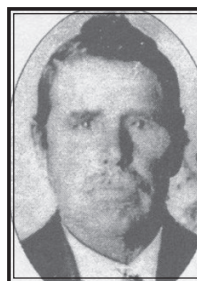


## THOMAS PORRITT JR.

Born: August 13, 1849 in England

Age: 7

Martin Handcart Company



Thomas and Sarah E. Hampton Porritt

Thomas's parents joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1839. They were disowned by their family but were happy raising and caring for their four children. They wanted to come to America and join with the Saints very much. Thomas's father was preaching the gospel with the missionaries in England when he contracted pneumonia after sleeping out in the cold. He died January 21, 1851.

Thomas's mother, Margaret McCann Porritt (age 37), with her three children, continued with plans to go to America. Her daughter, Jane (born 1845), died prior to leaving England. In May 1856, Margaret, Nathaniel (15), Rebecca (12), and Thomas Jr. (7), sailed on the ship *Horizon*. Thomas remembered that sometimes they had fresh fish to eat because the Captain of the ship traded some nails to the fishermen in exchange for fish.

The Porritt family arrived in Boston, traveled by train to Iowa City, then began their journey to Utah with the Martin handcart company. It was a very difficult experience. They faced carts breaking down, heat, rain, mud, fatigue, hunger, cold and death, but all of Thomas's family survived the journey. They arrived in the Salt Lake Valley on November 30, 1856.

In 1868, when Thomas was 19, he married Sarah Elizabeth Hampton. Sarah was born in Big Pigeon, Iowa, the fifth of six children. Her father had died in 1858 in Council Bluffs, Iowa, and Sarah crossed the plains with an unknown company in 1859 when she was six years old.<sup>1</sup> When Sarah was 15 years old, her mother had remarried and her stepfather wanted to arrange a marriage for Sarah. Neither Sarah nor her mother wished it. Sarah was in love with Thomas Porritt. Her mother lowered Sarah's clothes out of the upstairs window on a rope so that Sarah could run away and marry Thomas.

Thomas and Sarah had 13 children and lived in Idaho. Thomas was a farmer and worked on the railroad. For a short period of time, Thomas and Sarah lived in Lost River. On the trip to Lost River they ran into acres of crickets. They then moved to Ashton, Idaho, where they lived until their deaths. Thomas's mother lived with them until her death in 1882. Thomas died of influenza in 1918 at the age of 69.

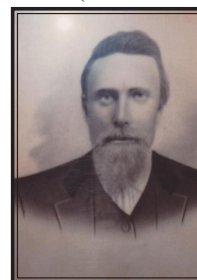
According to family records, Rebecca and Nathaniel both died in Idaho, in 1878 and 1882, respectively.

<sup>1</sup> Some incorrect family histories were cited in earlier editions of *Tell My Story, Too*. These indicated that Sarah's father died in 1856 and the rest of the family came to Utah with the Martin handcart company. This was not the case.

Sources: Daughters of Utah Pioneers history files; "Thomas Porritt, Jr.," Sons of Utah Pioneers history files; letter from R. Marie Tidwell, Pasco, Washington, October 14, 2011; "History of Margaret McCann," by Sarah Jane Porritt Marler; picture pedigree of Rosa Katherine Porritt Whitmill; Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel website (for Sarah Porritt's family); familysearch.org.



Margaret McCann Porritt



Nathaniel Porritt