

## ELEANOR GRANT ORD

Born: June 14, 1828 in Leicester, England

Age: 28

Martin Handcart Company

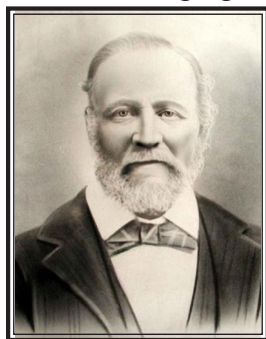


Eleanor was the youngest of nine children of John and Mary Hall Grant. Her mother died when she was only two years old. Her father then remarried and had more children. Eleanor attended school for awhile, but she eventually was required to work to help support the family. For a time she went to school at night and worked during the day as a frame work knitter.

Eleanor became converted to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints after hearing the gospel message from missionaries at the age of 18. She was baptized May 4, 1847, by Crandal Dunn, and confirmed by Thomas Severson. Due to opposition from her father, Eleanor did this with much faith.

Eleanor later met a traveling Elder by the name of Thomas Ord.<sup>1</sup> One of his last Church assignments was President of the branch in Leicester where Eleanor lived. After his release from that calling, he was ready to emigrate to Utah. Thomas visited the factory where Eleanor worked and asked her to go for a walk with him. She was excused from her work and after their short walk they had become engaged. They made plans to go together to Zion. They were married on March 4, 1856, and sailed on the ship *Horizon* in May of 1856 as newlyweds. Then, for more than 1,000 miles across the American continent, Eleanor walked and pulled a handcart alongside her husband. She and Thomas also pulled an unnamed eight-year-old crippled child for its mother. The child eventually died from exposure. Later, the Ords also pulled a man too ill to walk further. Thomas also served as a sub-captain in the Martin handcart company.

Shortly after their arrival in the Salt Lake Valley Eleanor and Thomas were sent to Nephi, Utah, where they spent the rest of their lives. Their efforts as pioneers in Nephi included building the town and the protective wall around the city. Their first home was in the northwest corner of the old fort. Although the sod and willow roof leaked, they were grateful to be in Zion and free to build their future without persecution.<sup>2</sup> They eventually had a nice home in Nephi. The home also served as a school where Thomas was the teacher. Here Eleanor raised her seven children and lived to be 86 years old. Eleanor loved to share her testimony and spend time doing temple work. She also loved singing and teaching.



Thomas Ord

The Ord family had a farm and sheep herd. Thomas also worked as a lawyer, and later as a judge in Nephi. He served many years on the Stake High Council. A granddaughter wrote of him: “He was a natural student and it was seldom that a day passed without his having learned something new. He kept abreast with the times through reading and study. ... His use of the English language was perfect. Even in old age ... the events of his life seemed to be ever ready in his memory. My younger brother John and our sister Martha were giving words to each other from the dictionary in preparation for a spelling match the following day. Grandfather listened to them quietly until one of them would make a mistake, then he would spell it for them. They gave him difficult words then and he spelled all correctly. This was amazing to all of us. This was just a week or two before his death.”

<sup>1</sup> Thomas was baptized September 9, 1843, and confirmed by George P. Waugh. Elder Waugh, at age 67, was also a member of the Martin handcart company. See his story in Martin section of *Tell My Story, Too*.

<sup>2</sup> Eleanor’s granddaughter, Maud Schofield Richins, remembered “seeing grandma putting pans, etc, around on the beds and elsewhere as the rain would filter through” this roof.

Sources: Daughters of Utah Pioneers history files; *Pioneers and Prominent Men*, Frank Esshom, 1913; *Pioneer Women of Faith and Fortitude*, International Society Daughters of Utah Pioneers, 1998; Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel website; familysearch.org; “Thomas Ord,” by Maud Schofield Richins, granddaughter (on familysearch.org.).