

# Thomas Morgan born 1837 at Littledean

Thomas and Elizabeth converted to mormonism before they left. What follows is a Mormon journal on the journey and Thomas' life in the new world.

Thomas Morgan the son of Samuel Morgan and Elizabeth Beddis was born March 11, 1837 at Woodside, Cinderford, Gloucestershire, England. His parents were poor, hard working but honest people of whom it could be said, loved their fellow men. Thomas's father Samuel worked in the coal mines near their home. Thomas the 2nd son and third child in the family, followed his father's occupation at a very early age. When only 6 years old he carried candles for the miners for light to work by. It was this hard work at such an early age that schooled and fitted him to be the rugged man he came to be. He was religiously inclined while yet very young. He remembered and talked about the cards he received with a bible verse written on it. These cards were prizes for church attendance. He loved and appreciated good music. He played an alto horn. The scale came to him one time while attending church. He would go caroling with the church seranaders and was active in all entertainments. He used to hold a candle in one hand to read his music and play his horn with the other. In manhood he belonged to the Logan Brass Band.

He was fond of his cousins who came often to visit at his home. They were the children of his mother's sister Abia Beddis. This fondness developed into a courtship with one of the girls and so Thomas and Mary Elizabeth Tingle obtained a permit to marry March 19, 1857. Mary's father was James Tingle.

In Thomas's diary we read. Left home March 16, 1857 and took the train to New Haven for Gloucester, stopped over night. We then took a train for Wigan. Arrived in the evening at 8 O'clock. We were received very kindly by my aunt and Uncle and stayed with them a week. We were married on Saturday March 21, 1857 at the Weslian Methodist Chapel of Wigan Lancaster, England.

We left Wigan March 24, for Liverpool. We landed safe and sound and stopped there until we went on board the George Washington, the evening of March 26. We set sail for Boston March 28, under Captain Convines. We had a very pleasant voyage. we arrived in Boston Harbor April 20 about 5 O'clock in the morning. We went ashore April 24, and took two rooms on Chester street. April 25, we spent looking for work, but couldn't find anything. On the 26th we attended a meeting when Elder J.F. Clarey was the speaker. On the 27th, we went to seek work and found it under Mr. Mark Morrow. There were Brother Roberts, Brother Taylor and my self. April 28, we went to board at Mr. Michael Kelly's.

Thomas, had joined the church before his marriage, having been baptized March 13, 1854, by a Thomas Morgan and was confirmed by this same man. This Thomas was not a relative however. Soon after his baptism he was ordained to the Aaronic Priesthood because of the zeal with which he did all the labors he was called to do, he was ordained an elder by David B. Dilly and R.F. Misten and was sent to assist in presiding over Vincy Hill Branch. He held this position in this Presidency until the fall of 1856, when he was released and appointed to preside over Woodside Branch. This position he held until shortly before he set sail in the spring of 1857.

Thomas and his bride Mary emigrated to America for their honeymoon, leaving Liverpool just one week after their wedding. They were on the water 25 days and landed at Boston April 22, 1857. Here they lived until September trying to get work to pay expenses for their move to Cheshire, New Hven, Conneticute, where they set about gathering provisions and means for the long trek to the Rocky Mountains. While here three children blessed their home. Emma Elizabeth born September 18, 1858. Martha was born and died January 5, 1861. Margret Ann joined the ranks on February 26, 1862. With their two babies they went to the out fitting post for Mormon Pioneers on the Missouri river. They joined the ox team company in 1862 having been 5 years preparing for this trip. They arrived in Utah and came directly to Logan where they took up their residence on 2nd north in a log cabin. On September 26, 1864 Joseph Samuel joined the family circle. Again in 1866 on October 18, Thomas James was born. Ezra came December 22, 1868. Mary arrived February 21, 1871 and William in 1873 on April 17. Luce made the grand total of nine when she arrived November 20, 1875. All these six were born in the log cabin they built for their first home.

Thomas was ordained a Seventy May 7, 1876 by Francis Gunnel. and a High Priest May 31, 1877 by Milton D Hammond.

Thomas was a skillful well digger. There are wells around Logan today that Thomas rocked up. Some believe that he rocked up more wells in that vicinity than any other one man. He was also a skilled woodsman. His ability with an axe was extra ordinary.

He logged in the Logan Canyon for logs for building purposes and also for cross ties for the Oregon short linerailroad. Men who worked with him said of him, that he never left a job unfinished. He would trim a tree to the best advantage so as to save time snaking it down the canyon through the brush etc. They said he made the job pleasant for those who worked with him and after him. His slogan which he practiced and taught to his children was "If a job is worth doing it's worth doing well. Many of his fellow men learned well this one principle through association with him. His knack for butchering hogs was well worth coping. He butchered for many people in and around Logan. They would say of him when Thomas cleans up a pig it is certainly clean. He was a farmer at heart and loved to till the soil. His garden and flower beds showed for the loving care he gave them. The rows were straighter and there were less weeds than in the gardens around him. His favorite flowers were Pansies, violets, Roses, and Dahlias. He was set apart as 1st councilor to Boshop Thomas Snith of the 4th ward in Logan, Cache County of Zion. In March 1886, he was elected alderman for the 4th ward. He was a member of the city Council elected March 1886, and re-elected in 1892.

He was called to labor in the Logan Temple June 1886, and was set apart as 1st Assistant to President M,W. Merrill of the Logan Temple February 23, 1898 by President Merrill and M.F. Cowley. He was appointed vice President of the Logan Temple association July 11, 1898, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of brother Edelifson. Thomas and his wife were sealed in the Logan Temple April 4, 1891. He stood true to his convictions and stronly prohibited the use of liquor and tobacco.

His was a gift of healing by prayer and he was called upon to pray and fast in behalf of the sick and often to administer to those far and near. It was a common thing for a messenger to knock on his door and ask will brother Morgan please pray for this sister or brother and then hand him a name of a person he didn't know. But he would go directly to his room and pray and fast for this person as faithfully as though it were a love one. His wife died October 21, 1907. He was released from the Temple in 1926 because of failing health. He had labored here 19 years since his wife died.

He now prepared himself for the angel of death to come for him. He divided his property among his childre. He advanced money to have his cemetery lot taken care of after he was gone.

Beside his nine childeren he raised William Buris from the age of 3. He was the son of his daughter Emma. He part time raised Martha the older child who was nearly 5 when Emma died. He also partly raised 4 of his daughter Mary's children until their father remarried. The infant son of Ezra came to his home at the age of 2 months, and live there untill he was 12 years old. Martha being the house keeper and mother of all these orphans. When Martha married the child Floyd was taken back to his father Ezra.

Thomas performed marriages, baptisms, confirmations during the 40 years he worked in the Logan Temple to numerous to mention he also blessed many.

He aided in the construction of the temple and tabernacle. He applied for citizenship papers April 12, 1872 relinquishing all rights or claim to his mother country.

Granddaughter Erma said he taught them dittys to speak. The one she remembers best is "now I'm on the stage, don't I cut a figure." If the boys don't like me they will when I get bigger".

Christmas 1926, he gave each of his grandchildren a silver dolar and ask them to buy or do some thing by which to remember him with. This money was the dividends from his Utah Idaho Sugar Stock. He died on Thanksgiving night November 27, 1927 at his lovely home at 261 North 1st East Street. He was 90 years old. This was the third home he had built on this lot.

His brother Joseph Rehobeam and sister Martha came from England at a latter date than Thomas. Joseph's posterity are living in and around Salt Lake City.

This history was written by Myrtle Whitney Morgan wife of Ezra Burnathe Morgan grandson of Thomas Morgan.

## Post Script

Thomas's brother Joseph Rehhobeam was a bishop in the 15th ward of Salt Lake City

Thomas died on his granddaughter Erma Morgan's birthdayl She was 9 years old. The funeral was held in the Tabernacle as the 4th ward meeting house was being

reconstructed. The service was under the management of temple workers. The following are the minutes of the services.

Services over the remains of that worthy pioneer and church worker, Thomas Morgan were held on Thursday afternoon in the Logan Tabernacle and had a surprisingly large attendance for a midweek funeral. Indicating the high esteem in which the aged patriarch was held. The afternoon sessions of the temple were discontinued that all officiators and workers might attend.. Councilor Charles O. Peterson of the 4th ward Bishopric presided as a severe cold prevented Bishop Bensons attendance.

Musical numbers included hymns by the choir. A vocal duet by Mr. and Mrs. George T. Bough a granddaughter. The Hyde Park male Quartet sang. S.B. Mitten a life long friend gave an organ solo, Silver threads among the gold. The invocation by Elder A.E. Cranny. Speakers were Elder John Q Quale., Arson Smith, Anders Peterson, President J.R. Shepherd, W.A. Noble, and President George W . Lindquest and Joseph E. Cardan. They spoke of the sterling character and long life of community service Brother Morgan had rendered. Councilor Peterson expressed thanks by the family for the many evidences of love and sympathy . Benediction by Elder William Seamons. Elder John H. Anderson dedicated the grave. A large cortege of cars accompanied the procession to the Logan Cemetery Dec 1,1927.

*Supplied by Jeff Morgan*