

I. Origins and Family Background (1784–1836)

William Black (Father)

- **Born:** August 20, 1784, Lisburn, Antrim County, Ireland
- **Military Service:** Enlisted at 17 in the British Army; served **21 years** across Ireland, Africa, India, and the East Indies
- **Marriage:** July 31, 1822, to **Jane Johnston**
- **Religious Life:** Converted to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in **January 1839 - Migration:** England → Nauvoo (1843) → Iowa → Utah (1850)
- **Death:** January 28, 1873, Rockville, Utah

William Black was remembered as honest, unassuming, faithful, and devoted. His military discipline, religious conviction, and endurance shaped the character of his son Joseph.

Jane Johnston Black (Mother)

- **Born:** June 11, 1801, Ireland
- A preacher before marriage; deeply religious and capable
- Led her family across the Atlantic during dangerous conditions. Demonstrated resilience during the Nauvoo expulsion, Winter Quarters, and the plains crossing
- **Died:** After 1883 (journal written late in life)

II. Birth and Early Life of Joseph Smith Black (1836–1844)

- **Born:** July 14, 1836, Lisburn, Ireland
- **Migration:** Moved to Manchester, England, then emigrated to America in **1840**
- Survived a violent Atlantic storm at sea
- **Baptized:** June 1844, age 7–8
- Witnessed **mob violence**, the **fall of Nauvoo**, and persecution firsthand
- Assisted Saints during battles and evacuations

These early experiences forged Joseph's lifelong loyalty to the Church and his resilience under persecution.

III. The Westward Trek and Early Utah Settlement (1844–1855)

- **Nauvoo → Iowa → Missouri River → Utah Valley**
- **Arrived in Salt Lake Valley:** Fall 1850
- Walked much of the journey, driving livestock
- Settled in **Sanpete Valley (Manti, Ephraim, Fort Ephraim)**

Indian Conflict & Fort Life

- Frequent raids, stolen livestock, and loss of life
- Joseph stood night guard for **18 months**
- Communities repeatedly evacuated and rebuilt

IV. Marriage, Church Service, and Early Leadership (1855–1862)



- **First Marriage:** Cynthia Allred, November 12, 1855
 - Ordained:
 - Seventy (age 16)
 - Teacher, militia officer
 - Served in the **Nauvoo Legion**
 - Participated in the **Utah War (Johnston's Army)** preparations
 - Became a local civic leader: selectman, justice of the peace
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V. Plural Marriage and Southern Utah (1860–1869)

Marriages

- **Sarah Jane Barney:** November 14, 1860
- **Caroline Thompson:** February 14, 1861
- (Later) **Louisa Jane Stocks:** February 13, 1885

Joseph explicitly records that plural marriage was entered **with consent, faith, and a sense of religious duty**, not secrecy or coercion.

Southern Utah (Dixie)

- Settled **Springdale, Rockville, Virgin River**
 - Extreme scarcity: flour \$25 per hundred pounds
 - Families survived on greens, fish, cane seed
 - Indian conflict forced repeated relocations
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VI. Kanosh, United Order, and Millard County (1869–1875)

- Moved to **Kanosh**
 - Participated in the **United Order**
 - Served in leadership roles
 - Learned the strengths and failures of communal economic systems
 - Returned to individual enterprise after United Order dissolved
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VII. Founding of Deseret and the Sevier River Struggle (1875–1887)

Settlement of Deseret

- Early settlers nearly abandoned the area due to:
 - Flooding
 - Dam failures
 - Starvation conditions
- Joseph emerged as **chief organizer and motivator**

The Dam

- Rebuilt repeatedly after washouts
 - Joseph led emergency work crews
 - Organized irrigation companies
 - Eventually replaced dam reliance with **canal systems**
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VIII. Bishop of Deseret (1877–1892)

- **Called Bishop:** July 24, 1877
 - Oversaw:
 - Ward organization
 - Tithing office
 - Meetinghouse construction
 - Schools and Church programs
 - Known for:
 - Generosity
 - Trust in others (sometimes exploited)
 - Never refusing aid to the poor
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IX. Merchant, Contractor, and Railroad Builder (1878–1882)

- Opened a **mercantile store**, became a major **railroad contractor**
 - Negotiated successfully during financial crisis
 - Earned significant wealth but reinvested heavily in community
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X. Federal Persecution and Imprisonment (1885–1889) Anti-Polygamy Raids

- Constant surveillance, Forced hiding
- Families traumatized by night raids

Arrest & Trial

- **Indicted:** 1889
- **Sentence:** 75 days, Utah Territorial Penitentiary
- Chose imprisonment rather than abandoning family

Prison Experience

- Documented conditions in detail
 - Advocated prison reform
 - Maintained faith and dignity
 - Released **December 25, 1889**
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XI. Later Years and Final Labors (1890–1910)

- Continued farming, contracting, and mining
 - Managed multiple households
 - Declining health after 1906
 - **Death:** August 13, 1910, Deseret, Utah
 - Buried beside wives Cynthia and Caroline
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XII. The Four Wives — Individual Stories and Contributions

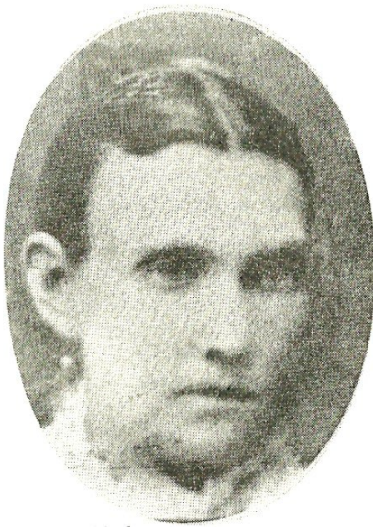
1. Nancy Cynthia Allred Black (1840–1901)



Cynthia Allred Black

- First wife, married 1855
- Mother of **10 children**
- Pioneer nurse and midwife
- Assisted hundreds without pay
- Helped build Deseret physically and spiritually
- Died after multiple strokes

2. Sarah Jane Barney Black (1845–1934)



- Married 1860 at age 15
- Raised her own children and Louisa's orphaned children
- Relief Society leader and visiting teacher into old age
- Lived final years in Idaho
- Remembered for faith, sacrifice, and endurance

3. Caroline Peterson Black (1843–1919)



- Danish immigrant
- Managed Joseph's store
- Seamstress, cook, organizer
- Mother of **11 children**
- Known for warmth, humor, and generosity
- Deeply loved by grandchildren

4. Louisa Jane Stocks Black (1855–1896)



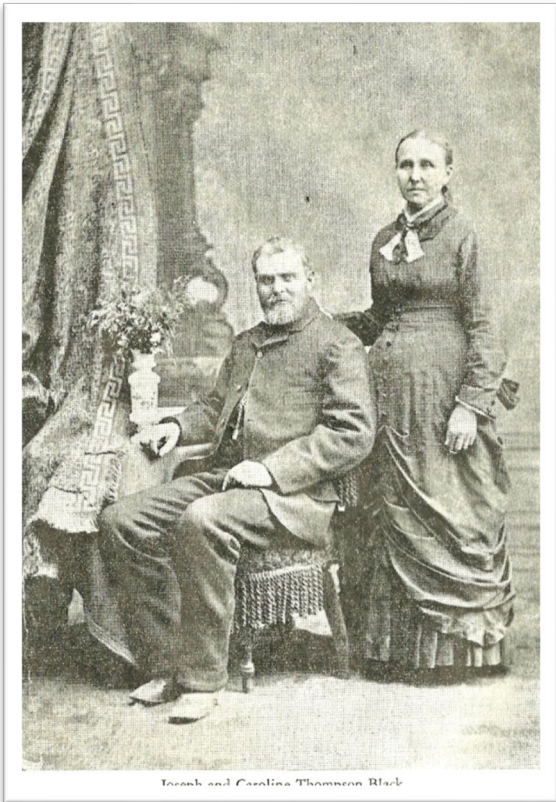
Louisa Jane Stocks Black

- Educated schoolteacher
- Previously married; two children
- Married Joseph in 1885
- Mother of **6 children**
- Died young due to complications after childbirth
- Her children were raised by sister-wives

XIII. Closing Perspective

Joseph Smith Black's life reflects:

- The **cost of faith**
- The **complexity of plural marriage**
- The **burden of leadership**



Joseph and Carolina Thompson Black

- The **resilience of pioneer families**

His wives were not passive figures but **active builders, healers, teachers, and survivors**, each shaping western settlement and family legacy in distinct ways.