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Biographical Sketch

of

Thomas Barratt

Mary Morgan Whitby

Ellen Julian Barratt

Emma Sykes

by Emma Myers

Pioneer Year 1855

Thomas was born 10 Mar 1830 in Loughborough, Leicestershire,

England

Married 1849 to Mary Morgan Whitby

Married 1855 to Ellen Julian Barratt

Died date 24 Jan 1906

Thomas Barratt, one of Utah's early pioneers, was born in Loughborough, Leicestershire, England, March 10, 1830. He was the son of John and Sarah Watts Barratt. His father followed the trade of wool comber. His son, Thomas, grew up in his native town. He learned the trade of lace making from the schools of that country at which trade he became an expert. At the age of 19, in the year 1849, he was married to Mary Morgan Whitby, a young lady who had been left a widow with one son, Thomas Whitby. He heard the teachings of the Gospel of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints from the humble missionaries. Was convinced of its truthfulness and embraced the same in the year 1850, at the age of 24, in the year 1854. He, in company with his wife and son left his native land for the land of Zion. He remained about a year in St. Louis Missouri, while here his wife died and was called by death. He then sent for Ellen Jullian, a young lady with whom he was well acquainted in England, and they were married May 19, 1855 in St. Louis, Missouri. She was born in Shelford, Nottingham, England. She was also thoroughly converted to the truthfulness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and was baptized Dec. 16, 1853. She was then 19 years old when she assumed the responsibility of wife and foster mother to his motherless child. Her sweet, uncomplaining disposition was always a source of joy and satisfaction on their arduous pioneer journey, arriving in Salt Lake City in 1855, where they remained for 3 months, and where their endowment work was done.

In February 1856 they came to American Fork where they have since resided, the entire distance in walking in snow up to their knees.

To this union 13 children were born, two of whom died in infancy: John W, Sarah Jane, James H, Mary Ellen, Thomas J. Heber, Frank, Charlotte, Martin, Edwin and Samuel.

His third wife, Emma Sykes, also a native of England, bore to him seven children.

Grasshoppers had destroyed almost all the crops in the territory the year they came to American Fork, and food was very scarce so that they suffered much in common with others of the

settlers for lack of proper nourishment, and was also almost destitute of clothing.

Although now at the occupation of farmer, he took up land and worked hard in clearing the land which was then in wild and undeveloped state, but by hard work and close economy of which his wife was surely a helpmate in deed, he was able to bring it under cultivation, building him a comfortable home which was truly enjoyed by his beloved wife and large family. But is was not considered too large by her who possessed a truly motherly spirit as was proven in her taking to raise as her own two others left motherless by death, James Hunter Barratt and Nellie Mercer Christensen. the former the child of her son James H. The latter the daughter of Jedediah J. Mercer and grandchild of her only sister, both about 2 weeks old when she took them under her care. She was a heroine in the true spirit of the word and her long life of good deeds both to her own family neighbors and friends speak louder than words and will ever stand as a monument to her memory.

Her husband, Thomas Barratt, has always taken an active part in both religious and public affairs, having filled many positions of trust. He served in the capacity of City Councilman for a number of years. He also, for a number of years, acted as counselor to the late Bishop Robinson. He was a member of the early Militia of Utah during the raids of the Indians inrush and Cedar Valleys, and also during the time of the Black Hawk war he acted as assistant commissary and otherwise took an active part in the trouble with the Indians at that time. He was exceptionally active in the Church in which he was a devout member. He passed through the different offices of the Priesthood from Deacon to High Priest. When a Seventy he held the position as senior President of the 67th Quorum of Seventy. He was also a High Councilor of the Alpine Stake of Zion. In 1876 he was sent to England on a Mission laboring for a time in the Nottingham Conference and was later appointed president of the Liverpool Conference. He returned in the year 1878 and was in charge of a company of saints.

He, in company with a neighbor, Brother Samuel Wagstaff, being both devout Latter Day Saints, were often called on to

administer to, and comfort the sick. Day and night they were on hand to go at a moment's notice to the bedside of the sick and were successful in calling down upon them the blessings of the Lord. He was also one of the originators of the old folk's parties that have become a pride to the state and was a member of the state committee at the time of his demise, January 4, 1906 of Diabetes. His second wife, Ellen Julian Barratt, still survives, aged 93 years the 18th of March next.

His posterity numbers 20 children, 67 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren and 11 great-great-grand-children.

May we as the posterity of such noble ancestors prove ourselves worthy of them and live so that the family they love may see the family chain unbroken thru out eternity.