

Copy of history from the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers:
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LIFE OF MARGARET ADAMSON GRANT

Margaret Adamson Grant was the daughter of John and Ellen Cameron Adamson. She was born 8 October 1841 at Kirkcaldy, Fifeshire, Scotland.

She was the third child of a family of five, four girls and one boy. Their names were; Jenet, Andrew, Margaret, Elizabeth, and Ellen.

Her early life was spent in the Highlands of Scotland. Her folks were well to do so she lived in a lovely home. She received a good education and also became a talented stepped [sic] dancer and was a favorite among the young people.

About 1859 the family was converted to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

John Adamson and his family decided to leave their home and the beautiful green mountains and purple heather of Scotland. There were many tears shed when they went aboard the ship "Monarch of the Sea". They left Liverpool, England, 16 May 1861. They were five weeks on the water and they arrived at New York 19 June 1861.

The Captain of the ship was a man named Gardner. There were 955 Saints aboard under the direction of Jabez Woodward.

From New York the Adamson's traveled by railroad and steam boat to Florence, Nebraska. They stayed here until teams arrived to take them to Utah.

In the early spring of 1861, Thomas Grant went to Omaha, Nebraska as a team master in Captain Milo Andrus and John Murdock Company, to meet the Saints coming from the British Isles. Thomas was born at Air drie Old Monkland, Lanarkshire Scotland, and being a Scotchman he had the privilege of bringing the John Adamson's belongings to Utah. The children all walked across the plains.

After the company had camped and had their supper Margaret and her brother Andrew often entertained the company with their Scotch dances. They had their beautiful Scotch costumes and would put them on. Andrew always finished the dances with the "Highland Fling"

Margaret was a beautiful girl with blue eyes and auburn hair. Thomas Grant fell in love with her and shortly after they arrived at Session City, now Bountiful, Utah, 12 September 1861, they were married 19 October 1861.

When they arrived in Wellsville Margaret refused to return to Gunnison and live among the Indians. So they built a one room log house with straw and dirt roof. When it rained the roof leaked even after the rain stopped. They set pans and buckets around to catch the water.

Thomas returned to Gunnison to sell their house and get what little furniture they had. When he got to Gunnison he found that several of the men he worked with had been killed by the Indians. They always said their trip to Wellsville had saved their lives.

Margaret had to learn to wash the wool from the sheep, card it and make rolls and spin the wool into yarn. The yarn was dyed, taken to the weavers and made into cloth. She was a good sewer and made all their clothes. They also made their own candles. Margaret also learned to braid straw and make hats.

On the 15 April 1866 her third child was born. Margaret was very ill, one night while her loved ones were gathered around her, her spirit left her body lying on the bed and her loved ones sorrowing by her bedside. The room was filled with people dressed in white, some beckoning her to follow them. But seeing her sorrowing family she wished that she might return to her body to comfort them. A light shown over the region of her heart and as it spread over her body she opened her eyes to find herself once more with her family.

On 13 July 1867 Thomas took his wife and their three children to the Endowment house in Salt Lake City and they had their Endowments and the children sealed to them.

After living in Wellsville until 1879 they took up a homestead three miles north of Wellsville. Here they built a two room house. Their closest water supply was over a mile away at a place called Thurston's Dam. They hauled their water from this dam in barrels and buckets. There was also a flour mill at the dam. This was the place where the Thurston family lived when the Indians stole their little daughter "Rosa". She was never found.

A few families took up homesteads in this area and they were able to hold meetings at the different homes.

While living on the farm the grasshoppers came, they were so thick the sun was almost invisible. The people would take long poles and go up and down the potato patch trying to drive them away but they would just fly back.. They ate everything that was green. One Sunday the Saints held a fast and prayer meeting for the Lords help to save their crops. Before going to the Church in Mendon the air was so thick with grasshoppers the sun was invisible. After the meeting the sky was almost clear. It looked like a dark cloud going over the mountains. Later it was reported that tons of grasshoppers were found on the shore of Great Salt Lake.

Also while living on the farm the Crickets came. They were black and larger than the grasshoppers. The men folks would dig a long trench and fill it with straw, then drive the crickets into the straw and burn them.

Not long after they were married Thomas as called by Pres. Brigham Young to go to Gunnison, San Pete County, Utah, where he acted as interpreter for the Indians, helping settle their difficulties with the White people.

Thomas and Margaret lived in a dug-out until Thomas could build them a log cabin. There were but a few White settlers in Gunnison at this time.

Margaret was so frightened of the Indians, they were not too friendly and often came to the house to beg for food. One day she saw an Indian coming towards the house, she was alone and was just preparing dinner. They only had a pan of potatoes left so she thought she would hide them under the curtain of the bed but in her haste didn't get them under far enough. The Indian wanted potatoes besides some other things and she said they had no potatoes. He said, "White squaw lie", and shot an arrow into her pan of potatoes so she had to give them all to him. Margaret had many frightening experiences with the Indians.

Thomas was sometimes called away for a day or two to settle some trouble with the Indians. One evening while he was away a band of Indians came and camped within a few rods from their home. They gathered brush for a large fire then they took a poor blind squaw and tied her on the pile of brush and then set fire to it. The poor squaw cried and screamed until she was dead. The Indians danced and sang around the fire most of the night.

Margaret was so frightened and alone she spent the night praying earnestly to the Lord for protection. The Lord answered her prayers and the next day the Indians left without doing any harm to the settlers.

Before their first child was born Thomas went to the nearest town to get food, clothing, and some things for the new baby, and other supplies for themselves and others. On his return home while fording Sevier River one of his horses stumbled and fell. This tipped the wagon over and all the supplies went down the river. He managed to get the horses and wagon out of the river and went home with nothing. So Margaret made her baby's first clothes for her white petticoats.

On 23 August 1862 their first child was born, a girl, they named her Ellen. When the child was but a few days old Margaret was alone for a few hours. The Indian Chief came to get Thomas to settle some difficulties they were having. While he was gone an Indian came also to see Thomas, when he saw Margaret lying in bed he asked to see her papoose. The baby had lots of black hair. When the Indian saw her he said she is an Indian papoose and he grabbed the baby and ran out of the house. Thomas arrived home soon after the Indian had left and went to the Indians and got their baby back.

As soon as Margaret was able to travel they went to Wellsville to visit her parents. They would travel all day and stop at night with people along the way. In those early days people never hesitated to take travelers in and care for them for several days if necessary.

They lived on the farm for 4 years but became discouraged from the hard life.

On 6 October 1874 their 2 year old son Andrew died. Margaret's health was poor so they moved back to Wellsville where they bought a home in the South part of town.

The Indians would go through Wellsville in tribes, their pack horses loaded with tent poles tied on each side, other belongings on their backs. Sometimes they would stop and have a war dance. They would have a pole with a scalp on the top and would build a fire around the pole then dance around the pole pounding on drums. The people were good to the Indians, they gave them flour and meat.

Some of Thomas's Indian friends often came to visit him. They would bring their families and spend several days. They would pitch their tents by his home and he would feed them and their horses and when they would leave he always gave them a sack of flour.

With the hardships of pioneer life and raising her large family, Margaret had poor health and was not able to mingle in an ecclesiastical way with the people, but her patient suffering and her kind loving way won for her many friends. She was a devoted wife and Mother, and a true Latter-day Saint to the end. She died 19 August 1911 and was laid to rest in the Wellsville City Cemetery.