

## RICHARD PAY

Born: 21 August 1821 Dover, Kent, England

Age: 34

Hunt Wagon Company



Richard Pay  
1845



Richard and Mary  
Goble Pay

As a boy, Richard trained as a shoe cobbler in his father's shop. This skill became very useful to him when he would later pioneer in the area of Nephi, Utah. Richard married Eliza Hurst Gibbons in 1845. They joined the Church together in February 1849. They were baptized by Elder Thomas Caffall. Richard was soon ordained to the Priesthood and went out in the surrounding areas of England to serve as a missionary and teacher of the Gospel. Eliza died, childless, about a year later in 1850.

Richard remained a widower for four years and then married his first cousin, Sarah Pay, the daughter of William and Mary Pay. She had been baptized a member of the Church in 1850 by Elder Thremburg. Sarah and Richard's first baby, a boy, died at birth in 1855. By 1856, Richard and Sarah were expecting another baby and had made plans to emigrate to Utah. They sailed from Liverpool on the ship *Horizon* in May 1856. Most of the Saints aboard this ship would continue from the campground at Iowa City to Utah with the Martin handcart company. Richard and Sarah joined the Hunt wagon company which followed directly behind the Martin company.

A precious little daughter was born at Iowa City during the last two weeks there as the Pays helped build handcarts, sew tents, and make their final preparations for their 1,300-mile trip. They named her Marinda Nancy Pay. She only lived until October 4, when the Hunt Company was near Chimney Rock, Nebraska. Richard's friend, William Goble, assisted Richard with the burial in his hour of bereavement and grief. William's daughter, Mary Goble, wrote: "Brother Pay could not get anyone to dig the grave so he started digging it himself when my father came and helped him." Mary records that one month later, Richard Pay would return the sad favor: "When my little sister [Edith] died ... Brother Pay helped my father when she was buried by the roadside."

On the day that Marinda died, the daytime weather was still reported as "hot." On that same day Brigham Young was receiving a report in Salt Lake City from returning mission President Franklin D. Richards, regarding the immigrants still on the trail. He and other missionaries had passed them in light carriages the month before. Assessments were made as to the resupply needs of the companies and it was hoped the immigrants were not too far away. The next day Brigham Young would make an urgent public plea for men to leave immediately with assistance for these companies. Among other things, he said:

I feel disposed, brothers and sisters, to be as speedy as possible with regard to helping our brethren who are now on the plains. Consequently, I shall call upon the people forthwith for the help that is needed. I want them to give their names this morning, if they are ready to start on their journey tomorrow. Don't say, "I will go next week, or in ten days, or in a fortnight hence," for I wish you to start tomorrow morning.

The first rescue party left Salt Lake City October 7, as the Pays moved westward from their baby's lonely grave on the prairie. The daytime weather continued quite warm for the next two weeks as the companies passed Fort Laramie and came to their last crossing of the North Platte River. On this dreadful day, October 19, the first winter storms began. Members of the Hunt company assisted the Martin company handcart pioneers at the crossing, carrying many on their backs. One handcart pioneer, Jonathan Stone, did not wish to cross the icy river and returned to a toll bridge, about 5 miles back. He ignored the pleadings of others to hurry, but it was already after dark and, being alone, he was attacked by wolves. Richard Pay was one of several who found part of his remains the next morning, as recorded later by Mary Goble Pay:

[Richard] was driving cattle ... and some of them ran in the brush. He went after them and he saw a man's vest, part of a leg and an arm. The vest had a watch in the pocket. He came to camp and notified Captain Hunt and Gilbert Spence. They got on their horses and went with him to the place. It looked like a man had sat down to rest and had gone to sleep and had been killed and eaten by wolves. His name was Brother Stone. He must have been making for our camp [Hunt], as he had a sister and her daughter living there that he used to stay with very often. [Richard] gave the watch to his sister, Jane. She later moved to Spanish Fork. Her daughter's name was Anna. She married Bishop Wells of Spanish Fork. [Mary is speaking of Jane Thorne who did have a brother in the Martin company. His name was James Thorne. He was traveling with Jonathan Stone. James Thorne also died during the trek.]

Richard had one more lonely grave to dig. The Hunt company journal recorded: "Wednesday, Nov. 26. The company arrived at Green River. Thursday, Nov. 27. Sarah Pay, aged 30 years, died of diarrhea." Sarah was so close to her goal in Zion, but it was not to be. Richard arrived in the Valley on December 13, having buried his dreams on the trail. He spent the rest of the winter in American Fork. Richard briefly recorded: "[Sarah] was born 13th of January, 1826, Buckland, Dover. She was baptized in the church at Dover, 1850, by Elder Theubury. Two children were born to her. One boy and one girl. Boy born dead, girl was born July 10th, 1856. My wife, Sarah, died the 27th of November, 1856, at Green River on her way to Zion, age 30 years, 10 months." [Richard did not record the death of his baby girl in his autobiography.]

Richard left American Fork in the spring of 1857 with all he owned tied up in a handkerchief and walked to Nephi. He found work and lodging with Bishop Jacob G. Bigler and his family for two years. In Nephi, Richard also became reacquainted with Mary Goble, whom he had first met at the docks in Liverpool, but whose life and experiences were now well-intertwined with his own. Although Mary was 22 years younger than Richard, they fell in love, married and had thirteen children. The youngest of the children was Phillip LeRoy Pay. He married Georgia Paxman, whose parents had also been on the ship *Horizon* with his parents in 1856. Their daughter, Marjorie, would grow up to become a beloved woman around the world. She was married to LDS Church President and Prophet, Gordon B. Hinckley.

Richard and Mary had many interesting, humorous, and precarious experiences in their family. A few excerpts from Mary's autobiography are included here:

It was very hard times. My husband bought a one room adobe house. For the window we had sack. Glass we could not get, so we greased some paper and put over the sack. That did all right until one day it rained and that spoiled our glass. ... My husband made adobies and sold them for eight sheep. I would take the wool, wash it, spin and dye it with weeds and leaves. I learned to spin and knit so I could knit our stockings, mitts and ties. My husband made our shoes. ... One might wonder what my husband used to fix his shoes with. He had to work to make everything himself. There was a tannery where he would buy the leather, paying for it in trading wheat, corn or potatoes. For the pegs he would get maple and saw it in different sizes, cutting them with his knife. For the wax, he would boil tar and put grease in it. For the shoe thread, some of the sisters would spin the cotton and grease it with the wax. For soda we would skim saleratus from the top of the ground, clean it and use it for cooking. ... Our salt we would get out of a cave in Salt Creek Canyon east of Nephi. We had to boil it to get it clear. We used to make starch out of potatoes. To grate the potatoes we would use a piece of tin with holes punched in it. We made enough in the spring to last a year. For fruit we gathered cherries, service berries, chokecherries and wild currants. ... The people all lived inside of a large mud wall. ... At night our cattle and sheep were brought home and we were all locked inside the Fort for safety from the Indians. Guards were at both gates to see that no one came in or went out of the gates. They were locked at eight o'clock every night. If you did not get in by then you were locked out. We were a happy band of brothers and sisters. ... In the winter time we would have lots of house parties.

Richard and Mary had 10 sons and 3 daughters. They named one of the daughters Sarah Eliza, perhaps after Richard's first two wives. Richard Pay died April 18, 1893, at Leamington, Utah. He is buried in Nephi, Utah.



Richard and Eliza Hurst Gibbons Pay  
wedding day, 1845

Sources: "History of Richard Pay," autobiography of Richard Pay, Daughters of Utah Pioneers history files; "In our own time, we, too, are pioneers," *Church News*, week ending July 27, 1996; "Richard Pay biography," by Zelda Pay Hill; "Life History of Douglas LeRoy Pay," by Doug Pay, 2009; Richard and Mary Goble Pay photo, courtesy grandchildren of Richard Pay; "Life of Mary Goble Pay," autobiography of Mary Goble Pay in Daughters of Utah Pioneers history files, submission by Gayle Goble Ord and Evelyn P. Henriksen; wedding photo, familysearch.org.