

Comments Regarding the Life History and Funeral Services of Margaret Ann Griffiths Clegg as it relates to Elizabeth Webb Griffiths Keddington, and As Reported in the Wasatch Wave, Heber City, Utah

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Written: 10 November 2011

- The summary at the bottom of this report is from the Wasatch Wave published on Friday 2 August 1929.
- Margaret Ann Clegg was born in Liverpool, England, 16 April 1840.
- She died on 29 July 1929 at the age of 89 in Heber City, Utah.
- Elizabeth Webb was born 22 Feb 1826 at Sandridge, Hartford, England.
- Elizabeth Webb died 8 Oct 1902 in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah.
- She arrived in Salt Lake City with the Martin Handcart Company on November 31, 1856.
- Her father, John Griffiths, died the following day on 1 Dec 1856. He had been the branch president in Deptford, London, England.

The report of the Wasatch Wave, below, summarizes the life of Margaret Ann Griffiths Clegg. But, what is interesting and that should be brought to the attention of the reader is the names of the persons attending and participating in the funeral services. Of course, those who were members of the family and extended family would have expected to be in attendance. In fact, other reports of her funeral make mention of it being one of the largest funerals to date in the valley of Heber City, she being so well known and the oldest living original pioneer at the time. However, please draw your attention to the names that are emboldened that were reported as having come from out of the county: **James Keddington, Alvin Keddington and Mr. and Mrs. George Austin**. Who were they and why were they present at the funeral.?

It is an interesting story that will be unraveled in the following comments.

John Griffiths, Margaret Ann's father was married to Margaret Griffiths who passed away in London when John was working on the Thames River Docks as an engineer and boiler maker. Margaret the mother died on 7 Jul 1853 at Woolwich, Kent, England, a suburb on London. She died giving birth to an infant that also died on the same day. Soon after John, who was serving as president of the Woolwich branch of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, met a lady by the name of Elizabeth Webb (sometimes given as Ann Elizabeth Webb) who had also joined the church. They married on 6 January 1856, Elizabeth as the second wife to John. Soon after their marriage the Saints were encouraged to get ready to emigrate to Utah along with others who were part of the great Mormon migration to America.

However, an interesting historical discontinuity developed that has clouded the historical presence of Elizabeth Webb. For some unknown reason Margaret Ann, the 16 year old

pioneer, never made mention of her step-mother. Throughout the many historical accounts and personal writings that Margaret Ann wrote by her own hand she never made mention of Elizabeth Webb. Perhaps we shall never know why this is so. For many years after she passed away those who were interested in retaining her interesting history and that of the Griffiths family the account of Elizabeth was not known. A few writers made mention of her but were not sure if she was the wife of John Griffiths or just a traveler because of the mention of her name on the rosters of the Martin Handcart Company.

Then, around the year 2000 an account of the experiences in the Martin Handcart Company surfaced that was written by Margaret Ann's younger sister, Jane or Eleanor Griffiths. Jane was only 8 years of age at the time of the trek west but she wrote in her memoir of Elizabeth Webb and referred to her as her step-mother. She also mentioned experiences that pointed towards a helpful but destitute women who upon arriving in Salt Lake City and her husband dying the next day was unable to care for the two girls immediately. All three of them, Margaret Ann and Jane and Elizabeth were taken in by the saints who were charged by Brigham Young to care for those unable to make do for themselves.

Well, the question is "what happened, then, to Elizabeth Webb, widow of John Griffiths?" Elizabeth did soon get back on her feet and found employment in one of the hotels where she eventually became somewhat independent and took interest, especially, in the care of Jane. Finding some friends from the branches in London she eventually met and married a man by the name of William Keddington. They were married 13 September 1857. She was the second wife of William whose first wife Mary Ann Barnes Keddington was not initially agreeable to having a "spiritual" or polygamous wife, but did eventually allow it. Shortly after the marriage of Elizabeth to William Keddington an arrangement was made for her to have her own home nearby but separate from the family home of William. Elizabeth made her home available to Margaret Ann and Jane whenever they needed a place to stay. Margaret Ann married Henry Clegg in 1857 and thus had a place of her own but Jane stayed with Elizabeth quite some time as she did not marry Almon Lyness Fullmer until 1864.

Elizabeth had 5 children born to her by William. Unfortunately, 4 of the children died in infancy and only one lived to maturity. Sarah Ann Webb Keddington was born 5 January 1865 living to full adulthood and died 23 October 1944. She was 23 years of age when she married George Austin on 27 September 1888. They lived in Salt Lake City their entire lives.

Some have suggested that there was no connection to speak of between Margaret Ann and Jane with Elizabeth but this is probably not true. In historical accounts that have recently been discovered that were written by grandchildren of Elizabeth there was some visiting and exchange of family kindness to each others families. In letters written by descendants of Henry Clegg reference is sometimes made of visiting "Aunt Elizabeth Keddington" when they went to Salt Lake.

Evidence of strong family feelings and mutual respect between the families is confirmed by the fact that these Keddington relatives attended Margaret Ann Griffiths Clegg funeral. And, further that Alvin Keddington and James Keddington were participants in the funeral service

clearly points to a respected affiliation among the families. We don't have the content of the sermon given by James Keddington but it would certainly be enlightening to have record of it!

Thus, the persons referred to as attending the funeral from "out of the county" are:

Alvin and James Keddington - both grandsons of William Keddington, Elizabeth Webb's husband. Alvin is son of Joseph Keddington and James was son of John William Keddington.

Mr. George Austin is the husband of Sarah Ann Webb Keddington.

Mrs. George Austin is Sarah Ann the daughter of Elizabeth Webb Griffiths Keddington and William Keddington.

Further Historical Accounts and Information can be found at www.clegghistory.org for those who wish to dig deeper.

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Wasatch Wave: Margaret A. Clegg Handcart Pioneer Goes to Reward

The Wasatch Wave

Friday, August 2, 1929

Margaret A. Clegg of the Heber 3rd ward, and commonly known as "Aunt Maggie," one of the very few remaining handcart pioneers, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. E. J. Cummings with whom she has resided for the past two years, Monday morning, of general debility. She was the daughter of John and Margaret Griffiths, and was born at Liverpool, England, April 16, 1840. Her parents joined the church among the first, being baptized in January, 1840, by Elder John Taylor. The family left England on the steamboat Horizon, on May 28, 1856, and arrived in America after spending five weeks on the water. The family traveled to Florence, Nebraska, where they waited for handcarts to be equipped, and left this point in the ill-fated Martin handcart company on the last day of August, 1856. Less than half the number of this company arrived in the Salt Lake valley, November 30, after three months on the road. The other died of hunger and exposure. Aunt Maggie, although yet quite young, pulled a handcart all the way. She had two brothers frozen to death on the plains and her father died the night they arrived at Slat Lake, from exposure and hardships endured.

She married Henry Clegg in the Slat Lake Endowment House, August 6, 1857. They reside in Salt Lake until the time of the move south, when they made their home at Springville, where they remained until 1872. The family then moved to Heber City and Mrs. Clegg has resided here ever since that time. She was always an active church worker and remained a teacher in the Relief Society until about three years ago. She was also a good singer and with her husband and Aunt Ann Clegg she sang in all parts of the state in her younger days.

Besides raising her own family of 11 children, she also raised her daughter's five children who were left motherless when very small. She was progressive and intelligent and was able to sew and read without glasses until the last. She saw the extremes of life and seemed happy whether in poverty, reduced to 4 ounce flour ration per day or when she was blessed with plenty. She traveled on foot as she pulled the handcart and she also rode

in the areoplane. She worked by night by the glimmering light of the tallow dip and she lived to see her home flooded with electric light by the turn of a switch. And through it all she kept the faith and by both precept and example she taught others to do likewise.

She is survived by five children: Herbet of Tabiona; George of Heber, Henry J. of Salt Lake, Charles D. of Park City and Mrs. E. J. Cummings of Heber. Also by members of the other branch of the Clegg family – John H. Clegg and Mrs. Millie Montgomery of Heber: Carlie [Charlie ?] Tidwell of Price; and Brigham Clegg of Salt Lake City. She is also survived by 37 grand children, some 140 great grand children and 9 great grand children, besides many other relatives and a host of friends.

Funeral services were held Wednesday afternoon, in the Stake Tabernacle with Bishop Frederick Crook conducting. There was a goodly attendance and the floral offering were out of the ordinary, one large center piece being in the form of a handcart, bearing the inscription “From Council Bluffs to Salt Lake City.” A mixed quartette composed of Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Montgomery, Mrs. Mabell Moulton and Mr. Frank Epperson rendered, “We have Met Dear Friends and Brethren etc”, and “I know That My Redeemer Lives”. Mr. Epperson and Mrs. Moulton sang, “Far Away” and “Just Beyond the Vail of Passing Years.” **Alvin Keddington** sang “Some Sweet Day,” and Mrs. Vera Rasband was accompanist for all. The opening prayer was offered by A. Y. Duke and Wm. Lindsay pronounced the benediction. The speakers were Bishop Frederick Crook, Wm. L. Van Wagoner, Joseph A. Rasband, **James Keddington** and Pres. D. A. Broadbent. The grave was dedicated by Frederick W. Giles.

Among the number of those from out of the county to attend the services were **James Keddington, Alvin Keddington,** Herbert Clegg and family. Mrs. Thomas Clegg, Mr. Brigham Clegg, Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Bird, Mrs. Wm. Clegg, Mr. and Mrs. Joy Clegg, Joseph A. Murdock, **Mr. and Mrs. George Austin,** Mr. Henry Clegg, Mr. and Mrs. Levi Clegg, Mr. and Mrs. Otto Clegg, A. E. Jones and family, Mr. and Mrs. Neil Clegg, Mrs. Ida Bird, Mrs. Sarah Jane Buys and daughter Lucinda, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Buys, Mrs. Lon Tidwell, Alfred Clegg and wife and Arnold Clegg.

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