

## HISTORY OF SARAH GORDON GUYMON

Ancestry of Sarah Gordon from the record of Thomas Gordon Jr. family of St. Joseph, Missouri, as submitted for membership in the S. A. R. Organization.

Sarah Gordon's first ancestor in the United States was Thomas Gordon the son of Alexander Gordon and Jane Stewart. He was born near Newry (Ulster) County Down North Ireland, about the year 1745. Thomas was the only child of Scotch-Irish Parentage who came originally from Scotland, his father being a descendant of the Huntly-Gordons. In 1750 at the age of five, he came with his mother Jane Stewart Gordon to America and established their home in the North eastern edge of Albemarle County, Virginia, near the town of Gordonsville. In 1770 Thomas married Miss Sarah Wilson, to this union were born seven children. Sarah Gordon's father John Gordon was the first child of Thomas Gordon and Sarah Wilson, born in Albemarle County, Virginia. In 1772 he married Barzilla Martin daughter of John Martin and Sarah Simson.

They settled on the main highway about two miles south of Pilot Mountain, North Carolina, 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 they became quite wealthy for those days. They accumulated much real estate, and at his death owned twelve slaves. They had three sons and nine daughters. Sarah was the oldest child in the family. She was born 20 November 1879 in Surry County, North Carolina. Being the oldest of twelve children she had many responsibilities; helping with the children, making beds and helping 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., 1809. Thomas was a son of Isaiah Guymon and Elizabeth Flynn. He was ambitious as a young man and farmed in the summer and taught school in the winter. They lived in Stokes County, North Carolina, for six years. During this 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 to Edgar County, Illinois in 1825. 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 Thomas and Sarah Guymon with their son Noah Thomas and his family, Barzilla and Mathew Caldwell and family, Polly Ann and Robert Johnson and family, and daughter Melissa, all came to Utah with the Aaron Johnson Company. Their oldest sons Isaiah, John and William did not accept the Gospel but remained in Illinois. This was a great sorrow to Thomas and Sarah to have their family divided. They made preparations to come to Utah. Among other things, they had to train and break cows to load on a wagon with three yoke of oxen.

The most pleasant part of their journey was 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 on the prairie lands. The company traveled long hard hours, but always took time out to sing songs of praise and enjoy each other 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 soon 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