

HISTORY OF JOSEPH WARBURTON

MARLENE'S GREAT GRANDFATHER (HER FATHER, MYRALL'S, PATERNAL GRANDFATHER)

Joseph Warburton was born on September 21, 1831, to James and Sarah in Radcliffe, Lancashire, England. In his early years he joined the religion of the Swedenborgians, who believed in total abstinence from intoxicating drinks and eating a strict vegetarian diet. However, his religious views underwent a revolution in the summer of 1847, when he attended a camp meeting of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. For the first time he heard the pure gospel from the lips of an Elder of the L.D.S. Church. He said, "*From that time I was convinced of the divine character of Mormonism.*" He continued to attend the meetings of the Saints twice a week, but he did not commit to baptism until October 26, 1851, four years later. He was slow to carry out his convictions, but actively identified himself with the Church.

Joseph Warburton was slightly under medium height, of slender build, wiry, and sinewy, and capable of much more physical endurance than most men of larger bodily proportions. His complexion was fair. His manner was frank and straightforward, and when he expressed his view upon any question, he did so pointedly, so as to render it unnecessary to misunderstand his meaning.

In the spring of 1852, he was ordained a Teacher and labored faithfully in that calling until December 29th of the same year, when he was ordained an Elder. In 1853, the Radcliffe branch was divided into two districts, and Joseph was appointed to take charge of district number one. In the same year he was appointed 2nd Counselor to the President of the branch, and officiated in that capacity for about nine months. In the meantime the Branch President emigrated to Utah, and Brother Warburton was chosen to succeed him. He was released from the Presidency of the branch in January, 1855, and appointed to preside over the Pendlebury Branch, which was in trouble financially and spiritually. He had a lot of work to do with no money. With the characteristics of lots of energy and enthusiasm, he soon had the branch in a satisfactory and comparatively flourishing condition.

It seemed that as soon as Brother Warburton was ordained an Elder, and even to his death, he conspicuously had many gifts of the spirit, especially the gift of healing by the power of the Holy Ghost with the laying on of hands and of course along with prayer and faith. There were stories of how the power of God along with his administration helped the afflicted in his native land. Once when he was on his way to an appointment in Radcliffe, he heard the voice of the Spirit say to him, "*You must go to James Crossley's home.*" He resisted this admonition for some time, but as it was repeated, even thrice, he yielded, and proceeded to the home of Brother Crossley. His place of work was at a factory, 13 miles distance from his home. When he arrived, he found that Brother Crossley had been brought home dangerously ill, and his wife was in great distress on account of his precarious condition. Brother Warburton administered to him and as soon

as the ordinance was performed, Joseph Warburton said to him, *"How do you feel, James?"* He cheerfully responded, *"I'm all right,"* and he immediately arose. All who were present knelt down and thanked God for His goodness in restoring this sick man. Brother Crossley went down the stairs and asked his wife to get him some food, and his wife, whose heart was full of thanks, threw her arms about the neck of her husband and exclaimed, *"God bless thee, Jimmy, lad, I will get you some food."* and both wept for joy.



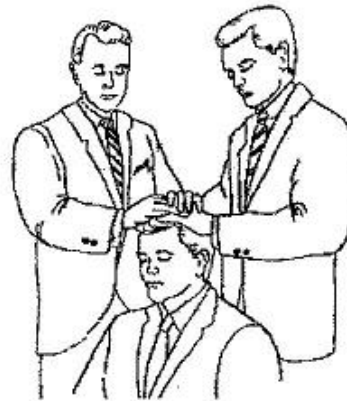
There was another case of a young woman named Anna Johnson, who when convinced of the truth of the gospel, gave her name for baptism. Before the time for the administration of the ordinance of baptism arrived, she became violently ill. Brother Warburton anointed and blessed her, and as a result she was healed instantaneously. All of the violent symptoms vanished, but left her in an enfeebled condition. Brother Warburton remarked that her sickness was a trick of the Devil, but he had, however, overshot the mark. For the next night, instead of one being baptized, four came forward to be baptized in a desire to join the Church.

He married Emma Watmough on June 4, 1854. Emma was born April 9, 1834, in Heywood, Lancaster, England. On May 20, 1856, they left England for America on the ship, *Wellfleet*, and landed in Boston on July 13th. Four days afterwards he left that city for Lawrence, Massachusetts, where he obtained work at the Pacific Mills. He could find no branch of the L.D.S. Church in that place, so he set about to discover scattered members. About this time he received a visit from Alexander Steel and his wife, who were making similar inquiries. They then found a number of other Saints. They communicated with the authorities in New York, and one of the brethren arrived from that city and helped organize a branch. Elder Steel was appointed to preside with Brother Warburton as his Counselor. When Elder Steel departed for Utah June 1, 1859, Elder Warburton was chosen to preside over the Lawrence, Groveland, and Lowell Branches. Groveland and Lowell were 20 miles apart, and Lawrence was located between the other two places. He appointed other brethren to preside, when he was absent. Brother Warburton labored faithfully in that position which he was assigned until June 1, 1860, when he left for Utah. On the 2nd of September they landed on the Eighth Ward Square in Salt Lake City. Joseph and Emma Warburton were later endowed on April 20, 1861.

He moved his family, wife and two children into a granary in the First Ward. This first home, the granary, was ten feet long by eight feet wide. Their first son, **Joseph Columbus** (father of Marlene's father) was born October 13, 1861 in that granary. Their first two girls, Sarah and Ellen, were born in 1857 and 58 in Lawrence, Massachusetts. They had ten children, six sons and four daughters, but eight lived. The other children were Emma (born 1 Dec 1862), William Henry 1st (born 21 1864 and died 4 Jan 1865), Mary Jane (born 19 Nov 1865), William Henry 2nd (born 21 Feb 1870), Joshua (born 13 Oct 1869), Samuel 1st (born 28 Sep 1872 and died 7 Aug 1873), Samuel 2nd (born 4 Jan 1874).

It was reported that while in the First Ward, a boy named Edward Blair was in a dangerous condition from diphtheria. He was administered to by Brother Warburton and the lad's mother said, "*What do you think about him, Bishop?*" He answered, "*In three days he will be out at play.*" "*Thank God,*" said the mother, who shed tears of joy at his comforting assurance. And so it was, for within the specified time little Edward was out upon the street apparently as well as usual.

In June, 1861, Joseph Warburton was ordained a Seventy and became connected with the 62nd Quorum organization. He was ordained a High Priest, and in March 1862, he was appointed the 1st Counselor to Bishop Henry Moon, of the First Ward. He acted in that capacity until November 14th, 1870, when he was called by **President Brigham Young** to the position of Acting Bishop. Bishop Moon was sent to Farmington, Davis County, Utah. He was also the first choice of Bishop Hunter for that responsibility. He held this capacity until June 7, 1877, when the ward was reorganized, and he was regularly ordained a Bishop under the hands of **Apostle John Taylor**. Brother Warburton has been faithful and true to every charge of his entire career. He was a Bishop or acting Bishop for about 40 years.



In 1909, he was released as Bishop and ordained a Patriarch. Joseph Warburton died on March 22, 1911, and his wife Emma died on April 3, 1920. She lived with one of her daughters in the last few years.

My mother reported this story from family members. The brethren suggested that Joseph Warburton take another wife in polygamy as practiced in those days. His wife Emma became upset similar to the story of Emma, Joseph Smith wife's rejection of polygamy. As a result Joseph Warburton did not practice polygamy. Emma evidently stayed with Joseph Warburton, as he served as a bishop for 40 years, but it split the family. About half of the children stayed in the Church, but others may have joined the RLDS Church.

For several years he had also been a worker in the Salt Lake Temple. This event is recorded as happening to our Great Grandfather, Joseph, and his daughter, as told to family members and later written in the book *Life Everlasting* by Duane S. Crowther, page 223. "Elder Joseph H. Smith, a laborer in the Salt Lake Temple, recorded the following instance of attendance by spirit beings while their temple ordinances were performed:

Brother Joseph Warburton and his daughter were doing sealings in the Salt Lake Temple on December 1, 1898. After having completed their labors in the sealing room, they walked up to President, John R. Winder and expressed their appreciation for his having performed these sealings for them.

After they had gone into the next room the daughter turned to her father and asked, 'Did you see those three couples in the sealing room with us?' His answer was, 'No, I did not.'

She then said: 'There were three couples in the room. They were dressed in temple clothing, and the room was illuminated by a supernatural light. As we knelt at the altar, and the names were called of the people for whom we were being sealed, each couple in turn knelt by our side. As the ordinance was performed they showed by the expression on their faces how pleased they were. When we walked up to thank President Winder, they came up also, and after we had completed our expression of thanks to him they disappeared.'

Brother Warburton asked her if she could describe the people she saw. She replied she could do it very well, and she described each couple in turn. Her father then said, 'The first couple are my great grandparents; the second couple my grandparents; and the third couple are my great uncle and aunt.' He had known them all in life, and from his daughter's description recognized them as the very persons for whom the sealings had been performed that day."



I feel I am honored by Brethren and Sisters and Friends to be asked to speak on this occasion. I rejoice in the testimony that has been said in devotion of this good man. It is remarkable for him to be able to live to eighty years of age and possess all of his faculties right to the last, and what marvelous things he has seen. I cannot think of another eighty years in the history of this world, full of such wonderful things, revealing such human progress and development. Is it not something more than extraordinary to have lived in such a momentous age, to have seen such wonderful and marvelous changes? Fortunate has he been to have seen these things and, of course, if any of us live to be this age, we shall see more wonderful things because there will be more wonderful things in the future. We that live to be half his age have seen more than our fathers have seen before us, and then I must ask myself a question-- what have I done to merit living in such an age and what is my responsibility?-- and I feel impressed that it is not only a privilege to live, but a responsibility. I rejoice to know that this good man lived up to his responsibilities. He has accomplished the outstanding purpose for which life itself was established, and how beautiful now is death. I grant you that there is never a time, however, when loved ones welcome death. Even though the helpless are taken, we lose the opportunity of caring and giving them attention, and when they are gone we miss them because of the service they did for us, and yet, who would continue it to fill the world with the aching and distress of the infirm. When everything else fails, us, no panacea that man can invent will do. How out of season it seems to be and while it has all seasons, it comes when it will, and we have no power to stave it off.

We should be prepared each day that may be our last day and do what we should do early in life because we may never live to be aged and the warning is that everyone of us are subject to bid farewell to these mortal seeds and if many of us knew just how many days or years we had, there are many things we would like to do. If we could give attention to those things we are putting off how well it would be for us to be ready for it and have no regrets that when the time comes we will be prepared to live Eternally.

I know there are many of us who do not know the purposes for which life is intended, and Bro. Warburton employed his time well according to the testimony of our brother. Although he takes no worldly goods with him, he has so lived that he will take everything with him. How wise he was.

I stood in the desert in Phoenix, Arizona talking with a man who had built himself a wonderful hotel and beautified the grounds about it until it was a veritable Heaven on Earth, but he died a few days ago and I remarked to a friend of his how he should have hated to leave the wonderful paradise he had made, but what could he take with him? Someone has said how foolish is the man who spends his life accumulating wealth and that which he cannot take with him, but how wise the man who lives a worthy life and takes with him all that he has worked for. These Gospel Principles which Bro. Warburton accepted are the rules which he obtained for the kingdom to which he has gone, the kingdom of Christ.

If any of us should be given the opportunity to go into Royalty or the Court of France, what kind of learning or coaching should we have and how would we meet such? Being at a loss to be prepared to come into the realm of a worldly king, are we not then at a loss to enter the presence of our Heavenly King? Bro. Warburton goes prepared to enter as a gentleman into the presence of our King. He has other words made his calling and election sure. We are often apologizing for those who have made serious mistakes and some say, poor boy, he is a victim of bad habits, but one can be a victim of good habits as well as bad habits. God would not be God and lie. He has abided by the truth and told the truth so long that it is unthinkable to say anything but the truth. We can also think of some women who become so truthful that they could not tell a falsehood. Those good habits will follow us into Eternity.

"Light Divine", it's a precious light worth seeking and if we really knew,
We'd strive to do our very best, ah yes, we'd find it too,
It's that which makes my heart rejoice, this light that shines so nigh,
It's rays can mend a broken heart, it's something gold can't buy.
Yet gold buys things, yes, many things, and silver does as well,
But when you want what gold can't buy, that's poverty in Hell.
So far be it from me to strive the yellow metal stamp,
I'd rather have what I possess, even though I were a tramp.
It's Faith in God, the Light Divine, it shines on all who care.
To Have, To Hold, To Know and Feel, and Speak with God in Prayer.

This talk was given at the funeral of Bishop Joseph Warburton.