

WILLIAM ROWLEY, JR.

William Rowley was born June 21, 1785 in Cradley, Hertfordshire, England to William Rowley and Ann. Married Ann Jewell August 22, 1836. They had seven children: four sons and three daughters. Died February 14, 1848 in Suckley, Worcester, England.

When William was twenty-two he married Ann Taylor. They had seven children. Soon after the last child was born Ann died leaving William with a large family of motherless children.

He found a good mother for his children when he married Ann Jewell. He was twenty-two years older than his second wife.

William and Ann belonged to a sect called the United Brethren which was a break off from the Wesleyan faith and they were continually praying for light and truth.

Elder Wilford Woodruff, who was preaching the Gospel in England was impressed to go and speak with them and in a short time converted and baptized nearly this whole congregation of 600. *See picture from "Ensign" Magazine, February 1999.

The Rowley home was always open to the Elders to hold their meetings. One evening the Saints had been invited to hold a meeting at their home, with President Woodruff in charge. A mob surrounded the house. William went outside to try to quiet the mob and asked them what they wanted, and they said they wanted Woodruff. When they were told he had gone to bed they said they wanted him anyway and they were going to get him. William said, "If you get him it will be over my dead body." The mob grabbed him and dragged him out into the yard where they beat him until he was unconscious. While the mob was dragging William away he called to Ann and told her to close and lock the door, which she did. The mob beat William until they thought he was dead, and finding the house locked up,

they departed.

William was a well-to-do farmer and the Rowley's had a beautiful home surrounded by lawns and orchards. They made a living by raising and selling their fruit and hops. After the fruit crop failed for two years in a row they had to sell their house and possessions at auction and they had to earn their living by days work. This was a severe trial to them.

William had a terrible accident with his wagon load of farm produce. His horses were frightened on a bridge and tipped the wagon over. The wheel of the wagon crushed his leg and hip so badly that nothing could be done for him. The officers took him to the hospital and sold his team and wagon to pay expenses. He was in the hospital seven months and then died leaving Ann with seven small children under twelve years of age and some of his children by his first wife.