

FAMILY HISTORY OF WILLIAM NASH THOMAS---copied on this the 17th day
of July 1919

William Nash Thomas, son of David Thomas and Elizabeth Nash Thomas, born on the 24th day of February 1835 at Haverdordwest Pembrokeshire, South Wales.

There were six children, John born February 18, 1829, Ann born February 21, 1832, William Nash born February 24th 1835, Jane April 10, 1838, Sarah born February 14, 1841, James born December 25, 1843. All born in the same house.

"I, William Nash Thomas, attended school until I was 9 years old, then had to do some work to help make a living for the family. At the age of 11 I went to work for Joseph Potter to look after a billard hall. To look after the games, and collect the pay. I worked there for two years. I then went to school for one year. I then worked for Mr. Jenkin Savoras at North Glamorganshire (?), 80 miles from my home. I worked in a billard hall at the Castle Hotel. I returned home in February 1851. I then found my father and his family was members of the Mormon Church. All of the family bore strong testimony of the truth of the work and the knowledge that the Lord had given them, and that the work they had done had been revealed and that the Gospel had been restored to the earth with all of its gifts and blessings, that the savior had said should come. I believed them and attended their meetings and was baptized and confirmed a member of the church on March 1851, baptized by John Griffiths, confirmed by Philip Sykes. I received a testimony of the divinity of the work and felt to rejoice that my sins had been remitted. Them were holy days for me. I was ordained a Decon on December 19, 1851 by Daniel Williams. Ordained a Priest 24th of November 1852, by William Bowen. Ordained an Elder by John Price 24th of August 1853. Ordained a Seventy 2nd of June 1877 by H.C. Jackson. Ordained a High Priest 3rd of March 1905.

In my early days in the church, I attended my meetings on Sundays and week nights and traveled 3 to fifteen miles with other elders, but sometimes went alone, and sang and prayed and told the people about the restoration of the Gospel, and enjoyed this labor, being directed by the Holy Spirit at all times.

About the year 1856, the law of tithing was first given to the members of the church, which I took hold of and paid an honest tithing each month. I was getting small wages at the time. About the same time we were called upon to donate one weeks wages to help build the Salt Lake Temple. This was freely paid by the church members and we felt so by doing, donating our money and services to the Lord at this time. I work ten hours each week day and walked four and ten miles to and from work.

In the year 1857, our family moved to a town called Neyland and I got work at the locomotive department of the Great Western Railroad Company.

I got married on October 26, 1857 to Elizabeth Lalliss, daughter of Richard and Dorothy Lalliss of the town of Haverdordwest Pembrokeshire, by Richard James Register.

At this time I was called to preside over a branch of the church known as the Pemborke Branch. It was 11 miles each way and three miles each way North and South but very few church members. I continued this labor until I left to come to Utah in 1862.

In the spring of 1858, I started to work as fireman on a passenger steam boat. At this time earning 13 shillings per week. I paid my tithing honestly. In a short time I was promoted to engineer, and earned 20 shillings per week. Next year I got 35 shillings per week. Next I was raised to 65 shillings per week. I attribute this to the goodness of the Lord in paying an honest tithing and my faithful labor in his church.

During the 11 years in South Wales after joining his church, I had a great lot of walking to do. Sometimes more than 20 miles each way to hold meetings and to attend conferences. This was done on Sundays as I had to work six days a week. I walked one night 11 miles after work and crossed two rivers to baptize Br. Frank Purser and all of his family at the time of a reformation in the church, and felt well in doing my duty. I have had many marvelous gifts in administering to the sick and casting out evil spirits when they would trouble the saints.

I left Liverpool on Tuesday the 15th of May 1862 on the sailing ship William Tapriat (?) We had a rough stormy voyage, lots of sickness, and some deaths. Those that died was buried at sea. Myself and family was not sick.

We arrived in New York on June 26, 1862. There was 800 passengers on board.

Myself and family stopped over night at a hotel.

We left New York on June 27, on the Hudson River Railroad and arrived at Albany on the 28th, then took the New York Central to Niagara Falls. Then took the Great Western Railroad to Winsor; then crossed the river in a boat to Detroit on the 30th; then took Michigan Central to Chicago where we arrived July 1, thence by the Chicago Burlington and Quincy where we arrived on July 2, thence by steamboat to Hannibal, and left for St. Joseph where we arrived on July 4th and stopped overnight. We then took boat for Florence, Nebraska, this was the worst part of the journey, so far, it was very warm and the river so muddy that we could not drink it. There was cold water for boat crew but none for the passengers. We had one death on the boat and we stopped a short time to bury the body.

We arrived at Florence on Sunday night July 6. We got ashore the best we could and stayed until daylight. Then went one mile to camp. It was a nice clear morning but before we got camp fixed, it began to rain in torrents, heavy wind, with thunder and lightning. It was terrific. It nearly killed Br. Joseph W. Young. One man was killed by a bolt of lightning. We were in a bad fix but we got our tents put up and dried our bedding, and dried our other affects fixed up and made ourselves comfortable. We stopped in Florence until Thursday the 17th day of August. Then loaded our affects into wagons, 18 passengers to each wagon and twelve to each tent. Myself and wife traveled on foot all the way to Salt Lake City. We had a very pleasant time taking all things into consideration.

We had about one dozen deaths on the plains. It fell to my lot to dedicate most of the graves. This was sorrowful to leave our friends behind, we buried the dead at the first stopping place. We never started out with a dead body.

We had a very good captain , Orton Height. Also a good lot of teamsters. We had prayer every morning and night and lived up to the laws of the gospel.

We took our turns in guarding the camp and the cattle and done all that we could or asked to do. We waded through the cold rivers, Elkhorn and the South Platt several times and the Green River, and we kept in good health. We arrived in Salt Lake City on the 19th of October. Br. John Isaac met us and brought us some cakes and milk. We stopped in the city three weeks and worked with Br. John and William Gibby in the canyon getting firewood. For this I got pay in mollasses, which we took to Paradise, Cashe County. We arrived on November 11.

The next day I began to work helping thrash whe at. It was the first day to thrash that season. Myself and family lived with Br. E. D. Miles and wife. The first I worked in the canyon all winter cutting logs to build a house to live in.

I got a city lot and build a house and planted the lot and kept working. In the fall of 1863 I sold the house for a yolk of oxen and built me another one in the spring of 1864. I took up some land and raised some crops.

In April of this year I took a load of tithing wheat to Salt Lake City from Wellsville with four yolk of oxen.

In the fall of this year the grasshoppers came and laid their eggs and they hatched the next spring and ate nearly all the grain. They continued for about three years. In September 1866 my father came to Utah, and lived with us until he died. My mother died in South Wales.

My father enjoyed good health and worked hard until the spring of 1873 when he fell down and broke a blood vessel and died March 24, 1874.

In the spring of 1868, we people of Paradise, thought it best to move in a body three and one half miles north of the old site where we could get more room and better protect ourselves from the Indians, as they were very troublesome in that part.

We took up new land for city lots and farms, and I got settled in our new home in this year.

My sister Jane Jones and family came to Utah. They traveled part of the way by train and then with ox team. They stayed with us that winter.

On November 11, myself, wife, and several others went with ox team to Salt Lake City to get our endowments.

On January 1, 1872, Mary Jane O Bray, daughter of George and Marie O Bray, born at Potter (?) sealed by Daniel H. Wells in the endowment house at Salt Lake City.

On July 1, of this year I went into the mountains about 30 miles east of Paradise and engaged in sawmilling. The same year I bought a shingle mill and commenced making shingles.

On June 1, 1874 I took charge of building a water power saw mill for the people of Paradise and I took charge of running it until the fall of 1876 and in the summer of this year I bought a saw mill to make lumber in connection with the shingle mill of Paradise. I also purchased a quarter section of land North of the Paradise townsight.

For the next three years I was at home sawing lumber and ties for the Utah Northern Railway since named the Oregon Short Line.

I continued this work until June 1, 1880 when I purchased a steam saw mill at Beaver Canyon, Idaho, and done sawing for the Union Pacific Railway Company. In the spring of 1881 I bought two more steam saw mills and kept sawing with the three mills until 1885.

In March 1889, on the advice of apostle Thatcher, I went to Baker City, Oregon to take up some timber land and moved my saw mills there from Beaver Canyon, Idaho. I went in partnership with several others and operated a company known as Oregon Lumber Co. with a capital stock \$100,000 I took \$30,000 after stopping there one year.

I came to home to Logan to help run the store.

I went to Baker City to attend a July stockholders meeting in January 1890, they had another good report of last year's business. I was at the railway station to return when two stockholders came to me and said that balance sheets were false at the meeting and about three weeks that the company be dissolved, and they would come and take all of my property where they could find it, as the law of Oregon would permit them to do so. I stepped over and examined the books and found that they had told me the truth. I did not say one word to the bookkeeper about this matter but came home to Logan and fixed things up the best I could.

The next morning I made arrangements with A.G. Barber to be my signee and made Thatcher Bros. Banking Company a preferred creditor.

In one week after, they had officers come to Logan to take all my property but was too late, they could only get their share.

I then borrowed three thousand dollars. My son John E. Thomas and my nephew John H. White and got them to purchase the store goods and run the store under the name of J.E. Thomas, and done a good business and was soon out of debt, and kept one son on a mission in the Eastern States for 27 months.

In the city election of 1895, I was elected a member of the city council of Logan, first precinct commencing January 4, 1900. For two years I filled this office with the best of my ability. And believe gave good satisfaction.

On the 1st of April 1887, I bought one half interest of the Barber and Sons Implement business.

We sold the business to Co-Op Wagon and Machine Company, on January 1889.

On June 1, I bought eleven hundred acres of plant land near Cache Junction. I also bought three thousand dollars worth of live stock. I worked this land for ~~about two~~ years and made much improvement. I sold this property to a Mitchell for fifteen thousand dollars. I had broke up about twenty acres of this land and fenced a large portion of it in.

On the 14th of August 1884, on the invitation of the Stake Presidency, myself and wife, Elizabeth, went to Rexburgh, Idaho, in the company of John Taylor, George Q. Cannon, and several others. We traveled with team from Market Lake to Rexburgh. They went there to more fully organize the stake. The next morning I went to a council meeting when in the meeting there came a telegram that two elders had been killed by mob in Tennessee. When this message was read a voice spoke to me, 'John Gibbs' he said, I said What? The voice said again 'John Gibbs'. When we got out of the meeting I told Br. George Q. Cannon that I felt satisfied that John H. Gibbs was one of the elders that was killed. He asked me how I knew. I told him of the voice that spoke to me. He said it was marvelous.

In the afternoon meeting, the names came. Br. Cannon came to me and told me to cultivate that gift that I had and it would be a blessing to me. I have tried to do so and has been a comfort to me.

On January 23, 1900, my wife Mary Jane died at Paradise. She had been sick for several weeks. She left two sons, Willard and Orsen.

On May 19, 1901 my wife Elizabeth died after 8 weeks of severe suffering. She was buried at Paradise. On Thursday evening, May 16, she said to me, "I've had three patriarchal blessings. I have been reading them today. They each one said that I should live as long as life was desireable to me, and I shall not die as long as I feel as I do now." Only two days after this when I got home from work she said to me, "William, I have been talking to the girls today that I did not think it a sin that I would ask the Lord to take me to himself as I was tired of living." I said to her Bessie we do not want to let you go. "I know," she said, but my suffering has been so great that I want to go." She then said, "I want to ask you a favor. Will you do it? I said What is it? I want you to put your hands upon my head and ask the Lord, in authority of the holy priesthood, to take me this night. Will you do it? I then said "Bessie, I have never refused you anything you have asked me to do." I administered to her and rebuked the pain, and asked the Lord to take her spirit that night as she requested. When I got through she said that the Lord heard that, and felt sure that she would die that night. One of my sons passed through the room and heard me and went and called Dr. Budge. He came and looked at my wife. Then he went into another room where the family was and said to them, "now if you keep quiet and make no noise, you can come and see your mother die." They promised that they would. This as about half past ten o'clock. The Doctor sat on the side of her and me on the other. All was quiet for ten minutes. She opened her eyes and said, "I feel happy and comfortable and I am going to die."

The doctor took her pulse and had his ear by her mouth, then said, "She has breathed her last breath but do not make a noise her heart is still beating."

Then said, "your mother is dead and iff you want to cry you can, as you cannot disturb her now."

I was prepared for this. On the night before this I was sitting on the sofa in front of the stove and I heard beautiful singing in the air the hymn found on page 194 of the L.D.S. Hymn Book, "Let Us Pray Gladly", pray in the house of Jehovah."

The singing was beautiful.

She was buried at Paradise.

I kept running the store for about eighteen months then sold the store and contents to John Bench.

Then I prepared myself to take a trip to South Wales to hunt up some of my relatives and friends. I was set apart for this trip in the Annex of the Salt Lake Temple by Apostle Teasdale on April 14, 1903. (?) record one page 123 of the old family record.

On account of a rock slide of the Union Pacific Railroad, we had to take trip on the O.S.L. by the way of Bear Lake Valley. We reached Rock Springs next morning and arrived at Lexington, Nebraska at one o'clock A.M. on the 17th day and stopped at a nephew James Thomas for one week.

We got to Boston on the 28th.

We left Boston on May 2 for Liverpool on the steam ship, Common Wealth. When about mid-ocean we had a terrific storm for about two days. There was many passengers in bed very sick. Some of the elders and many of the sisters who was going on a visiting tour was in bed. I felt troubled about them and felt some of the brethern should pray for them. I hunted up the President who had charge of the missionaries, and found them on the deck. I said to them, "brethern, I have been hunting for you to ask you to get a few of the elders to pray to the Lord to stay this storm so that our people may be relieved of their sickness." The president said that they were glad that I was inspired by the spirit to come. We have a room ready and was going to join in prayer, please accompany us, As you are the oldest you pray first.

After prayers each one of the passengers came to me and said, the sea is smooth as glass. I told them that the Lord had been very merciful to us. The passengers all got better.

We arrived at Liverpool May 12, all well. I was not sea sick on the trip. After having our baggage checked and passed through the custom house, I went to number 42 Irelington(?). I met President Lyman. We had a meeting. The president gave us all welcome and istructed us to our duties. I stopped over night.

Next day I sent to Bristol to meet Charles Lalliss but they had moved to Portsmouth. I then went to Newport where I met two of my cousins, James Thomas and Ann Evans, and their families. I took their records and the names and reference and a large number of my relatives. I left with them several church books then took train for Cardiff, South Wales.

I met the president of the conference and several elders. I took dinner with them and they took me around.

I met Thomas White, brother of William White, of Salt Lake City. I stopped over night with them.

Then went to Britten Ferry and stopped with Ebenezer Davies, a son of my father's sister Margerett, and had some good family talk, and got their records, and then took train to Noath.

Thence to Llanelly where I met my cousin, William Nash, and the family of my cousin (?) Nash Jones, and what records they could give me and left on the 19th for Haverfordshire and stopped at the Kings Arms Hotel.

I then met May Lalliss, my wife's sister, and John White, brother to William White.

I visited my birthplace, Merlin's Eridge, and had a talk with some of the old inhabitants most of them were dead.

When I got to Haverfordshire West Pembrokeshire I had about one mile to walk uphill. I was carrying a satchel and an overcoat. When I got on the level road I was very tired and had to take a rest in front of a house. I looked up and saw a sign "Gloves Inn." I went in and there were two men sitting by the window, I sat down on a chair. The lady of the house came into the room. I asked if she could tell me where Mary Lalliss lived. She said all of the Lalliss family had gone to Salt Lake some years since. I told her my name and that I married a Lalliss girl, and that I had come from Salt Lake. She asked me if I knew Sarah Lalliss. I told her yes and that I had seen her the day before I left. She called to her husband and said "put up your paper. This man can tell you all about Aunt Sarah." We had a long conversation about the family and about Utah. The man's name was Charles Pughe. He then said to me, "if you could come all the way to Salt Lake to see them, that he had a horse and buggy and that I could take a ride with him to see all the folks eight or ten miles as often as I wished to but not to offer him any pay as he would not take it.

I went with him several times to get the record of Sarah Lalliss' family. Births, marriages, and deaths from her great grand parents to the last baby born.

I was at Haverfordwest until the 23rd then went by team to Haraldsten West and I met my cousin, Steaven Thomas's widow and daughter with her husband Joseph Philipp and family.

I then stopped with them and took what records they had and bore a strong testimony of the gospel to them. I left them some church books.

I returned to Haverfordwest on the 30th day of May and I stopped there until may 31.

Then went to Milford. It being White Monday, a holy day, I saw some of the (?) and got some records.

I went to Neyland that night. Next day I went to Porter(?) and met Thomas

Gibbs and also a Mrs. Hubbard, one that I had saved from being drowned. She fell out of a boat. I jumped into the water and got her to land. This happened forty-three years since. I also met John Obray, a brother to Sam and Thomas Obray of Paradise. I got his family records and returned to Neyland, and visited my Mother's grave at Honiborrow. The next morning I visited the grave of my son, Heber Charles at L Church Yard.

I returned to Haverfordshire on July 4 and done some visiting among some of my old friends' families.

On the 5th I went to Fishguard, the birth place of my father and some records.

I returned on the 12. I stopped at Haverfordwest visiting many of my relatives and friends of the family. Also the family of Sarah Lalliss. I also visited Freystarss Lugum Johnsten (?) and neighborhood.

On June 22 I visited Poter(?) Pembroke and got some information of some friends.

On the 23rd I went to Whiteland Carmarthen and visited some relatives of Evan Jones of Logan. I saw a circus parade on the street. Then went to Llanelly and stopped over night with John Evans, my nephew in-law, and got some records.

Then visited the home of a Mrs. Samuel, a cousin of Mrs. William James of Paradise, and got what records I could.

Then to Swansea and visited a sister of Evan Jones, Martha Dameslton, to Britten Ferry with my cousin Ebenezzer Davies and family and had a good time. I then went to Pincheweither(?) and met my cousin Catherine Davies. I got some records and then visited the coal mines.

I got back to Haverfordwest July 4 and went to Haraldston(?) church yard grounds on (?) July 5. It rained hard all day. I had dinner with Harry Miles.

From the 5th to the 18th I went visiting many of my old friends and relatives. And on Sunday 19th I visited Mr. Williams and family at a farm called Temperness. His wife was a sister of the late William Howels of Slaterville, Weber Co., Utah. She is a member of the church. I had a good with them then returned to Haverfordwest, on Monday the 20th I stayed home all day writing.

After this I went visiting my relatives and friends that I had met on my visit, and said goodby for this time. On the 15th day of August, I left my place of birth well satisfied with the traveling and the information that I had gained.

I got to Liverpool on Sunday morning and went to a hotel. Next day I went to 42nd Lislington(?) and met President Lyman and many of the Elders. Also many of the brethren and sisters that was about to start for Utah.

We had a pleasant time. Went to several meetings.

We left Liverpool on the 20th. We had a pleasant trip on the ocean. Arrived at Boston about noon on the 28th making the trip in about seven and one

half days. After passing the doctor and inspector we went on shore and took dinner. We arrived at Salt Lake City at 4 P.M. on September 1 and got home to Paradise on September 3.

