

WILLIAM HENRY AND ANN PRESTON LONGHURST*IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM H. AND ANN PRESTON LONGHURST*

by Willard L. Longhurst

Four score and two years ago our grandparents embraced a new and peculiar religion, revealed from heaven and given the mission of eventually exalting all those who would give heed to its teachings; with the possibility also that our dead ancestors might receive of its saving power through ordinances performed by the living.

We have come to a great period in the history of the church. A time when the adversary has great hold upon the hearts of men and when it will require a united effort to do this work and prepare ourselves for the millennium and the second coming of the Savior.



William Henry Longhurst



Ann Preston

We have met for the purpose of binding ourselves together as a family to more fully carry out this mission, and as their descendants to honor those noble souls who first among all our family embraced the Gospel and have thereby made it possible that we as their descendants might enjoy such a glorious heritage through the saving power of the Gospel. It is very fitting and proper that we should do this and by providing a way through which their progenitors may advance in their sphere of life, is one way we may do this.

Those noble souls have struggled and sacrificed social prestige, friendships, estrangement of loved ones, wealth and home, and come to a new country to establish themselves with that despised and hated people, that we might receive this wonderful birthright.

We shall little note nor long remember what is said here but shall forever look with pride and thankfulness to those who thus made it possible that we as their descendants might enjoy such a rich blessing.

It is for us as their descendants to here truly resolve that henceforth we take a new pride in the heritage they have left us and a new determination to keep their family name in honor and also to provide a means whereby our progenitors who have gone before us may receive the same blessings we now enjoy. That we here truly resolve to pass on this heritage they left us thus honoring their name.

WILLIAM HENRY AND ANN PRESTON LONGHURST***HISTORY OF WILLIAM HENRY LONGHURST, 1817
AND ANN PRESTON***

The following are quotes from various family members, herewith identified, who searched various sources to determine to segregated facts. These by courtesy of Charles G. Longhurst and arranged in this chronological order by Wm. E. Rounds.

WILLIAM HENRY LONGHURST was born 22 Jan 1817, Little Hampton, Sussex, England, to Thomas Longhurst and Mary Rudd.¹ He was the first-born of ten children. To my knowledge nothing is known of his childhood but the Historian's Office in Salt Lake City shows the records of the old LDS Branch of the Church in Deptford, England to certify that Wm. H. and wife, Ann Preston, were listed as number one in the Branch, living at Emily Place, New Town, Deptford, then moving to Woolwick, then to Greenwich, and to Old Kent Road, Bermonsey, Poplar, and Tanners Hill. The move to Bermonsey is spoken of as "emigrated". He was baptized at Deptford 30 June 1849 by Thomas Bradshaw and confirmed the same day by John Griffiths.

Ordinations were: To a Priest by Elder Bradshaw 29 Jul. 1849; to Elder 30 Dec. 1849 by Elder Griffiths. He was mentioned in quite a number of ordinances while at Deptford and Woolwick. He baptized his sister, Sarah, (or Sally) 8 Mar 1853 at Deptford. He had been a Methodist Minister for some time and kept it quiet that he was investigating Mormonism. He confirmed Sarah the same day as baptism. The song "Oh Ye Mountains High", composed by Charles W. Penrose while in England, was sung for the first time at a Church conference, by Ann Preston.

[The foregoing was researched by WILLARD LONGHURST. The following by CHARLES G. LONGHURST:]

June 1, 1864, he and his family, together with 900 other Saints, boarded the sailboat "Hudson" and left London to come to America and live in the land of Zion. Records indicate the fare was 42 pounds, or about \$200. After boarding the boat they were delayed for two days. Then there was a Mr. Pardo and another man who followed them down the Thames River to the English Channel in a tug boat to try to prevent them from leaving England, but they had too much of a head start so they gave up the chase. After a few weeks at sea the measles broke out among the children aboard, causing many deaths, and these had to be buried at sea. None of grandfather's children lost their lives but some were very ill.

¹ Note that the rendering of the name Rudd is a clerical error. Careful examination of the marriage certificate reveals that the name is really Budd.

WILLIAM HENRY AND ANN PRESTON LONGHURST

Food was rationed on the ship on regular days and was very poor and they had to do their own cooking. About one week out from New York, a Confederate Man O'War, "Georgia" halted them, as the Civil War was in progress. After satisfying themselves that they were not the enemy, the ship was permitted to go on. It took six weeks and three days to make the voyage across the Atlantic. When they arrived in New York City, they were inspected and directed to the Railroad which would take them to the Frontier. Finally two sections were formed and they were soon on their way.

Traveling was slow, as bridges and tracks had been burned or torn up by Confederate Armies, and freight had to be carried across the rivers. At St. Joseph they were placed on a Missouri River boat which carried them to Nebraska. At this place they were busy for two weeks loading wagons and preparing to make the long trip across the plains. This required 120 wagons, each pulled by one or more yoke of oxen. At last two trains of wagons were outfitted. Each had 60 wagons. Grandfather's wagon was in the first train. Captain Hyde² was in charge. After traveling for some distance they waited for the second train to catch up so they would be stronger in case of an attack by Indians. They were to travel only 5 to 10 miles a day. Food was scarce and they were often very hungry. Buffalo chips were gathered to make fires and they walked most of the way across the plains. John Kay, President of the Company of Saints, died and was buried by the way in a roughly hewn box made by his father. About 18 inches of snow fell at Fort Bridger and marooned the train, and due to lack of food, their oxen were unable to travel any further. Brigham Young sent out a group of men from Salt Lake Valley with horse teams and helped them into the Valley.

[From a letter of MARTHA LONGHURST WHITTINGTON to Charles G. Longhurst the following is credited:]

We arrived in Salt Lake City at the 8th Ward Square, where the City and County Building now stands, on Nov. 2, 1864, just 5 months and one day after leaving England. We had no friends or relatives to greet us but we rejoiced that we had been privileged to come to Zion. We dug a dugout where the City and County Building now stands, and lived there the first winter. We had a hard time that winter. Provisions were very high. Flour was \$26 per cwt, tea \$5 a pound and sugar 25c per pound. Our food and clothing were depleted. -Father had been a shipwright in England so did not know much about other work. Finally my brother Bill (Wm Henry Jr.) got a place to stay at Fort Douglas with

² B. H. Roberts in *A Comprehensive History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, Vol 5 p. 109 notes that Rosel Hyde as one of the leaders of the "Mormon Trains" sent from the Salt Lake valley to bring immigrants west in 1863. In 1865 no train was sent, but two companies came on their own, one led by Miner G. Atwood and one by Wm. S. Willis. The latter had to be met by a relief train about 150 miles east of Salt Lake City.

WILLIAM HENRY AND ANN PRESTON LONGHURST

Captain Wingate. They used to give him food that was left over at the soldier's quartermaster house. They gave it to him to bring home for the family, which was a great blessing to us. Father was very sick with mountain fever that winter. He got a few jobs of work and in the spring of 1865 we moved to Bountiful, Utah, where he got work building threshing machines with Barry Walton.

In the year 1869, father and his brother Tom (Mormon) went to work building the first railroad into Utah. They worked in Echo Canyon. In the fall of 1870 they moved to Woodruff, Utah, where father built a log home. "After mother died (Dec. 11, 1873) and left a large family of ten children, I took care of them. Mother was buried in Woodruff." Note: As recently as 7 Sept. 1966, in a letter to me from Wm Albert Longhurst at Woodruff [he] asserts that his father told him it was twenty feet from the Northeast corner is where they put their wagon. And when they moved to Bountiful they had 20 acres of land in the mouth of the Canyon, partly cleared and timber to fence it. He traded it for a pair of old government mules and a linchpin wagon and 5 gallons of black strap molasses and adds "What do you suppose it is worth now?"

[From CHARLES G. LONGHURST:]

Wm H. and wife, Ann Preston, had joined the Josephite church in about 1865. They moved to Bountiful in March 1866 and soon thereafter they were rebaptized into the LDS Church and were set apart by George Q. Cannon to go on a mission to Arizona April 8, 1877. They returned in the spring of 1879 to Garden City, Utah. While in Arizona they probably stayed with their daughter, Clara Tenney. He did some work in the St. George Temple, as did Clara, as I have sheets dated 20 June 1877, showing where he had been baptized and endowed for 12 persons and endowed for 4 others who had been baptized in the Endowment House in Salt Lake. Marantha sent me, Charles, part of a letter written by her mother, Ann Preston, dated May 12, 1871, quote: "Well, father and I have been to the Endowment House and were baptized for our dead relatives and sealed for his first wife, Ann Harris, and his third, Eliza Rowland, which you have heard so much about, and my Aunt Janet and father's mother (Mary Rudd¹) and grandmother (Mary Solway) and his first wife, Ann Harris, and father's Aunt Jutten". Note: Present day researched group sheets record his marriage to Ann Harris 1840 and her death in 1841 and the marriage to Eliza Rowland 25 Apr. 1871. Ann Preston died 11 Dec. 1873. WER

[From CHARLES G. again:]

Father [grandfather] was baptized for his father, (Thomas) and grandfather (Thomas) and his brothers, Richard and John. I have a sheet of End. House baptisms which shows that Wm. H was baptized for the above named persons 26 Apr. 1871 which would be the logical date, as this letter of Ann's to her daughter

WILLIAM HENRY AND ANN PRESTON LONGHURST

Marintha was dated 1 May 1871, however the sheet does not show Eliza included, but I judge the church record to be in error because they were sealed 25 Apr. 1871.

[From CHARLES G. still:]

Now let us go back to the family's return from their mission and to Garden City in 1879: Here, Wm. H. helped his son, Charles Thomas, build his home there, as they were married 23 Oct. 1879, In that home were born, Olive Vilate, Charles George, Grant and Murray. Wm H. lived with his son Charles thereafter, moving to Iona, Idaho with them and he died and was buried there. (17 May 1890) Not yet recorded here is his marriage to Ann Preston 1 Jan 1845. Two children were born in Utah.

TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM HENRY LONGHURST
from copy of handwritten document

On this first day of April, 1889, I know in whom I have believed. In Him I have reposed all my hopes for life, health, and being, and my eternal salvation, the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation; that it is good to live and to die by. Having embraced it in early life, it has been a safeguard to me under all circumstances through living up to its principles; a deliverance from false notions and traditions and false teachers, and from doctors. I have trusted in the ordinances of the Gospel for the healing of the sick, and have done without doctors for over forty years. My family has many times been healed by the power of God when dire diseases have taken away many in the immediate neighborhood.

I desire when I am called to lay my body down that whoever of my family I may be with at that time, if possible, to be laid by the side of my kind and faithful wife at Woodruff, Rich County, Utah. At the same time I do not want any unnecessary trouble or expense to be taken as I have no scruples on the subject as regards my wishes but rather that circumstances may govern.

I wish all my sons and daughters that can make it convenient, to be present at my funeral. I also wish that my testimony be read at the funeral services by my eldest son present. I desire that this testimony, whoever may hold it at the time of my decease, shall send a copy to all those of my family who cannot be present at my funeral, that it may be kept as a sacred record to be handed down to future generations.

I feel to say to all my sons and daughters, their wives and husbands, that the last days of my life have been eased by their kindness, for which I bless you all

WILLIAM HENRY AND ANN PRESTON LONGHURST

with the blessings of Heaven and Earth, by virtue of the Holy Priesthood and in the name of Jesus Christ.

William Henry Longhurst

FOR MY HEADSTONE:

Sacred to the memory of:

WILLIAM HENRY LONGHURST

Born January 22, 1817 - died (May 17, 1890)

Age 73 years, 3 months and 25 days

***LETTER WRITTEN BY WILLIAM HENRY LONGHURST
TO HIS DAUGHTER***

Oh Clara Dear:

I was glad to hear that you and yours got home as well, but you better look out when I see you again. You will catch it for running away so soon. I was just after your heels the morning you went from the city. I am pretty near tired of Sessions again. I am going out to Bear River again shortly. I have tried to get a job in the city but no success. I have two large houses to build by contract.

It seems as if everything is coming along for us to go out in the fall. I have two city lots for myself and one for Tom, and one for Bill of hay land, 350 cedar Posts to fence city lots. I suppose we shall move out in the fall.

I understand it came to your turn to go to the canyon. I suppose you are going to get fattened up again. Bully.

Kiss little Victoria as many times as you have time to for grandpa and I will pay you with interest when I have a chance. Give my love to Warren and Julia and family, and expect a large share for yourself.

Mother has got the first pull in this letter but I will write you a long one some day and apologize a bit if I can.

Goodby for the present my dear Clara.

From Dadd.
William Henry Longhurst

WILLIAM HENRY AND ANN PRESTON LONGHURST

JOURNAL OF ANN PRESTON LONGHURST

Courtesy Charles G. Longhurst, Copied by Wm. E Rounds

It is now twelve months the 6th of June, 1849, (now 1850) that I was baptized into the Church of Christ, (Jesus Christ) and I must say that I have rejoiced much ever since. For I have proved for myself that this Church of Jesus Christ is the Church of Jesus Christ, and that I have embraced this truth. I have a knowledge of it by the manifestation of the power of God. In healing and by dreams and by the Spirit. I trust that I shall yet be made useful in my day and generation and I now intend to write my proceedings:-

Elder Griffiths proposed that the Sisters should take the tracts from house to house, and put it to them to volunteer. Accordingly I offered my service and was accepted. I commenced from this day in April, 1850 and I am determined, by the grace of God and assistance of His Holy Spirit, to carry it out faithfully. I rejoice in the progress I have made. Already many are concerned if these things be true and are determined to seek for the right way. Some shut the door in my face, others have burned the tracts. One young man, when I presented the tract, refused to take it on account of his having so many books of his own not read and I told him he would oblige me greatly if he would read it. He said he would, so when I called for it again he liked it very much and took the pains to go up to Kent Road to hear them preach and liked it very much. I have not seen anything of him since but I intend to call on him shortly and lend him the "Voice of Warning" and I trust that I shall have more to write concerning him and his obedience to the Gospel of Christ.

May 1850, Deptford, New Town, Emily Place: In my second district I was by a small court, having but two small houses and I, for the moment, thought it was not much consequence to pass them by, but no sooner had I got by them something told me "Why will you pass by them when it is the poor that shall have the Gospel preached to them?" I then immediately repented and went back to them. The first house the poor person asked me in and I read the small handbill to her. She immediately burst into tears and told me that she was seeking the right way and that it was her continual prayer that the Lord would let her know. I then unfolded the Gospel. She told me that she received a knowledge of her pardon of sin. She thought there was something more to be done than she had done and she promised me that she and her husband would go and hear the preaching. Accordingly they did and liked it very well, but when they made known to their class leader where they had been and what they had heard, he told them that it was nothing, not to go there to hear them but the woman is still uneasy and does not know what to do between the both knowing that she must embrace the one and deny the other. I pray that she may shortly obey the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

WILLIAM HENRY AND ANN PRESTON LONGHURST

Well, as providence had seen fit, in a short time while I had a son and named him Mormon, consequently I could not perform the distributing of the tracts so I gave it up very reluctantly. I must say that I never did enjoy more of the Spirit of God than when I was engaged in the distributing the tracts. It is my desire whenever I can, that I will take it up again, praying the Lord to bless me and make me a blessing to thousands. I regret very much that I have not attended to this journal as I ought this past year or two, but as we have been exhorted of late for each one of us Saints to keep a journal or record, I feel to again take up my pen. I must say that during the time I wrote last, which was about June 1850 and now June 1852, that we have had many trials and difficulties to encounter, in a temporal state, being tried very much by some of my brothers and sisters, after doing them all the good I could taking them in, feeding and clothing them, but I thank the Lord that I have been enabled to stand faithful in the Church with my partner. My dear children have, during the past winter, been afflicted with the whooping cough. I am thankful to state it left them in April. They had the measles just before the cough, but thank the Lord, were restored again to full health and strength about September 1851.

I opened a shop in the haberdasher line. It did not seem to answer as I should like so I added to it sweet-meats and toys and that did not answer long so I bought and sold clothes of all description, but that I seemed unfortunate in, so I resolved, with my husband, to give up shopkeeping and have commenced keeping a school, having father staying with us. (This must be her father Richard Preston. My opinion WER) Date 7 June, 1852. (This date must refer to the writing of the above events as it is followed by this entry:) "On the 27th of June, Sunday, William and I went over to Portsmouth and stayed at the festival with Elder Griffiths and enjoyed ourselves first rate. The Saints were all happy to see us. We still have a struggle to make both ends meet and to pay everybody their own. We are in hopes that shortly things will have a turn with us for the best and be enabled, by the blessings of the Lord, to prepare ourselves for the immigration which is our earnest desire and prayer to God daily"

(Last entry in the Journal)

I cannot leave this that bare. Anyone who has filled a mission can fully appreciate the quaintness of this humble effort in that day of a dedicated mother of two children and one promised. WER

WILLIAM HENRY AND ANN PRESTON LONGHURST

(LETTER) WRITTEN BY ANN PRESTON LONGHURST
to her daughter May 1, 1871

My Dear Clara:

I have just received your most welcome letter and was glad to hear you got home safe and comfortable.

Your father got home the same evening before you started. The next morning we both went down to Brother Cannons and you were not long gone. Father was very much disappointed you were not there. He said he would give five dollars to see that young one, but you will both have to wait until the fall. That is when we shall all go. Father is going back to Bear River (Woodruff) in about a week from now. He has a big house for to build for a brother in the city. Will have his pay every month and I can draw on it. The agreement is drawn up and signed. He can put up his own house at the same time. Will wants to buy the house and lot for a span of mules and a good wagon. I think we will take it. A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush. It will be very handy. I forgot to tell you Tom came home as well. He has taken up 90 acres of land on shares for Brother Holbrook. He will stay with me and attend to the land and use the team and so on. He is bigger than father and has quite a mustache. He sends his kind love to all of you.

William is hired to brother Frost to team for him charcoal and bring it into the city. Annie Frost has a fine boy since they came from the south a week ago. Frost has not seen it yet. We expect William every day with a load. He is to have two loads a month. That will be first rate won't it? We shall be able to get some decent clothes for the boys as well as some things to get along with at home.

I feel very thankful after such a hard time as I have had of it lately. Father had no pay to bring home so you can guess what a fix I was in.

Amelia did not come to say good by or anything. Bill Rounds came as they were going home and left Amelia to Briggs waiting. He came for some of her things she left.

Father has just about made the agreement for his big job. He has not had an opportunity of earning a thing since he has been home. He went down to the city to see if he could get a job for the time being, to help us along. He went in with Brother Jones. His in business in the city, but is going out to Bear River in the fall when he wants his home completed. Of course he has all the materials ready for

(end of page. This is all I have of it and I got it so many years ago that I don't even remember the source of the letter).

WILLIAM HENRY AND ANN PRESTON LONGHURST*A DAY IN DEPTFORD*

London - 11 Sep. 1980

Today I visited the birthplace of my maternal grandmother, Amelia Ann Longhurst, born 10 Oct 1846 in Deptford, Kent County, England. Deptford is a small borough (town) on the south bank of the Thames River about four miles out of London, requiring two bus transfers and about 1 1/2 hours to reach its center. My honest impression was, "It has seen better days" (and a lot of them); still I relish the opportunity to walk some of the same narrow streets walked by the Longhursts 135 years ago. I hoped to discover facts and experience feelings that would help me to understand what life was like for them here. The condition of the majority of buildings led me to believe they were of ancient vintage and there long before the Longhursts. I saw no supermarkets or large department stores as we know them, mostly small, shabby shops, fish markets, green grocers (vegetable), and chemists (drug store). In keeping with an English tradition, I bought a paper of "fish and chips". The fish was called Plaice, and quite delicious. At a small bakery I bought what I thought was a whole wheat bun, but turned out to be slightly sweet, gingery and warm. I had tasted nothing like it in other parts of England and wondered if it was a local treat with a long past.

I checked the local post office for the address listed in Ann Preston's 1850 journal as New Town Emily Place. They knew nothing of it. I have since obtained birth certificates for her children with several addresses. I walked through a run - down residential district and found a library with one small book on the history of Deptford. As I suspected, it was indeed a very ancient town, once occupied by Romans and Saxons. The Saxons called it "Depeford", (possibly referring to the facts of river depth ... deep ford?) Old Kent Road on the outskirts of Deptford, as mentioned by Ann in her journal as a place where Mormon missionaries preached, was the sight of ancient Roman ruins uncovered in 1685. Kent is the only county in England of Celtic origin.

Deptford frequently came to the attention of Royalty. King Henry 1V lived there while afflicted with leprosy. In 1513, King Henry V111 "fixed upon it as the Royal Dockyard", and so it was for 450 years. He gave his third wife, Jane Seymore, a residence there called "Deptford-le-Strand". The Royal Residence was at nearby Greenwich. From there Queen Elizabeth the 1st came to the Royal Dockyard at Deptford, boarded the ship "Pelican" and knighted Sir Francis Drake.

It was undoubtedly the available shipyard work that brought grandfather to the area. He was a shipwright as was his father before him and in 1861, his 8-year-old son, William Henry Jr. began his apprenticeship in Her Majesty's shipyard. Forty-six ships were built in Deptford between 1845 and 1864 (with grandfather's help, no doubt); gunboats, frigates and paddlewheels. From the

WILLIAM HENRY AND ANN PRESTON LONGHURST

little history book, I made copies (not the best in detail) of the Dockyard in 1810 and Deptford in 1815, both small sketches.

By evening the charm of the place was beginning to reach me as I no longer regarded it as "shabby", but "quaint". and it was like saying good-bye to an old friend as I boarded a red, double-deck bus for London after a warm and satisfying day in "Longhurst Country".

Lou Dean (Grow) Boyce

"Such a place hath Deptford, Navy building town" -- Pope

VISIT TO DEPTFORD

My wife and I had the opportunity to visit Deptford in 1990, and had in our possession a copy of my grandfather, Joseph Longhurst's birth certificate, dated 5th September 1862. This document shows that he was christened in the Saint Nicholas Church in Deptford, and that the family's street address, at the time of his christening, was 75 New Street, Deptford.

We went to a church and asked the location of Saint Nicholas Church. The young pastor was very nice and helpful, and gave us directions, then came with us until we were in sight of Saint Nicholas. Saint Nicholas is a very old, rather small stone building surrounded by a stone fence, and is still in use. On top of the gate posts, either side, we were rather surprised to find skull and cross bones, about one foot high. (I still do not know why this motif is used, but we found it again in a chapel in Denmark, and were told that Saint Nicholas is the Patron Saint of the sailors.) We were directed to the residence of the pastor who invited us to come and attend his service, but time did not permit, so we did not get to see the interior. We were told that this church is famous for being the site from which Queen Elizabeth launched forth some of her expeditions for which England is famous.

We found the street address listed on Grandfather's birth certificate, but there was no "75" number today. (There was a 73 and a 77 street number). I inquired about this from a shop keeper at the location, a very nice young man, who told me what he knew about the area. It was his belief that the number, 75, no longer in use there, might have been assigned to an upstairs dwelling at the time. Also, he showed me where they had straightened the front of the buildings so as to have a straight, wider sidewalk, but the bricks in the concrete in front of his store, still show where the original property lines were, and that was why he, as a shop keeper, was able to put his wares out in front of his shop.

WILLIAM HENRY AND ANN PRESTON LONGHURST

We were also able to visit the area where the old dock yards were, now essentially torn down and being replaced by new businesses, slowly.

We were also able to visit the time measuring facilities at Greenwich, located about a mile downstream from Deptford, on the Thames River. It is now more or less a museum, but very interesting, as it is the initial point from which all of our time is measured.

Merrill Nielsen