

Life Sketch of Mary Ann (Jackson) Graham Written by her daughter, Emily G. Hunsaker

My mother was born March twenty ninth (29th) 1825. She was the daughter of John and Hannah (Richardson) Jackson. Her birthplace was Bloomsgrrove, Nottinghamshire, England, where they lived for ten years. They then moved to Nottingham, a large lace manufacturing town, where thousands of girls were employed in the lace factories. This was my mother's occupation in the daytime while at night she attended night school. They made Nottingham their home until she had grown to womanhood and then with her parents moved to Woolwich, a large military town in Kent County near London.

Mother's father and brothers were mechanics and worked in the government yards. They drew good wages and were in comfortable circumstances. They had a family of eight, mother being the only girl. Three of her brothers died in infancy. In this town mother became an apprentice to a dress-making establishment and served three years and then received her diploma.

In the year 1848, mother's parents accepted the Gospel and were faithful Latter-Day Saints. In 1850, her father was stricken ill and passed away in April, which was a great loss to the family. Prior to this, mother had not received the Gospel, but the death of her father caused her to be more serious and she investigated and accepted the Gospel in 1851.

In the year of 1856, she became the wife of Fredrick James Graham, a widower with three small daughters. To this union there were five daughters born, the first being still-born, and then Emily, Alice, Mary Ann, and Audrey Maretta.

In 1863 they left their native land and journeyed to America crossing the ocean in the ship Amazon, it taking between six and seven weeks. They landed in Castle Gardens, New York. From there they came to Florence, Nebraska (now called Omaha). Then they journeyed across the plains with ox teams in the company of Thomas Ricks, landing in Salt Lake City, October 4th, which was exactly four months to the day when they left their home in England. A few days later they moved on to Brigham City and here endured many hardships such as the pioneers encountered.

In March 1868, the family moved to Honeyville, which belonged to Harper Ward, then called North String. In 1877, Honeyville Ward was organized; and the following spring the Relief Society was organized, mother being placed as second counselor to Pres. Harriet Hunsaker, which position she faithfully fulfilled until the release of Pres. Harriet Hunsaker.

Mother was not a woman who cared for publicity, but took more comfort in her home and family. She was a hard working woman and helped to provide for her family with her needle. On the 26th of January, 1901, after a lingering illness, she passed away, leaving three daughters, fifteen grandchildren and many relatives to mourn her loss.