

Mary Harvey Pierce

From the original Sexton Records:

Name: Mary H. Pearce

Age: 25y; 3m; 17d

Daughter of Robert & Hannah Pearce

Deceased: Mar. 16, 1847

Disease: Consumption

Birth Place: Chester Co., Pencilveny

Birth Date: Nov. 29, 1821

No. of Grave: 103

Birth Date: Nov. 29, 1821

Death Date: Mar. 16, 1847

Cause of Death: Consumption

Burial Place: Winter Quarters grave #103

Spouse's Name: Brigham Young

Father's Name: Robert Pierce

Mother's Maiden Name: Hannah Harvey

Which Winter Quarters Ward or Iowa Branch was the family: unknown

Where was the family in the 1850 U. S. Census? Great Salt Lake county, house #5 (Robert, Hannah, Thomas, William, Edith)

Which Pioneer wagon train took the family west? Jedediah M. Grant – Joseph Noble Company, left Elkhorn River June 19, 1847 and arrived Oct. 2, 1847.

Any interesting facts or stories that might have been submitted.

-Mary was the oldest child of Robert and Hannah. She had the following younger siblings: Margaret, Anna Eliza, Eli Harvey, Thomas, Joseph, William, Edith Evalina, Elizabeth. Anna, Joseph, and Elizabeth also died before the family reached Utah. (Family Group Record, updated May 19, 2004, submitted by Earl Harvey Peirce, emailed file).

-Hannah, Mary's mother, was raised a Quaker and her daughter remembers her as well educated, a talented writer, and spiritual. Robert, her father, was a prosperous farmer in Pennsylvania before joining the church. (Margaret Pierce Whitesides Young, Excerpts taken from her Journal, emailed file, p.1).

-When Margaret, Mary's next sibling, was young she was sick for many months with fever and heart trouble. One evening, two Latter-Day Saint missionaries knocked on the door and said that the spirit had directed them to the Peirce home. They asked if anyone was sick there. Margaret's mother invited them in and took them to Margaret. One held Margaret's hand and told her mother, "If she will obey the gospel of Jesus Christ and put her trust in Him, who is able to save, she will be healed from this very moment. Margaret was healed, and the missionaries left soon after. The doctor was surprised to find her recovered and attributed it to some medicine he had left. Hannah, Margaret's mother, told the doctor that Margaret never took the medicine but that she had put her faith in God. At that the doctor asked if the Mormons had been there. Several years later missionaries once again visited the Peirce household and the family joined the church in January through April of 1840 after hearing the Prophet Joseph Smith preach in their home. (Margaret Pierce Whitesides Young, Excerpts taken from her Journal, emailed file, p.1).

-The family stayed with Joseph and Emma Smith when they moved to Nauvoo in 1843. While there they received their patriarchal blessings from Hyrum Smith. (Margaret Pierce Whitesides Young, Excerpts taken from her Journal, emailed file, p.3).

-On Jan. 22, 1846 Mary and Margaret both married Brigham Young. (Margaret Pierce Whitesides Young, Excerpts taken from her Journal, emailed file, p.3; Family Group Record 368, emailed file).

-Margaret traveled to Utah with Eliza R. Snow, also a wife to Brigham Young. Eliza took Mary's spot in the carriage when she passed away at Winter Quarters. The two became very close and Eliza wrote a short poem for Margaret. (Margaret Pierce Whitesides Young, Excerpts taken from her Journal, emailed file, pp.3-4).

-Once settled in Utah with Brigham Young and his other wives, Margaret was asked by Brigham to feed and do the housekeeping for the workers building the grist mill. She was likely asked because she had no children. Brigham got her settled in the Canyon but realized it was too much work for one person. He asked Margaret which of his wives she wanted to have help her. She told him that he could choose any of the wives. He ended up sending two to help her. Margaret also in charge of housekeeping for the Liberty Park mill. (Margaret Pierce Whitesides Young, Excerpts taken from her Journal, emailed file, pp 4-5).

-Lucy Decker, another of Brigham Young's wives, told Margaret that if she died she wanted Margaret to raise her children. Lucy did not die prematurely but Margaret did help care for her children frequently. Margaret did eventually have one child, Brigham Morris Young. (Margaret Pierce Whitesides Young, Excerpts taken from her Journal, emailed file, p.5).

-Margaret spent much of her time caring for the sick, doing genealogical research, and supporting the Equal Suffrage movement. (Margaret Pierce Whitesides Young, Excerpts taken from her Journal, emailed file, p.6).

-Robert engaged in the practice of polygamy and in addition to Hannah married Fanny Greely, Susannah Baird, and Emma Zundel. (Geni, <https://www.geni.com/people/Robert-Peirce/6000000006598896097>).

-Eli Harvey, Mary's brother, traveled to California to obtain seed grain for the saints after arriving in Utah. He lived through Indian hostilities in Brigham City with his new wife and in 1855 was ordained the bishop there. Two years later he was called on a mission to Europe and crossed the plains with a handcart. One year later, at age 31, he returned to Utah and died of a sickness he caught on his mission. He had four children. (Geni, <https://www.geni.com/people/Eli-Peirce/6000000002603523303>).