

**ELIJAH SHAW II AND MARTHA ANN THOMAS SHAW**

**BIOGRAPHY OF JOHN RILEY SHAW**

(OF PLEASANT VIEW, WEBER COUNTY, UTAH  
ALSO OF OAKDALE, RIVERBANK, AND  
MODESTO, STANISLAUS COUNTY, CALIFORNIA)

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**ELIJAH SHAW AND MARTHA ANN THOMAS SHAW**

The following is the historical sketch of Elijah Shaw in  
"Pioneers and Prominent Men of Utah," page 1156: Elijah Shaw

was born 15 February, 1822, at Cincinnati, Ohio, and came to Utah in 1853.

He married Martha Ann Thomas in 1849 in Nauvoo, Illinois.



She was the daughter of Jacob Thomas, a pioneer of an 1853 handcart company who was born 20 November, 1824. Their children: William O. b. 1850, m. Phoebe Ann Rose 20 January, 1872; Martha Ellen b. 1852, m. Hyrum Rose 1860; Edmund Riley b. 1855, m. Elizabeth Rose 1871; Lorna b. 1857, m. Willard Cragun 1871; Elijah b. 1859, m. Louise Chadwick 1879; Amelia b. 1861, m. Jessie Hiatt 1879; John b. 1864, m. Mary Brown 1886; George b. 1866, m. Mary Storey 1885; Samuel b. 1869, m. Harriet Parker 1891.

Family home was in North Ogden, Utah. He was an Elder and ward teacher. He was a farmer.

John's paternal grandmother, Martha Ann Thomas, was born 20 November, 1824, in Jonesboro, Sullivan County, Tennessee. She was a very industrious woman who raised the six sons and three daughters listed in the preceding paragraph. Will said that his grandmother Shaw always had a large supply of food in her home and cooking was her greatest talent.

Will, John's brother, writes of his memories of her shearing sheep, washing and cording the wool and then making pants from the finished products for the men in the family. This material was similar to buckskin in texture and appearance. These homespun outfits wore for a long time and were well worth the great effort rendered in making them.

William remembers that after her death on December 11, 1890, he being but four years old at the time that he took her "makings" or one of her keepsakes which was a corn cob pipe. Will lost it some time later.

In April, 1978, the Salt Lake Tribune carried a review of "research" by Sue Ann Larsen and Debra Solomon. In the article, Martha Ann Thomas was termed a "Wild Woman of the West." These two Weber State College coeds evidently felt that Martha Ann's preference for her corn cob pipe earned her this designation. That took a lot of imagination on their part.

A delightful biography of Elijah Shaw and Martha Ann Thomas has been written by Jeanette Shaw Greenwell, a great-great granddaughter. This 33-page history expertly traces their ancestry back to Wales through the Bowen: family. The Bowens arrived in America during the winter of 1639-1640, landing in the colony of New Plymouth. Dan Bowen II then moved to Deerfield, New Jersey.

Dan Bowen III's daughter, Lydia, married Elijah Shaw I who was born in New Jersey about 1782. They decided to go to the Ohio Territory. Elijah Shaw II was born there on 15 February, 1822. They settled in a town called Mechanicsburg, later called Chilo. The family later moved to Daviess County, Missouri. They could have migrated to Nauvoo, Illinois, with the Saints.

Elijah Shaw II married Martha Ann Thomas (Shupe) on 6 April, 1850. They farmed in Kaneshville, Iowa, and later migrated to Utah. They arrived on 7 August, 1853. They settled in Centerville on a farm. Elijah II was baptized a member of the Church on 29 September, 1856, and he was ordained an Elder on 20 March, 1859 in Centerville, Utah. Then they moved to the North Ogden area. Their membership in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was recorded there 16 April, 1859.

Read Jeanette Greenwell's masterful biographies of Elijah and Martha Ann, it will bring tears to your eyes as it did to mine to read of their hardships and joys. Jeanette concludes in these words: As I look at my great-grandfather and great grandmother's pictures hanging on the wall, I think of what a

wonderful contribution they made in the settling of this valley here in the mountains.

We, their posterity, know the results of their labor. We should do all we can to make them proud of us because they left us a wonderful heritage.

John was two years of age when Martha Ann died and 13 when Elijah II died. (See photo reprint of the family and home, (Appendix A-14).