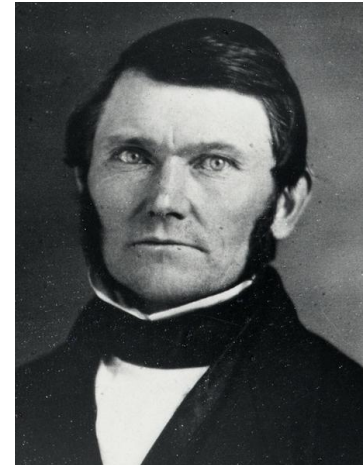


A history of Mormons in Colwall

In 1840, Herefordshire and the adjoining areas of Worcestershire and Gloucestershire became the focus of a mission undertaken by Apostles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, known as the Mormons, who travelled here from America. An estimated 1,800 people in the Three counties were baptised into the church, which was about a quarter of the UK membership in 1841. [1: page 124]

One of American missionaries was called Wilford Woodruff and he kept a detailed journal of his travels, which can be found at <https://wilfordwoodruffpapers.org> [2][3]. He visited the Colwall area in April and May 1840 and again on March 1841.

Many of the converts were originally members of a non-conformist sect called the United Brethren which had been founded in Herefordshire in 1832 by Thomas Kington. A Preaching Plan for the United Brethren for April to June 1840 still exists and shows that there was a weekly service in Colwall at 10.am The northern region which was called the Froomes Hill Conference had 20 branches and included Colwall.



William Woodruff (Church History Library of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints)

UNITED BRETHREN PREACHERS' PLAN OF THE FROOMES HILL CIRCUIT, 1840.												
BEEP OF ALL, GOD IS WITH US.												
But the Lord said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak.												
Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee.—JEREMIAH 1, 7, 8.												
LORDS DAY PLAN.												
PLACES AND TIMES.	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Froome Hill	3s	9	20	30	11	18	6	5	4	30	10	1
Hill	3	9	20	30	11	18	6	5	4	30	10	1
Stasley Hill	1r	2c	5	9	20	31	20	30	11	6	4	7
Ridgeway Cross	10	21	12	3	20	13	17	20	22	14	19	8
Greenfold	2	10	31	12	3	20	13	17	20	22	14	19
Moored Cross	8	13	26	12	3	20	25	23	17	21	15	19
Colwall	13	8	21	24	12	3	20	22	26	35	2	28
Pale House	15	8	21	31	12	3	20	32	28	33	2	28
Ledbury	16	15	8	20	21	9	31	25	2	22	17	23
Malsorn Hill	19	10	15	28	9	27	12	3	30	1	28	17
Keynord Street	18	21	1	1	15	18	5	2	12	3	22	28
Wood Point	18	21	1	1	15	18	5	2	12	3	22	28

WEEK DAY PLAN.												
PLACES AND NIGHTS.	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Froome Hill	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r
Ledbury	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r
Log-Scote	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r
Malsorn	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r
Shodwell	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r
Atchell	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r
Crovent	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r
Tasbridge	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r
Dugdunton	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r
Bishwood	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r
Colwall	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r
Malsorn Hill	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r
Stasley Hill	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r
Hone House	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r

(Church History Library of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints)

Amongst the preachers for Colwall was J. Lucy who features prominently in the history of Mormons in Colwall. Most of the United Brethren were converted to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saint and the preaching districts stayed the same.

Wilford Woodruff recorded on **Saturday 9th May** [4]

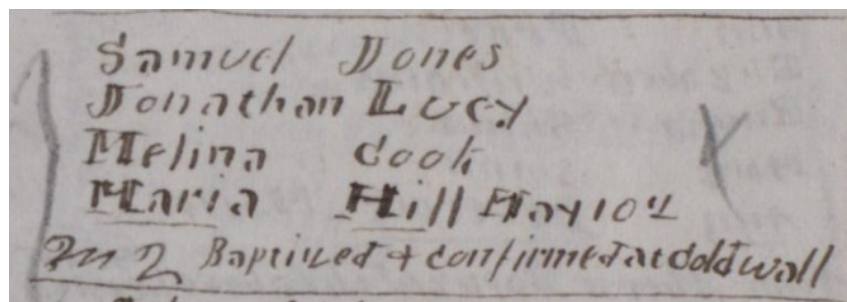
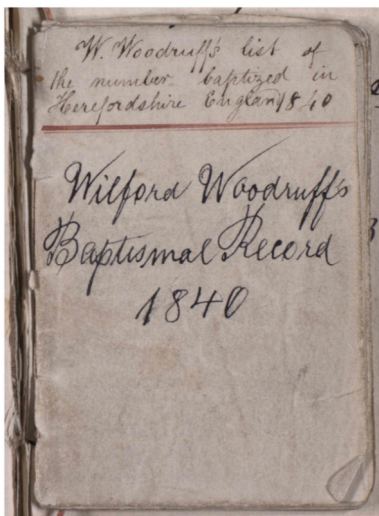
I walked to Colwall & spent the night at Johnathan Lucy during this days walk I had a grand survey of the works of nature & the power of God while standing upon the top of Marlver[n] Hill elevated from 12 to 1500 feet in the air where I had a view of all the surrounding country for many miles the City of Worcester is in plain view in the North & Gloster in the South with several large villages between & Ledbury with other villages in the wes[t] with a fine beautiful cultivated vale upon evry hand, & while standing upon this eminence & beholding this grand prospect or survey to

add to the solemnity of the scenery the thunders began to roll & lightnings flash beneath my feet while the rain descended in torrents in the vale beneath while I was in the midst or above the clouds to behold the scene .

And on **Sunday 10th May**

I met a company at Colwall at Jonathan Lucy's at 9 o'clock in the morning & Baptized 4 two were Preachers. I confirmed 12 persons I then preached at Brother Lucys at Collwall, dined at Mr Holmes, then walked over the top & across Malvern Hill & preached at the Pale House, from thence back again across Malvern Hill & Preached at Benjamin Holand on the North Side of Malvern Hill from there, I walked to Colwall & spent the night which closed the scenes of the day.

On the 10th May Jonathan Lucy was baptised and confirmed in the Church. [5]



Jonathan Lucy became a priest in the new religion and influenced others. Thomas Steed was 14 years old when his family was converted in Malvern. Later in his life he recorded a gathering of Saints at the home of Jonathan Lucy in Colwall [7][1:Page 99]

All at once a power put me on my feet, the Spirit of prophecy rested upon me. . . . The house was filled with the Spirit and the power of God, and every one present was thrilled with the convincing power of the Holy Spirit and which I could feel through my whole system like fire shut up in my bones. It was then plainly made known unto me that God lives, that Jesus is the Redeemer and that Joseph Smith was a prophet of the Most High God. Of the truth of this a doubt has never crossed my mind from that day to this.

The missionaries were not always welcome. For example in Dymock:

I opened meeting by Singing & Prayer & no sooner had we commenced than the mob armed themselves with eggs, Bricks, rocks, & evry thing els they could lay their hands upon & began to throw them upon the house like a shower of hail Stones for nearly an hour they dashed in the windows scattered Stones, Brick, & glass, through the rooms, broke the tile on the rooff & continued such depredations untill the close of the meeting.

Wilford Woodruff was accompanied to England by Brigham Young and William Richards. All three missionaries criss-crossed the three counties on foot, often covering 12 miles a day – preaching and baptising converts. Their paths would occasionally cross and on the 20th May they held a council on top of Herefordshire Beacon where they decided to publish the Book of Mormon in England.

Wednesday 20th May 1840 [7]

We walked to Wind Point & Elders Young Richards & myself walked onto the top of the part of Malvern Hill called Herefordshire B[e]acon. here we united in prayer & held a council & unitedly felt that it was the will of God that Elder Young should go immediately to Manchester to assist in Publishing a collection of Hymns of 3000 copies & also to immediately print & finish 3000 copies of the Book of Mormon.

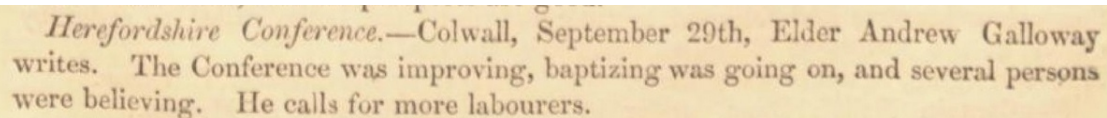
The Preachers and Members of the Fromes Hill Circuit of the United Brethren met at the house of Elder John Cheese, on Stanley Hill, Herefordshire on June 21st 1840 [8]. It was agreed that the meeting be hereafter known by the name of the “Fromes Hill Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Jonathan Lucy is listed in the report as being the priest with the care of the church at Colwall. Another meeting on the 21st September 1840 [9] lists the Colwall branch as having 17 members.

Wilford Woodruff was back in Colwall on Wednesday 17th March 1841 when Mary Foxall (who had been baptised at Brands Lodge the previous year) told him:

Said she saw an angel stand [illegible] me clothed in a white robe } I conversed with many Saints upon the subject of gathering. I walked to Wind Point, while on the way I went into the Giants Cave on Marlvern Hills it was dug out of a solid Rock ... After taking a view of this I went down the Hill visited the Saints at wind point from thence to Colwall met with a large congregation of Saints & preached to them ... the Saints Donated £0.6 shillings to help me on my Journey on my return home I spent the night at Br Johnathan Lucy

In addition to Wilford Woodruff journal the Church started issuing a Newsletter called the Millennial Star 1840, which includes short reports of conferences held around England. By 1847 the Millennial Star Church Member report on the “First Division of Mars Hill Conference” shows that there were 37 members and Jonathan Lucy was still the elder of the branch [10]

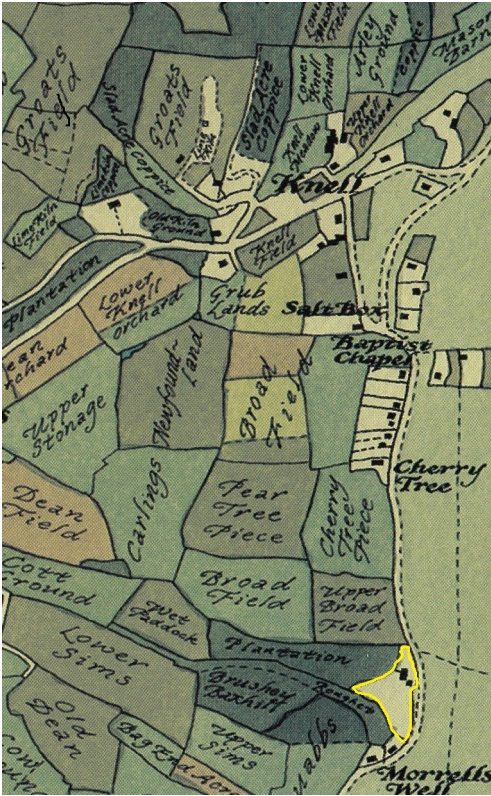
The Colwall branch is listed as having closed by 1852[Mormon Map], but a report in the 1854 news section of the Millennial Star Church Newspaper suggests it was still going in 1854 [11].



Herefordshire Conference.—Colwall, September 29th, Elder Andrew Galloway writes. The Conference was improving, baptizing was going on, and several persons were believing. He calls for more labourers.

There was also a branch at “Wind Point” (Wynds Point) which is listed as having a membership of 31 in 1840 and 23 in 1841. Locally there were also “The Malvern Hill Branch” and “Moor-end Cross Branch”.

Nearly half of the 1,800 converts from the Three Counties are likely to have left England, and set of on long migrations across America following Brigham Young. [1:Page 152] Thomas Steed emigrated in 1844[1:Page 148] .



However, Jonathan Lucy and his family remained in Herefordshire. According to the 1841 census he was an Agricultural Labourer, but elsewhere he is described as a thatcher. In 1841 he was recorded living in Upper Colwall at a place described as “Woods”. The 1842 Tithe map shows he owned a house and a field in Chase Road. It is marked in yellow on the plan and is now called Grove Cottage.

Jonathan Lucy died in 1869 and is buried in St James’ Church in Colwall along with his first wife Anne who died in 1853 and his second wife Sarah who died in 1861.

However, his connection to the Mormons lives on to the 21st century with Mormon Missionaries wanting to see Grove Cottage because Brigham Young stayed there.

Two reminders of this time remain. The Church of the Later Days Saints have bought the pond near Castle Frome where many baptisms took place and in 2004 they bought and restored the chapel at Gadfield Elm near Pendock in Gloucestershire.

The Gadfield Chapel originally belonged to the United Brethren, was deeded to the The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, who in turn sold it to provide funds for emigrations to America. Today it is the oldest Latter-day Saint chapel in the world still standing and the last surviving memorial to the United Brethren. [13]



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Baptisms at Colwall, Brands Lodge and Wynds Point

	Baptism	Age	Comments
3 rd May Winds Point	John (H)Arvart		
	John Moris		
	Thomas Jones		United Brethren Preacher
10 th May Colwall	Samuel Jones		
	Jonathan Lucy	34	
	Melina Cook	59	1841: Great Malvern
	Maria Hill		
11 th May Winds Point	Ann Steed		
	Mary Symons		Mary Symonds 66 lived at Beacon Hill
	Ann Bartlett		
	Phebe Davis	64	1841: Friends Hall (next to Brand Lodge)
12 th May Brand Lodge	Sarah Stanton	64	House Keeper of Brand Lodge
	Mary Foxall	49	1841: Winslow Herefordshire
	Jemima Symons		
	Margaret Hill		
17 th May Colwall	Mary Haywood		
	Ann Lucy	39	Dressmaker Wife of J Lucy
20 th May Winds Point	Ann Perkins		
	Robert Baldwin	14?	1841: Great Malvern?
21 st May Brand Lodge	James Foxall	44	1841: Winslow Herefordshire. Agricultural Labourer
	Hannah Foxall	17	Emigrated to USA by 1846

From William Woodruff Journal of Converts

Sources and Further Reading:

1. [The Field is White – Harvest in the Three Counties of England](#) 2017. Carol Wilkinson and Cynthia Doxey Green
2. <https://wilfordwoodruffpapers.org>
3. [Wilford Woodruff Journal January 1 1840 - December 31 1840](#)
4. [Wilford Woodruff Journal \(Page 118\)](#) 9th May 1840
5. [1840 Record of British Converts](#) The Wilford Woodruff Baptismal Record for 1840
6. The Life of Thomas Steed From His Own Diary 1826–1910
7. [Wilford Woodruff Journal \(Page 123\)](#) 20th May 1840

8. [Wilford Woodruff Journal \(Page 133\)](#) 21st June 1840 (Frooms Hill Conference)
9. [Wilford Woodruff Journal \(Page 179\)](#) 21st September 1840 (Frooms Hill Conference)
10. [Millennial Star Vol 9 no. 6 \(Page 83\)](#) 7th February 1847 (First Division of Mars Hill Conference)
11. [Millennial Star Vol 16, no. 42 \(Page 665\)](#) 21st October 1854 (Herefordshire Conference)
12. [Map of Mormon Congregations](#)
13. [Gadfield Elm Chapel](#)
14. [The Mormon Mission in Herefordshire and Neighbouring Counties, 1840 to 1841](#) Hilary Davis Open University Student Thesis
15. [The Mormons in the Three Counties, 1840](#) Peter Garnett and Raymond Ward, £3.00