

The History of Noah Thomas Guymon  
Compiled by Olive Guymon Stone (A Granddaughter)

This history is taken from histories written from descendents of Noah Thomas Guymon, from ward records, from the diary of Noah Thomas Guymon, the church chronology, American Fork history and Church History. It is also taken from children's biographies.

Noah Thomas Guymon was born 30 June 1819 in Jackson County, Tennessee. He was the fifth child of Thomas Guymon and Sarah Gordon Guymon who were both descendants of Revolutionary War ancestors. Noah's father was a good farmer and schoolteacher and Noah received a rounded basic education in both.

In the early spring of 1826 the family moved to Edgar County, Illinois, where they lived a rather peaceful life until 1836 when James, Noah's older brother, came home from a trip, which changed their entire future. He told the family of a new church; different from any they had ever known. When James finished his story, his father said, "Jim, this is the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is just what we have been looking for." Noah, James, his youngest brother, four sisters, and his parents joined the church soon after that. Noah was baptized 2 March 1836.

Noah Thomas knew the Prophet Joseph Smith and acted as one of his bodyguards. He told his children of Joseph's experience in the Sacred Grove and how they would eventually be driven from their homes. He bore his testimony at a conference in Orangeville telling of a meeting he attended conducted by Brigham Young.

Noah Thomas married MARY DICKERSON DUDLEY on 24 December 1837 in Caldwell County, Missouri. Their first child, Mary Jane, was born on 25 October 1838 on the night of the Crooked River Battle when David Patten was killed. In the winter of 1838 Noah and his family with the rest of the Saints moved to the state of Illinois where Noah helped build the city of Nauvoo. Here their second child Lucinda Harris was born on 10 September 1840. On 8 July 1842 their third child Emma Mellisa was born.

When the Prophet Joseph was martyred, they were living on a small farm in the country not far from Nauvoo. Noah was sick in bed with a high fever at the time.

Noah's wife, MARY DICKERSON DUDLEY, died from complications of childbirth on March 1, 1845, and was taken to Nauvoo for burial. This left Noah with three small girls to care for. Ten months later on November 24, 1845, Noah Thomas married MARGARET JOHNSON, daughter of Edward Johnson and Sarah Brown Johnson, who became a good mother to the girls. To this union, were born four daughters and three sons: Margaret Elizabeth (29 Sep 1846), married Hyrum Oscar Crandall; Martin Lewis Guymon (24 Jan 1849) died 21 Apr 1868; Harriett (11 Nov 1851) married Hyrum Oscar Crandall; Moroni Guymon (30 Jul 1856) died 11 Aug 1856; Julia Luella (2 Aug 1857) married George Maycock; Edward Wallace Guymon (15 Dec 1859) married Elizabeth Preator; Lillian Melinda (29 Mar 1862) married Louis Harvey Pearson.

On 12 February 1847 Noah Thomas married a third wife, ELIZABETH ANN JONES, at Winter Quarters by Brigham Young. She was a daughter of James Nyler Jones and Sarah Ann Manerly. To them were born: William Albert Guymon (25 Apr 1849) married Marcellia Fowles; Clarissa Ellen (29 Aug 1851) married Amasa Scoville; Noah Thomas Guymon, Jr. (18 Apr 1853) married Caroline M. Hansen; Sarah Ann (30 Aug 1856) died 1858; Amy Amelia (18 Jan 1859) married Alma Gardner Jewkes; Elizabeth Ann (8 Jan 1861) died age 8 years.

Noah Thomas, his three little girls from his first wife, his wife Margaret with her first two children, and Elizabeth (his third wife) and her little son left Council Bluffs, Iowa, in the spring of 1850 to make their long journey across the plains



to Utah with Aaron Johnsons' Third Company. Also in the Company were his parents and their daughter Melissa who was still single. There were his sisters Barzilla and her husband Matthew Caldwell and their small children, and Polly and her husband Robert Lewis Johnson and their small children.

It took much preparation for the long journey, clothing had to be made ready, cows and oxen had to be trained and wagons had to be loaded with supplies. They were happy with the thought of going to Utah where they would no longer be persecuted by mobs. Traveling along the Missouri River was the most pleasant part of the trip, then came the prairie land. The children drove the cattle and also gathered buffalo chips to make fires when they camped for the night. There were good times and bad, but no matter how tired they were they always sat around the campfire, after a hard day's journey, to sing songs of praise and enjoy each other's company. They finally arrived in Salt Lake Valley on September 8, 1850.

Noah Thomas, Azamiah Adams, Henry Chipman and Matthew Caldwell were the first settlers in American Fork. History says that Noah Thomas built the first house there. They lived in a small wagon box, that was taken off the wagon, and sat on the ground while building this log home. The roof was covered with small poles on which cane was laid. When the house was finished, he went with his brother-in-law Matthew and Brother Adams to find work for food and supplies to carry them through the winter. They were gone three weeks. Adams' young son and Brother Chipman were the only male members left to protect their wives and children while they were away.

The day after their departure Chief Walker and a large number of his Indian braves came and pitched their tents, or wickieups as they were called, near the little new homes which these settlers had just finished. The settlers were upset by their arrival so Brother Chipman went down to talk with the Chief. The Chief said they were friendly and that he and some of his lesser chiefs were on their way to Salt Lake City to see and talk with Brigham Young. The Chief said his Indian braves would hunt and fish and gather some acorns and turn their horses on the low lands to feed. Nevertheless, the women and children were very much afraid. Some of the Indians were very annoying. They would come into the cabins and help themselves to whatever they wanted such as milk or anything they could see that they wanted to eat. As the cows had helped pull the wagons across the plains and had given milk all summer, they were dry now. These settlers needed what little milk they got from the cows to soak the hard bread they had left. Their provisions were getting scarce. They had hauled what they did have over one thousand miles in one wagon. When a big Indian brave would come into their cabin and pick up a pan of milk, drink what he wanted and then pass it to another Indian to finish drinking, the Guymon family knew they would have dry bread to eat. Still they were very thankful to their Heavenly Father for his protecting care over them, for they realized they could have all been killed and their belongs taken or destroyed.

Noah Thomas was able to work for one his friends, William Casper, while in Salt Lake thrashing wheat, digging potatoes and hauling lumber from the canyon. He also sold some things he had brought with him; thus when he returned to American Fork he was able to obtain enough potatoes, corn and wheat to last throughout the winter. This was the last of November 1850. They stayed in American Fork that first winter. It is believed that the first child to be born in American Fork on August 28, 1851, was Clarissa Ellen, the second child of Noah's third wife, Elizabeth Ann Jones. Noah and Elizabeth Ann had been married at Winter Quarters in February 1847. In the late fall of 1851 Noah moved his family to Springville where the children were able to attend school in a log house inside the fort.

On October 1852 Noah Thomas attended General Conference of the Church in Salt Lake City. At this conference he was called to go on a mission to England. As soon as he could get proper clothing for the journey he left for his



mission. He left in the company of Elder Spence Crandall, 9 September 1852 to go to Salt Lake to receive special instructions before starting their journey. There were one hundred Elders all leaving for missions to the nations of the earth. They left Salt Lake City 15 September in five wagons and arrived at Fort Bridger on the 22nd. There they joined a company in 22 more wagons. Orson Pratt, one of the twelve apostles and Daniel Spence were in this group.

He had a successful mission. Copies of letters he wrote state how successful they were and how the Lord took such good care of the missionaries that went. Without purse or script, they did not want for food or a place to lay their head. Noah was very grateful for the good care he had had and for the many converts made in England.

In Noah Thomas' diary it says, "We have chartered a ship named 'Juvants' and it was to sail March 30th to bring 330 converts to America." On April 1, 1855, Elder Clover, who had been appointed president of the company, called a meeting in regard to the best policy for keeping good order. They divided the passengers on board into twelve wards, and Noah Thomas was appointed president of the First Ward. On April 6th they held a General Conference on board this ship and sustained the General Authorities of the church. Many were sick during the journey. May 6, 1855 they reached the mouth of the Delaware River, and they landed in Philadelphia at 10:00 PM that night. They reached Atchison May 27th, and on May 28th they went to Mormon Grove.

May 31st and June 1st and 2nd they organized for crossing the plains with Noah Thomas Sergeant of the Guard of the 2nd Company. June 14, 1855 they started on their journey across the plains. The 10th of August they passed Fort Kerney, and August 28th they camped at Fort Bridger. They arrived in Salt Lake City with many Saints and 58 wagons on September 7, 1855. Noah Thomas reported to the church authorities and gave his full report of his mission and then hurried home to Springville to his family. He arrived there September 10, 1855 after having been away almost three years. He was sick with mountain fever on his return and was ill for several weeks.

While in England, the Rowley home was always open to the elders. Here Noah Thomas became acquainted with the Rowley family and Louisa Rowley, the oldest daughter. This Rowley family immigrated to Utah in 1856. On 2 March 1857 Noah took LOUISA ROWLEY as his fourth wife. She was the daughter of William Rowley and Ann Jewell Rowley. They were married by Brigham Young in his office in Salt Lake City. Twelve children were born to this union: James W. Guymon, born 17 September 1858, died age 2 months John Wesley Guymon, born 7 August 1860, married 1st Mary Ann Roper, 2nd Minnie Nielsen David Rowley Guymon, born 21 February 1862, died age 24 years Willard Richard Guymon, born 20 September 1864, married 1st Mary Ann Rowley, 2nd Hattie Black, 3rd Ellen Lunt Owen Winnie Guymon, born 16 April 1866, married 1st Ester David, 2nd Ada Sherman Thomas Henry Guymon, born 23 October 1869, died age 14 years. Anna Louisa Guymon, born 12 October 1870, married Edwin L. Gary Sarah Jane Guymon, born 21 October 1872, married Azariah Brown Melissa Louella Guymon, born 31 May 1876, died age 7 years Laura Eliza Guymon, born 7 April 1870, married Adelbert Brown Franklin Noah Guymon, born 12 May 1883, married 1st Mary Daisy Turnbow, 2nd Cordelia Kestle

Wednesday, May 20, 1857, the 51st Quorum of the Seventies was organized at Springville, Utah, with Noah Thomas Guymon as its president. In 1863 Noah moved his family to Fairview, San Pete County, Utah. In 1867 they moved to Fountain Green, San Pete County, where he became counselor to Bishop Robert L. Johnson, his brother-in-law. He held this position until 1879 when he moved his family to Castle Valley. In September 1884 the 81st Quorum of the Seventies was organized in Emery County by Seymour B. Young with Noah T. Guymon as one of the Presidents.

Noah moved Elizabeth Ann Jones and her family to Orangeville, Emery County and Louisa Rowley and her family to



Huntington, Emery County. He and her boys built the first log cabin in Huntington (Mountain Dale) from logs hauled from Huntington Canyon. While the home was being built, they lived in a "digout" which was dug from a clay hill with a leanto at the opening. Poles were placed upright with willows placed across covered with mud and leaves for a roof. Small windows were fashioned out of heavy greased paper. An old tub served as a stove for cooking and for heat. After the log cabin was finished Louisa gave birth to her twelfth child and Noah's twenty-eighth.

Noah spent part of his time in Huntington and part of his time in Orangeville with his third wife until the Manifesto. He then moved to Orangeville and made his home with his third wife, Elizabeth Ann Jones.

At the time of the Manifesto, one morning a neighbor came and told Louisa that a soldier from the United States Army was in town looking for men who were practicing polygamy. The neighbor said, "You'd better keep your children inside so they can't be questioned." But Louisa needed something from the store so she sent her youngest daughter Laura on the errand. She instructed her child to just say "I don't know" if anyone asked her any questions. Sure enough, a soldier saw her and said, "Who is your Dad, little girl?" "I don't know," Laura said. "Well, where do you live?" he questioned again. "I don't know," came the answer. Two other questions were "Where is your father" and "what is your name," to which Laura said each time, "I don't know." Disgusted the soldier said, "Oh, you dumb little child," and he rode away.

When Noah left his youngest family in Huntington, he left them with stock in the Huntington Co-op Store, where they sold everything from yard goods to molasses, pots, pans and farm machinery. Dividends were declared on the stock each January which kept the children in clothes. The farm, he left to the boys.

Noah's declining years were spent in Orangeville, Emery County, Utah. Until a few months before his death he cared for a small garden and milked a cow. He had lived an active life having helped organize a cooperative store in Fountain Green, Orangeville, and Huntington. He was successful with a mercantile business and with farming and livestock raising. He died on 7 January 1911 at the age of 92 in Orangeville, Emery County, Utah and is buried there. He was the father of 28 children and many many grand children and great grandchildren.

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1. 1850 census - Utah Co., UT: p. 136B, 245/245.
  2. 1860 census - Utah Co., UT: Springville, p. 273, 2430/1913.
  3. "History of John Rowley."
  4. "Rowley Family Histories," 1992.
  5. "William-Ann Jewell Rowley Newsletter," May 1995.