

## **JANE PRICE ROBERTS (1848-1883)**

**My great grandmother, Jane Price Roberts, was born 24 April 1848 in Dowlais, Glamorganshire, Wales and died 7 November 1883 in Hooper, Weber, Utah. She was living with her parents, Owen and Mary Martin Roberts, when they heard the Mormon missionaries. She was baptized in July 1856. Her mother and father had been baptized previously. She was only one year old when her mother, Mary, was baptized on 15 July 1847. Jane was 8 years old when she got baptized and that is the age that the Mormons' baptize their young children. Her father was baptized 6 October 1850.**

**I don't know much about her young life, but I am sure she helped her mother around the house doing the cooking, laundry, cleaning, etc. Her family did not emigrate until 1859 so they had a few years to save money to finance their trip to America.**

**On 11 April 1859 they set sail on the ship "William Tapscott" which left Liverpool, England with 725 Saints on board. Thirty-three days later they landed at Castle Garden, New York. From here they traveled by railroad and steamboat via New York (Albany). Illinois (Chicago and Quincy) and Missouri (Hannibal and St. Joseph) to the outfitting place at Florence in Nebraska Territory. Some of the Tapscott emigrants were placed in George Rowley's handcart company. Other emigrants like the Roberts had means to purchase their own outfits and supplies and they were organized in Robert Neslen's company.**

**There were 56 wagons and 380 people in this company. They left Florence, Nebraska on June 26<sup>th</sup>. The following is taken from the Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel, 1847-1868: "Before leaving, the Saints unanimously agreed (by vote) to help one another, especially those who lost cattle during the trek. However, by July 10<sup>th</sup>, when they had reached Wood River, some had forgotten their earlier promises. When some had cattle die, others refused to loan them their cattle. They claimed that their own heavily-laden wagons needed the extra pulling power of all their cattle. At a meeting it was decided that some of the freight would be removed from excessively heavy wagons. Stoves, earthenware and china were unloaded from these wagons and buried, with the idea that the owners would someday return and retrieve their property.**

**On July 15<sup>th</sup> tragedy struck. While teams were getting hitched up and everyone was preparing to move out from the camp, someone tried to yoke up a wild cow. The terrified animal let out a bellow, which frightened the other teams and caused them to bolt. In the confusion one man was killed, another got a broken leg and five others were injured. The man who wild cow had caused this disaster was so distraught that he went down to the Platte River with the intention of drowning himself. But there was not enough water in the river to carry out his plan.**

**The company also faced a prairie fire, herds of buffalo and they had to feed several bands of Indians. When they were 40 miles West of Ash Hollow on August 17<sup>th</sup>, there were only 51 wagons in the company.**

**Their cattle were lame and they were running out of supplies so Elder Neslen sent word to Brigham Young of their situation. At Ham's Fork the emigrants were met by Apostles John Taylor and Franklin D. Richards with enough fresh cattle and food to last them for the rest of the trip to the Salt Lake Valley.**

The company arrived in Salt Lake City on September 15, 1859. They were greeted by large crowds of people who gave them fruits and vegetables. There had been six deaths and three births along the trail and the emigrants had lost 24 head of cattle."

It was in the early Spring, April 1860, that President Brigham Young asked 61 families to go north to settle at the "Muddy River" which was located north in the Franklin Utah Territory. So Owen, Mary and Jane along with her grandmother, Gwenllian Martin, who had accompanied them on the long voyage from Wales packed up their belongings and headed to the Franklin Territory. Gwenllian Martin's husband had passed away 8 July 1858 in Wales so she had decided to make the trip to America with her daughter, Mary, her granddaughter, Jane Price and her son-in-law, Owen.

A fort was laid out and logs were brought in to build cabins facing inside and serving as walls of the fort.

They laid out a town site, streets, and drew numbers to distribute town and farm lots. Ditches were dug so they could start planting crops.

Early in May of 1859, Brigham Young with two Apostles came to the Territory and appointed Preston Thomas as the Bishop for the community.

One of the sisters opened a school in her home and later on logs were cut, hauled to the settlement and a one-room log school house was built. They had slate to write on and pencils. There was only one spelling book for all of the students and one reader (book) for each class.

Owen and his family set about planting crops. The first year there wasn't much produced in the way of food stuffs but they managed and many times Owen went to Salt Lake for supplies.

Jane grew up and went to the one-room log school house. She also helped her mother in the house and helped in the fields. Two cabins south from where she lived was a young man by the name of Thomas Hull. They became attracted to each other and decided to get married. Thomas was 11 years older than Jane and he had emigrated from Ireland. Jane was 16 years old and Thomas was 25 when they were married in Franklin, Utah Territory on 2 April 1864. They were sealed in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City on 20 December 1867.

Their first two children Thomas Martin Hull and Mary Jane were born in Franklin, Utah Territory. Jane's husband, Thomas, was then called to relocate and settle in Hooper, Weber, Utah where he continued to earn a living in farming. Six more children were born to this couple: William Edward (killed by Indians in Blackfoot, Idaho on 3 April 1891), Selena, James Simon who died as a young child, Elizabeth Ann (my grandmother), Florence, and Owen Martin joined the family in Hooper, Utah. Their youngest son, Owen Martin was just over a year old when his mother died.

Jane was 34 years of age when she died on 7 November 1883 and the records indicate that she died from complications of child birth.

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**Her husband, Thomas, with young children was in need of a wife and a mother to help him care for his family and be a companion for himself. So it was that he met and married Mary Ann Flueitt on 12 Feb 1886 in Clarkston, Utah.**

**According to the 1900 Shelley, Bingham, Idaho census records, Jane's mother, Mary Martin Roberts, took the young boy, Owen Martin Roberts, to live with his uncle, Thomas Martin Hull and his wife, Helena, in Shelley, Idaho. Owen was about 8 years old at this time.**

**The young boy who had lost his mother, Jane, at such an early age continued to live with his Uncle Tommy and Aunt Helena until he met and married Nellie Viola Meldrum on 12 September 1905 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho.**

***The above history was written by Jane Price Robert's (Hull) great granddaughter, Mavanee M. Mitchell on 17 July 2012.***