

## Online resources relating to converts to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (*Mormons*) in the 19<sup>th</sup> century

This is a list of websites which provide information that can be useful for family history research if you think your ancestors may have had a connection to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (*Mormon* or LDS church). These are all free of charge and supplement the usual and better-known sites such as:

[www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk) \*

<https://billiongraves.com>

<https://cwgc.org>

[www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)

[www.findmypast.org.uk](http://www.findmypast.org.uk) \*

<https://www.library.wales>

<https://maps.nls.uk/os/>

<https://parishchest.com>

[www.rootschat.com](http://www.rootschat.com)

County Archives, Cemetery and Crematorium records, etc.

\* Sites marked with an asterisk normally require a subscription but can be accessed free of charge at Family History Centres located in LDS chapels (Cardiff, Cwmbran, Merthyr Tydfil, Newcastle Emlyn, Swansea- see <https://www.familysearch.org/locations/> for contact details and to make an appointment to attend the centre).

### Early Latter Day Saint Missionary (1830-1940) database.

<https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/missionary/?lang=eng> This website gives information on individuals who served as missionaries for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, including the dates of service and area of the world where they were assigned (many British converts to the LDS church who emigrated to America in the 19<sup>th</sup> century returned here as missionaries; those who were Welsh-speaking were of course especially helpful to continuing missionary efforts in Wales). A link to the individual's record on [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) is included, and where there are missionary journals there are often links to these (which provide fascinating details of the daily life of the missionary, and often references to family members they visited or corresponded with while serving as missionaries). Information freely available with no subscription or log-on required.

**Family Search.** [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) This website requires a username and password for access but this can be set up easily and is free of charge. The site is a cumulative record of individuals drawn from a wide variety of sources – through the indexing programme of the LDS church as well as the contributions of those connected to the individuals. This is a

wiki site, so anyone can add to or change information. There is also an associated App - *Family Tree* - for smart-phone access.

### **Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel.**

<https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/overlandtravel/> This searchable database provides information on individuals who emigrated to America as converts to the LDS church and crossed America by wagon, handcart or on foot. It includes the names of the companies with which they travelled as well as lists of others in the same company. The database ends with the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad in 1869. Free of charge; no log-on required.

### **Saints by Sea: Latter Day Saint Immigration to America (1840-1932).**

<https://saintsbysea.lib.byu.edu/> About 90,000 LDS converts crossed the oceans during the 19th century, the first company in 1840 followed by a continual flow of emigrants over the next decades. This website offers access to autobiographies, journals, diaries, reminiscences, and letters – all linked to hundreds of known LDS emigrant voyages with their passenger lists (giving names, ages, ports of departure and arrival as well as company leaders). The website complements the [Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel Database](#), which covers those who crossed the plains. While the *Saints by Sea* site emphasizes the story of those gathering to ‘Zion’ in the American West before crossing the plains, the accounts include those who travelled by rail from 1869, not solely those who travelled by wagon, handcart or on foot.

**Utah Digital Newspapers.** <https://digitalnewspapers.org/> The J. Willard Marriott Library has been digitizing historical Utah newspapers since 2001. This site currently holds digital images of more than two million pages of newsprint. Searches can be made across all publications included in the database, or by county or specific newspaper. The site is free of charge.

**Welsh Mormon History.** <http://welshmormon.byu.edu> This website offers information on almost five thousand individuals who emigrated from Wales in the 19<sup>th</sup> century as converts to the LDS church. Information may include photographs (of the individuals and places where they lived), journal transcripts and links to the individuals’ records on Family Search. There is also a wide range of additional resources in the form of articles, letters and even complete books relating to the history of the early LDS church in Wales and those associated with it. Many of these were originally in Welsh but are offered in translation, thanks to the efforts of Dr Ron Dennis, who established and maintains the website. Additional material is welcomed and can be contributed via a link provided on the site. It is freely accessible to the public without the need to create a login or personal account.