

Research Project Summary
Richard Webley/Jane Danby
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The Richard WEBLEY and Jane DANBY Family

Richard WEBLEY was probably christened on 29 Apr 1770 in Bromsgrove, Worcester County, England¹, the son of Joseph Webley and Elizabeth. His christening record reads:

Baptisms April 1770

29: Richard son of Joseph & Elizabeth Webbley, Lydiat Ash, Farmer

Previous researchers have stated that his mother was Elizabeth Baker who married Joseph Webley on 2 June 1746 at Upton Warren², a small neighboring parish, but this couple would have been too old to be Richard's parents. It is apparent from examining the Bromsgrove parish registers that there was more than one Joseph Webley married to an Elizabeth, but the correct parents have not yet been identified.

Richard married **Jane DANBY** daughter of Thomas DANBY and Sarah HARRILL on 17 Apr 1797 in Belbroughton, Worcester County, England³. Their marriage record reads:

Richard Webley of this Parish Bachelor and Jane Danby Spinster of the same were married in this church by Licence this seventeenth Day of April in the Year 1797 by me Gabl Powell (Curate)

Richard Webley, Jane Danby (signatures)

In the presence of Thomas Danby, Mary Cutler

Jane was christened on 13 Apr 1780 in Belbroughton, Worcestershire, England⁴. Her christening record reads:

1780

Jane daughter of Thomas and Sarah Danby April 13th

Jane and Richard were later baptized into the Baptist Church at the Baptist Chapel at

¹Parish Registers, Church of England, Parish Church of Bromsgrove, Vol 5: Baptisms April 1770, Microfilm 321,124, Family History Library (FHL), Salt Lake City, Utah.

²Church of England. Parish Church of Upton-Warren, Parish registers, Vol. 3, 1746, Microfilm 465,301, FHL, Salt Lake City, Utah.

³Church of England. Parish Church of Belbroughton, Marriages 1754-1812: 79, Microfilm 546,142, FHL, Salt Lake City, Utah.

⁴Church of England. Parish Church of Belbroughton, Baptisms and burials 1739-1800: 42, Microfilm 546,142, FHL, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Little Catshill, Bromsgrove Parish, Worcester County, England, Jane on 4 July 1830 and Richard on 2 June 1833⁵. Catshill is a neighborhood in the parish of Bromsgrove. An extract from the Tercentenary History of the Baptist Church in Bromsgrove says, “The church felt the call of neglected district around it for the Gospel. The Lickey and Catshill had no place to worship whatsoever. The latter village at this period was described as a ‘moral desert; Sabbaths were disregarded and desecrated; ignorance and depravity choked the soil; the minds of the great multitude were involved in almost heathen gloom; their pursuits and pleasures were earthly, sensual, devilish; they were without hope and without God in the world; in sin they lived, and in despair they died’. To Catshill the Church accordingly turned its attention and found in one of its members the pioneer for hard and difficult work. This man was Moses Noakes who was baptised and joined the Church in 1806, and who some years after, as the Church Book records: “began preaching in different houses about the Lickey and Catshill with considerable success.” In due course the people whom Moses Noakes attracted to his services decided to build a place of worship, and accordingly in the year 1828 the Chapel, in which the Church still meets, was erected.”⁶

Richard Webley died on 16 Apr 1841 in Bromsgrove⁷. His death record reads:

When and where died: 16 April 1841, Bromsgrove
Richard Webley, male age 72,
Occupation: Shoe Maker
Cause of death: Old Age
Informant: Mary Passey (her mark) , Marlbrook

The 1841 census of England was taken on the 6th of June, less than two months after Richard’s death. Jane is listed in this census as living at Marlbrook, a neighborhood in Bromsgrove Parish. She is listed as Jane Webley, 65, Ind, , born in county (note that ages were rounded to the nearest 5 years for adults in this census). Listed with her is Hannah Westwood, 12, and Joseph Hingley, 14 months, two of her grandchildren. Listed immediately before her is the family of Thomas and Mary Passy, her son-in-law and daughter.⁸

Sometime near this time period, Jane Danby Webley joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (commonly called the Mormon or LDS Church), though no record of her membership in England has been found. Eva L. Coryell wrote, “Now this story won’t be complete if I leave out Ann Webley’s mother who joined the church after her husband died. Jane Danby Webley sold all her property and left all her relatives in England hoping at some future date that her two daughters and their families would join her in America where they would be with the saints. After coming to Nauvoo in 1841 she became very well acquainted with the

⁵PRO RG4: Nonconformist Registers, Worcestershire, England, Microfilm 816,597, FHL, Salt Lake City, Utah.

⁶As quoted in *The Independent, Baptist and Wesleyan Registers of Bromsgrove, Worcestershire up to 1857* (Birmingham: Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy and Heraldry, 1987), 6-7.

⁷Richard Webley, death certificate #364, 1841 Deaths, District and Sub-district of Bromsgrove, Worcester County, #364, General Register Office, Southport, England.

⁸Jane Webley household, 1841 British Census, Marlbrook, Bromsgrove Parish, Worcester County, E.D. 15, p. 3.

Prophet Joseph Smith and she said, "among many expressions of joy and pleasure she had felt he was truly a prophet of the Lord." She said that he had a wonderful smile and bright countenance. I read her letter in which she was trying to express how wonderful he was. We have a cousins (distant about third cousin to me) who lives in Ogden, Utah who has this letter that Jane wrote to her two daughters who were still living in England..... Jane stayed in Nauvoo until the Saints started to leave Illinois. Before she got to Council Bluffs, she took sick as so many others did. She died at Council Bluffs and was buried in Garden Grove Cemetary, Iowa in 1846."⁹

Sarah Hurst Jones, a great granddaughter wrote in 1964: "She accepted the Gospel in the early days of the Church when the first missionaries came to England. She left her home, family, loved ones, and friends to emigrate to the new world. She settled in Nauvoo (Illinois) and became acquainted with the Prophet Joseph Smith and other church leaders. She wrote many letters to her children back home telling them about the prophet, the church and beautiful city of Nauvoo and the many advantages in the new world. She urged them to come to Zion and join with the saints. She suffered the persecutions and trails when their beloved prophet and his brother, Hyrum, were martyred. She did not live to see her children when they came to America. She started to go to Utah in the Job Smith Company, contracted cholera and died. She was buried at Mt. Pisgah in April 1848. She left a strong testimony of the divinity of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints."¹⁰

While there is some conflicting information in the two above accounts, and I could find no record of her death, she did come to the United States aboard the Ship Claiborne which landed at New Orleans on March 13, 1843.¹¹

A copy of a letter in the possession of Mrs. William W. Wade, RFD #3, Ogden Utah from Jane (Danby) Webley reads as follows:

Nauvoo, April 29th 1844
Dear Friend,

I received a letter in which it was stated that you thought I was dead, but from this you will learn that I am in the land of the living, a Pilgrim travelling toward the Celestial City and in a land of liberty enjoying health and strength and among a people who are blessed of the Lord. Nauvoo is a place that is increasing very fast fulfilling the words of the prophet Isaiah. Bring sons from afar among the ends of the earth. In fact, they are gathering very much more than anyone could imagine. Times are very dull here just now, but in the course of another month there will be plenty of work; yet no one will starve here, money or no money. Every one has a little. Money is a thing that is not to be had here for they are generally poor and pay in trade which answers for the present.

⁹Eva L. Coryell, *Westwood History*, undated typescript in possession of Beth Davies June 2005.

¹⁰As quoted in Elden G. Hurst, *William Hurst and Susannah Webley Their Ancestors and Descendants* (Salt Lake City, UT: Privately printed, date unknown), 138.

¹¹New Orleans 1820-1850 Passenger and Immigration Lists (database online), Ship Claiborne (www.Ancstry.com).

I bear testimony that Joseph {Smith} is a prophet of the Lord and we intend to make his president of the United States that the word of the Lord may be fulfilling which say "The law shall go forth of Zion and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem." I don't know where sister Foster is, she has left Nauvoo, but her father and mother are well. And brother Moss is well. Also sister Bundy and the family are well and Job smith is well. I was glad to hear from you all and hope I shall have the pleasure of seeing you all here in a short time. Thanks for the letter to daughter Mary. Will write to me to inform how all the family is and little Joseph. I am sorry to hear of Ann's thigh being broken.

I remain your affectionate mother. Give my love to all inquiring friends and more especially the house hold of faith. I was glad to hear of Susannah and Wm being baptized and Abraham Webley and Wife.¹²

Eva Coryell wrote concerning the Webley family, "One of Jane's daughters, Susannah, married William Hurst. He was a gem in my book. If it hadn't been for him I may have never been. As we know Ann married Joseph Westwood. Ann was Jane's other daughter. The rest of Jane Danby Webley's children never left England. Phillip Webley married Martha Morris. Sarah married Josiah Hingley. Mary married Thomas Passey. By their record those left didn't live too many years after their kin left for American.

Phillip Webley died 19 February 1853, and his wife died 12 September 1882. Mary died 1868."¹³

While this short history provided clues, it contained a number of errors.

Richard and Jane (Danby) Webley had the following children:

Elizabeth WEBLEY was christened on 28 May 1798 in Belbroughton, Worcester, England.¹⁴ The entree in the Belbroughton parish register reads:

*1798–May
Elizabeth Dr of Richard & Jane Webley 28*

Elizabeth was buried on 17 Jul 1805 in Bromsgrove.¹⁵ Her burial record reads:

*Burials in July 1805
17: Elizth d. of Richd & Jane Webley.*

¹²Colleen Neilson, *History of Jane (Danby) Webley 1770-1841*, typescript in possession of Beth Davies, July 2005. See this short history for further information on Jane Danby Webley.

¹³Eva L. Coryell, *Westwood History*, undated typescript in possession of Beth Davies June 2005.

¹⁴Church of England, Parish Church of Belbroughton, Baptisms and burials 1739-1800: 70, Microfilm 546,142, FHL, Salt Lake City, Utah.

¹⁵Parish Registers, Church of England, Parish Church of Bromsgrove, Vol. 11:17, Microfilm 321,126, FHL, Salt Lake City, Utah.

All other known children of Richard and Jane lived to adulthood.

Sarah WEBLEY was born about 1801 in Bromsgrove.¹⁶ There is no record of her christening in either Bromsgrove or Belbroughton. Sarah married **William HINGLEY** (not Josiah Hingley) on 28 Dec 1828 at St. Martin, Birmingham, Warwick County¹⁷. Birmingham, a major city, is only about 20 miles from Bromsgrove, though it is in a different county. William was born about 1809 in Bromsgrove.¹⁸ Christening records for William and Sarah's children show that he worked as a Blacksmith and that they lived in Bromsgrove until about 1837.¹⁹ The family then moved to Odiham, Southampton County for a few years.²⁰ They then moved to Reigate Parish in Surrey County in about 1840.²¹ William was buried on 2 Apr 1849 in Red Hill, Reigate, Surrey County, England²². His burial record reads:

William Hingley, Abode: Red Hill, buried April 1, age 40 years

Sarah was a widow for more than 40 years. She died on 11 Apr 1884 in Peckham, Surrey County.²³ Her death certificate reads:

*When and where died: Eleventh April 1884, 39 Kirkwood Road
Sarah Hingley, Female, age 83 years, widow of William Hingley, Farrier
Cause of death; chronic Bronchitis, 10 years...
Informant: John Hingley, Son, Present at the death, 39 Kirkwood Road, Peckham.*

Mary WEBLEY was the surprise in the family. She was christened on 28 Dec 1802 in Bromsgrove.²⁴ The record reads:

1802 Christenings in December

¹⁶ William Hingley Household, 1841 British Census, Surrey County, England, Hundred: Reigate-First Div., E.D. 13: 20, Redstone, Microfilm 474,664, FHL, Salt Lake City, "Sarah Hingley, age 40."

¹⁷ St. Martin, Birmingham, Parish Registers, Vol. 21: 328, Microfilm 919,783, FHL Salt Lake City, Utah.

¹⁸ William Hingley entree, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, *International Genealogical Index*, FHL, Salt Lake City, Utah.

¹⁹ Parish Registers, Church of England, Parish Church of Bromsgrove, Vol. 16:164-219, Microfilm 321,128, FHL, Salt Lake City, Utah.

²⁰ Baptism of Thomas Hingley, 3 Oct. 1838, Parish registers of Odiham, Christenings 1835-1856, Microfiche 6,359,114, FHL, Salt Lake City, Utah. Also, John Hingley, brother-in-law, age 33, born Oldham, Hampshire, England was living with Henry Thos Herbert (wife Ann) in Camberwell, London, England, in the 1871 Census.

²¹ Baptism of Joseph Hingley, 17 May 1840, Church of England. Parish Church of Reigate, Bishop's Transcripts, Baptisms 1840, p. 145, Microfilm Film 397,762, FHL, Salt Lake City, Utah.

²² Parish registers for St. John's Church, Redhill, Burials 1848-9: 18 #141, Microfilm 991,695, FHL, Salt Lake City Utah.

²³ Sarah Hingley death certificate, 1884 deaths, District of Camberwell, Sub-district Peckham, Surrey County, # 317, General Register Office, Smedley Hydro, Trafalgar Road, Southport, Merseyside PR8 2HH England, copy in possession of Beth Davies, July, 2005.

²⁴ Parish Registers, Church of England, Parish Church of Bromsgrove, Vol. 10: 1802 Christenings in December, Microfilm 321,126, FHL, Salt Lake City, Utah.

28 Mary daur of Richard & Jane Webley

Mary married **Thomas PASSEY** on 27 Oct 1824 at St. John in Bedwardine, Worcester County.²⁵ Thomas was born about 1801 in Cradley, Hereford County.²⁶ Their marriage record reads:

*Thomas Passey of this parish Bachelor and Mary Webley of this parish spinster were married in this church by bannsthis twenty seventh day of October 1824
Thomas Pasey+ his mark
Mary Webley+her mark
In the presence of Joseph Westwood, Sarah Yeates*

The records of the Little Catshill Baptist Church show Mary Passe was baptized in the 28th year of her age on December 5, 1830.²⁷ Mary was still living in Bromsgrove Parish in the 1861 census, age 59, born Bromsgrove.²⁸ As indicated above, a family history said she died in 1868. I assumed she died in the Bromsgrove area . This was not so. Some time before her death Mary joined the LDS Church. Leaving her husband and grown children behind in England, Mary sailed with other converts to the LDS church from Liverpool on the ship Emerald Isle which arrived in New York on 14 Aug. 1868.²⁹ She crossed the plains in Captain Mumford's Train³⁰, but died before reaching Salt Lake. A letter from Henry and Temperance (Westwood) Moon to Mary's sister Susannah Webley Hurst Maycock explains what happened:

Dear Aunt

On the 24th the train arrived that your sister came in as far as the Muddy Temperance went to fetch her down home but sorry to say no Aunt she died five days before they got in was buried on the Muddy Surely Temperance was much disappointed we all was much disappointed all the children went up to the Tithing office to meet their Aunt but no Aunt to meet you will also be made sad to hear the News. Temperance has not got the Particulars of her death, yet, but heard she was sick a long time When we learn more we will let you know Temperance is going up this morning agin I expected to bring Aunt and come and see you I would like to have a chat with the Old Man again it seems so long since I have seen him....

Ann WEBLEY was christened on 28 Apr 1805 in Bromsgrove.³¹ The record reads:

²⁵St. John in Bedwardine Parish Records, Marriages 1813 to 1834: 80, Microfilm 350,861 FHL, Salt Lake City, Utah.

²⁶Thomas Passey entree, *1851 census surname index* (Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy and Heraldry. Bromsgrove Branch,, Worcestershire), Bromsgrove Parish, P. 2: 250.

²⁷PRO RG4: Nonconformist Registers, Worcestershire, England, p. 6, Microfilm 816,597, FHL, Salt Lake City, Utah.

²⁸Thomas Passey household, 1861 British Census, Worcester County, Bromsgrove Parish, E.D. 10, #125, Mallbrook.

²⁹New York Passenger Lists, 1851-1891, online (<http://www.Ancestry.com>), includes index plus scanned image of actual passenger list.

³⁰The Deseret News, Wednesday, September 23,1868: 259, Microfilm 26,591, FHL, Salt Lake City, Utah.

³¹Parish Registers, Church of England, Parish Church of Bromsgrove, Vol.11Christenings April 1805, Microfilm 321,126, FHL, Salt Lake City, Utah.

*Christenings April 1805
28 Ann D. of Richard & Jane Webley*

Ann married **Joseph WESTWOOD** on 5 Nov 1823 in Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, England.³² Their marriage record says:

Marriages solemnized in the Parish of Bromsgrove in the County of Worcester in the Year 1823

Joseph Westwood of this parish and Ann Webley of this Parish were married in this Church by Banns . . . this Fifth Day of November in the Year One thousand eight hundred and Twenty Three by me John Nitherta? Curate..

In the Presence of William Rose, Richard Webley.

She died on 6 May 1849 in St. Louis, St. Louis County, Missouri³³ as the family was traveling from England to Utah after joining the LDS Church. Details on her family can be found in my summary entitled *The Westwood Family in England*.

Phillip WEBLEY was born in 1809 in Bromsgrove³⁴. He does not appear in the christening records of Bromsgrove. Phillip married **Martha MORRIS** on 31 Oct 1830 in Clent, Worcester County.³⁵ Their marriage record reads:

Philip Webley of the Parish of Rowley Regis, bachelor and Martha Morris of the parish of Rowley Regis, spinister were married in this church by banns this 31 day of October 1830

(signed with their marks)

In the presence of William Hingley, Mary Morris

Martha was born in 1809 in Bromsgrove.³⁶ Phillip and Martha appear to have lived their entire married life in Bromsgrove. All their children were born there and christened in either the Bromsgrove or the Catshill chapels of the Church of England. Phillip was buried on 10 Feb 1853 in Bromsgrove.³⁷ His burial entree reads:

1853

#2640: *Philip Webley, Abode: Worms Ash, buried Feby 10, age 43*

³²Parish Registers, Church of England, Parish Church of Bromsgrove, Vol. 14; Marriages 1813-1831, p. 163 #487, Microfilm 321,127, FHL, Salt Lake City, Utah.

³³Hannah Westwood Smith to Joseph Westwood, letter dated 16 Feb. 1905, Cambridge, Idaho, typescript copy in possession of Beth Davies June, 2005.

³⁴Phillip Webley entree, *1851 census surname index* (Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy and Heraldry, Bromsgrove Branch,, Worcestershire), Part 2, p. 305, 168, Folio 406, Worms Ash.

³⁵Parish Church of Clent, Church of England, Vol. 10: 102, Microfilm 1,042,161 FHL, Salt Lake City Utah.

³⁶*1851 census surname index*, Part 2, p. 305, 168, Folio 406, Worms Ash

³⁷Parish Registers, Church of England, Parish Church of Bromsgrove, Vol. 21, Burials from 1840 to 1856 p. 330, Microfilm 321,129, FHL, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Phillip left a widow and young children, including a son Phillip who was christened after his death.³⁸ Martha outlived him by nearly 30 years. She died on 16 Sep 1882 in Bromsgrove.³⁹

Susannah WEBLEY was born on 30 Nov 1812 in Bromsgrove.⁴⁰ Her birth does not appear in Bromsgrove parish records. Susannah married **William HURST** on 7 Nov 1831 in Saint Phillips, Birmingham, Warwick, England.⁴¹ However there exists a family record that says they were married 25 June 1830 and conjecture by family members is that they were married in the Baptist Church in Catshill.⁴² If so, this would not have been a legal marriage as only Quakers and Jews could legally marry outside of the Church of England at this time.

William Hurst was born on 25 Jul 1813 and was christened on 8 Aug 1813 in Feckenham, Worcester, England.⁴³ He and Susannah joined the LDS Church and voyaged from England with Joseph and Ann Webley Westwood in 1849 (see my summary *The Westwood Family in England*). After the deaths of Joseph and Ann, they assisted some of the Westwood children in their eventual trip to Utah. "On 14 Mar 1853, six months after arriving in the valley, William ate a root he thought to be edible, which turned out to be a poison parsnip and he died a painful death the same day and was buried in the Salt Lake City Cemetery where a granite marker indicates his final resting place."⁴⁴

Susannah married twice after William's death. She married (2) **Robert SINGLETON** on 5 Feb 1854 in Springville, Utah County, Utah.⁴⁵ She married (3) **James MAYCOCK** sometime before 1857, probably in Springville.⁴⁶ Susannah died on 14 Nov 1878 in Pleasant View and was buried on 16 Nov 1878 in the Ben Lomond Cemetery, North Ogden, both in Weber County, Utah.⁴⁷

One more note on the Hurst family of interest to those of us who are Westwoods: William and Susannah Hurst's son Philip married, after the death of his first wife, Elizabeth Wilcox, older sister of Martha Anna Wilcox Westwood.

Note that letters written between descendants of the Webley family in England and the

³⁸Christening of Philip Webley, July 24th, 1853, Parish Registers, Chapelry of Catshill, Baptisms p. 125, Microfilm 951,221, FHL, Salt Lake City, Utah.

³⁹Parish Registers, Church of England, Parish Church of Bromsgrove, Vol. 29, Burials 1879-1906,p. 53, Microfilm 321,132, FHL, Salt Lake City, Utah.

⁴⁰Colleen Nielsen, *Descendants of William & Susannah Hurst* (Register report created from PAF 1 April, 2005). It notes the birth of Susannah is from Family Records.

⁴¹Elden G. Hurst, *William Hurst and Susannah Webley....*, 46. Also Susannah Webley marriage entry, *International Genealogical Index [IGI]* (Salt Lake City: FHL 2005) from extraction citing microfilm 813,729-813,731.

⁴²Elden G. Hurst, *William Hurst and Susannah Webley....*, 46.

⁴³Elden G. Hurst, *William Hurst and Susannah Webley....*, 46.

⁴⁴Elden G. Hurst, *William Hurst and Susannah Webley....*, 48.

⁴⁵Elden G. Hurst, *William Hurst and Susannah Webley...* 48-49 which notes "The Springville Ward, Utah Stake, records contain this notation on page 21: "5 Feb 1854 Mr Robert Singleton married to Mrs. Susannah Hurst, by Pres. H. Perry."

⁴⁶Elden G. Hurst, *William Hurst and Susannah Webley....* 49.

⁴⁷E-mail from J. Steven Jones to Cathy Smith, April 3, 2006. Steven spoke with the sexton and viewed the records and headstone of Susannah Hurst in the Ben Lomond cemetery. The photograph of the headstone, attached to the e-mail, shows a modern tombstone, not one of pioneer vintage.

United States and many more details concerning William and Susannah Hurst appear in the book *William Hurst and Susannah Webley their Ancestors and Descendants* by Elden G. Hurst. I have obtained a personal copy of this book from Mr. Hurst, but it is not available for sale and presently (2005) is not available at the Family History Library.