

HISTORY OF MARY O. MORRIS. GEORGE By Diantha O. K. Schaub

Mary Ormond was the second child born to her parents, John Ormond, a tailor, and his wife, the former Elizabeth Codd. Mary's little brother George has been unknown generally in the families of her parents descendants, because he died as an infant and the burial record showed him as the son of John Ormond, tailor, buried in Dale Parish in 1820, no date given. Then Mary was born in the same Parish and village, by the sea, 2 February, 1821. Little is known of her childhood, except that proof remains in the Parish Registers of Marloes that the family moved to Wales in that Parish known as Old Winterton or Winters when her family moved to Wales in that Parish known as Old Winterton or Winters when her brother Richard was very young and Mary was probably too young to remember her first home. The home was half of a two family farm cottage on the estate of Lord Kensington of Marloes. Lord Kensington's Sir-name was Edwards and he owned, thru the Crown, a large District which included much farm land and the village of Marloes. Very often a man held a lease for his life and the life of his heir, which seems to have been the case with John Ormond, as his oldest living son, Richard, succeeded to the place after John Ormond came to America. The little home where Mary grew up is situated on a slope a little above a road, which follows close to the bed of a small stream along the front of the house. The land climbs steeply uphill behind the house. Blackberry vines still grow thick along the little stream, and as traffic was not heavy in those days we can well imagine Mary picking the luscious ripe berries in the fall of the year for the mother to make preserves and jelly, as it was known in those days.

Probably she attended The St. John Church in the Village of Marloes during her childhood and early girlhood as we find the records of the baptism of all but one of her brothers and sisters in the Registers of that Parish. But her brother John states in his Dairy that the family moved to Haverwest for a little over two years and we find the record of her sister Letitia's Baptism (or Christening) in the records of St. Mary's Church, Haverfordwest and the family lived on Shut Street.

According to tradition, Mary attended school very little. Yet she learned to read and write well, making the bible her special text book. As was the custom in those days she went away to work and earned her own living when quite young, for on her marriage certificate to John Morris, her residence is given as Pembroke, a town which Americans would regard as a City, in the southern part of the County of Pembroke and along the sea coast.

Mary Ormond was the first member of her family to join The Church of Jesus Christ of Later-Day Saints, "being baptized 31 May, 1843, in the sea when the tide came in." Her sister Dorothy was next to join on the 6th May 1845. Later their brother John joined and last, their father. Mary met and soon married John Morris, a "Mormon Missionary". Their marriage certificate shows they are married in the Register Office at Pembroke 30 Oct. 1847, and Mary's sister Dorothy was one of the witnesses, so it is quite probable that Dorothy was working in the area at the time as Pembroke is quite a distance from Haverfordwest. John Morris had been a miner, was then a widower with one small daughter. This couple had a son whom they named Joseph Smith Morris born 5 Jan. 1849 in St. Mary's Parish Pembroke, (Birth Certificate) referred to in Mary's Diary as St. Marys Town. Then a second son whom they named Hyrum Smith Morris came 19 July 1850, but lingered only a short time and passed away 27 August, 1850 and was laid to rest in the land of his Ancestors. Born and buried at

The little family decided to gather with the Saints in Zion, so set sail on the Ship Joseph Badger 17 Oct. 1850. Mary records in her Diary that John Morris was Captain of the Company of 227 Saints and that they were on the water 5 weeks and one day. They arrived in New Orleans 22 Nov. 1850. A copy of a Document written by the men of The "Mormon" church living in the Pembrokeshire Branch as a testimony of his character and the esteem which they felt for him bears silent evidence today of the noble

character of John Morris. But he was not destined to reach his desired destination as he died 6 September, 1851 of Miner's Consumption and was buried at the Gravois, a burial spot near St. Louis Missouri.

(Information furnished by Mary's daughter "Nell" Bird of Kanosh, Ut in Jan 1938)

Mary and her husband had run out of money to continue the journey, so like other members of her family had to linger in that area for lack of funds to continue the journey and work to earn money to enable them to go on again.

Just when Mary and her step daughter and oldest son joined her father, sisters and brother is not definite. But John Jr. Records incidents in his diary of how Mary being a good cook, they all joined in the project and she made pies and other delicious foods to sell to the hosts of people passing thru their various camps on the way to the California gold mines or to the then excitingly new land of opportunity – Oregon. Her father helped where he could. John built shelters for his folks and an exceedingly small building for Mary to do her cooking in with a tiny counter between and space for a buyer to stand to make purchases. Thus did Mary use her skills and all of the family worked together to acquire the means to continue their journey. Tho Mary and husband and children came later than her father and his company (see ships' Logues), they met in the camps of the Saints and worked together to earn the means of continuing their journey. Then John Jr., had an offer to drive a wagon for another man and thus earn his way to Utah in the summer of 1851. Mary, her step daughter and her little son came with her father and his one daughter Elizabeth, in the Company of Captain Joseph Outhouse, arriving in Salt Lake in Sept. 1852.

Shortly after her arrival she met and married William George from Wales, who lost his wife shortly after his arrival in the valley from fright over the sudden appearance of a large Indian. He had a son William who was born 29 June, 1851 in Illinois as that family was on their way from their native land of England to join the Saints in Utah. Mary accepted a step son whom she also faithfully helped to raise. William George and Mary Ormond Morris were married 31 October, 1852. William had two cows he had worked across the plains and they milked them and Mary made cheese every day, which with dried sego roots cooked liked we cook potatoes and on rare occasions served with a little gravy. Mary had no flour to make bread and rarely enjoyed the luxury of a little gravy which was their daily fare. Food was very scarce for the first winter in the valley. William thought they might do the best by going to Ogden, so they moved to North Ogden. The crickets destroyed most of their crop the first summer, but by harvesting what he could and working away and taking his pay in wheat, William was able to provide scanty rations to carry them thru to another growing season. Mary ground the wheat thru an old coffee mill to make bread, and sometimes boiled the wheat and served it with milk without sugar. She had only six pounds of sugar in six years.

Shoes had to last many years, and Mary had no thread to sew with but raveled threads from some factory she had. She gathered straw from the fields and braded it to make hats for herself and family, and sewed it together with the thread from the factory. Mary was an excellent seamstress and thru the years made clothes for herself and family, and some for special Indian friends.

Prior to moving to North Ogden, the George family lived for a time in Brigham city where George Alma was born. The other five children were born in North Ogden. When Harriet Ellen was very small, the Johnson's army scare caused them to move south and the mother walked and carried her baby most of the way. Their belongings so filled the wagon that one little boy rode one of the horses, and tradition has it that the other was tied on the box on the back of the wagon that contained pigs. Again the family suffered from a scarcity of food. Mary made a syrup out of carrots and beets as a sort of sweet for her family. Mary brought some things from England and some of her dresses and shawls were cut up for clothing for the children. At one time she put white strips around the neck of their jackets to make believe they had shirts.

While her family was still quite young, she and her husband decided to move south, so they moved to what was then called Corn Creek, now known as Hatton, a little way off the present Highway,

but then it was on the route of the Overland mail, and a Hotel. In a few years W. W. George established a little store, but that appears to have been after they moved to Kanosh. While Mary had the hotel she baked seven pies and six cakes every morning. Many and varied were her guests. From her daughter Nell (Ellen) bird came the story of how a New York Artist and Musician sometimes came down to her house, having turned recluse and sheepherder due to a disappointment in Love. He painted the picture of old Chief Kanosh which was used in history and geography books for a long time around the turn of the century. That picture passed to her daughter Nell, and after her death, was placed in the Pioneer Museum at Filmore. Nell related the story of how the sheepherder came down from his camp one day and asked to borrow her piano for awhile, and taking some plain sheets of paper produced some sheet music written in pencil, which without copying, he sent to the World's Fair in Chicago and won a prize. Old Chief Kanosh was a frequent visitor at the Hotel. And Nell bird related to ye author how one day, she peeped thru the curtains and watched a handsome young stage driver dismount from his seat and turn the lines over to the stable boy, and remove his fancy gauntlets. Her heart pounded with excitement as she noted his fine yellow duster (top coat to us) and eyed him from head to foot then quickly disappeared for the time. That was Frederick Bird whom she later married. The Georges acquired quite a bit of land and began to raise cattle and fine horses. Later they moved to Kanosh where the couple lived till they died.

Mary remained faithful to the Church she had joined in Wales, but her husband was seriously offended by the actions of others and became inactive for many years with the result that most of the children were not so active about twice a year to Salt Lake City to sell their surplus produce, bank their money, and buy such things as were necessary in the city. Mary was widely known throughout a large district around Kanosh, and loved and respected by all. The Father seemed to have started most of his boys into the faming and cattle raising business, some of whom took to raising blooded race horses. The girls seem to have both inherited the talent for cooking and sewing and to have been well trained by their venerable pioneer ancestor, and it still shows up among her descendants in the 1960's.

Still true to The Faith, with her hair dark as in her girlhood, and a mind that was keen to the end, Mary passed away March 27, 1903 and was laid to rest in the Kanosh Cemetary in Utah.



William George & wife



Mary Ormond Morris George



George Alma George



James Moriah George



Harriet Ellen George



Mary Ann Chesley