a spirit of revenge. He further remarked about the testimony of Williams arguing that she used the threats as a means of coercion and duress, while she withheld the information from the officers. Rawlins therefore insisted the divorce was valid.

Parley Lycurgus Williams (for the prosecution) stated that a threat of duress is a threat to do something that is right. P.L. Williams further states:

"If Bassett was guilty of polygamy, which is a felony, his wife does right in giving the facts to the courts: this man who is grossly guilty of a crime, comes and makes this plea to defeat his wife of receiving justice; some friend communicated to him the fact that she was coming to Salt Lake City from Logan and he meets her; because she had consulted with a lawyer about her children and that lawyer advised her to bring suit, and she shows the letters to him for the purpose of showing him that she intends contesting the suit, and he promises to end the suit, and she tells him that it is hard to trust him. Bassett then implores her to trust him this one time. Because she was willing to do that which the law encourages her to do, it is not right she should be debarred of her rights because of such threats. Attempting to make the acts of this woman a crime, would be denying a worm the privilege of turning and stinging its enemy."

The defense rested their case. The court adjourned until 10:00 AM

At the conclusion of the case, Judge Charles Shuster Zane stated that he had believed Sarah Ann Williams testimony and overruled the motion to dismiss the case. At the conclusion of the court case, when the Judge pronounced the sentence against Bassett of five years in the penitentiary, Sarah Ann Williams began to laugh. The divorce obtained by William Edward Bassett through the Probate Court was set aside in the court of Judge Charles Zane, and Sarah Ann Williams was reinstated as the legal wife to him, thereby making William Edward Bassett liable to arrest for adultery. Zane further ordered that Bassett pay court costs, pay alimony in the amount of \$75 plus an additional \$15 per month, the expenses of the lawsuit and an additional \$150 to the attorneys of Sarah Ann Williams. He was given ten days to make full payment. The following day, Bassett was scheduled to appear in court, but did not make an appearance. It was believed that he had taken to the underground to avoid further prosecution.

On 06 January 1887, William Edward Bassett was convicted of polygamy in Ogden, Weber, Utah, and was sentenced to pay a fine of \$500 and five years in the penitentiary. An appeal was taken and the defendant was released on \$10,000 bail. (Reno Evening Gazette/07 January 1887)

On 13 January 1887, the *Salt Lake Tribune* published an article in the newspaper concerning the court case:

The Deseret News reviewed the testimony given in the Bassett trial and concluded that had the defendant (William Edward Bassett) not been a Mormon, the verdict would have been different. It is not, however, fair in its statement of the case. It thinks the testimony of the second wife (Catherine Gurney Smith) flatly contradicts that of the first wife (Sarah Ann Williams), but fails to note that the story of Sarah Ann Williams was straight, while that of Catherine Gurney Smith was crooked. For instance, when Smith directly testified that she never married until last year, but when asked why she refused to answer before the grand jury whether she had ever been married before 1886, she was dumb as an oyster. There was no secret in the matter. The grand jury believed the testimony of Sarah Ann Williams and did not believe Catherine Gurney Smith. Furthermore, the grand jury when it heard the testimony of Sarah Ann Williams, when then saw that man who had promised in her girlhood to be her protector, sit there and listen silently as his hired attorney denounced that poor woman and tried to carry the idea to the jury that she had not told the truth, they simply despised the miscreant and coward beyond the power of words.

The jurors are only human and cannot fail to be influenced by actual knowledge. It has been thoroughly well known here for a long time that William Edward Bassett was in polygamy. He has confessed it more than once. It was a clear case that when by stealth, he obtained a divorce from his wife (Sarah Ann Williams) and then, a bishop, one of the anointed, one of the sanctified, one of the Melchisedek select ones, one of the genuine thoroughly distilled, segregated scoundrels - went and was married by a Justice of the Peace. Everybody knew this was a blind and a blind concurred in, if not planned, by the chiefs, else he would for that very act have been fired out of his office.

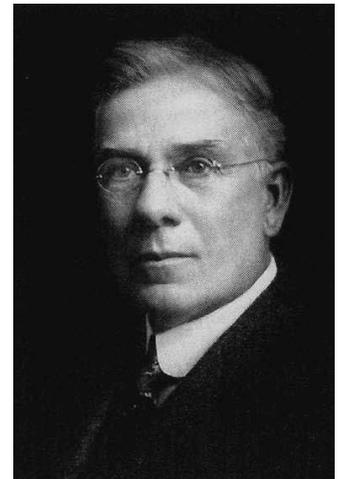
The Deseret News thinks it was prejudice that produced the verdict. It was a sentiment as old as the world that caused it and the more perjury the Mormons indulge in, the more active that sentiment will become. Ken will not listen with philosophy when a man "married for time and eternity" by a trick seeks to annul the almighty decree and then through the help of a common Justice of the Peace, seeks to tide over his immediate needs until a happier day dawns.

On **Saturday, 26 February 1887**, the Utah Supreme Court sustained the decision of the District Court and upheld the decision that Bassett was guilty of polygamy with a sentence of five years in the penitentiary and a \$500.00 fine.

On **05 July 1887**, William Edward Bassett, a son was born to William Edward Bassett and Catherine Gurney Smith in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake (County), Utah.

In 1887, William Edward Bassett moved his family consisting of Catherine Gurney Smith, William Edward Bassett (his son) and Margaret Drucilla Smith (sister of Catherine Gurney Smith) to Trinidad, Colorado.

In 1890, the family returned to live in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake (County), Utah. The case of William Edward Bassett was appealed to the United States Supreme Court.



Franklin S. Richards

United States Supreme Court Case

On **22 December 1890**, a court proceeding entitled **BASSETT VS. UNITED STATES** (137 U.S. 496; 11 S.Ct 165; 34 L.Ed 762) in the **United States Supreme Court** was held. **Franklin S. Richards** represented Bassett as the plaintiff in error - the party who appeals a decision of a lower court. The Attorney General of the United States, William Henry Harrison Miller, represented the United States.

When this case was presented to the court, there was a preliminary question presented by the attorney general that there was no proper bill of exceptions as to the proceedings in the trial court, and therefore nothing could be presented which this court could review. In the court system, a *Bill of Exceptions* is a statement of exceptions to the decision, or instructions of a judge in the trial of a cause, made for the purpose of putting the points decided on record so as to bring them before a superior court or the full bench for review.

The bill of exceptions referred to by the attorney general in this statement was signed by the trial judge and indorsed:

'No. 984, First District Court, Utah, *The United States vs. William E. Bassett*, Polygamy, Bill of Exceptions, filed 19 January 1887, T. A. PERKINS, Clerk'

It was also filed on 2 February 1887 by the clerk of the Supreme Court of the Utah Territory the date of the filing of the transcript of the proceedings of the trial court.

The record showed the pleadings, proceedings, and exceptions to the charge of the trial judge, all certified properly by T. A. Perkins, the clerk of the trial court. At the close of this certificate, which was dated 20 January 1887, is this statement:

'And I further certify that a copy of defendant's bill of exceptions in said cause is not made part hereof because said bill of exceptions is in the possession of defendant's counsel, at the city of Salt Lake, and

because I am informed by said counsel that it has been stipulated by and between themselves and the United States district attorney for Utah territory that the original thereof in place of such copy should be used in the supreme court upon this appeal.'

The United States Supreme Court indicated that the bill of exceptions signed by the trial judge was filed in the trial court and that for the purposes of economy, time, and convenience, the original bill, together with the record of the proceedings, was brought to and filed in the Supreme Court after having been filed in the trial court. The identification of the bill of exceptions was vouched by the signatures of the trial judge, the clerk of the district court, and the clerk of the Supreme Court. To ignore this authentication would suggest the Supreme Court were resting on a mere technicality to avoid an inquiry into the substantial rights of a party, as considered and determined by both the trial court and the supreme court of the territory. In the absence of a statute or special rule of law compelling such a practice, the court declined to adopt it.

Passing from this question of practice to the merits, the principal question, and the only one that was considered was as follows:

The wife of the defendant (Sarah Ann Williams) was called as a witness for the prosecution, and permitted to testify as to confessions made by him (William Edward Bassett) to her in respect to the crime charged, and her testimony was the only direct evidence against him.

This testimony was admitted under the first paragraph of Section 1156 of the Code of Civil Procedure, enacted in 1884, (Section 3878, Comp. Laws Utah 1888) which reads:

A husband cannot be examined for or against his wife, without her consent, nor a wife for or against her husband, without his consent; nor can either, during the marriage or afterwards, be, without the consent of the other, examined as to any communication made by one to the other during the marriage; but this exception does not apply to a civil action or proceeding by one against the other, nor to a criminal action or proceeding for a crime committed by one against the other.

When the court addressed the technical merits, the contention was that polygamy is within the language of that paragraph a crime committed by the husband against the wife. The court felt this ruling was erroneous. A technical argument against it is this: The section is found in the Code of Civil Procedure, and its provisions should not be held to determine the competency of witnesses in criminal cases, especially when there is a Code of Criminal Procedure, which contains sections prescribing the conditions of competency. Section 421 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, (Section 5197, Comp. Laws 1888) is as follows:

Except with the consent of both, or in cases of criminal violence upon one by the other, neither husband nor wife are competent witnesses for or against each other, in a criminal action or proceeding to which one or both are parties.

The court concluded that under this section, the wife was not a competent witness since it could not be believed that the legislature would establish one rule of competency for a trial in a justice's court, and a different rule for a trial of the same offense on an appeal to the district court.

However, the justices did not rest their conclusion on this technical argument. The court continued their deliberation as follows:

It was a well-known rule of the common law that neither husband nor wife was a competent witness in a criminal action against the other, except in cases of personal violence, the one upon the other, in which the necessities of justice compelled a relaxation of the rule. We are aware that language similar to this has been presented to the supreme courts of several states for consideration. Some, as in Iowa and Nebraska, hold that a new rule is thereby established, and that the wife is a competent witness against her husband in a criminal prosecution for bigamy or adultery, on the ground that those are crimes especially against her. Minnesota and Texas hold that by these words no departure from the common-law rule is intended. This precise question has never been before this court, but the common-law rule has been noticed and commended. Justice McLean used this language:

'It is, however, admitted in all the cases that the wife is not competent, except in cases of violence upon her person, directly to criminate her husband, or to disclose that which she has learned from him in their confidential intercourse. This rule is founded upon the deepest and soundest principles of our nature,—principles which have grown out of those domestic relations that constitute the basis of civil society, and which are essential to the enjoyment of that confidence which should subsist between those who are connected by the nearest and dearest relations of life. To break down or impair the great principles which protect the sanctities of husband and wife would be to destroy the best solace of human existence.'

We do not doubt the power of the legislature to change this ancient and well-supported rule; but an intention to make such a change should not lightly be imputed. It cannot be assumed that it is indifferent to sacred things, or that it means to lower the holy relations of husband and wife to the material plane of simple contract. So, before any departure from the rule affirmed through the ages of the common law—a rule having its solid foundation in the best interests of society—can be adjudged, the language declaring the legislative will should be so clear as to prevent doubt as to its intent and limit. When a Code is adopted, the understanding is that such Code is a declaration of established law, rather than an enactment of new and different rules. This is the idea of a Code, except as to matters of procedure and jurisdiction which often ignore the past, and require affirmative description.

The Supreme Court of the United States concluded that the section quoted from the Code of Civil Procedure, if applicable to a criminal case, should not be adjudged as working a departure from the old and established rule, unless its language imperatively demands such construction. Does it? The clause in the Civil Code is negative, and declares that the exception of the incompetency of wife or husband as a witness against the other does not apply to a criminal action or proceeding for a crime committed by one against the other. Is polygamy such a crime against the wife?

That it is no wrong upon her person is conceded; and the common-law exception to the silence upon the lips of husband and wife was only broken, as we have noticed, in cases of assault of one upon the other. That it is humiliation and outrage to her is evident. If that is the test, what limit is imposed? Is the wife not humiliated, is not her respect and love for her husband outraged and betrayed, when he forgets his integrity as a man, and violates any human or divine enactment? Is she less sensitive, is she less humiliated, when he commits murder, or robbery, or forgery, than when he commits polygamy or adultery?

A true wife feels keenly any wrong of her husband, and her loyalty and reverence are wounded and humiliated by such conduct. **But the question presented by this statute is not how much she feels or suffers, but whether the crime is one against her.**

Polygamy and adultery may be crimes which involve disloyalty to the marital relation, but they are rather crimes against such relation than against the wife; and, as the statute speaks of crimes against her, it is simply an affirmation of the old, familiar, and just common law rule.

We conclude, therefore, that under this statute, the wife was an incompetent witness as against her husband. Other questions in the record need not be considered, as they will probably not arise on a new trial. The judgment of the Supreme Court of the Territory of Utah is reversed, and the case remanded, with instructions to order a new trial.



Sarah Ann Williams with sons Charles Windon Bassett (left) and Royal Clarence Bassett (right)

On **24 August 1891**, *Kathryn Irene Bassett*, a daughter, was born to William Edward Bassett and Catherine Gurney Smith in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake (County), Utah.

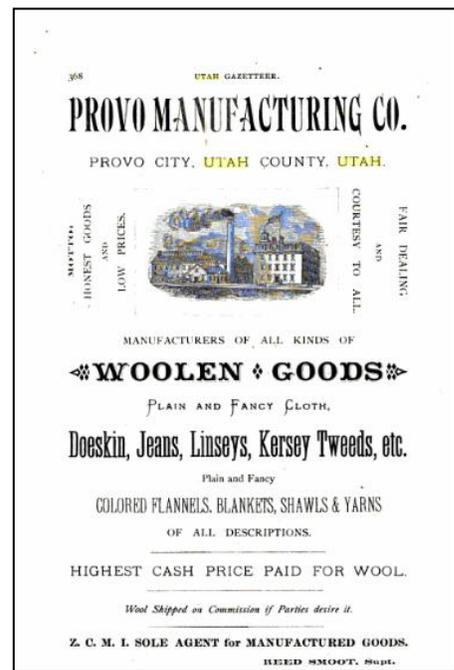
In 1894, William Edward Bassett began working at the **Provo Woolen Mills** where he commuted back and forth from Salt Lake City, where he and Catherine lived.

On **13 October 1895**, *Raymond S. Bassett*, a son, was born to William Edward Bassett and Catherine Gurney Smith in Provo, Utah (County), Utah.

In **1900**, William Edward Bassett and Catherine Gurney Smith moved to Provo, Utah (County) Utah, where Bassett served as manager of the Knight Woolen Mills under the supervision of Reed Smoot, and Catherine helped organize the Provo Fifth Ward Relief Society. He later succeeded Reed Smoot as the Superintendent of the Provo Woolen Mills - the largest of its kind in the intermountain region.

On **26 April 1900**, *Eldon S. Bassett*, a son, was born to William Edward Bassett and Catherine Gurney Smith in Provo, Utah (County), Utah.

On **19 June 1900**, the United States Federal Census Record taken in Provo, Utah (County), Utah for William Edward Bassett was as follows:



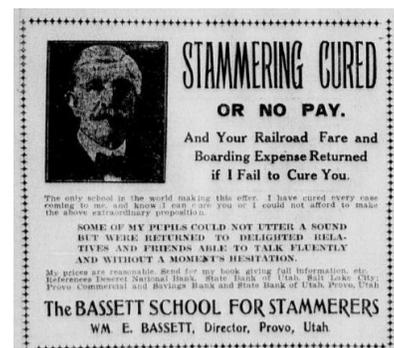
LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	RELATION	RACE	SEX	BIRTH	AGE	STATUS	YEARS MARRIED	YEAR MARRIED	BIRTH PLACE	IMMIGRATION	RESIDENCE
Bassett	William E	Head	White	M	12/1851	48	Married	16	1884	Wales	1877	Provo
Bassett	Catherine S.	Wife	White	F	8/1861	38	Married	16	1884	Utah		Provo
Bassett	William E.	Son	White	M	7/1887	12	Single			Utah		Provo
Bassett	Kathryn Irene	Daughter	White	F	8/1891	8	Single			Utah		Provo
Bassett	Raymond S.	Son	White	M	10/1895	4	Single			Utah		Provo
Bassett	Eldon S.	Son	White	M	4/1900	1 mo	Single			Utah		Provo

At this time, William Edward Bassett was elected as the President of the Provo Board of Education - a position he held until October of 1909. Throughout his entire adult life, William Edward was active in furthering education.

In **1902**, due to his stuttering disability, William Edward traveled to the Bogue Institute in Cincinnati, Ohio to find a remedy for the stutter affliction he had since boyhood. Unable to find a cure for the problem, he decided to find his own cure, and after a lengthy period of time, he was able to accomplish the task.

On **22 May 1903**, *Thomas Bassett*, father to William Edward Bassett, died at the age of seventy-five years old while living in Rexburg, Idaho. On **25 May 1903**, he was buried in the Rexburg City Cemetery in Rexburg, Madison (County), Idaho, Plot 16-24.

In 1906, after discovering a cure for his own stuttering disability, he was persuaded to establish a school for stutters which he opened at 237 East Center in Provo, Utah (County), Utah. The Bassett School for Stammerers was the only school of its kind in Utah and one of the very few schools in the country. Over the course of time the school was open, Bassett helped a large number of individuals who needed help with stammering and stuttering.



Bassett Newspaper Advertisement

According to Bassett:

"It is a matter of education - teaching people who are given to stammering or stuttering to speak methodically and with accuracy."

In a newspaper article written by the *Ogden Standard* (17 January 1908):

Bassett teaches rhythm in speech and in the early part of the course, he has the student beat time with his hands as he talks. Bassett would guarantee to educate any stammerer that was brought to him, and to teach him to speak properly and without the least impediment in speech.

Bassett was so enthusiastic about his approach to this cure that he would offer to pay the railroad fare and other expenses of the pupil during the time of instruction if he could not accomplish a full remedy for the student. Bassett further states that no matter how badly the person may stutter, there will be no stammering after the first day of instruction and that after a three-week course, the pupil will be able to speak effectively without stammering.



Bassett School for Stammerers - 237 East Center in Provo, Utah

On **15 June 1907**, Sarah Ann Williams requested the bodies of her three children (Mary Margaret Bassett, Sarah Ann Bassett and William Edward Bassett) be exhumed who were buried in the Salt Lake City Cemetery and relocated to the Logan City Cemetery in Logan, Cache, Utah. In the research involved in verifying the re-location, the Salt Lake City Cemetery had no record of exhuming the children and relocating to Logan.

However, the Logan City Cemetery has a record showing the burial in the Logan City Cemetery as Mary Margaret Bassett (A-70-11-1); Sarah Ann Bassett (A-70-11-2), and William Robert (Edward) Bassett (A-70-11-3) adjacent to the graves of Lyman William Bassett, a son (A-70-12-4), Sarah Ann Williams Bassett (A-70-11-5) and Mary Phillips Williams, mother of Sarah Ann Williams (A-70-12-8).



Lyman William William R. (Edward) Mary Margaret Sarah Ann

In addition, there are four tombstones in the locations where the children are purported to be buried. There is only a partial stone for Mary Margaret Bassett and the stone for William Robert (Edward) Bassett is missing with only a cement platform where the stone was placed.

In the Salt Lake City Cemetery, located at 200 "N" Street in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah, the plot locations are listed as: Mary Margaret Bassett (I-8-6-3E); Sarah Ann Bassett (UK3338); and William Robert (Edward) Bassett (I-8-6-3E).

On **16 August 1907**, *Sarah Muzzenta Bassett*, daughter of Royal Clarence Bassett and Jennie Belle Wayman and granddaughter to William Edward Bassett and Sarah Ann Williams, was born in Logan, Cache, Utah.

On **07 July 1909**, *Royal Clarence Bassett Jr.*, son of Royal Clarence Bassett and Jennie Belle Wayman and grandson to William Edward Bassett and Sarah Ann Williams, was born in Logan, Cache, Utah.

On **13 November 1909**, *Margaret Edward*, mother to William Edward Bassett, died at the age of eight-two years old. On **16 November 1909**, Margaret Edward was buried next to her husband in the Rexburg City Cemetery in Rexburg, Madison, Idaho, Plot 16-24.

After the death of his mother, William Edward moved his family to a farm in Sugar City, Idaho.

On **15 April 1910**, the Federal Census of the 6th Ward, Provo, Utah, Utah, shows:

LAST	FIRST	AGE	SEX	BIRTHPLACE	RELATION	PROFESSION
Bassett	William E.	58	M	Wales	Head	Farmer
Bassett	Catherine S.	48	F	Utah	Wife	
Bassett	William E.	22	M	Utah	Son	
Bassett	Kathryn Irene	17	F	Utah	Daughter	
Bassett	Raymond S.	14	M	Utah	Son	
Bassett	Eldon S.	9	M	Utah	Son	
Married 25 years, 4 children, 4 living; living at 237 East Center, Provo, Utah						

On **30 April 1910**, the Federal Census of the 2nd Ward, Logan, Cache, Utah shows:

LAST	FIRST	AGE	SEX	BIRTHPLACE	RELATION	PROFESSION
Bassett	Sarah Ann	56	F	Wales	Head	
Bassett	Charles Windon	26	M	Utah	Son	Operator Depot
Six children, two living						

On **19 July 1911**, *Edward Wellington Bassett*, son of Royal Clarence Bassett and Jennie Belle Wayman and grandson to William Edward Bassett and Sarah Ann Williams, was born in Logan, Cache, Utah.

In 1912, the family of William Edward Bassett moved to Ogden, Weber (County), Utah where William Edward farmed on land in Clearfield, Utah.

In **1913**, they moved to San Francisco where William Edward worked in his stammerers school and Catherine assisted in the development of the San Francisco branch church and served as president of the Relief Society.

On **13 March 1915**, *Florence Norma Pardoe*, daughter of Thomas Earl Pardoe and Kathryn Irene Bassett and granddaughter of William Edward Bassett and Catherine Gurney Smith was born in Ogden, Weber, Utah.

On **06 December 1916**, *William Edward Pardoe*, son of Thomas Earl Pardoe and Kathryn Irene Bassett and grandson of William Edward Bassett and Catherine Gurney Smith was born in Ogden, Weber, Utah.

On **10 January 1917**, *Dee Wayman Bassett*, son of Royal Clarence Bassett and Jennie Belle Wayman and grandson to William Edward Bassett and Sarah Ann Williams, was born in Logan, Cache, Utah.



Jennie Belle Wayman Bassett (wife of Royal Clarence Bassett Sr - son of William Edward Bassett) holding Dee Wayman Bassett, Sarah Muzzenta Bassett, Royal Clarence Bassett Jr., Edward Wellington Bassett,, Warren Pierpont Bassett (grandchildren of William Edward Bassett)

In **May of 1918**, William Edward Bassett and Catherine Gurney Smith moved from San Francisco, California back to Ogden, Utah because of his failing health.

On **23 December 1918**, *Catherine Louise Pardoe*, daughter of Thomas Earl Pardoe and Kathryn Irene Bassett and granddaughter of William Edward Bassett and Catherine Gurney Smith was gowned in Ogden, Weber, Utah.

On **Saturday, 11 January 1919**, at approximately 9:00 P.M., *William Edward Bassett* died at this home in Ogden at the age of 67 years old. At the time of his death, they were living at the Plaza Apartments, 2518 Washington Boulevard in Ogden, Weber (County), Utah where he and Catherine had resided for seven months. Both William Edward and Catherine were members of the 2nd Ward. According to the death certificate (1904805) which was filed on 14 January 1919, his occupation was listed as a teacher. The cause of death is listed as cancer of the bowel. The undertaker was George W. Larkin & Sons, located in Ogden, Utah. He was buried in the Ogden City Cemetery, located at 1875 Monroe Boulevard, Ogden, Weber (County), Utah, Plot 2B-3-35-1E.

On **Sunday, 12 January 1919**, the *Ogden Examiner* published an obituary in the paper at Ogden, Weber (County), Utah. It is interesting to note that when listing his surviving family and descendants - there is absolutely no mention of his legal wife, Sarah Ann Williams or his living children who was born to Sarah Ann Williams - Royal Clarence Bassett and Charles Windon Bassett.

Professor William E. Bassett, father of Mrs. Thomas Earl Pardoe of Ogden, Utah, who has been in Ogden since last May, when he came here for his health, passed away at this home in the Plaza Apartments shortly after 9:00 P.M. last night. The deceased had been a sufferer from a chronic ailment for many months and was urged by Mr. and Mrs. Pardoe to come here (Ogden) with his wife. The couple arrived here from San Francisco last May and took up their home at the Plaza Apartments.

Professor Bassett was known to a number of countries as a teacher of perfect speech to those afflicted with stammering and imperfect speech. Guests at the Plaza Apartments state that he had voluntarily taught at least two people this summer to free themselves from impediments in speech. His reputation spread from San Francisco, his former home, until he became known internationally as a teacher in his special line.

Besides his wife, he leaves a family, sons and his daughter, Kathryn Irene Pardoe; Eldon S. Bassett, a son, formerly with the forest service but now on the Standard staff and recently returned to civil life from the army; Raymond S. Bassett, a son, now in Germany with the army of occupation; William Edward Bassett, a son, a leading man with Ziegfeld's Follies now playing on Broadway in New York. Funeral arrangements will be announced later.

On **04 January 1920**, the Federal Census of Wellsville, Cache, Utah shows:

LAST	FIRST	AGE	SEX	BIRTHPLACE	RELATION	PROFESSION
Bassett	Royal Clarence	41	M	Utah	Head	Agent, Railroad
Bassett	Jennie Belle	38	F	Kentucky	Wife	
Bassett	Sarah Muzzenta	12	F	Utah	Daughter	
Bassett	Royal Clarence Jr.	10	M	Utah	Son	
Bassett	Edward Wellington	8	M	Utah	Son	
Bassett	Warren Pierpont	6	M	Utah	Son	
Bassett	Dee Wayman	2	M	Utah	Son	

On **06 January 1920**, the Federal Census of 6th Ward, Provo, Utah, Utah shows:

LAST	FIRST	AGE	SEX	BIRTHPLACE	RELATION	PROFESSION
Pardoe	T. Earl	34	M	Utah	Head	Teacher-University
Pardoe	Kathryn Irene	27	F	Utah	Wife	
Pardoe	Norman	4	M	Utah	Son	

LAST	FIRST	AGE	SEX	BIRTHPLACE	RELATION	PROFESSION
Pardoe	William Edward	3	F	Utah	Son	
Bassett	Catherine S.	57	F	Utah	Mother	Widow

On **06 January 1920**, the Federal Census of 2nd Ward, Logan, Cache, Utah shows:

LAST	FIRST	AGE	SEX	BIRTHPLACE	RELATION	PROFESSION
Bassett	Sarah Ann	66	F	Wales	Head	
Bassett	Charles Windon	37	M	Utah	Son	Telegraph Operator

On **16 January 1920**, the Federal Census of San Francisco, San Francisco, California shows:

LAST	FIRST	AGE	SEX	BIRTHPLACE	RELATION	PROFESSION
Bassett	Eldon S.	21	M	Utah	Head	Dental Student
Bassett	Ruth	21	F	Utah	Wife	Housewife

On **15 November 1921**, *Thomas Earl Pardoe Jr.*, son of Thomas Earl Pardoe and Kathryn Irene Bassett and grandson of William Edward Bassett and Catherine Gurney Smith was born in Provo, Utah, Utah.

On **17 January 1924**, *Charles John Bassett*, son of Royal Clarence Bassett and Jennie Belle Wayman and grandson to William Edward Bassett and Sarah Ann Williams, was born in Wellsville, Cache, Utah.

On **14 December 1925**, *George Calvin Bassett*, son of Royal Clarence Bassett and Jennie Belle Wayman and grandson to William Edward Bassett and Sarah Ann Williams, was born in Wellsville, Cache, Utah.

On **22 August 1926**, *Thomas Edward Bassett*, son of Thomas Bassett and Margaret Edward and brother to William Edward Bassett died in Rexburg, Madison, Utah and was buried on **25 August 1926** in the Rexburg Cemetery, Rexburg, Madison, Idaho, Plot 5-24.

On **27 February 1927**, *David Weston Pardoe*, son of Thomas Earl Pardoe and Kathryn Irene Bassett, and grandson to William Edward Bassett and Catherine Gurney Smith was born in Provo, Utah, Utah.

On **09 July 1929**, *Margaret Bassett (Muir)*, daughter of Thomas Bassett and Margaret Edward and sister to William Edward Bassett died in Rexburg, Madison, Utah and was buried on **12 July 1929** in the Sugar City Cemetery, Sugar City, Madison, Idaho, Plot 3-24-2.

On **02 December 1929**, *Mary Bassett*, daughter of Thomas Bassett and Margaret Edward and sister to William Edward Bassett died in Rexburg, Madison, Utah and was buried in the Rexburg City Cemetery in Rexburg, Madison, Idaho.

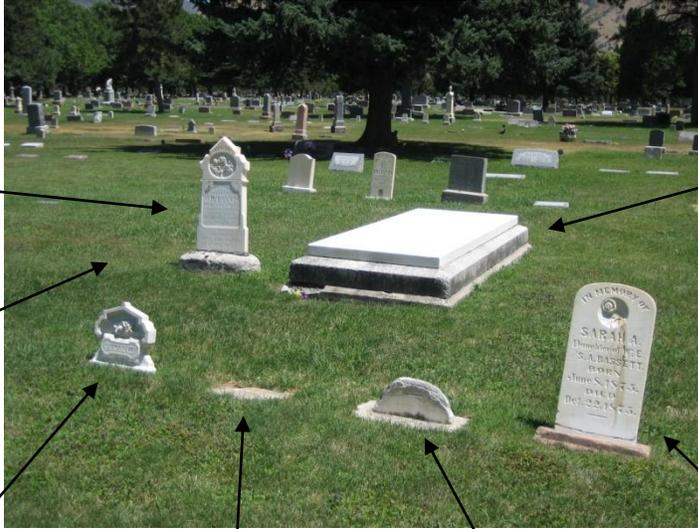
On **09 November 1934**, *Sarah Ann Williams*, at the age of 84 years old, died at the Utah State Hospital in Provo, Utah (County) Utah. At the time of her death, she had been living in Logan, Cache (County), Utah. She was buried in the Logan Cemetery on **11 November 1934** in the family plot (A-70-11-5) with her mother, Mary Phillips Williams and her children, Mary Margaret Bassett, Sarah Ann Bassett, Lyman William Bassett and William Edward Bassett.

According to the death certificate (3404269) filed **04 December 1934**, she was the widow of her husband listed as William Edward Bassett. G.W. Linquist was shown as the undertaker. Cause of death is listed as pneumonia with contributory factors of carcinoma with possible metastasis and senility.



Royal Clarence Bassett Sr.,
(son of William Edward Bassett and Sarah Ann Williams) and Jennie Belle Wayman, his wife.

Mary Phillips Williams
1812 - 1893



Sarah Ann Williams
BASSETT

1850 - 1934
Plot A-70-11-5

Charles Windon Bassett
No Headstone
1883 - 1937

Lyman William Bassett
1882 - 1883
Plot A-70-12-4

Mary Margaret Bassett
1873 - 1876
Plot A-70-11-1

William Robert (Edward) Bassett
1877 - 1878
Plot A-70-11-3

Sarah Ann Bassett
1875 - 1875
Plot A-70-11-2



Mary Phillips Williams (Mother of Sarah Ann Williams)



Sarah Ann Williams Bassett

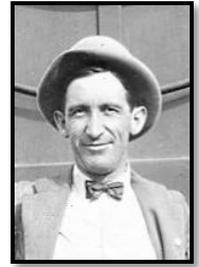


Lyman William Bassett



Sarah Ann Bassett

On **21 January 1937**, at 5:00 A.M., *Charles Windon Bassett*, son of William Edward Bassett and Sarah Ann Williams died at the General Hospital in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake (County), Utah, from acute diarrhea. At the time of his death, he was residing in Logan, Cache (County) Utah. According to the death certificate filed on 23 January 1937 (3701320), he was 53 ½ years old at the time of death. His occupation was listed as a telegraph operator with the railroad. Neil O'Donnell was listed as the undertaker. Charles Windon Bassett was buried on **23 January 1935** in an unmarked grave at the Logan City Cemetery (Plot A-70-11-6) in the family plot next to his mother and siblings.



**Charles Windon
Bassett**

For over twenty years, and after the death of William Edward Bassett, Catherine Gurney Smith had been living in Provo, Utah (County) Utah. At the time of her death, she was residing with her daughter, Kathryn Irene Bassett, the wife of Thomas Earl Pardoe at 160 South 100 East in Provo, Utah (County), Utah.

On **24 November 1939**, *Sarah Jane Bassett (Baker)*, daughter of Thomas Bassett and Margaret Edward and sister to William Edward Bassett died in Teton, Fremont, Idaho and was buried in the Teton-Newdale Cemetery, Teton, Fremont, Idaho, Plot A62.

On **Saturday, 13 May 1939**, *David Weston Pardoe*, twelve-year old son of Thomas Earl Pardoe and Kathryn Irene Bassett, and grandson to William Edward Bassett and Catherine Gurney Smith was killed in a hiking accident by a falling rock in Slate Canyon in Provo, Utah, Utah. He was buried on Tuesday, **16 May 1939** in the Ogden City Cemetery, Ogden, Weber, Utah.

On **Friday, 25 August 1939**, *Catherine Gurney Smith* died at the age of 78 years old at the home of her daughter with causes incident to age. According to the death certificate (3904057), Catherine died of general cachexia, a profound disorder with general ill health, malnutrition and severe weight loss occurring from a chronic disease.

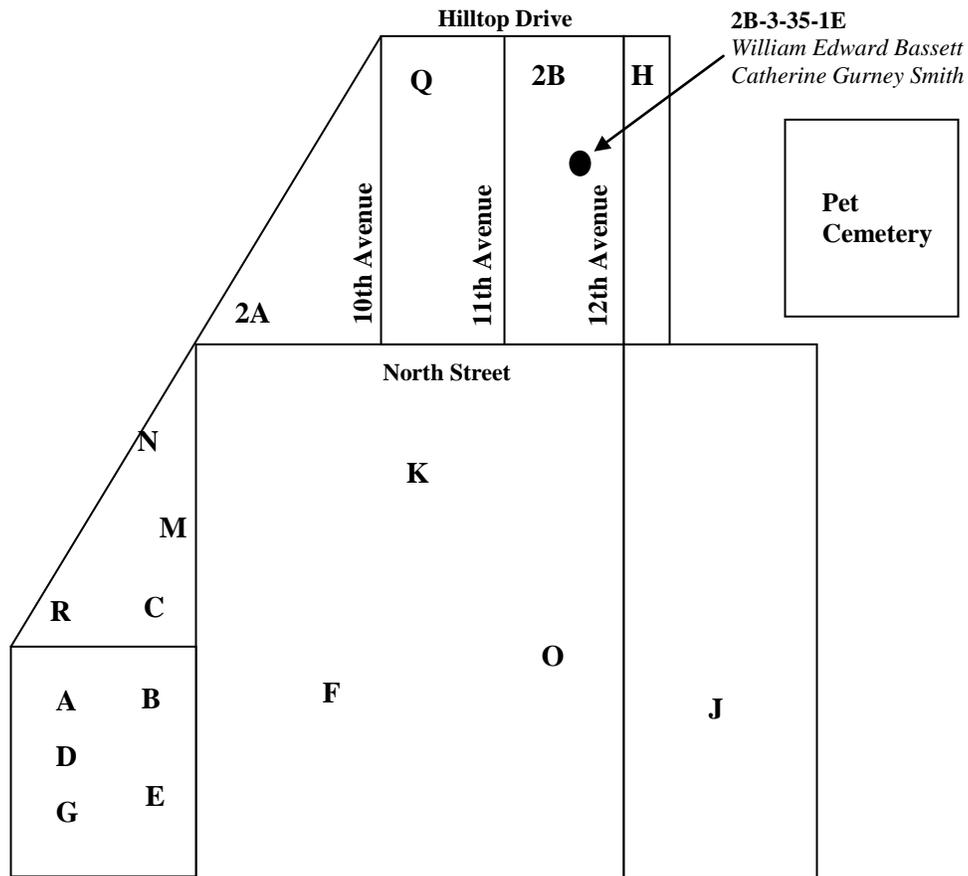


Catherine Gurney Smith

At the time of her death, she was survived by a daughter and three sons, Kathryn Irene Bassett (Thomas Earl Pardoe) of Provo, Utah; William Edward Bassett Jr. of New York; Dr. Raymond S. Bassett of Hayward, California; Dr. Eldon S. Bassett of Long Beach, California; seven grandchildren, one great-grandchild and six sisters, Mrs. Lucy (Smith) Cardon, Mrs. Emma (Smith) Ballif, Alice, Florence, Margaret Drucilla and Hattie Smith, all of Logan, Utah.

The death notice appeared in the *Ogden Standard Examiner* on 26 August 1939. John Beck, the funeral director at the Berg Mortuary arranged funeral services that were conducted on Sunday, 27 August 1939 at 1:00 P.M. in the Provo LDS First Ward Chapel by Bishop W. P. Whitehead. She was buried in the Ogden City Cemetery, Plot 2B-3-35-1E, in Ogden, Weber, Utah, next to William Edward Bassett.

OGDEN CITY CEMETERY
 1875 Monroe Boulevard – Ogden, Weber, Utah



Headstone for William Edward Bassett



Headstone for Catherine Gurney Smith

On **17 May 1943**, *Warren Pierpont Bassett*, son of Royal Clarence Bassett Sr. and Jennie Belle Wayman and grandson to William Edward Bassett and Sarah Ann Williams died in Long Beach, Los Angeles, California while serving in World War II. While at the military base, he was hit by a car driven by some drunken soldiers and was killed. His body was shipped to Cache Valley where he was buried in the Wellsville City Cemetery, Wellsville, Cache, Utah, Plot A-29-9-2.

On **19 November 1950**, *Sarah Muzzenta Bassett*, daughter of Royal Clarence Bassett and Jennie Belle Wayman and granddaughter to William Edward Bassett and Sarah Ann Williams, died in Logan, Cache, Utah and was buried on **22 November 1950** in the Logan City Cemetery, Logan, Cache, Utah, Plot A-325-3-5.

On **30 December 1951**, *Rebecca Bassett* (Hughes), daughter of Thomas Bassett and Margaret Edward and sister to William Edward Bassett, died in Mendon, Cache, Utah and was buried on **03 January 1952** in the Mendon City Cemetery, Mendon, Cache, Utah, Plot 093.

On **16 April 1952**, *Royal Clarence Bassett Sr.*, the eldest son of William Edward Bassett and Sarah Ann Williams died in Pueblo, Pueblo, Colorado and was buried on **21 April 1952** in the Wellsville City Cemetery, Wellsville, Cache, Utah, Plot A-29-9-1.

On **14 August 1958**, *Jennie Belle Wayman*, daughter of Edward Shuck Taylor Wayman and Sarah Ann Raikes, former wife of Royal Clarence Bassett Sr., and daughter-in-law to William Edward Bassett and Sarah Ann Williams died in Logan, Cache, Utah and was buried on **16 August 1958** in the Logan City Cemetery, Logan, Cache, Utah, Plot A-320-4-6.

On **02 March 1974**, *Royal Clarence Bassett Jr.*, son of Royal Clarence Bassett Sr. and Jennie Belle Wayman and grandson to William Edward Bassett and Sarah Ann Williams, died in Wellsville, Cache, Utah and was buried on **05 March 1974** in the Wellsville City Cemetery, Wellsville, Cache, Utah, Plot A-29-10-1.

On **30 December 1974**, *Eldon S. Smith*, son of William Edward Bassett and Catherine Gurney Smith died.

On **05 January 1977**, *Raymond S. Bassett*, son of William Edward Bassett and Catherine Gurney Smith died.

On **16 December 1977**, *William S. Bassett*, son of William Edward Bassett and Catherine Gurney Smith died.

On **10 February 1978**, *William Edward Pardoe*, son of Thomas Earl Pardoe and Kathryn Irene Bassett and grandson of William Edward Bassett and Catherine Gurney Smith died.

On **25 February 1978**, *Edward Wellington Bassett*, son of Royal Clarence Bassett Sr. and Jennie Belle Wayman and grandson of William Edward Bassett and Sarah Ann Williams died and was buried on **28 February 1978** in the Wellsville City Cemetery, Wellsville, Cache, Utah, Plot A-12A-5-1.

On **18 November 2001**, *Thomas Earl Pardoe Jr.*, son of Thomas Earl Pardoe and Kathryn Irene Bassett and grandson of William Edward Bassett and Catherine Gurney Smith died.

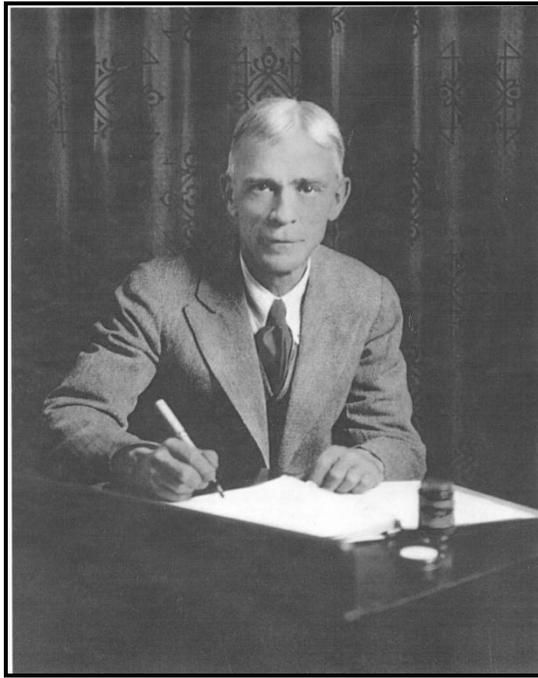
On **22 September 2003**, *Florence Norma Pardoe*, daughter of Thomas Earl Pardoe and Kathryn Irene Bassett and granddaughter of William Edward Bassett and Catherine Gurney Smith died.

On **27 May 2007**, *Catherine Louise Pardoe*, daughter of Thomas Earl Pardoe and Kathryn Irene Bassett and granddaughter to William Edward Bassett and Catherine Gurney Smith died in Bountiful, Davis, Utah and was buried on **02 June 2007** in the Salt Lake City Cemetery, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah.

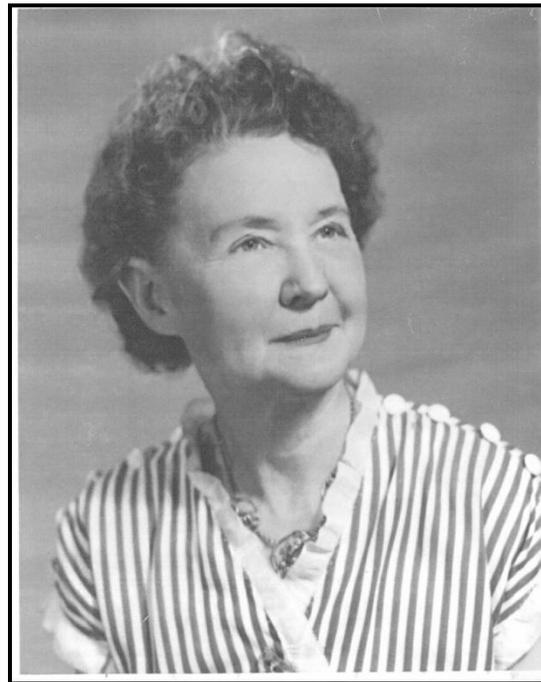
On **19 August 2010**, *Dee Wayman Bassett*, son of Royal Clarence Bassett and Jennie Belle Wayman and grandson to William Edward Bassett and Sarah Ann Williams died in Logan, Cache, Utah, and was buried on **23 August 2010** in the Wellsville City Cemetery, Wellsville, Cache, Utah, Plot A-12A-3-1.

On **27 December 2010**, *Charles John Bassett*, son of Royal Clarence Bassett Sr. and Jennie Belle Waymen and grandson of William Edward Bassett and Sarah Ann Williams died in Providence, Cache, Utah and was buried on **29 December 2010** in the Logan City Cemetery, Logan, Cache, Utah, Plot A-280-41-3.

On **10 October 2008**, *George Calvin Bassett*, son of Royal Clarence Bassett Sr. and Jennie Belle Wayman and grandson to William Edward Bassett and Sarah Ann Williams died in Logan, Cache, Utah and was buried on **14 October 2008** in the Hyrum City Cemetery, Hyrum, Cache, Utah, Plot S-35-7.



Royal Clarence Bassett Sr.
05 December 1878 - 16 April 1952



Jennie Belle Wayman
08 May 1882 - 14 August 1958



Sarah Muzzenta Bassett
16 August 1907 - 19 November 1950



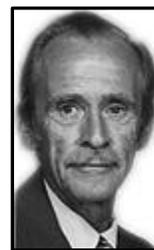
Royal Clarence Bassett Jr.
07 July 1909 - 02 March 1974



Edward Wellington Bassett
19 July 1911 - 25 February 1978



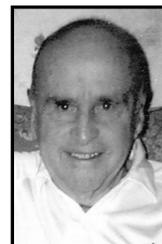
Warren Pierpont Bassett
16 June 1913 - 17 May 1943



Dee Wayman Bassett
10 January 1917 - 19 August 2010



Charles John Bassett
17 January 1924 - 27 December 2010



George Calvin Bassett
14 December 1925 - 10 October 2008

WILLIAM EDWARD BASSETT - SARAH ANN WILLIAMS

ROYAL CLARENCE BASSETT SR. - JENNIE BELLE WAYMAN

SON							
Grand Children	Sarah Muzzenta Bassett*	Royal Clarence Bassett Jr.*	Edward Wellington Bassett*	Warren Pierpont Bassett*	Dee Wayman Bassett*	Charles John Bassett*	George Calvin Bassett*
<p align="center">Great Grand Children 23</p>	<p align="center">Beverly Louise Joy Gary Clyde Joy</p>	<p>Afton Shonie Bassett Betty Sharon Bassett Della Mae Bassett* James Royal Bassett Jarvis Calvin Bassett Joyce DeLaun Bassett* Warren Clarence Bassett William Edward Bassett</p>	<p>Carol Sue Bassett Dee Clayton Bassett* Edward Norman Bassett*</p>		<p>Becky Deane Bassett* Betty Diane Bassett Mark Dee Bassett Terry Bruce Bassett</p>	<p>Brent Steven Bassett Burt Roger Bassett Douglas Jack Bassett</p>	<p>Craig Bassett Stanley C. Bassett Teresa Bassett</p>
<p align="center">Great Great Grand Children 63</p>	<p>Brian Gary Joy Helen Muzzenta Joy Robert Clyde Joy Sherry Lyn Joy</p>	<p>Amanda Afton Bassett Bonnie Joy Bassett Brandee Ann Harris Brandon Eric Bassett Brian James Bassett Colton Yoshio Bassett David Royal Strebel Deborah Joyce Strebel Jeffrey Strebel* Jennifer Ann Bassett Kelly Harris Kenneth Dean Brumblay Matt Edward Bassett Michael William Bassett Nicholas Steven Bassett Patti Christine Bassett Peggy Ann Bassett Robert Drege Harris Robert Paul Strebel Jr. Ronald Frank Brumblay Scott Dean Bassett Shay Lyn Bassett Susan Joann Bassett* Tony Warren Bassett Vicki Sharon Brumblay</p>	<p>Norman Blake Bassett Robert Kelly Bassett Shannon Dee Bassett Vicky Lynn Bassett Wende Bassett* Zane Ray Bassett Susan Stauffer Lesa Stauffer Michael James Stauffer Scott G Stauffer</p>		<p>Brendon Drew Bassett Cody Layne Bassett Craig Riley Olsen Eric Dee Bassett Mark Damon Bassett Matthew Anthony Bassett Matthew Zane Bassett* Tauna Dee Christensen</p>	<p>Brad Daniel Bassett Chad Ray Bassett Chuck Wayne Bassett Cristy Bassett Jenny Sue Bassett Jessica Bassett Jordan Douglas Bassett Justin Paul Bassett Maxum Keller Bassett Roxanne Marie Bassett Scott Tyler Bassett Steven Michael Bassett Tamara Ann Bassett Tenille Lois Bassett</p>	<p>Amber Lynn Bassett Cody Calvin Bassett</p>

WILLIAM EDWARD BASSETT - SARAH ANN WILLIAMS

ROYAL CLARENCE BASSETT SR. - JENNIE BELLE WAYMAN

SON							
Grand Children	Sarah Muzzenta Bassett*	Royal Clarence Bassett Jr.*	Edward Wellington Bassett*	Warren Pierpont Bassett*	Dee Wayman Bassett*	Charles John Bassett*	George Calvin Bassett*
<p>Great Great Great Grand Children</p> <p align="center">109</p>	<p>Dennis Gary Joy Jeffery Robert Joy Kira Nadine Joy Meg Helen Stoker Samuel David Stoker</p>	<p>Ainsley Skillern Alexey Quinn Nelson Ashton Bassett Austin Brumblay Austin David Royal Strebel Austin Ray Bassett Blake Scott Bassett Gracie Anzhela Nelson Braxton Dennis Morse Brevin Henrie Bassett Brittany Jade Harris Brock Johnny Harris Brody Robert Harris Casey Richard Chugg Chloe Bassett Clinton Val Chugg Codi Christine Balls Cordell Charles R. Bassett Darci Lynn Balls Derrick Bradley Dow Drew Bassett Dylan Dow Ellie Bassett Jake Michael Bassett Jesse Beau Bassett Joshua F. Brumblay Joslyn Bassett Keith Brumblay Kourtney Brooke Facer Luke Kimball Facer Marshall Edward Sharp Matt Edward Bassett Jr. Michael Stewart Nelson Jr.* Mickinly Bassett Micky Blake Sharp Natalie Strebel Nate Bret Anglesey Nicholas Brumblay Niki Strebel</p>	<p>Aleah Nickel Olson Alex G. Lynn Stauffer Alexis Victoria Olson Alyssa Caralese Olson Andrea Dian Crowther Anthony Blake Bassett Ashlie Nicole Smith Ashtin Michael Stauffer Brandon Gene Yeates* Breanne Carol Stauffer Bret Luther Yeates* Carson N. Miller Dee Cody Bassett* Heidi Joyce Miller Jessica Ann Stauffer Jocelyn Nicole Stauffer Joshua Van Miller Kaden Casey Smith* Katie Rane Bassett Levi Edward Bassett Lydia Grace Crowther Marshall Norman Bassett Nicholas Scott Stauffer RanDee Sue Bassett Rian Brent Yeates* Rylan Michael Stauffer Taylor Michael Stauffer Timothy Michael Stauffer Tyson Kenneth Smith Zachary Zane Bassett</p>		<p>Becky Joana Brown Carter Dee Bassett Eric Dee Bassett Jr. Jackson Bassett Kaya Dee Brown Kira Suzanne Bassett Seth Bassett</p>	<p>Andrew Brady Bassett* Brayden Steven Bassett Colette Lois Bassett Hannah Paige Bassett Jack Kelvin Lindeman Jaron Ty Bassett Kalen Casey Carter Kyle Garrett Carter Lauren Taylor Bassett Samantha Joy Corbridge Trent Robert Corbridge Trevor James Carter</p>	

WILLIAM EDWARD BASSETT - SARAH ANN WILLIAMS

ROYAL CLARENCE BASSETT SR. - JENNIE BELLE WAYMAN

SON							
Grand Children	Sarah Muzzenta Bassett*	Royal Clarence Bassett Jr.*	Edward Wellington Bassett*	Warren Pierpont Bassett*	Dee Wayman Bassett*	Charles John Bassett*	George Calvin Bassett*
		<p> Payton Skillern Robert Paul Strebel III Ryan Jet Anglesey Ryan Tony Bassett Sacha Strebel Saxton Argyle Bassett Shannon Brichtle Joy Nelson Sharlee Anne Strebel Shayla Brumblay Sydnie Michelle Morse Tanaya Joy Chugg Tessa Aleen Bassett Trevor Dylan Facer Tyson Kurt Facer Wesley Skillern Zachary Tyler Bassett </p>					

WILLIAM EDWARD BASSETT - SARAH ANN WILLIAMS

ROYAL CLARENCE BASSETT SR. - JENNIE BELLE WAYMAN

SON	ROYAL CLARENCE BASSETT SR. - JENNIE BELLE WAYMAN						
Grand Children	Sarah Muzzenta Bassett*	Royal Clarence Bassett Jr.*	Edward Wellington Bassett*	Warren Pierpont Bassett*	Dee Wayman Bassett*	Charles John Bassett*	George Calvin Bassett*
Great Great Great Great Grand Children 28		Aaron Wade Thompson Alex Christine Thompson Andrew Cooper Bassett Axl Trevor Facer Bailey Jade Sharp Berkley Ann Sharp Cache Gregory Despain Carly Farr Strebel Cooper Rae Sharp Emerson Robert Strebel Emmie Cate Bassett Evan Emerson Winger Grace Rose Bassett Isabelle Ilene Sharp Jaxon Marshall Sharp Jonathan Robert Strebel Lacey Mae Facer Mason Jake Bassett Mykelle Anne Winger Shaylee Elizabeth Bassett Taygyn Dustin Moore Taylor Dean Sharp	Cecilee Visna Ouk Jaiden Doyal Simonson Kayden Cody Bassett Kobi Ty Bassett Korbyn Blake Bassett Macee Mae Bassett*				
223	11	110	49	0	19	29	5

The legacy of William Edward Bassett and Sarah Ann Williams includes 238 descendants, including 8 children (Mary Margaret, Sarah Ann, William Robert (Edward), Royal Clarence Sr., Lyman William and Charles Windon Bassett plus the twins that Sarah Ann lost during the divorce proceedings); 7 grandchildren (Sarah Muzzenta, Royal Clarence Jr. Edward Wellington, Warren Pierpont, Dee Wayman, Charles John and George Calvin Bassett); and the 23 great grandchildren, 63 great great grandchild,ren 109 great great great grandchildren and 28 great great great great grandchild listed in the above table.

Compiled By: Teresa Bassett, a proud great granddaughter of Sarah Ann Williams