

The History of James Radford Millard and His Wife Catherine Richards

Chapter 12: James Millard Dies

In March of 1907, just days away from his eightieth birthday, James became ill. His family, knowing this was the end, rallied to his side. On Sunday, March 17th, James' old friend from Wales, Ebenezer Williams, who was also an ordained patriarch, traveled from Kaysville. James' daughter Mary, of course, was with him in the home they shared. Cecelia traveled from Garland. John and William both came from Idaho and were present when James became very tired, closed his eyes and fell asleep for the last time, after only a week of illness.

The funeral was held three days later in the Old Rock Chapel. James' neighbor Charles Boylin delivered an entire truckload of plants from his Lagoon greenhouse which filled the windows of the chapel.

James was laid to rest in the Farmington Cemetery next to his wife Catherine.

Cecelia wrote a poem which fits the life of her father, James Millard:

God gives us life for just a while, to shape, to mold, to beautify,
To meet with courage and a smile,
To trust in him and glorify his name and honor all his ways.
Then calls us, singly and alone
To reap the measure of our days
And bears each upward to his throne.

William Joseph and Maud Move Their Family to Farmington

After the death of his father, William returned to his home in Robin where he and Maud decided to sell their log cabin and move into the Farmington family home with Mary so she wouldn't be alone.¹ They were also hopeful William could more ably provide for their large family in Farmington, as job opportunities in Robin were not abundant.

Maud, expecting their eighth child, rode the train to Farmington with their four youngest daughters. Ivy and Alice, the two oldest, remained in Robin with William until he sold the property, for which he only received four hundred dollars. The girls rode the horses to Farmington while driving the cows ahead of them as William drove his team which pulled the wagon and their belongings.



William Joseph Millard moved his family to Farmington after the death of his father in 1907. He is shown here with his wife Maud, who is holding James Millard's namesake, born four months after James Millard's death. Front: Martha, Dora and Mary.

That summer, Maud gave birth to her last child, a son she named James Radford Millard. Two months later Cecelia, now age forty-five, gave birth to the twenty-fourth and last grandchild of James and Catherine Millard, a daughter she named Edna Kathryn.

William and Maud found the old rock home of his parents to be too small for his large family. With better opportunities for work, he was able to move to a larger home after one year, and then a year later they moved to a four-room home which they remodeled.

By 1910, Mary was living alone in the family home near her long-time friend and neighbor Aurelia Rogers, with whom she worked in the Davis Stake Primary.² Walter was now serving on the Bear River Stake High Council and as mayor of Garland.

John and Keturah remained in Oakley, where John continued to teach school until about 1900 when he moved his family from his farm into Oakley proper so his children could have better educational and employment opportunities.

By that time John had opened a farm implement store in Oakley, and by 1908 he was the manager of Consolidated Wagon & Machine Company twenty miles north in Burley.



John James Millard built this home in Oakley where he raised his family. Photo courtesy of Debora DeDen.

John and Keturah and their five living children remained faithful and active in the LDS Church, where John served for many years as the superintendent of the Sunday School.

Mary Catherine Millard Marries Loren Jay Robinson

During these years, John and Keturah's friends Loren and Sarah Robinson had become the parents of eleven children, although by 1905 only six were living. Sarah and Loren appear to have separated after twenty-five years of marriage. In 1910, Loren was living with their twelve-year-old son Leo, but Sarah was not living in Oakley.³ By May of 1913 Sarah and Loren were divorced.⁴

Possibly through the assistance of Mary's brother John, Mary and Loren renewed their romance. In November of 1914 the couple was married in the Salt Lake LDS Temple.

Mary, now fifty-four, gave up her church calling in the Davis Stake and moved to Idaho where she and Loren, age fifty-five, worked a ranch outside of Oakley in the summers. They spent the winters in Salt Lake City where Cecelia and Walter had moved in 1916.

Mary loved working with children and found many opportunities to teach in Primary and Sunday School. She spent time with the grandchildren of her siblings who called her Aunt Mary Idaho.

With a twinkle in her eye, she told these children that it was so cold in Oakley that she had to sew herself into her underwear during the winters.⁵

Joseph William was able to make a comfortable living for his family in Farmington. After automobiles became commonplace in Utah, he obtained a good job with the Continental Oil Company driving a gasoline truck for service stations.

Later he worked on the railroad, which was very hard work, but again, this provided well for his family.

Joseph was as honest as the rest of his family. One day while at work he found a wallet with fifty dollars inside. The wallet contained identification enabling him to locate the owner, who was very grateful for the return of the money. Joseph knew that honesty was not just a rule of obedience, but that it blessed entire communities.

Joseph served as the secretary of his high priest's quorum and later as the leader of his quorum group in his ward.

The Passing of the Millard Children

John James died in Oakley in 1940 at the age of eighty-five, following his wife Keturah in death by seven years, leaving behind five of their six children and sixteen of their eighteen grandchildren.

Lorin Robinson died in at his home in Salt Lake City in 1942, and at that time his wife Mary moved into an apartment. She lived alone for seven years, until she was ninety years old. At that time she moved into the home of her stepson, Leo. He and his wife Murtice cared for her until her death in 1951



Mary Elizabeth Grover Innes, 5th from left, stands in this picture of the Garland Literary Club. Cecelia Millard Grover, Mary's mother, is second from right. Norma Grover Airmet, Cecelia's granddaughter, is certain that Mary Millard Robinson was also a member of this club, but she is not pictured and is possibly taking the photo.



Cecelia Millard with her husband Walter Grover and seven of their nine children at their 60th wedding anniversary celebration in 1943. This picture was taken outside Mary Elizabeth Grover Innes' home in Salt Lake City not long after she was widowed. Back, L-R: George, Alice, Leslie, Mary, Jim, Odell and Leland. Preston was a war correspondent in Europe at this time and their youngest daughter Edna lived in California.



Joseph William Millard, last child of James Radford and Catherine Richards Millard, pioneered in Robin, Idaho, with his wife Maud, but settled permanently in Farmington. He lived to be 79.

at the age of ninety-one, with Murtice writing Mary's biography for the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers. Mary was buried in Farmington next to her husband.

Cecelia died in 1945 of heart failure in her Salt Lake City home at the age of eighty-three. Her husband Walter lived three more years, dying of kidney failure at the age of eighty-eight. Of their nine children, only their daughter Alice preceded them in death, dying at the age of fifty-four of a heart attack. Several of their twenty-eight grandchildren are still alive (in 2012).



Alice Maud Walker married Joseph William Millard in 1893. They had eight children together and Maud was well-known for her homemaking skills.

William Joseph died at his home in Farmington in 1944 of pneumonia at the age of seventy-nine. His wife Maud outlived him by seven years,

dying at age eighty-two with a heart attack. William and Maud left seven living children, with several grandchildren still alive in 2012.

With a heritage that spanned from the earliest Britons to modern-day Americans, James and Catherine Millard enjoyed a rich, loving life based on precepts of the restored Gospel of Jesus Christ, passing their thrift and beliefs onto their posterity.

Endnotes for Chapter 12:

1. *The Smoot Family History*, by Mary Ellen Wood Smoot, page 196, indicates their concern was indeed for Mary. However, the history also indicates that William had struggled in Robin to provide for his large family.

2. The 1880, 1900 and 1910 census records indicate Mary had never moved from the family home, remaining neighbors to the Rogers family through the decades. Margaret Steed Hess wrote that Mary, "continued to live [in the family home] for many years," indicating Mary was known as a resident of the home, not William Joseph.

3. I searched through the Oakley 1910 census and could not find Sarah, even in the homes of her married children. I also could not find her twenty-four-year-old son Loren; perhaps the enumerator missed them.

4. I tried to be very careful writing about Sarah and Loren Robinson. A loving biography of Sarah incorrectly states that Loren did not marry Mary Millard in the 1880s because her family left Farmington, and that Mary moved to Oakley before the end of Sarah's marriage. This biography does not mention the separation of Loren and Sarah which apparently lasted three years or more.

5. Norma Grover Airmet had clear memories of Mary Millard when I spoke with her in March of 2012, two weeks shy of Norma's 95th birthday. Norma remembered that her grandmother Celia and her great-aunt Mary were both members of a literary club and had clear, sharp minds.