

DUP AF Book 2  
Biographical Sketch  
of  
Nicholas T. Silcock  
Jane Heath Silcock

by Charlotte D. Shelley, granddaughter

Pioneer Year 1850  
Sailed on the Emerald  
Bishop Hunter Company

He was born 29 Sep 1819 at Joiner Square, Stafford, England

She was born 6 Nov 1826, in Handley Staffordshire, England

Married on 14 Apr 1841

He died 10 May 1906 in Wellington, Carbon, Utah

She died in Riverton, Utah, April 27, 1902

Nicholas Thomas Silcock was born Sept. 29, 1819 at Joiner Square, a town near Hanley, Stafford, England. He was the youngest of a family of six. He was the son of John Silcock and Ann Cook. He was baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints, Aug. 24, 1840, by Elder Samuel Johnson and confirmed by George Simpson. He was nearly 21 years of age when he joined the Church.

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of March, 1841 he was ordained a Teacher under the hands of Bro. Wilford Woodruff and G. A. Smith. He was married April 14, 1841 to Jane Heath. On the 13<sup>th</sup> of Sept. 1842 he was ordained a Priest under the hands of Alfred Gordon and George Simpson at Hanley.

Oct. 6, 1842 he left Hanley for Liverpool, leaving his wife with her mother for a year. He went with the ship "Emerald" in company with Parley P. Pratt. They were 11 weeks on the ocean. They landed at New Orleans and then started up the river for St. Louis and the river being frozen they were forced to stay until Spring. In April 1843 they started up the river and when they got to Circock 27 of them started to walk. When over the rapids they were to be taken on board, but they did not catch up with them, so they hired a man to ferry them over the river and they went to the City of Nauvoo. The 4<sup>th</sup> man they saw was the Prophet Joseph Smith. He welcomed them to Nauvoo in the midst of the saints.

While at Nauvoo he helped to build the Temple. He was one of the 17 carpenters engaged on the work and worked until the Temple was completed. He was present at the dedication and also officiated in some of the ordinances of the Church. He was ordained a Seventy by Levi Hancock in the 12<sup>th</sup> Quorum of Seventies on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November 1844, in the Seventy's Hall, Nauvoo, Ill. He was at Nauvoo at the time Joseph and Hyrum Smith were martyred. He was at a meeting when Brigham Young was transfigured to look like the Prophet Joseph Smith and to talk like the Prophet.

On Jan. 8, 1848 grandfather received his endowments in the Nauvoo Temple. He left Nauvoo and went to St. Louis to work to get money to continue their journey. It had been very dry. There had been no rain and there was no grass. They were compelled to camp

on the frontiers until it rained, so the grass would grow for feed for their animals.

Apostle Orson Hyde called a prayer meeting for rain. When they met there was not a cloud to be seen. Apostle Hyde spoke to those assembled about the necessity of having rain to make the grass grown. They prayed and the clouds began to come. They were tighter about two hours and before they could get to their camps and wagons it rained so they were wet through, and it was ankle deep around the wagons.

On the way the Indians stole lots of their cattle but they finally got them back. They had to let their wagons down the mountain side with ropes to keep them from tipping over. The dug-ways were terrible. They had a hard time crossing the plains. They crossed in Bishop Hunter's Company, arriving in Salt Lake City, Oct. 4, 1850. He also went to Echo Canyon when they had trouble there. He went to Tooele then for about 14 years. They moved from one place another for work then settled in Riverton, known then as South Jordan.

In April, 1855, he married Harriet Bebbington of Salt Lake City. He assisted in construction of the first canal and he harvested the first crop of grain in 1867. He was the president Elder till South Jordan was divided and the south end was called Riverton. Dec. 3, 1893 he buried his 2<sup>nd</sup> wife.

He took an active part and was willing to help in anything he could for the ward. He buried grandmother April 27, 1902. A while before he died he went blind, so he had to be cared for.

He died at his daughter's home in Wellington, Carbon County, May 10, 1906. He died as he had lived, a faithful Latter Day Saint. He was the father of 9 girls and 6 boys. He was buried in Riverton.

Jane Heath Silcock was the daughter of John Heath and Barbara Hulme and was the oldest in a family of five children. She was born Nov. 6, 1826, in Handley Staffordshire, England.

From very early childhood she was accustomed to business life, as her father's health failed when she was about two years old. As a means of support her mother bought a bakery business which she personally conducted. After school and in holiday times grandmother worked in the shop or ran errands. This after work did not prevent her from acquiring a common school education, together with plain and fancy needle work, knitting, shoe binding, button holing, and dancing.

One of the patrons of the heath shop was a Mrs. Isaac Poole. This family was among the first families in Hanley to accept Mormonism. So much difference had this new gospel made in their lives, that Mrs. Poole interested grandmother in the new faith. She was anxious for the young girl to hear her husband read the Bible, for she was sure that it sounded so much different that it had before the light of the gospel came.

Accordingly, grandmother went to the home of Brother Poole to hear him read the Bible. Conversion came to her, but out of respect to her parents, she determined not to join the new creed without their consent. However, she continued to attend meetings, and knew of a specified baptism date. As this date grew near her anxiety became greater. There would not be another baptism date for a long time, and her father's sickness prevented him from meeting the Elders.

So, she went to her father privately and laid her soul's desire before him. He replied that she was too young to decide so important a question. So she went and laid her problem before the Lord again and asked him to soften her father's heart to the new creed. Again she went to him, but again he said no. Not wholly disheartened grandmother waited until the afternoon of the baptism when she again made her desire a matter of prayer. The third time she asked her father, he said, "Yes, Jane, you may go."

This new religion made a great change in the lives of all who accepted it. For after joining the Church, as many as were young and

healthy enough to endure the hardships of pioneering, began to make preparations to join the body of the Church at Nauvoo, Illinois.

In the Spring of 1841, grandmother was married to Thomas Silcock, an acquaintance of seven years standing. The same year her father died. The following Spring grandfather, also a member of the church, decided to make preparations to leave for America, leaving grandmother in England with her mother. The hope was that Mother Heath might sell her business and all come out together.

But, such was not the case for when grandfather sent for grandmother the next year the business was unsold and she was forced to travel alone with her year old son. Her voyage lasted six weeks and three days. During this period her baby had measles. She landed in America in Dec. 1843, meeting grandfather near New Orleans where he had obtained employment for the winter. The following Spring they went up the river to Nauvoo and lived in one of Parley P. Pratt's houses until they could build one for themselves. As grandfather was an expert carpenter, he was employed on the Temple where he worked at teaching particular work, like carving and spiral stair building, until the building was completed.

While in Nauvoo they were closely associated with the Prophet Joseph Smith, and attended the dedication of the Temple. Grandfather was working at his bench when the word came that the Prophet and his brother, Hyrum, had been martyred in Carthage jail. The dread and fear occasioned by this unjust tragedy were dispelled at a conference when the mantle of Joseph fell on Brigham Young. Grandmother testified to her dying day that on that particular day the face and voice of Brigham Young were identical with those of the Prophet.

She also said that the period, when she watched the workmen hurrying the Temple to completion, was the happiest time of her life. We know that is was so, for beside selling her valuables and clothing to buy food, she sold still other treasures to donated money with which to buy curtains and trimmings for the Temple. During her residence in Nauvoo she met the Prophet's mother. She had the pleasure of spending an afternoon with her and other sisters in the

home of Parley P. Pratt. They had a very pleasant visit and each one present gave the guest of honor some little token of remembrance. Grandmother was also at a meeting one Sunday after when President Young had Sister Lucy Mack Smith speak from the pulpit. Sister Smith said that her heart was with the saints, but on account of her feebleness she would like to stay East and be buried with her dead.

In Jan. 1846 grandmother received her endowment in the Nauvoo Temple. Grandmother witnessed the westward march of the authorities of the Church, when they crossed the river on the ice and turned their faces West and started in search of a resting place for the saints.

Soon after the completion of the Temple grandfather and grandmother left the beautiful city of Nauvoo, only taking with them such things as could be carried on a river steam boat, and went to St. Joseph in search of more work. Their destination was Ft. Leavenworth but while in St. Joseph they learned of the Mexican war and that all government work on Ft. Leavenworth had ceased. But, they had to have work, so they decided to go to St. Louis.

Worn and weary from useless wandering and a sick baby in her arms she was in sore need of a home. In St. Louis they found food and shelter but before grandfather obtained work the baby died. In the autumn of 1846 she received word from Winter Quarters that her mother had died. This was another staggering blow. Due to age and ill health grandmother was forced to live on high land as far away from the river as possible.

To obtain an outfit and cross the plains was their motive which held them from despair during all these trying and sorrowful times. Grandmother could not do hard work, but she was an expert needle woman and thereby earned many a dollar when grandfather was out of employment. Times were bad in the spring of 1849, a second baby girl died. This sorrow was relieved by the great sorrow and distress of the whole city of St. Louis for an epidemic of cholera broke out and for a time it looked as though the city would be wiped out. During this trouble grandmother was the bread winner and grandfather spent his whole time among the sick and dead. And, when the plague

was stayed grandmother felt she had much to be thankful for, as her husband and son were spared. In Dec. 1849 a second son was born.

In the Spring of 1850 they decided to start to the Mountains. They journeyed in Bishop Hunter's company arriving in Salt Lake Oct. 4, 1850 in much better health than when she began the long trip. She did not stay long in Salt Lake City.

They moved to Tooele for a while then came back to Salt Lake City and lived there till '56 or '57 then went to Grantsville, lived there till 63. They then moved to South Jordan. They afterwards divided it and called the south end Riverton.

Grandmother was chosen for President of the Relief Society Dec. 12, 1880. She held that office over 21 years. Her life in Utah is a story by itself. She was the mother of 15 children, 9 girls and 6 boys. She was a faithful, patient wife and mother to the end of her days. She died April 27, 1902 full of faith in the gospel of our Savior.