

ELIAS JONES-PIONEER

Elias Jones, my great grandfather, was born, 3 October 1809, in Cadoxton, Glamorganshire, Wales. This little place is over the Neath river, west of Neath. His father was John Jones who was born in Neath.

When Sherman and I visited Wales in 1965 I was expecting great expanses of land between the towns such as we have here in western United States. We found that Neath was only eight miles from Swansea to the south. That Llanelly was only twelve miles west of Swansea. That St. Thomas (which had appeared as the place of residence for John Jones, gg-grandfather) was an eastern suburb of Swansea, just over the Tawe river. Fabians Bay where Elias Jones and Mary Williams Jones went to make their home about 1838 was also in the Swansea Bay, Bristol Chanel area.

Neath must have been in a mining section. (I have heard my father say that his people were mining people) So when the Swansea Bay area became a steel producing area which began around 1817 it was natural that a young man would be interested in what was going on there.

According to the book, "Wales For Everyman" by H.A. Pishler- We now approach a veritable "Black Country," one of the most important metallurgical districts in the world. All sorts of imported ores are smelted or refined at Aberavon, Neath Swansea, Llanelly, and the hinterland: principally copper and iron, but also spelter (zinc), tin, lead, nickel, silver, gold, cobalt. On the way from Neath to Swansea, eight miles, you pass through Skewen. Near this is the Llandarcy refinery or the British Petroleum Co., which can process some four million tons of crude oil annually and one of the biggest industrial enterprises in Wales. Then, in the lower valley of the River Tawe (pronounced Tahway), come Llansamlet, with the largest spelter works in Britain, and Morrision, where the fumes from the foundries have almost annihilated the vegetation.

Swansea, or Abertawe, exports anthracite from the coal-field to the north and west, smelts or refines a variety of ores, and manufactures tinplates, steel plates, bars and tubes, galvanized iron, briquettes, patent fuel, fertilizers, etc.

Elias and his brother John may have worked in the mines which produced the iron and coal which was shipped by rail to Swansea Bay.

He and Mary Williams, who was eight years younger than he, may have gone to the same church and known each other as they grew up in Cadoxton. Mary's father, Llewellyn Williams was a school master. Could it be that Elias was taught by him? And Mary also. In those days in Wales there were no public schools, so a school master had to be responsible for finding his (?).

Elias must have had a normal childhood-with its innocence, its fun and its share of disappointments. His father died when he was twenty-four years old and was buried in Cadoxton. John Jones was taken from St. Thomas to Cadoxton, a distance of eight miles to be buried in 1833. I think at this time the John Jones family must have been living in the Swansea area and had a grocery, bakery and pub business.

Elias Jones and Mary Williams were married the 3rd of June 1836 in St. Marys Cathedral in Swansea. This is a very beautiful place which the Germans shelled during the second world war. By their bombings they really devastated the heart of Swansea at that time (they were trying to destroy the Steel Industry). Swansea has mostly been built up new. At the time Elias and Mary were married there it must have been a popular place for marriages to take place. Elias' sister and David Evans were married there with cousins acting as witnesses. Note-When I first saw the

marriage record of Elias and Mary on film, the names sprang out at me. It was great fun to find it after looking for such a long time.

Mary must have gone back to her mother's home in Cadoxton to have her first baby, a son John, born 6 September 1836. This baby was buried in Cadoxton at the age of two. The rest of Elias and Mary's children were born in Fabians Bay. (Aunt Jane Hodgins says Mary tended the store, which left Elias free for other ventures)

The 1851 Census reveals that Ann Hopkins Jones and her son John lived at Port Tennant. Llewellyn Williams and Mary, his wife were in the area; David Evans and Margaret Jones were there and Elias and Mary in Fabians Bay. They were all working with food so it would seem that Elias had encouraged them all to this steel producing area.

Another thing which is told of Elias is that he operated a mine. This mine was called the 'all saints' pits because Elias would hire only L.D.S. to work in it.

About 1849 Elias Jones and his brother John had been converted to the church and were baptized. I think some of the children joined the church also. My Grandmother, the seventh child of Elias and Mary was born 15 November 1850. She was blessed by the elders. Mary did not want to join the L.D.S. church and held out until one of her children, Annie, was healed by the Elders.

Mary had two more children, Thomas and Hannah, who was named for her sister. On the sixteenth of July 1854, Mary died leaving Elias with eight children. The oldest, sixteen; the youngest a few weeks.

Mary's sister Hannah's husband, Morgan Hopkins, died about the same time as Mary did so it was quite neutral that before long Hannah should bring her own daughter, Mary Hopkins, to the home of her sister to help take care of their nine children.

Even before his wife died Elias had wanted to migrate to Utah to be with the rest of the Saints, but because Mary was not well they weren't able to go. Elias and Hannah were married 2 January 1856 and began preparing immediately to take their families to Utah. It must have taken courage for Elias to leave his 81 year old mother, his sister, Margaret and her husband, David Evans, and their girls: Ann, Margaret and Elizabeth. He sold his share of the mine and his business. Hannah left her mother, Mary Thomas Williams, who was 78 and her sister Sarah and maybe others whom she loved.

They left Liverpool, 19 April on the Saunders Curling. The Captain of the ship was Vespers. The President of the company was Edward Stevenson. (From "Route From Liverpool To Great Salt Lake.")

There isn't much said about their preparations for leaving but in the stories written later by Mary Lucille Beck Ferguson, Ruth Bona Patton and Jane Bowen Hodgins it is said that the Jones Family (Elias, His brother John, Hannah and the children) was well prepared. There were three boxes lined with tine and covered with leather. The tin to make kitchen utensils and the leather to make shoes. These boxes were filled with clothes and bedding.

The children must have been a great help to Elias and Hannah for there was Mary, eighteen, who had been to school. She had taken care of her brothers and sisters after her mother died. I can imagine her a warm, loving sister and daughter, helpful in every way. There was John who was then fifteen with strong arms and body who was always good with figures. He would be there to help with the lifting. Llewellyn, earnest and willing to lend a hand whenever asked, was twelve. Annie was ten and perhaps a very good little baby-tender and child watcher. Eight year old Elias had reached the age of accountability, so could be relied upon to help with the younger

ones also. Mary Hopkins was seven and Ruth was six; both girls willing to help tend that little brother Thomas and the baby Hannah.

Hannah and Mary probably did the sewing and mending and the cooking chores also. What a tremendous job it must have been to get nine children and two adults ready for a six weeks journey across the Atlantic Ocean. Then to bring them from Boston, Massachusetts to Iowa City, Iowa on the train.

While on the train Wednesday, May 28, baby Hannah died. She was buried in Woodland Cemetery, Cleveland, Ohio (section 20, grave 45 E. to lot 166.) They all grieved for this little two year old but had to go right on to Iowa City.

Mary Lucilla Beck Ferguson says, "Elias and Hannah, their family and Elias' brother John Jones who came with them were detained in Iowa City all summer. They were helping to make handcarts and to mend old ones for those who had no teams. Elias was well equipped. Their outfit consisted of eight oxen, two cows, two wagons, one horse and buggy. In September they joined the Captain John A. Hunt company with eight or ten other families." With this company also was David Bowen, my fathers fathers father, and his family. So my welsh ancesters came across the prairie together.

Some of the Jones family rode in the buggy until the weather became cold. Then they were bundled in buffalo robes in the wagon. The cows which were brought along to supply milk and butter learned to follow the buggy. A number of times they were stolen by settlers along the way but came back when Hannah called them. Finally they were stolen and must have been driven away because they could not be found. This deprived the family of milk and butter but they had plenty of other foods. They never wanted for bread and never suffered from cold.

According to Aunt Jane Hodgins, "When the weather was fair the children took delight in riding in their Uncle John's wagon with 'Nanson,' the woman who came to help. Ruth was in this wagon when the cattle stampeded. The trouble started from the rear of the train. Llewellyn Jones and William Parry Bowen, then about eleven years old, were following the teams. They ran ahead and notified the drivers who immediately stopped their oxen, thus preventing the front teams from running away. One Person, Mrs. Walters, was killed by oxen. The most serious accident that happened to the Jones family on the journey was an injury sustained by Ruth when she was hooked in the mouth by a cow. Elias repaired the cut by drawing it together with sticking plaster from his medical kit. The scar remained always."

The trip was pleasant from Iowa City to Missouri while the roads were good. Grass was high and game plentiful. When late fall came and the storms came the ground became frozen. The roads were very rough and it made the trip unpleasant. At the last crossing of the Platte River in October, a severe snowstorm overtook the company. The grass was covered with snow. The men had to cut down cottonwood trees for the stock to brouse on. On this side of Fort Bridger, where the company crossed the little mountain and the big mountain, the snow was so deep that when it was trampled for a road it formed walls on either side above the tops of the covered wagons. All the men walked in pairs to tread this road and often their boots froze until it was impossible to get them off. Elias' feet were badly frozen.

At Devils gate the members of the Hunt company saw a handcart company wading through the Sweetwater River in water up to their armpits. Their clothing frozen to their bodies. The next morning Hannah witnessed sixteen being buried in one grave.

From devils Gate the relief teams from Fort Supply helped the people to Great Salt Lake City. They were forced to leave most of their belongings. When they returned in the spring for

their boxes and other things the leather had been ripped off the boxes and many of their most precious things had been taken.

It was just before Christmas when these pioneers reached Great Salt Lake City Great Grandfather and Hannah with their family were taken to a school house. Soon they rented a log house which sheltered them for the winter. Hannah was thrifty and a good manager and Elias planned well for their family so they got along the first winter.

Before they left Wales, they had arranged with emigration agents there and paid for a home in Salt Lake City, not knowing conditions that existed in this country. He was given papers of this property, even the plans of the house. When he arrived there was no such place in the west. Hannah had tried to persuade Elias not to give the agent the money but he did and it was lost. It was a great disappointment and a cause for some bitterness against the church.

In the spring of 1857 Elias bought a little house and a small piece of land in Cottonwood. He also bought cows. Hannah made butter and would walk from Little Cottonwood to Salt Lake City carrying this butter on top of her head or on her shoulder. Early that spring also Elias and Hannah went to the Endowment House (20 March 1857) and were endowed and sealed.

In the fall of 1857 Elias Moved his family to Spanish Fork. They first lived in a dugout which was replaced by a Spanish wall house.

Hannah was kind, thrifty, honest and charitable. She was always helping to poor. She was very economical and saved her money. She did everything a pioneer woman could do. She spun her yarn, wove and dyed her own materials, then sewed them. She gathered salerates to make soap. She made candles. She helped on the farm as well.

Hannah must have encouraged and developed all these skills in her daughter and in her sister Mary's daughters as well for they were all skilled in handcrafts.

Elias and Hannah purchased the block between first and second east and fifth and sixth north. Aunt Mary Bona has seen the whole block in sugar cane.

Hannah had left a piece of property in Wales. When Thomas C. Martell went there on a mission Mary Hopkins Beck (Aunt Polly) asked him to sell it for her. He sold it and sent her the money.

Hannah died 6 March 1860 after only four years away from Wales. She was 37 when she died. She was buried in the northwest corner of the Spanish Fork cemetery. It is a beautiful spot. We know that Elias Jones acquired farm land and that he and his sons became good farmers. We know he had sheep because in Aunt Jane Hodgins history of Ruth Jones Bowen she says her mother learned to card, spin and knit the wool which was gathered from her fathers sheep.

In a notation in the ward records for 21 October 1860 Elias Jones is credited with a donation of 18 lbs of wheat for an Indian project. On the 28th January 1866, \$2.50 was paid for a claim in Spanish Fork south survey-those listed: Elias Jones Sr.; Elias Jones Jr.; John Jones; Llewellyn Jones; Thomas Jones.

Elias Jones as ordained a High Priest 16 October 1854 by David H. Davis. He was an Indian War Veteran. He died 31 January 1867. He was 58 years and had lived in Utah nearly eleven years. He is buried beside Hannah in the Spanish fork City cemetery.

Five of Elias Jones and Mary Williams' family married and had large families;

Mary Jones married William Bona, 16 November 1870. She had seven children: Annie; Mary Elizabeth; Elias Jones; David John; Thomas Llewellyn (the last two twins); Ruth Hannah and William Arthur. Mary had married previously a Thomas Flavel and had a son William Jones Flavel.

John Jones married Men Othelia Dahle in October of 1867. They were sealed in the Endowment House the 9th February 1869. Their children were: John Llewellyn; Elias Amund; Clara Othelia; Mary Caroline; Mina M.; William Albert.

Llewellyn Jones married Alice Ann Creer, 28 March 1868. They had thirteen children. Most of their children had large families.

Annie Jones married William Banks, 20 October 1865. They had eight children: Elias Jones; William Stephan; Annie; Mary Margaret; Thomas Hyrum; Ruth Hannah; Llewellyn Orson; John Delbert. Llewellyn and Delbert had families.

Ruth Jones married William Parry Bowen, 9 February 1869 in the endowment House They had nine children: Mary Eleanor; Ruth, Jane; William Jones; David Foster; Annie Elizabeth; Elias Llewellyn; Margaret Alice and John Parry. Eight of these children had large families, one, Elias Llewellyn had seventeen.

At the age of $26\frac{2}{3}$ ^{ths} years Elias Jones married Mary Williams a beautiful, high spirited girl of 19. They were married in St. Mary's in Swansea which was the popular place of marriages those days. They were both born and reared in Cadoxton, across the river Neath from Neath (My father always said that the Joneses came from Neath) and that they were coal mining people).

Elias and Mary became the parents of a son in September. He lived to be two years and was buried in 1838 near Elias' father and mother in the Cadoxton Cemetery.

In this period when the steel industry was booming in Swansea Elias and Mary moved to St. Thomas which is each of Swansea over the river Tawe. They lived at Fabiaus Bay. Their children Mary, Llewellyn, John, Annie, Elias, Ruth Thomas and Hannah were all born here. Aunt Jane Hodgens said Elias was a grocer. Some say he was a baker. He is listed in the census as a victualler which according to David Gardner is a pub owner. Whatever it was it must have been a lucrative business for that time because his mother (who was a widow), his brother John and his sister Margaret (who was married to David Evans) all joine him in the area and became victuallers. Mary parents also were found in St. Thomas in the 1851 Census listed as victuallers (?)