

Life Sketch of Thomas Jackson

Written by his daughter, Lydia Haslam

Aug. 1932

My father, Thomas Jackson, was born in Blackley, near Manchester, Lanc. England on 13 Sept. 1832. His father was John Jackson and his mother was Sussannah Grundy.

He must have been an early convert to the Latter Day Saint church as he was baptized in England 4 Oct. 1840. The first missionaries of the church went there in 1837.

Alice Crompton, first wife of my father, was baptized 5 Dec. 1841 in England and my father must have been present at the time as he told the officiating elder that he was baptizing his wife, which proved true as he married her on 14 Aug. 1842.

He was a cabinet maker and upholsterer by trade and was very efficient workman. After his marriage they lived in England, probably at Blackley, until they had five children. He left his family there and came to America on the good ship "Neva" which sailed from Liverpool on 9 Jan. 1855.

He thought his chances for making a living and earning money were much better here than in England. He was President over the company of Saints who migrated at the same time.

He was able to send for his family a few months after landing here and they left Liverpool for America on the ship "Emerald Isle" 30 Nov. 1856. The family consisted of the wife Alice, and the following children: Maria- twelve, David Franklin- nine, John W. six, Elizabeth four, and Joseph Brigham -three. They landed in New York early in 1856 and while there their son David Franklin died. They went from New York to St. Louis, Missouri and while waiting here for an emigrant company to go to Salt Lake City, father and family became acquainted with Brother Nicholas Grosbeck who later took charge of some emigrants crossing the plains, the company being designated as the John Banks Company. Father got permission to drive a team for Elder Grosbeck and by so doing paid for transportation for himself and family. They landed in Salt Lake City 2 Oct. 1856. Their son Thomas Edward was born near what is now known and was at that time as "the point of the mountain", on 7 Oct. 1856.

They went to Nephi, Sanpete County to reside and while there their daughter Alice was born. They moved to Moroni from Nephi and here their daughter Millicent was born. Their next place of residence was Payson, Utah County.

Father married a second wife. Susan Martin, and she gave birth to a daughter in the year 1862. The first wife Alice also gave birth to a son the same year and they named him James.

The daughter of the second wife was named Susan and when she married it was to a Mr. Sutton. She was the only child of my father and this second wife as a separation took place.

Father was called on a six month mission to the Eastern States in 1869. Many prominent men of the Church such as stake presidents, Bishops, and Counselors and others were sent about the same time on similar missions.

Some of these missionaries were unfortunate and lost their money by theft or in some other mysterious way so Church members helped by making their losses up to them. Elder Grosbeck was one of the missionaries and he helped the others a great deal.

Father's mission took him to the state of New York and while there he became acquainted with my mother, her name Dinah Burrows, having been spoken to him while he was laboring in the city of Dunkirk, New York. At that time mother was going by the name of Ann so when father saw her and heard her real name he was much surprised and he related to her how he had heard her name spoken in Dunkirk.

An intimacy sprung up between them. He promised her he would have a care over her until she got to Utah and he would then give her a good home which he did. He married her in the Endowment House Salt Lake City 4 Mar 1871.

He took her to Payson and she lived with his first wife for some time. James, son of father and Alice, his first wife, died in Payson in 1883. He was eleven years of age.

Mother gave birth to her first daughter, Clara Edith, in 1871. She was at that time living with her mother in Millville, Cache Co.

In April 1875 my father took my mother and two children, Fanny and Lydia: Clara Edith having passed away down in Sevier County, to make a home. Mother cried as she did not want to go, but father told her he was doing it for the good of herself and the children.

They settled in Annabella and while there Alice Maud was born on 6 April, 1876.

The United Order was being practiced in Glenwood, Sevier County so father moved to Glenwood, principally to join the Order and help out with the industries as he had a set of molasses rollers, which were considered very valuable property at that time. Many people raised sugar cane from which the juice was extracted by crushing the cane between heavy rollers. The juice was collected and boiled in large vats, to a syrup state commonly called molasses.

Father also worked at his trade and made many pieces of furniture not only for the towns people but for his families and people from adjoining towns. He also constructed many houses. The products of his hands in the furniture line were made to endure. Mother has at this writing, articles of furniture which he made which are in a perfect condition as to their structure after constant use for sixty years or more.

His first wife and family came from Payson to live in Glenwood but the second wife and her daughter did not do so. Glenwood was the family home as long as father lived. The families were not strangers to hardship and toil as they were pioneers and had all the trials and experiences which pioneers usually encounter.

Father filled a mission to the Eastern States in 1869 which was for a term of six months. He went to England on a mission in 1880 but did not stay the usual time as he had to return on account of ill health.

Shortly after his return he was at work in his carpenter shop when he met with an accident. He accidentally came in contact with a revolving belt on the water wheel which dragged him in such a way that his hip was badly crushed and his leg broken. He did not fully recover from this accident and died on the 14 of April 1883.

He was true to his religion and to his God and tried always to do his duty to his Church and neighbors and associates. His was an exemplary life as his habits were clean and his thoughts pure. He loved to read the scriptures and being blessed with a very good memory and fluency of speech, gave many addresses to the Saints on doctrine and church ordinances and principles.

He loved to sing the songs of Zion and no greater joy came to his children than when he would sit with them at the fireside, sing to them and tell them stories and interesting incidents. His one great handicap was deafness and he was compelled to use mechanical devices to increase sound volume so he could hear. I remember one device he used which he called a dentiphone. It was shaped similar to a fan, made of some black substance and could be opened and closed like a book. He would hold it by a handle which was attached to one edge and the opposite edge he would place between his teeth and with this he used to say he could hear very well.

He looked very attractive in his silk stovepipe hat (which the elders used to wear) and his polished shoes and his neatly pressed clothes. All his wearing apparel was immaculate. He would not have it otherwise. Young as I was he taught me how to iron his handkerchiefs without creases being left in them. This I have never forgotten.

He tried to honor the Sabbath day and keep it holy therefore all the clothes and shoes for the family had to be put in readiness on Saturday night. With pride in his heart he would take his families to church, thus showing them the right path.

He passed away when I was about nine years old but I have vivid recollections of the things he used to do and say and of the many things he taught me.