

Biography of Elizabeth Webb

Wife of William Keddington



Elizabeth Webb Griffith Keddington

Elizabeth Webb was born in Sandridge, England on 22 of February, 1826. She was the mother of four daughters and one son. They were:

Pheby Webb Keddington born December 6, 1858, (died December 6 or 26, 1858)

Elisabeth Webb Keddington born February 6, 1861, (died August 25, 1869);

Mariah Webb Keddington born January 21, 1863 (died February 2, 1863)

William Webb Keddington born January 21, 1863 (died February 3, 1863)

Sarah Ann Webb Keddington born January 5, 1865 (died October 23, 1944) She married George Austin on September 27, 1888 in Salt Lake

She was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. On December 31, 1855 she married William Griffith, who was president of the London Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Brother Griffith was a widower with four children—two boys and two girls. Elizabeth knew this marriage would assure her passage to America and once there she could mingle more freely with the Saints and eventually reach the Salt Lake Valley. Getting to the Salt Lake Valley was an ambition of every member of the Church in England at that time. Her parents were very much opposed to her coming to America.

The six members of the Griffiths family left Liverpool in May 1856. After five weeks of illness and privation they landed in Boston. Following a short rest to recover from the hard ocean voyage the little group continued on to Winter Quarters, Missouri. They found the Saints there preparing small handcarts on

which to carry their most cherished possessions across the plains to what is now Utah. This was the now famous Martin Handcart Company, whose almost unspeakable suffering and privation during that terrible trek still brings tears to eyes of all. The Griffith family joined this devoted company.

Daughter Sarah Austin still remembers the heart rendering incident her mother told her of that journey on foot. How four ounces of flour per day was the allowance for her family of four. The two sons of Brother Griffith died en route. One was buried in one grave with ten others. The stepmother could not stand the thought of the frozen earth falling on the little lad's bare face. So from her pitifully few cherished treasures from her far distant England she took a white nightgown. This she pulled over the little frozen body like a sack.

When they arrived at the foot of Big Mountain the snow was packed to a depth of twenty feet. President Brigham Young sent a rescue party to find the stranded company. A passage was dug through the snow to help them pass and the few starving survivors were rescued.

Brother Griffith died the day after the little family arrived at the old fort on Pioneer Square. It was the last day of November. Sarah Austin's mother told her that very few men lived to reach their destination, she seemed to think that the women stood the hard march better.

The bereaved wife, sick and alone in a strange land, was left to provide a living and shelter that winter not only for herself, but for the two daughters of Brother Griffith. The ambitious stepmother secured employment in the Salt Lake House. This famous hotel was situated where the Tribune Building came to stand. (143 South Main Street in Salt Lake City.) Many heard stories from parents and grandparents how the travel stained stage coaches would stop there with people who were famous performers on the stage and held important positions in the nation.

Both girls lived with their stepmother until their marriage. While visiting a family she had known in England by the name of Allred, Elizabeth met William Keddington. The families were living in the 10th Ward of Salt Lake City. Elizabeth and William were married on September 13, 1857, 10 months after she arrived in the Valley. They had three daughters, Phoebe, Elizabeth, and Sarah Ann and one son, William. Sarah is the only one that lived.

The Allred property (comprising the ten rods adjoining the Webster School on the south) was purchased and here the family made their home. Later the property was extended on the south to what is now 5th South and was bought from Bishop Hunter.

The fall that Elizabeth married William Keddington was a time of fear and unrest. Johnston's Army was on the march to Utah to roust out the nest of treason

thought to be among the Utah settlers. Mrs. Keddington joined the settlers in moving south of the city as the army neared Salt Lake. They went as far south as Payson to await what would happen. William stayed in the city to guard their property and to burn the buildings if the army invaded. Fortunately it ended peaceably.

Sarah K. Austin cared for both of her aging parents in her home. The property where she had raised her family and was living on her 77th birthday, is where both her parents passed away. Elizabeth died on December 8, 1902 at age 76. William died on December 25, 1918 at age 89. Both are buried in the Salt Lake City cemetery. William's grave is marked with his first wife, Mary Ann Barnes Keddington, and Elizabeth's marker is nearby. William and Mary Ann's original markers are broken or missing, so a new marker was put close to where both are buried.

(There is a typed history to be obtained from the files of the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers.) In connection to this article is a note written by a Captain of Camp 10, a Mrs. Hazel Malin Black. She notes: Mrs. Elizabeth Keddington would have made a place for herself in this day when women are on equal footing with men. In 1899 she built and operated one of the first grocery and dry good stores in the community. It was adjacent to her home. This store for years was just south of the present site of the Webster School. It is remembered for the high porch, which came out over the entire sidewalk. Elizabeth was an officer in the 10th Ward Relief Society in the early years of the LDS Ward.

Further notes on Elizabeth Webb can be found in the book "Handcarts to Zion" page 297. Jane is noted as being 8 years of age, part of the Griffith family.

In the book "Rescue of the 1856 Handcart Co." page 40: "It had soon become obvious that most of the immigrants could not care for themselves, so they were taken into private homes in the city. Then within an hour, all the Martin company were claimed or assigned to someone. In little Jane Griffith's experience, "My father and mother were taken to one place, my sister, Margaret age 16, and I each to another. I did not see my father again, he died the next day."

Page 42 same book: "Jane Griffiths remembered staying first in one house three weeks, then being taken in by Brother Mulliner, who had heard that she was to be sent to "the poor house in Provo" and had responded, "Never as long as I have a home!" He carried her in a wheelbarrow to his house where she stayed bedridden all winter. In March she walked again, though she had lost three toes on each foot at the first joint.

In March she was taken to a friend of her late father. As she wrote, "he said he would keep me, I went there on my ninth birthday. Mother would carry me as far as she could, then put me down in the snow and we would cry for a while, then go on. I did not stay there long, they told me I would have to hunt another home.

I did not know where to go and I was on the woodpile crying when Brother William Keddington came along and wanted to know what was the matter. When I told him he said, "You come along with me and you shall have a piece of bread as long as I have one to break." He afterward married my stepmother and I had a home with them as long as I wanted one.

[It is interesting to me that no mention is made in this history of William's first wife, Mary Ann Barnes. He met and married Mary Ann in Leeds, England and also lived with her in the 10th Ward.]



Sarah Ann Webb Keddington Austin
(William lived in her home before he died)

William Keddington's death certificate does state that he was living in the home of Sarah Ann Austin when he died. It's a very poor copy, but Austin Place was Sarah Ann Webb Keddington Austin's house.

STATE OF UTAH - DEATH CERTIFICATE

DECEASED: William Keddington

DATE OF DEATH: July 21, 1976

CAUSE OF DEATH: Cerebral Thrombosis

STATE OF UTAH - DIVISION OF HEALTH

This is to certify that this is a true copy of the certificate of file in this office. This certified copy is issued under authority of Section 26-15-26 of the Utah Code Annotated, 1953 as Amended.

Date Issued: JULY 21, 1976

John E. Brockett
STATE REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS

History of Jane Ellenor Griffiths Fullmer
Daughter of John and Margaret Griffiths

This account is from the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers Vol 2 page 1031
And from the "Handcarts to Zion" by LeRoy and Ann Hafen
And "Rescue of the 1856 Handcart Company"

Jane Ellenor's parents, John and Margaret Griffiths, were baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1840 by John Taylor. Her father was set apart to preach the gospel and was gone long hours from the family due to his work and then preaching the gospel until midnight. When she was five years old her mother and the baby died in childbirth. (1853)

The rest of the family sailed for America on May 28, 1856 on the ship "Horizon." They finally anchored in Boston Harbor and immediately left by rail for Florence, Nebraska. They camped for four weeks until their handcarts were made ready. They crossed the plains in the Edward Martin Handcart Company.

They were happy at the beginning of the trek, but as they endured many hardships, were caught in the snow storms, and suffered the icy cold weather, many people died due to starvation and the cold. She had two brothers die along the way. A rescue company was sent out and found the handcart company deep in snow and in poor condition. The survivors were taken to the Assembly Hall in Salt Lake City. The Saints were asked to take the survivors into their homes to care for them. Jane's father died the next morning. Jane Ellenor was very sick and her feet were frozen. She lost three toes on each foot at the first joint.

Jane was sixteen when she married Almon Linus Fullmer, Jr. in a civil ceremony on July 31, 1864 in Salt Lake City. They were sealed in the Salt Lake Endowment House on July 22, 1885. They moved to Cache County in 1879 and were among the early settlers of the valley. They lived there for over fifty years raising eleven of the twelve children.

In *Rescue of the 1856 Handcart Company* the following quote is found: Jane Griffiths remembered staying first in one house 3 weeks, then being taken in by Brother Milliner, who had heard that she was to be sent to "the poor house in Provo" and had responded, "Never as long as I have a home." He carried her in a wheelbarrow to his house where she stayed bedridden all winter until, in March she walked again for the first time. Then she was taken to a friend of her later father. He said he would keep me, I went there on my 9th birthday. Mother would carry me as far as she could then put me down in the snow and we would cry a while and then go on. I did not stay there long, they told me I would have to hunt another home. I did not know where to go and I was on the woodpile crying when Brother William Keddington came along and wanted to know what was the

matter. When I told him he said, "You come along with me and you shall have a piece of bread as long as I have one to break." He afterward married my stepmother and I had a home with them as long as I wanted one.

Further from the same book: It had soon become obvious that most of the immigrants could not care for themselves, so they were then placed into private homes in the city. Then within one hour, all the Martin Handcart company were claimed or assigned to someone. In little Jane Griffiths' experience (age 8), "My father and Mother were taken to one place, my sister Margaret (age 16) to another. I did not see my father again, he died the next day." She also recorded an experience of the trek. "In the morning we would find their starved and frozen bodies right by the side of us. We did not know when they died until daylight revealed the ghastly sight to us."

Jane's stepmother was Elizabeth Webb. She married John Griffiths in England before they sailed to America.

Margaret Ann Griffiths married Henry Clegg