

The Original Quorum of the Twelve

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The original quorum of the twelve was chosen on February 14, 1835. They weren't called by the Prophet Joseph Smith. They were set apart by the first presidency, and they set apart the 3 witnesses to the Book of Mormon to call the original quorum of the twelve. As the three witnesses start calling them, the first name was Lyman Johnson, he was 23 years old. Joseph Smith steps in and puts them into seniority by age, unlike how we do it now. The oldest man in the quorum of the twelve (and therefore president) Thomas B. Marsh. Brigham Young was 34 at the time. David W. Patton didn't know his birthday (not such a big deal in that day), he was actually older than Thomas B. Marsh. The quorum of the twelve was much younger in those days. They were all faithful when called. They started to leave the church in 1837-1841

1. Thomas B. Marsh- His fall has nothing to do with the Kirtland Safety Society. He doesn't leave the church until 1838 when he lives in Far West. His next door neighbor's wife and his decide to share household duties. The plan was to share strippings (what is needed to make cheese). He is told by his wife that she thinks Lucinda Harris is holding back strippings. He looks into it and takes it to the Bishop's court (Newel K. Whitney) who says that if anyone was cheating, it was Thomas' wife. He was very upset with what was happening. He took it before the stake president and gets the same result. Finally goes to the First Presidency with the same case. Joseph Smith looks into the matter, tells him to remember D&C 131, and upholds the ruling of the other leaders. Thomas says that no one has the right to malign his wife. He writes an affidavit to Lilburn W. Boggs, saying that Joseph was trying to put together an army. This was the catalyst for the extermination order. Thomas leaves the church for 18 years. Wanders from state to state and tries to support himself as a teacher. His favorite subject was biblical geography. He struggles financially, his wife and family leave him. HE then contracts palsy, sometimes it runs so out of control that he shakes so badly that he can't feed himself. Finally decides he's made such a huge mistake that he wants to find Lucinda Harris to apologize. He makes it to Council Bluffs and finds out that George Washington Harris is serving on a high council, finds out that Lucinda has since passed away. George takes Thomas into his home, and takes care of him. Finally Thomas decides that "I want the God of Israel to be my God", and he was re-baptized. Many people wondered if it was worth anything after all he had done. They took up a collection to send Thomas on the next wagon train to see Brigham Young. When Thomas shows up Brigham doesn't recognize him. Thomas speaks to Brigham and is told "it must be you because only you can chit-chat about nothing". He is invited to sit with Brigham Young at the next General Conference. His topic was how we suffered in Missouri. He points out that Thomas B. Marsh was the one who started all of that. After the shouts die down, he has Thomas stand up and makes a comparison between the two of them, and says that Thomas is an example of what happens to someone when they lose the Holy Ghost. Thomas stands up, and tells them about what's happened since he left the church, apologizes and asks for forgiveness. Brigham Young stands up and asks for a vote of fellowship- it was unanimous in the affirmative. Thomas becomes very emotional and says that he knew the Lord loved him a lot. Then he made an amazing announcement, he promised that because of the vote he would never falter again. Brigham Young stood up and said, that he prayed likewise to never fall. He then prophesies that Thomas will in fact fall again. Thomas then moves to Ogden, for a while things are going well, but then the RLDS missionaries start coming through. They have tons of success in Ogden including Thomas B. Marsh.
2. David W. Patton - at one point said to Joseph Smith that he loved the Lord enough that he would give his life for the Lord. Joseph said not to say that because the Lord loved him enough that the Lord would take him up on that. In Missouri there was the battle of Crooked River, leading the charge was David W. Patton, also known as Captain Fear Not, he was one of three people killed in battle.
3. Brigham Young - when he heard that Joseph had died he wondered how he would ever be worthy to see the man again. He put in advertisements where Joseph had lived saying that if there was anyone that Joseph hadn't paid money back to that he would pay them back. He ran the ad for 10 years and paid money to anyone who said they would. He asked when he died that they turned him on his side so that perhaps the Lord wouldn't recognize him and he really could get some rest. (rest in Hebrew meant

glory) His last words were "Joseph, Joseph, Joseph"

4. Heber C. Kimball- he came home from a mission in England and Joseph called him in and told him about the doctrine of plural marriage, and Heber says he's lost it and it's not right. He told Joseph to repent and take the doctrine back. He goes home and walks the floor. He finally goes back to Joseph and decides he will do whatever is asked.
5. Orson Hyde - He is REALLY bright. He had memorized the entire bible in English, Hebrew & German. 1837- he is no longer the clerk. Called on a mission to England. When he comes home the church has moved to Far West. His best friend was Thomas B. Marsh. When Thomas writes the affidavit he needs someone to sign saying it was true, and Orson Hyde signed it. He was also kicked out of the church. He leaves Missouri and goes to Illinois and becomes very depressed. Heber C. Kimball was his old mission companion who came after him to find him and bring him back instead of talking about him behind his back. He finds him and tells him to come back. He goes and lives with Heber, and they will go and meet Joseph when he gets out of Liberty Jail. When Joseph sees Orson Hyde says he says "Since I have seen you last I have been through an ocean of tribulation. It would have been so much easier if I had not known that it was you that put me there." Then Joseph says "Friends at first, are friends at last. Brother the war is over, welcome back." He is only out for a couple of months and is put back into the quorum of the twelve. He goes to Jerusalem to dedicate the land for the return of the Jewish people. In 1875 Brigham Young calls him in and says he's thinking about 1838, and Orson Hyde remembers all that has happened. He says that he has repented, and Brigham Young says that someone else has served longer and more faithfully than he has in the quorum of the twelve (John Taylor) and is granted higher seniority).
6. William McClellan- He was a school teacher in 5 different states. He felt that because he had traveled that much that he was brilliant. His pride comes out when the quorum of the twelve was asked to sign the D&C that they were revelations from the Lord. He read through them and said he could write better revelations than the ones Joseph had. He was challenged to write them better, couldn't and finally signs. He was one of the principles of the Kirtland Safety Society. He had huge dreams that it would make him lots of money. He didn't lose much money with the downfall of KSS but lost his dreams. He decides to stalk Joseph Smith to find the right time to beat him up. He finds that Joseph Smith finally ends up in a place called Richmond Jail and is chained to the wall there. McClellan decides this would be a good time. However, the night before he shows up the guards start talking about the atrocities they had committed against Mormons and Joseph stood up and says "Silence Ye fiends of the infernal pit, or you or I die this night." William shows up the next night and when he asks the jailer to do so, the jailer says only if it's a fair fight, and William leaves. He goes and breaks into Emma's home in Far West. He breaks in and steals her possessions, and leaves the state. She gets out of the state for safety with her four children. William becomes part of the many different Mormon off shoots and dies by drowning, and it is said that
7. Parley P. Pratt- 1836 - called on a mission to Canada, he keeps hearing that he needs to meet John Taylor, fairly sure that's why he's going to Canada. John Taylor is holding bible study classes thinking about what the world will be like when the true church is on the earth. John doesn't want to hear about the church from some American upstart. He stays with a lady named Mrs. Walton, and attends one of John Taylor's lecture with her. His question was "Where are there apostles upon the earth?" and Parley stands up and says "I'm here!" Parley starts giving his own sermons, and John decides to attend and is finally baptized, which led to the baptism of hundreds in Canada. While he's gone his wife gives birth to their first child. He leaves he tells John that if anyone tells him that Joseph is a fallen prophet not to listen to them. Parley goes home and starts listening to apostates that Joseph is a fallen prophet. John decides to come to Kirtland to meet Joseph Smith. Instead of going directly to Joseph he stops to find Parley P. Pratt. When John comes Parley tells him you shouldn't have come, haven't you heard? Joseph Smith is a fallen prophet. John reminds him of the last thing Parley told him in Canada. Parley said "the spirit of apostasy has caught me." They decide to go and see Joseph together.