William Jennings

September 13, 1823 – January 15, 1886

William Jennings Mayor of Salt Lake City and Utah's first millionaire.

William Jennings was born in Yardley, England to a family which was in the butchering business and a very wealthy family. William left school at the age of eleven and became an assistant to his father. William immigrated to the United States in 1847. He worked as a butcher in New York, Ohio, and Missouri and had a lot of financial problems.

He married Jane Walker, a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, on July 2, 1851 in St. Louis, Missouri. He and his wife moved to Salt Lake City, Utah in 1852. Shortly after arriving in Salt Lake City, William was baptized into the LDS Church. Soon after his baptism he married Priscilla Paul as a plural wife.

William opened a butchery and tannery in Salt Lake City and later founded a successful business. In 1864, he had become so successful that he constructed an expensive building, the Eagle Emporium, and used it as the headquarters of his businesses. The state of his business at that time made William a leading merchant west of the Mississippi River. Eagle Emporium was sold to the LDS Church and became a central component of Zions Cooperative Mercantile Institution (ZCMI). His mansion, The Devereaux, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

William became the vice-president of the Utah Central Railroad Company after helping organize it in 1869 and became the president of the Utah Southern Railroad Company. In the later years of his life he was a director for the Deseret National Bank. He was involved in the ZCMI, as superintendent on multiple occasions as the vice-president.

William became a member of the LDS Church's Council of the Fifty in 1880. He was also elected mayor of Salt Lake City in 1882 and served as mayor until 1885. He was going to run for a second term, but he was deemed ineligible under the Edmunds Act because he was a polygamist.

William died in Salt Lake City and was buried in the Salt Lake City Cemetery.
His grave location is **Plat –** A, **Block –** 14, **Lot –** 6, **Grave –** 5, **Tier –** E