

HISTORY OF THOMAS GUYMON

Thomas Guymon was born March 17, 1787; a son of Isaiah Guymon and Elizabeth Flynn. His father Isaiah, was the first Guymon born in the United States, and a soldier of the Revolutionary war. We know very little about the childhood days of Thomas Guymon. The first we know he was a young man living in Surry County, North Carolina. He was a good natured man and was liked by everyone who knew him. He was an ambitious young man with a fairly good education for those days, for we know he had enough education to be a school teacher. He was also a farmer. It seems that in the first part of the Nineteenth Century people only had time for school when there was no farm work to be done; therefore Guymon have in their possession a contract which reads as follows:

CONTRACT FOR TEACHING SCHOOL

Articles of an agreement made and entered into between Thomas Guymon of the County of Jackson, in the state of Tennessee of the first part, and we the undersigners of the other part. The said Guymon does bind himself to teach a school for three months, of reading and writing five days out of every week, at the rate of six dollars per year. One half in current money to be paid at the end of school; one half to be paid in cotton, wool or cloth delivered at the home of said Guymon; or corn or pork at the market price delivered at the mouth of Proctors Creek. The trade to be paid on or before the 25th of December. The school house to be built at the Dripping Spring, between that of Guymon and Orson Martins. The school to begin on the second Monday in August. The said Guymon and make up all lost time that he does loose. The said Guymon is to keep good order in the school, The subscribers with the teacher are to build a good sufficient schoolhouse. The house is to be ready in good time. Signed this 11 day of July 1821.

Signed: Thomas Hicklen, Archibald M. Levant, Orson Martin, Salton Coyd, John McLearn.

Along with the other work Thomas Guymon did while living in Tennessee he operated a ferry boat crossing over the Cumberland River. His ferry consisted of several boats, some large and some small. The large boats were big enough to carry two teams and wagons. The large boats were run by horse power. The horse was in the center of the boat, the horse went round and round, which worked the paddles, and the paddles pushed the boat across the river. The small boats were propelled by hand or by a rope stretched across the river.

Thomas married Sarah Gordon the 23rd day of February 1809, and together their married life began in Surry County, North Carolina. Here their first three sons were born. They moved from North Carolina to Jackson County, Tennessee about 1815. Tennessee was the birth place of their next three sons and one daughter. They lived in Tennessee for some ten years, then they moved to Paris, Edgar County, Illinois, where three more daughters were born to them.

One beautiful day in 1836 Thomas' son James came home very excited, with information of a new church. It was different from the other churches they had known. Thomas and his sons were out in the forest chopping wood. When James told them his story they listened with interest, and when James had finished speaking, Thomas stood upon a log and said, "Jim, that is the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is just what we have been looking for." Thomas and his wife Sarah, his sons James and Thomas, and his daughters Barzilla, Polly Ann and Missa Jane were converted to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. They soon joined the saints and were with them through all their persecutions.

From the history of Caldwell County the following information was obtained. A document or covenant made in Caldwell County, Missouri, January 29, 1839. Among the signers we find the name of Thomas Guymon and his son Noah Thomas.

The whose names are here underwritten, do each for ourselves individually here-by covenant to stand by and assist each other, to the utmost of our abilities, in removing from this state in compliance with the authority of the state; and we do hereby acknowledge ourselves firmly bound to the extent of all our available property, to be disposed of by

a committee who shall be appointed for that purpose, for providing means for removing of the poor and destitute who shall be considered worthy, from this country till there shall not be one left who desires to move from the state; with this proviso, that no individual shall be deprived of the right of the disposal of his own property, for the above purpose, or having the control of it, or so much of it as shall be necessary for the removal of his own family, and be entitled to the surplus, after the work is affected; and furthermore said committee shall give receipts for all property, and an account of all expenditures of the same. (There were 214 signers).

The committee members were as follows: William Huntington, Charles Bird, Alanson Ripley, Theodore Turley, Daniel Shearer, Shadrack Roundy, and Johnathan H. Hale.

Thomas came across the plains to Utah, leaving Illinois in the spring of 1850 with the Aaron Johnson Company. With him were his children who had joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, with the exception of James who came the year before. The children were all married and had families of their own, except Melissa Jane, and she and her future husband did their courting while crossing the plains. They arrived in Salt Lake Valley in September 1850. Thomas lived only five years after coming to Utah. The fact that they had joined the church had divided his family; because his sons Isaiah, John and William never joined the church, and as a result they and their families remained in the state of Illinois. He never for one moment regretted joining the Church, but he did regret the separation in his family. We have many copies of letters exchanged between those who remained in the east with those who came west.

Thomas Guymon died in Springville, Utah County, Utah 20 October, 1855.

CHILDREN OF THOMAS GUYMON

Isaiiah Guymon	born 15 February 1810 in	Surry County, North Carolina
John Guymon	" 28 November 1811 in	" " "
William Guymon	" 23 January 1815 in	" " "
James Guymon	" 27 December 1816 in	Jackson County, Tennessee
Noah Thomas Guymon	" 30 June 1819 in	" " "
Martin Guymon	" 12 June 1821 in	" " "
Barzilla Guymon	" 31 December 1823 in	" " "
Elizabeth Guymon	" 19 July 1826 in	Edgar County, Illinois
Polly Ann Guymon	" 11 July 1829 in	" " "
Sarah Jane Guymon	" 11 July 1829 in	" " "
Melissa Jane Guymon	" 14 February 1833 in	" " "

In Volume 6, page 337 of the History of the Church we find that Thomas Guymon filled a mission to North Carolina in the year 1844. This was his birth place.

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HISTORY OF SARAH GORDON GUYMON

Sarah Gordon's first ancestor in the United States was Thomas Gordon, who was born in Ulster, Down County North Ireland. He was a son of James Stewart Gordon, originally of the Huntley Gordons of Scotland. He came to what is now called Gordonsville, Amherst County, Virginia. Her father was the first child of Thomas Gordon and Sarah Flynn. John was born in Albemarle County, Virginia in 1772. He married Barzilla Martin who was born 27 March 1774, daughter of John Martin and his wife Sarah where they farmed and operated a tavern to serve the passengers who traveled through by stage coach. They had begun their life together with very little means, but by application of industry, due economy, and intelligence, gained property rapidly, until his death owned twelve slaves. They had three sons and nine daughters.

Sarah was the oldest of John Gordon's and Barzilla Martin's children. She was born 20 November 1789 in Surry County, North Carolina. Being the oldest of twelve children helping her mother in the tavern. She had a busy life and never knew an idle moment.

Sarah married Thomas Guymon in Stokes County, North Carolina the 23rd day of Feb., 1815. He was a son of Isaiah Guymon and Elizabeth Flynn. He was an ambitious young man, who farmed in the summer months and taught school in the winter. They lived in Stokes County North Carolina for six years. During that time three sons—Isaiah, John and William were born to them. They moved to Jackson County, Tennessee in 1815. Here they had three more sons—James, Noah Thomas and Martin, and one daughter—Barzilla. Ten years later they moved again, this time to Edgar County, Illinois in 1825. While living here they had four daughters—Elizabeth, Polly Ann, Sarah Jane and Melissa Jane.

Sarah and her husband were converted to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in 1836, and soon joined with the saints and were with them in all their persecutions. Their son James came to Utah in 1849 and a year later in the spring of 1850 wife and Sarah Guymon with their daughter Melissa Jane, their son Noah Thomas and his children, all came to Utah with the Aaron Johnson company. Their three eldest sons however did not come to Utah. The family with others made many preparations for the journey to Utah. Among other things, they had to train or break cows to lead on a wagon of three yoke of oxen.

The most pleasant part of their journey was spent traveling along the banks of the Missouri River. The company crossed the river on flat boats, and the cattle swam the river. They gathered buffalo chips to make fires in the prairie lands. The company traveled long hard hours, but they always took time out at night to sing songs of praise and enjoy one another's company before retiring.

Three days before the end of this journey their son James came to meet them. The children were driving the cattle ahead of the wagons, and when they saw their Uncle James coming they shouted for joy. The shouts of joy rang out through the entire company. Thomas and Sarah were indeed happy to see their son, and the company were glad to see someone they knew, for now they were sure that their long journey would soon be at an end. Finally they arrived at the little town of Salt Lake City. One of the sights that impressed the children was a red flag on a stick nailed up on a log room to show that merchandise was sold there, and another log room with a tin cup outside to show that tin was sold there.

They spent their first week with James, who lived on the little Cottonwood River. He had a lovely garden which furnished good eating for the new arrivals to the valley. The married children moved down into Utah County, all except James, who moved down some time later. Thomas and Sarah spent their first winter in Salt Lake Valley.

Sarah had a very quick temper and was very determined about getting her own way when she felt she was right. The people in Salt Lake Valley were told to take their dry cows in the herd, and let the herder take them to Antelope Island, which is an island in the Great Salt Lake. Sarah felt it was wrong to let her cows be sent over there for the winter. The herder came and put her cows in with the rest of the herd. She was very determined that her cows were not going so she came out with her cane for a switch and

turned her cows out of the herd and took them home. The cows had to be herded all the time. She must have known what she was doing, for the other cows froze to death and her cows furnished milk for her family and many more settlers.

Sarah not only loved her children very much, but she was very fond of her brothers and sisters. We have found many instances where she was close to the son of her sister, his name was Calvin Gordon Stone, who lived in Utah. We also have evidence of her corresponding with her people back in North Carolina. Among the letters written to her youngest brother Martin was found a document giving Martin the Power of Attorney and a letter with it asking him to sell her land which was left to her by her father. Her father was a wealthy man at the time of his death. Her oldest brother James was the Administrator of the estate. This letter to Martin was written Feb. 28, 1870. In this same letter she stated that her health was very poor and that she was living with her son Noah Thomas and that he was taking care of all her business affairs.

After Noah Thomas moved to Springville, Thomas and Sarah moved to Springville. Here Thomas died October 20, 1855. After the death of her husband, Sarah moved to Fountain Green to be near her children there. She lived in a home of her own, and had a girl named Martha Jane Park live with her for company. She lived the last few years with her son Noah Thomas. Here she died on December 7, 1872 at the age of 91 years. She was taken to Springville for burial beside her husband.

Written by: Mrs. Olive Stone—Provo, Utah

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