

THOMAS HENRY CLARK

Thomas Henry Clark was born the 7th of May 1805 in Acton, Herefordshire, England the son of Thomas Clark and Sarah Plain. He was married to Charlotte Gailey the 18th of November 1825. They were blessed with following children: John William, Eleanor, Eliza, Hannah, Ann, Thomas Henry, Sarah, Mary Ann and Charlotte. They were all born in England except the last two and they were born in Nauvoo, Ill. While in England they made their home at Bishop Frome, Herefordshire, England.

As a young man Thomas Henry Clark was an athlete and a boxer of no mean ability. As he grew older he joined a religious sect known as the Wesleyan Methodist, and became a minister of that church. He traveled through his neighborhood preaching the Methodist religion until 1840, when he, with many others, became dissatisfied with the Methodists, organized and called themselves the United Brethren. There were six hundred members and forty-five preachers. Thomas Kington presided and Thomas H. Clark was next in authority of this group.

In January of 1840 Wilford Woodruff arrived in England as a Missionary of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. On March first he received an intuition or presentiment to go to the southern part of England. He arrived at the home of John Benbow, a wealthy farmer, on the 4th of March. He held a meeting on the 5th of March in the home of John Benbow. The next day after holding his meeting six persons were baptized. After his next meeting he baptized two women and five men. One of the women baptized was Charlotte Clark, wife of Thomas Henry Clark. It was the 30th day of March, 1840, that Elder Woodruff baptized nine persons among them being Thomas H. Clark. A month later Thomas was ordained a Priest and a month later we find the entry that Thomas baptized two persons. Thomas continued to baptize and in other ways assist Elder Woodruff. On June 20th Elder Woodruff baptized Ellen and Eliza Clark and Thomas baptized seventeen persons, among them was John Clark. The next day Thomas was ordained an Elder and given charge of churches at Dunsclow, Old Starridge, Ashfield and Crowcut. After this he traveled, preached, and converted many souls and baptized them members of the church.

Emigrating to America, he set sail from Gloucester, April 6th 1841, for Quebec, on the ship Catherine. He was in charge of a company of emigrating Saints with whom he traveled through Canada and arrived at Nauvoo, July 8th, 1841. Here Thomas and his son John found employment working on the building of the Nauvoo Mansion. Their home was a blacksmith shop without either doors or windows. For their work they took for pay such produce as they could obtain, but in such small quantities that the family was unable to have more than one kind of food each day. To illustrate: one day they would have corn meal, another day squash, and another meat, etc. They passed through all the trying times and incidents of those days. Two daughters died at Nauvoo, Anne and Sarah, and two daughters were born, Mary Ann and Charlotte.

At the time of the exodus from Nauvoo, a posse of men came to the Clark home and gave them sixteen hours to leave the State,

under penalty of the father being given thirty lashes by each man with a hickory switch. The family was forced to go, taking with them the few possessions they could collect in so short a time. A Gentile friend allowed them to remain in his cornfield for the night, and helped them across the Mississippi River, where they later joined the Saints at Winter Quarters.

In the spring of 1846, Mr. Clark was sent as a missionary to Missouri, traveling among the branches of the church there and in Iowa until 1847. He was then called on a mission to England where he remained until the fall of 1849. On Sunday, September 2nd, the ship James Pennel, with two hundred thirty six Saints under the direction of Thomas H. Clark, sailed from Liverpool, England, for America. They landed at New Orleans, October 22nd. Leaving New Orleans, he joined his family at Florence, Neb.

A ferry boat was built by Henry Smith, Emery Barrus, and Thomas Henry Clark, which they owned jointly and ran at Florence, Neb. for two years. Mr. Clark sold out his interest and with his family came to Utah, arriving in Salt Lake City, October 10, 1852. Soon after starting for Utah, cholera broke out in the company of travelers and a large number of them died. Thomas was stricken with the dreaded disease, but being a man of great faith he was restored to health.

Upon arriving in Utah the Clarks at once went to Grantsville. Here Thomas took up land and he and his sons went to work getting timber out of the canyon with which to build a house. The Indians were very troublesome, and under the advice of Brigham Young the settlers of Grantsville united in building a large adobe fort, the walls of which were twelve feet high.

Thomas followed the occupation of farming and stock raising and always worked for the uplift and advancement of the community. He passed through many hardships and incidents pertaining to pioneer life, having at that time very little to subsist upon.

At a conference in Grantsville on March 27th, 1853, Thomas H. Clark was sustained as the President of the Grantsville Branch, succeeding Benjamin Baker. His counselors were John B. Walker and William C. Martindale. He served as President until 1858 when William G. Young was called as presiding Elder. President Young served until 1864 when Thomas H. Clark was again called as President. He served until 1873. During this time the new meeting house was built in 1866 and still stands on the corner of Clark and Cooley streets in Grantsville.

Thomas Henry Clark's wife, Charlotte Gailey Clark, died April 18th, 1869. Thomas died October, 14th, 1873. They are both buried in the Grantsville cemetery.