

Willard Glover McMullin

Willard Glover McMullin was born 21 February 1823 in Vinalhaven, Knox, Maine.¹ He is the youngest of nine children of Archibald McMullin and the youngest of two children of Abigail Shirley Currie. Willard was well educated and trained to be a sea captain. However, he was converted to the Mormon Church by Wilford Woodruff in 1841. He went on his first mission that year; returned and married Mary C Richards in 1842.² They had two children who died young. He and Mary and her sister travelled west to Nauvoo (where he worked on the temple³) and then to Winter Quarters.⁴

Mary died in 1846 and Willard married his sister-in-law Martha Richards about 1847 in Iowa. They had five children. Willard and Martha crossed the plains to the Great Salt Lake Valley, arriving in September 1848.⁵ He married Sarah Stubbs in 1849 but she died a year later. On the 1850 census, Willard was a mason, living with his wife and four children.⁶ He served a mission to England from 1853-1855⁷ and met Mary Ann Holmes, his fourth wife, on the ship during his return. They had eight children. The family moved to Payson, Utah, Utah Territory, where Willard was a school teacher.⁸ There are many family stories of Willard, but this paper will mainly focus on his time in southern Utah.

In 1862, Willard was called to help colonize southern Utah and the families moved to Harrisburg as part of the cotton mission. He built two large stone houses, two stories and with large paved flagstone quadrangles in front. He made sure they were bordered by a park. He also built a large stone milk house perched over a ditch of running water.⁹ A portion of the south wall of his home in Harrisburg could be seen for decades from the freeway as drivers made their way through the dip between the Hurricane and Leeds exits.¹⁰

One of his sons, Oscar, attended school at Silver Reef, Washington, Utah Territory.¹¹ (Oscar was also involved in the renewed attention to mining in Silver Reef in 1915, developing the River Mine and testing tailing dumps owned by his brother Brigham Young McMullin).¹² Willard taught his sons Brigham and Ira the mason's trade; his third son became a blacksmith.¹³ Several homes in Harrisburg were built by the McMullins, probably including the Orson B Adams home.¹⁴ Willard worked on the St George temple for a year,¹⁵ built the tithing office,¹⁶ and helped build homes in Leeds. It was said that the McMullins practically built Silver Reef single handed.¹⁷

¹ Membership of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1830-1848; Utah Cemetery Inventory, 1847-2000.

² Maine Marriages, 1771-1907.

³ Obituary at *Familysearch.org*

⁴ History of Willard Glover McMullin, by great granddaughter Etta McMullin Mariger.

⁵ Utah Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel Database, 1847-1868.

⁶ United States Census, 1850.

⁷ Obituary at *Familysearch.org*

⁸ History of Willard Glover McMullin, by great granddaughter Etta McMullin Mariger; *The Daily Herald*, 3 March 1977, p. 27.

⁹ History of Willard Glover McMullin, by great granddaughter Etta McMullin Mariger; Willard Glover McMullin, by Margaret Ramona McMullin, at *Familysearch.org*

¹⁰ *The Daily Spectrum*, 31 December 2015, p. C7.

¹¹ *Salt Lake Tribune*, 26 December 1949, p. 3.

¹² *Iron County Record*, 8 January 1915, p. 1.

¹³ History of Willard Glover McMullin, by great granddaughter Etta McMullin Mariger.

¹⁴ *The Daily Spectrum*, 31 December 2015, p. C7.

¹⁵ Obituary at *Familysearch.org*

¹⁶ *The Daily Spectrum*, 18 January 2015, p. D1.

¹⁷ Willard Glover McMullin, by Margaret Ramona McMullin, at *Familysearch.org*

He took his older sons out to Pioche where they had a wood-cutting contract, and he did mason work as well. He went where the work was, to support his families, and help in the purchase of building materials and home furnishings. Several have said that Willard and his sons worked on the Wells Fargo Building. The younger boys worked at mining, teaming and as cowboys, along with farm work. Two stone rooms were later made a part of the fine cement block home of Harriet and Thomas Sterling, who had purchased the Ashby property. Willard also helped Brigham Young McMullin to build his home.¹⁸ Martha died in 1867.¹⁹ On the 1870 census, Willard was a stone mason, living with his wife Mary Ann and nine children in Harrisburg.²⁰

In 1877, Wilford Woodruff wrote in his journal of an accident: Willard and his family were driving home from the St George Temple and another team tried to pass and ran his horses ran off the dugway. There were four women in his wagon besides Willard, and all rolled down the dugway. A large rock rolled on top of Mary Jane Liston and killed her. Willard broke his shoulder and his daughter was badly hurt.²¹ On the 1880 census, Willard was a stone mason, living with his wife Mary Ann and nine children in Harrisburg. Three of the sons are listed as stone masons.

In 1881, during the miner's strike in Silver Reef, an "old gentleman named McMullin was doing a job of stone-masonry" when he was advised by an officer of the union to "vacate the town double quick". It was supposed that several men (including the grocer James C Liddle) had been accused of "talking as they pleased about the price of labor and miners' unions".²² Willard died 17 October 1884 in Harrisburg, Washington, Utah Territory.²³ He had just recovered from an attack of inflammatory rheumatism.²⁴ After a hearty supper of freshly caught fish, he began vomiting and hemorrhaging from the mouth and died before his neighbor William Leany could get to him.²⁵ He was buried in the Harrisburg Cemetery.²⁶ Mary Ann lived in Harrisburg several years and then moved to Leeds, where she died in 1895. She was buried in the Harrisburg Cemetery.²⁷

¹⁸ History of Willard Glover McMullin, by great granddaughter Etta McMullin Mariger.

¹⁹ Utah Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel Database, 1847-1868.

²⁰ United States Census, 1870.

²¹ The Accident, at *Familysearch.org*

²² *Salt Lake Herald*, 6 March 1881, p. 3.

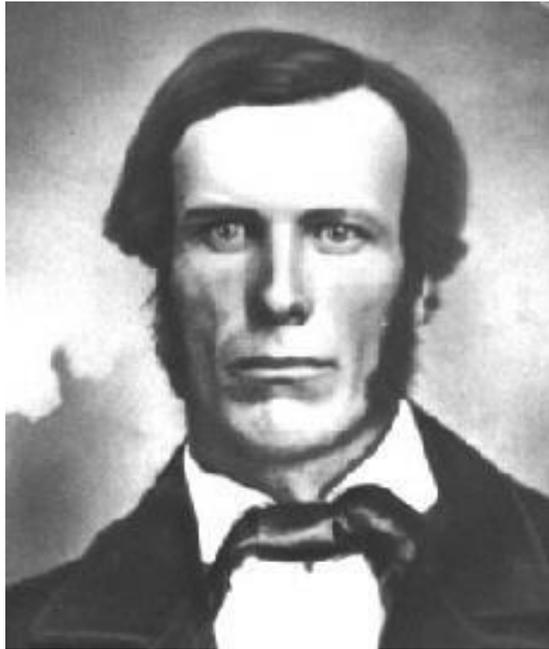
²³ Membership of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1830-1848.

²⁴ Obituary at *Familysearch.org*

²⁵ Some McMullin History, by his great granddaughter Etta McMullin Mariger; Willard Glover McMullin, by Margaret Ramona McMullin.

²⁶ Utah Cemetery Inventory, 1847-2000.

²⁷ Ibid.



Willard Glover McMullin (image from *Findagrave.com*)



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