

Ellen Hines Duffy Gallagher mother of Ellen Bridget Gallagher



Ellen Hines Duffy
about 1820
(mother of Ellen Bridget Gallagher)

HISTORY OF ELLEN BRIDGET GALLAGHER COTTAM

Ellen Duffy was employed as a maid in the home of the Gallaghers. When James, the son came home to Dublin and saw this beautiful Irish girl, he fell in love with her and after a time, persuaded her to consent to a secret marriage, which was an impulsive thing to do. He was sure his parents would love her as much as he did. The parents were very angry and turned both of the young people out of the Gallagher home. The couple were taken in by some of Ellen's people and they remained with them until a daughter was born in 1831. Ellen Bridget Gallagher, the subject of this story.

After a time, they and a company of others seeking new opportunities made their way over to England, where there were better advantages in making a living. During an epidemic of cholera, James, the father, contracted this disease and died. This left his young wife and four children, Bridget, James, Thomas and Hanna (Anna) all alone in the world with no one to help.

When her mother married a second time, Ellen Bridget found her step-father to be a cruel and selfish man. His name was Thomas Jenkins. He was a tailor and made the young children work as bobbin winders. She left home and worked as nurse-maids in private homes. She never went to see her family again, although she would meet with her mother secretly. In her early teens she found employment in a hospital to pay for a knee operation she needed. She was placed in the maternity ward where she learned much about babies and acted as a mid-wife, which proved to be a great blessing as she delivered hundreds of babies later in her life without losing one.

When she was 21 she married William Cottam, a 23 year old Latter-Day Saint. She was a devout Catholic. After a short time, she became converted to her husband's faith, and they longed to move to Utah. The years passed and they had a large family, many of the children dying at birth. It was decided that William would go to Utah first and then send for her and the remaining 3 children. There had been 13.

He left and Bridget worked at midwifery and stocked a small store saving enough money to get the rest of them to Utah. Another child was born 7 months after William had left and was kept secret from him as a surprise when he saw them.

When the baby was nine days old, the family sailed for America. After six weeks on the boat, they arrived in New York on New Year's Day, where William Sr. met them and was extremely happy about the new baby. They went to Pennsylvania where William Sr. was employed in the mines. As soon as they were financially able, they went to Utah on the freight train that carried cars, mail, and passengers. They arrived in Ogden and then in Morgan on October 6, 1868.

They settled in Porterville, 3 miles east of Morgan, in a house with a dirt floor, quilts were used for doors, burlap bags for windows. While her husband was away mining in Wyoming, Bridget aquired a farm. She was a hard working woman. She took in washing, delivered many babies, and treated contagious diseases and other illnesses. She walked many miles or rode a horse to get to those who needed her. She could neither read or write and could not read a thermometer. If the people could not afford the \$3 she charged for a whole illness, she received no pay.

Bridget and William went to Salt Lake City and received their endowments with Daniel H. Wells performing the ceremony. Soon after this, twins, Mary and Martha, were born to them. Two years later, Eve arrived. Elizabeth had been born soon after reaching Utah. So the family grew in number.

They moved to Snowville and stocked a small store; they were thrifty and were soon able to move into a two-room log cabin. The mother continued to practice her profession and William petitioned to get a mail route. Their daughter, Margaret, started school teaching. Some of her pupils were older than herself. For this service, she was paid in cedar posts, meat, and flour.

They were all active members of the ward. Even though she could not read or write, Bridget kept track of the sales in the store. She relied on her memory and kept every detail of prices, etc. in her head. She was a thoughtful and generous woman and helped those who needed money, food, or aid in any way.

They went to the Logan Temple where their children were sealed to them. They always had faith and were true to their religion. She was the only member of her family to join the Latter-Day Saint Church and saw only one member of her family again. John, a brother, came to Utah to see her from his home in Mexico. Her mother died at the age of ninety in Wiggan, England, and the rest of the family Bridget never heard of any more. She had 19 children, only 9 of whom grew to maturity.