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Biographical Sketch

of

William R. Webb

Martha Carless

Julia Goode

by Louella W. Wagstaff

Pioneer Year 1867

Born 4 Jun. 1829 in Little Thurlow, Suffolk, England

Married date ____ place ____

Died 1 Jun. 1915 place ____

Buried date ____ place ____

William R. Webb, son of Robert and Sophie Trailing Webb, was born in Little Thurlow, County of Suffolk, England on June 4, 1829. His father was a farmer but William learned the shoe-making trade. He was married February 23, 1854 to Martha Carless.

He and his wife heard the message of the humble missionaries, were both converted to its truthfulness, and in the year 1860 were baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

He was the only one of a large family who embraced the Gospel as was also his wife Martha. From the time of his baptism, although he suffered much persecution, he was an ardent worker for the cause of truth. He was thoroughly converted to its truthfulness and rejoiced in the glorious principles he had accepted and he never wavered, notwithstanding the opposition he encountered from those he loved and from those who before had been his friends and associates.

He was hospitable and kind to the missionaries and assisted them in trying to spread the message of truth that had brought to his heart the greatest joy he had experienced. Notwithstanding, in doing so he suffered with them being often pelted with stones and mud, driven to the woods and driven from villages before mobs of jeering men and women.

While here he was taken quite seriously ill. The doctors claimed there was no hopes for him. He could not live. In answer to his faith and desire to live, the Lord answered him more in vision than in dream, showing him that he would come to Zion and later fill a mission to his native land.

He with his wife desired greatly to gather to Zion and be with the saints of God. By patient endeavor and the blessing of the Lord they were able to save funds needed to take them to America and embarked at Liverpool in June 1867 to come to Zion with their then five children: Frederick W., Laura, Heber, George H., and Luella.

In this same year, 1867, they arrived in Salt Lake City. Here they remained for two years when they with their family came to American Fork where they since resided. Here the Lord blessed their

happy union with two other children, Ernest, and John, making seven in number.

He entered into the Celestial order of marriage with sister Julia Goode by whom five children were born to him; Tressa, Albert, Pearl, William, and Ross.

In 1876 [or 1886] he received a call to go on a mission to England where he labored for two years. While here he went to see one of his sisters who had been very bitter toward him. She would not even admit him to her home. Feeling he would never devote his time in that labor without recompense, he must have deserted his family and it was not until she had written to his address in Utah that she would even admit him into her home.

October 23, 1883, with Brother William Hunter, he was ordained and set apart to act as home missionary for the Utah Stake of Zion under the hands of President O. A. Smoot and H. H. Cluff.

September 28, 1884, he with others was appointed as a committee to go and collect fifty cents a month from each family as means to help the Tabernacle.

In May 1890 he was chosen as Second Counselor, with Brother George Cunningham as First Counselor to Bishop George Halliday and when Bishop Wm. D. Robinson was appointed Bishop he acted as a counselor to him until the division of the American Fork wards.

He was one of the Superintendency of the Sunday School for several years with Brother Wm. Paxman and Brother Isaac Abel and will be well remembered by the older ones in the wonderful times planned by them in their anniversaries and annual "Timber Days."

His life was one of willing active service. Day or night he was on hand to administer to the sick. He loved to go to those in sorrow and give them words of comfort through his kind heart, and the spirit of the Lord always flowed from his lips.

Just three days before he reached the 86th milestone of his active, well spent life, he was called to his reward, June 1, 1915. But despite his years he was hale and hearty and worked at his trade

until about ten days before the mission came that his earthly task was ended.

His funeral services so largely attended proved the high regard in which he was held. Two of his expressed wishes being carried out. First his casket was made by his old friend Joseph Pulley, and the flowers brought in great profusion by friends were all grown in the home town; just fresh sweet homegrown blossoms with never a hot house bloom among them.

Beside his twelve children, he has had 36 grandchildren, 96 great grandchildren, three great great grandchildren, to this date, December 4, 1929.

Respectfully submitted by a daughter,
Mrs. Luella Webb Wagstaff

(This poem written by William R. Webb was included in his history.)

To Sister Ellen Barrett on Her Fiftieth Birthday
From

William R. Webb As a token of respect,
Receive this gift from me
With Prayer for blessing on your head
In this year of jubilee.

Fifty years today you've trod
The rugged path of life,
And battled with its ills and cares
As a mother and a wife.

And as you journey on through life,
May your course be one of peace,
Thy days be many in the land
Ere your mortal life shall cease.

Blessed with offsprings not a few

Now swarming in the land,
Which in the future will become
As numerous as the sand.

You made the way of life your choice,
And left your fatherland,
And braved the dangers of the deep
To join God's holy band.

Here in the chamber of the Lord,
By holy prophets led,
You shall upon Mount Zion stand
A Savior for the dead.

Then onward sister in the race
Until the prize you've won;
And hear the welcome plaudit:
"My daughter t'is well done."

Then when God's Priesthood rule on earth,
And Zion shall be free,
May you be one to swell the throng
In Heaven's Grand Jubilee.

Composed by its giver,
William R. Webb