

OBRAY FAMILY HISTORY

George Shelton Obroy

Thomas L. Obroy was born in Wales in 1824. He joined the Mormon Church when he was 13 years old. Eight years later, he began preaching the gospel in England, and with Lorenzo Snow he preached in Italy, France, and Germany. Later, he went to Norway and Denmark.

In Canada, where he went after being in Denmark, he met a family by the name of Shelton. They had just joined the Church.

A few months later he married Louisa Shelton, daughter of David and Bethia Shelton, and two weeks later, he and his wife, together with her brother, Albert Shelton (father to A.A. Law) and a sister Martha, started for the United States.

Two weeks later, his young wife took sick and died. The rest of the party continued their journey to Utah, and located in Ogden, and one year later Thomas married Martha Shelton, his wife's sister.

Shortly thereafter the family moved to Wellsville, Utah, and during the following years, five children were born to them. Then one year later Thomas married Caroline Brenchley, who became the mother of nine children.

In the year of 1862 he and his families moved to Paradise, Utah, where he resided until his death.

Thomas had all the advantages and disadvantages of a new country, but through foresight and industry he gathered around him lands and heads and was able to feed and clothe and educate his large family.

I have known him to raise as much as 1,600 to 2,000 bushels of grain, 500 head of sheep, 20 or 30 hogs, and in the fall we would grind from 1,000 to 1,300 pounds of flour, and kill five or six hogs. These he would ~~grind~~ take to Salt Lake City, and would come back with a load of goods, consisting of clothes, shoes, hats, and other things needed by the family. He would select a dozen pair of shoes or more, hats and other wearing apparel. Generally they would fit some member of the family, but I have worn number eight shoes when a number 5 would have been much better. I guess father thought that the more leather he could get for the money the better deal he had made.

I think I wore the first overcoat in Paradise. Father bought it in Salt Lake City for \$2.50. The collar was greasy and worn, so mother fixed it by making a velvet collar from an old hat she had, and the first time I wore it, one of my first friends came up and said, "Well, George, where did you get so much coat?" I told her that all of it but the collar came from Salt Lake. I wore that coat for five or six years, and then Father told me I had taken such good care of it that I deserved another, so the old coat was passed on to one of my younger brothers.

Some years ago I was a missionary in England. Many times when they found out I was a Mormon they would say: "Oh, you belong to that outfit that has so many wives and the children are all deformed." I told them that there wasn't a man in all England who could tell them more about the Mormons and their wives than I, for my father had twenty-seven children, and not one of them was deformed, even to a finger or toe.

Furthermore, all could read and write, and at that time, sixteen of them were married, and all lived on their own farms, and in their own homes.

They often looked at me and said: "Well, you are a brave man to come 6,000 miles to tell that to the world, and we cannot but believe you, because you look like an honest man."

"To try to tell you how many grandchildren, great-grand children and children there are in my father's family is almost impossible, but should you desire to learn more about them, come to my home in Paradise,"

...as printed in the
Herald-Journal.
Logan, Utah.