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1881B

*Life of
Maud*

MARIA JANE JOHNSON WAKEFIELD

Maria Jane Johnson was born Dec. 11 1852, the ~~third~~ ^{sixth} child, and ~~first~~ ^{first} daughter of George Washington and Maria Jane Johnston, in Springville, Utah.

She spent her growing up years in Santaquin, Utah. Her Father was a politician and it was hard for them to clothe their large family so Maria's Mother would shear sheep for people for wool. She would card this wool after washing it and spin it into thread and make a cloth to make their clothes. They also gathered flax to make a fiber warp to go with the wool. All the girls learned to spin and make their own cloths and mens jeans. Maria was making her mother's dresses when she was so small she had to stand on a chair to fit the collars to the dresses.

There were no stores where they were growing up so they had to make everything. They took salteratus from the ground and put a cup of boiling water over it and make soda for bread making. Salt was made the same way. Soap was also home made.

Maria held many Church Offices, and was a visiting teacher for 52 years. She and Thomas were the parents of eleven children, raising ten to maturity.

In Maria's history she said: Along with all our hardships and trials we had lots of fun times. All the people would meet at different homes and have our practice and then have a party with molasses cake and a candy pull. All the people raised sugar cane so had plenty of molasses. The people spent their evenings putting on plays and visiting each other.

Maria died July 14, 1942 in the presence of her children Maud, Fern, and Clint and Jennie, after a long and useful life.