

Thomas Jefferson Thurston

Subject: Thomas Jefferson Thurston

Passey, Hendricks, Monson, Campbell, Weatherston, Flinders, Lunceford, Bates,
Riddel, Weldon,
Thurston, Brandau, Perkins Family
Entries: 22436 Updated: 2007-07-27 22:29:08 UTC (Fri) Contact: Tara

Some of the information has been personally researched. Most of it has been gathered from others.
Feel free to email me. I have another tree that is better documented and all personally researched.
See it for comparison.

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•ID: I398
•Name: Thomas Jefferson Thurston
•Surname: Thurston
•Given Name: Thomas Jefferson
•Sex: M
•Birth: 12 Feb 1805 in Fletcher, Franklin, Vermont
•Death: 3 May 1885 in St George, Washington, Utah
•Burial: 6 May 1885 St. George City Cemetery, St. George, Washington, Utah 1

!Baptism recorded as 1844 in church

BURIAL: St. George City Cemetery A-C-57-6

SUP Pioneer Memorial Gallery Index Cards : Birth in Fletcher, VT and Death as 4 May 1885. (Thelma Thomas - DUP Manila chapter) - jul 2003

Utah Since Statehood: Historical and Biographical. Volume I.
Chapter XXIII: County History, Continued
Morgan County

Morgan County

Situated in the northeastern part of the state, hemmed in by mountains, is the County of Morgan. It is a small irregularly shaped county, bounded on the north by Weber and Rich counties; on the east by Rich and Summit; on the south by Summit, and on the west by Salt Lake and Davis. Its area is 626 square miles. The Weber River flows in a westerly direction through the central portion, receiving the waters of Cottonwood and Lost creek from the north and East Canyon Creek from the south.

In the spring of 1855 a small party, led by Jedediah M. Grant and Thomas Thurston, left Salt Lake City for the purpose of founding a settlement at some suitable point in the Weber Valley. They selected a location near the present city of Morgan City, began the erection of some log cabins and began preparing the ground for planting. During the next five years several new settlements were formed

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in what is now Morgan County. The ninth Territorial Legislature, which convened in Salt Lake City on December 9, 1861, and adjourned on January 17, 1862, defined the boundaries of seventeen counties, one of which was Morgan. It was so named for Jedediah M. Grant, whose middle name was "Morgan," and the county seat was located at Littleton, a town which no longer appears on the maps of Utah. After the survey of the Union Pacific Railroad was completed, the county seat was removed to Morgan City, in order to have the county capital on the railroad line.

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Morgan County

The main line of the Union Pacific Railroad runs through the central part, following the Weber River, with stations at Devils Slide, Morgan, Stoddard, Peterson, Strawberry and Gateway. These are the only towns or villages in the county.

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Farming is the leading occupation and as there are only about eight thousand acres of irrigated land in the county, most of the cultivation is done according to dry farming methods. Potatoes, wheat and vegetables adapted for canning constitute the greater portion of the farm products. Fruit of fine quality is grown in some sections, and the dairy industry is annually increasing in importance. The county also has live stock and mining interests of moderate proportions.

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Morgan County

Morgan is a county without any special history. From the time of the first settlement in 1855 to the present the growth has been "slow but sure," each census showing an increase in population and wealth. In 1910 the population was 2,467, and in 1919 it was estimated at 3,000. The assessed valuation of property in 1918 was \$5,066,862, an increase of \$391,231 over the assessment of the preceding year. The county officers at the beginning of the year 1919 were: John S. Turner, W. E. Criddle and W. A. Bridges, commissioners; B. Y. Robinson, sheriff; James W. Carrigan, assessor and surveyor; Kate Littlefield, clerk, auditor and recorder; Charles E. Condie, treasurer and attorney.

Latter-day Saint Biographical Encyclopedia
Volume 3
Biographies
Tippets, John Harvey

Thurston, Thomas Jefferson, first Bishop in Morgan county, Utah, was born Feb. 12, 1805, in Fletcher, Vermont, the son of Peter Thurston and Hanna Butler. He came to Salt Lake Valley in

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1847, having crossed the plains in Jedediah M. Grant's company. He acted as a counselor to Bishop Wm. H. Hickenlooper of the Sixth ward, Salt Lake City, for a number of years, and afterwards officiated as acting Bishop of Morgan county. Subsequently he served as a member of the High Council of the Morgan Stake. He was sent by Pres. Brigham Young on the first exploring expedition to Cache valley in 1848, and later settled at Centerville, Davis county, Utah, where he took up 80 acres of land and engaged in farming. Together with Chas. S. Peterson and their sons he helped to build the first road through Weber valley. With William W. Potter and others he built the first boat and made the first known trip on the Great Salt Lake, exploring all the islands. The boat was named "Mud Hen," and while navigating the lake the party were overtaken by a storm in which the members of the expedition came near losing their lives. Bro. Thurston also established the first ferry on Bear river. Later in life he became a resident of St. George, Washington county, Utah, where he died May 4, 1885. Bishop Thurston married three wives, namely, Rozette Bull, Elizabeth Smith and Helen Maria Davis. By these wives he became the father of 26 children.

Utah, Our Heritage - Ancestry.com database
Mud Hen. The first skiff or boat constructed in Great Salt Lake Valley by the Pioneers of Utah was a skiff made of a pine log secured from the mountains by a company of brethren appointed by President Young. The log measured 20 inches in diameter. The brethren prepared a saw pit in which to saw the log. It was finished on August 11, 1847 and was launched in City Creek to soak.

On April 24, 1848, Albert Carrington and others returned from a two weeks exploring trip on the Great Salt Lake and its islands. Their skiff on wheels was named the "Mud Hen" because they had killed a mud hen en route. They boarded their craft on the Jordan River, drawing the boat in places where the water was not sufficiently deep to float it. They then crossed the lake to Fremont Island (then called Castle Island), also Dome Island (Stansbury Island).

On July 27, 1847, three days after the arrival of the original pioneer company, Orson Pratt led an exploring party southward to the Oquirrh Mountains, and obtained a view of Utah Valley. On the same day, L. B. Myers returned from "Eutah Lake." He reports that on the east side of it was plenty of timber, which might easily be floated down the Jordan River to Great Salt Lake City. (Notes from Journal History).

The following letter concerning the building of the boat "Mud Hen" was written by Hulda C. Thurston Smith in 1932:

take pleasure in forwarding to you the information you ask for regarding the names of the men who

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built the boat which they christened the "Mud Hen." They were Thomas Jefferson Thurston, William W. Potter, Stephen Spaulding and Joseph Mount.

Those who went with them to explore the Great Salt Lake were President. Jedediah M. Grant and Apostle Parley P. Pratt. Their object in building the boat to explore the lake and islands beyond was to see if therein or on existed anything which could be made available for the sustenance of our poor and almost famishing people. It was rumored that many had seen a big fish, sea animals, etc., in the lake. Bro. Sweeten, though much over ninety years of age, can well remember many of the stories told and the excitement caused by them amongst the people ... Our exploring party found nothing in the lake and only wild fowls on the islands.

They had gone prepared to stop one night and the next day started home as per schedule, but had gone only a short distance when they encountered a very severe storm of wind and rain, which came near wrecking their boat which soon filled with water and the salt spray almost blinded the men. None but William Potter had had any experience with lake navigation and under his directions they finally got back to the island, which they dared not leave until the third day, when they returned home.

My father, T. J. Thurston bought out the interests of the other three men in the "Mud Hen" and made a small pond near our home where he kept it. We children had much pleasure playing in it until 1849, when the California gold seekers passing through Salt Lake City, saw it. Those going north, when they arrived at the Bear River, found it a muddy turbulent stream which they couldn't cross. Two men were drowned trying to locate a ford. They then remembered the boat they had seen in Salt Lake and two men came back and hired my father and brothers to take their boat out there and ferry them over the river, which they did without accident.

Thus the Mud Hen made another old land or pioneer landmark. When father and sons came home they left the boatropes, etc., then thinking to return the next year and ferry travelers as before, but, in 1850, we had become a territory and had a legislature from which Bro. William Empey received a grant to establish a ferry on Bear River and he there, I suppose, found the Mud Hen. We never heard about it again.

Name: Thomas J. THURSTON Age: 75 Estimated birth year: <1805> Birthplace: Vermont Occupation: Farmer Relation: Self Home in 1880: Milton City, Morgan, Utah Marital status: Married Race: white Gender: Male Head of household: Thomas J. THURSTON Father's birthplace: NH Mother's birthplace: VT Cannot read/write: View image Blind: View image Deaf and dumb: View image Otherwise disabled: View image Idiotic or insane: View image Image Source: Year: 1880; Census Place:

Thomas Jefferson Thurston

Milton City, Morgan,
Utah; Roll: T9_1336; Family History Film: 1255336; Page: 506D; Enumeration District:
34; Image: .
•Change Date: 30 Jul 2003 at 16:15:03

Father: Peter Thurston b: 10 Dec 1761 in Hollis, Vermont c: 16 Nov 1760 in
Pepperell, Middlesex,
Massachusetts
Mother: Hannah Butler b: 18 Aug 1772 in Hollis or Fairfax, Vermont

Marriage 1 Rozetta Bull b: 25 Apr 1809 in Manchester, Bennington, Vermont
•Married: 28 Mar 1828 in Granville, Loching, Ohio 2
Children

1. Harriet Elizabeth Thurston b: 7 Jan 1829 in Adams, Seneca, Ohio
2. George Washington Thurston b: 1 Nov 1830 in New Haven, Huron, Ohio, Usa
3. Smith Butler Thurston b: 4 Jan 1833 in New Haven, Huron, Ohio
4. Sarah Ann Thurston b: 26 May 1835 in Adams, Seneca, Ohio
5. Hannah Marie Thurston b: 18 May 1837 in New Haven, Huron, Ohio
6. Ruben Johnson Thurston b: 9 Oct 1839 in New Haven, Huron, Ohio
7. Julia Rosetta Thurston b: 21 Nov 1841 in New Haven, Seneca ?, Ohio
8. Caroline Rozalia Thurston b: 3 Jan 1843 in New Haven, Huron, Ohio
9. Hulda Cordelia Thurston b: 1 Jun 1846 in Soap Creek, Van Buren, Iowa
10. Thomas Jefferson Thurston Jr. b: 14 Dec 1848 in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake City, Utah
11. Peter Franklin Thurston b: 24 Jun 1851 in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake City, Utah

Marriage 2 Elizabeth Smith b: 26 Feb 1835 in Newton, Burtonwood, Lancashire, England
c: 5 Apr 1835 in

Newton, Burtonwood, Lancashire, England

•Married: 18 Nov 1855 in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah 3

Children

1. Rosetta Thurston b: 25 Oct 1856 in Centerville, Davis, Utah
2. Elizabeth Thurston b: 17 Mar 1858 in Centerville, Davis Co., Ut
3. John Thomas Thurston b: 14 Dec 1859 in Milton, Morgan, Utah
4. Clara Thurston b: 17 Sep 1861 in Milton, Morgan, Ut
5. Mary Thurston b: 22 Jul 1863 in Morganville, Milton, Morgan, Utah, USA
6. William Harry Thurston b: 15 Nov 1865 in Milton, Morgan, Utah
7. Frederick or Fredrick Thurston b: 29 Sep 1867 in Morganville (Mil, Morgan
8. Jeddediah (or Jedidiah) Morgan Thurston b: 1 Sep 1869 in Morganville (Mil, Morgan
9. Edward Thurston b: 12 Aug 1871 in Morganville (Mil, Morgan
10. Leah Helen Thurston b: 6 Sep 1872 in Morganville (Mil, Morgan
11. Rebecca Thurston b: 7 Aug 1875 in Morganville (Mil, Morgan
12. Leroy Thurston b: 7 Jun 1877 in Morganville (Mil, Morgan
13. Harris Thurston b: 7 May 1879 in Morganville, Morgan, Utah
14. Jefferson Thurston b: ABT 1881

Marriage 3 Helen Marie (Ellen) Davis b: 29 Oct 1844 in , Lowell, Middlesex, England

•Married: 3 May 1862 in , , Utah 4

Title: Utah Cemetery Index

Publication: Utah Valley Regional Family History Center. Utah County, Utah Cemetery
Index [database
on-line]. Provo, Utah