Richard Farmer Family

Richard Farmer, born August 1788 in Preston Wynne, Herefordshire
Died August 26, 1830 in Preston Wynne

Hereford Journal, Wednesday September 8, 1830

Melancholy Accident--On Thursday the 26th ult, as Mr. Richard Farmer, of Preston Wynne, in the county was returning from Dormington with a load of lime, he unfortunately was caught between the shafts of the wagon and the post of Bartestreet side gate, and so seriously injured that he expired the following morning, aged 42.

He was a man of the most exemplary integrity, and justly esteemed by all who knew him; he has left a widow and six children to deplore his loss.

Richard Farmer married Elizabeth Morris on December 11, 1811 in the Holy Undivided Trinity Church in Preston Wynne. Their children:

- Christiana 1812-1829
- Eliza 1814-1829
- James Morris 1816-1895 (Salt Lake City, Utah, United States)
- Emma Farmer 1818-1891
- Ann Farmer Arnold 1818-1891 (Salt Lake City, Utah, USA)
- Richard Farmer Jr. 1823-1907 (Iowa, USA)
- John Edwin/Edward 1825-1915 (Salt Lake City, Utah, USA)
- Mary Jane Farmer Butterfield 1829-1890 (Salt Lake City, Utah, USA)

After Richard Sr. died, the family worked as laborers on the farm. They became followers of the LDS Church, and went to the US in probably 1856 on the Horizon from Liverpool in the company of Elder Edwin Martin. The Martin Handcart Expedition is famous for its hardships and privations, with many dying enroute from hunger, frostbite, and poor planning.

Richard Farmer Jr. and his family stayed behind in Iowa to bury their mother, Elizabeth Morris Farmer, who died somewhere on the road. Within 20 years, Richard Farmer and his wife Harriet joined the Reformed Latter Day Saints, now known as the Community of Christ. The rest of the Farmer family arrived safely in Salt Lake City and remained with the original LDS for their lifetimes. Brothers James Morris and John Edwin/Edward had multiple wives. The brothers stayed in touch, with Richard visiting Salt Lake City at least once.