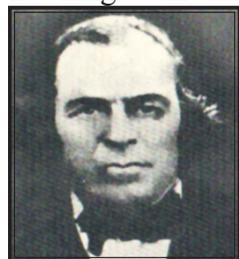


## MARGARET EDWARDS PRICE

Born: 18 December 18 1832 Devonport, Devonshire  
 Age: 23  
 Hunt Wagon Company



Margaret Edwards married John Price of Wales on 17 Jun 1851 at Monkton, Pembrokeshire, Wales. He was thirty-one and Margaret was eighteen. John was a miner, a marshall, and a missionary. Three children were born to them in Pembrokeshire, South Wales: John William, Sarah Ann, and Joseph. John had been baptized a member of the Church in 1844, at the age of 24. As a young man, John and a friend had decided to go down to the nearby river where some Mormon missionaries were baptizing new converts. Their purpose was to throw stones at them. John belonged to the Methodist Church at this time. The missionaries and their new converts were holding a meeting by the river side when John arrived. They were singing, praying and preaching the Gospel. After listening to this meeting, John and his friend had a change of heart and put away their stones.



John Price

John had first married Margaret James in 1841. They had a son, Edward, in 1843. Margaret James was baptized a year before John. She died when Edward was only three years old. John lived with Margaret's parents for a time, and accepted their help in raising Edward. In addition to John's work to support his son, he became a missionary for the Church for the next ten years. His journal tells of years of dedicated missionary work. John baptized his second wife, Margaret Edwards, just four months after their marriage in 1851. He wrote: "I then commenced the duties of presiding over the [Pembroke] conference, travelling from branch to branch setting things in order. The officers and saints cooperating with me, many of the branch began to flourish, especially the Pembroke branch, many were baptised and added to the church. Many things transpired during the first year of my presidency over this conference which can not be recorded here, as I was much engaged in the work, and unable to write myself, therefore what follows will be taken from the minutes of councils & conferences. October 10th Baptised Margaret Edwards."

John and Margaret had a great desire to join with the Saints in "Zion." No doubt John longed to work in the sunlight and fresh air, possibly own his own land, harvest and enjoy the fruits of his labors. They left Liverpool, England, on the ship *Samuel Curling* on April 19, 1856. Margaret's ticket was #44; the cost, five pounds, adult fare. John William's ticket was four pounds ten pence for children's fare. Baby Joseph's ticket was just ten pence as he was considered infant fare at fifteen months of age. Margaret's little daughter, Sarah Ann, had died at age one before her parents left Wales. Margaret was expecting another baby.

On May 22, 1856, little Joseph, just sixteen months old, died aboard ship and was buried at sea. It appears that he may have had the measles. From the biography of John Price by granddaughter Betty Richards, we read that Margaret prayed fervently for her son's life, but "the creak of the ship was her answer, and the flame of the tallow candle seemed the only light in her life at that moment. All through the night the baby cried fitfully, and the tiny body grew hotter. The first faint rays of the sun shown on his body, wrapped in the shawl she had made in Wales. A prayer was said, words spoken, a song, and a splash. The lifeless body of Joseph Price slipped beneath the waves and the ship moved on. It had been hard to bury Sarah Ann, but to surrender this, her son, to the restless sea—not even a flower. She could never visit the grave."

The ship arrived at the Boston Harbor the next day. John William (3) was now their only child with them. They traveled to Iowa City, where they remained for the next two months. They watched as the majority of their Welch friends left from Iowa City with the Bunker Handcart Company. They watched as the Willie and the Martin handcart companies came and went. The Price family finally left Iowa City on August 1. John's biography notes: "The trip was slow, for the oxen plodded along at their own pace and the ride was rough and dusty. Each morning John would milk the cow, and after they had their breakfast, the remainder of the milk was poured into a pail with a lid and hung between the oxen. By the end of the day, it was churned into a bit of cheese or butter."

John was likely as inexperienced as others in this group of immigrants. Mary Goble of the Hunt company recorded, “On the first of August we started to travel, with our ox teams unbroken and we not knowing a thing about driving oxen.” By the time the company reached Fort Laramie in October, their teams were weak and the weather began to look threatening. When the cold weather arrived, John kept what bread they had tucked under his arm to keep it from freezing. This way he could break off pieces regularly for Margaret. As the time of her “confinement” was near, Margaret was becoming increasingly worried and uncomfortable. On the 28th of October, they had been camped near the last crossing of the Platte River for nine days, waiting out the snowstorms and recruiting their cattle. The company journal continues, “Brothers Joseph [A.] Young and two other brethren [Daniel W. Jones and Abel Garr] arrived in camp in the evening from the Valley. This caused rejoicing generally throughout the camp, though the tidings of the snow extending westward for forty or fifty miles was not encouraging.”

This express team of three men, sent to find the Hunt company, left the next day (Oct. 29), “expecting to be back with help in ten days.” The company also started out, Captain Hunt having procured thirteen more head of cattle from Fort Bridge (“Reshaw’s Bridge”), a small trading post several miles away. However, they only made three miles that day. Margaret began the uncomfortable wagon ride again the next day: “Thursday, October 30, ... the roads heavy, leading over high hills and wet, sandy ground. After traveling 7 miles, the company went into camp. ... The feed was scarce. Margaret Price, wife of John Price of Pembrokehire, Wales, was delivered of a daughter.” (Hunt Company Journal)

The company remained in camp all day the 31st of October. The company journal does not record the death of the new baby, Elizabeth Edwards Price, on November 1: “Saturday, November 1 ... The company resumed the journey at 11:15 a.m. but had traveled only a short distance when a snowstorm came on, accompanied by rain making the ground very wet and muddy. All the emigrants were cautioned not to let the cattle drink, as the road led through poisonous creeks of water. After traveling 12 miles, encampment was made at 7 o’clock p.m. where there was no wood nor water.”

On November 4, they found some green grass along the banks of Greasewood Creek, and scraped off the snow so the cattle could feed on it. On November 5, the Hunt company finally arrived at Devil’s Gate where the Hodgett company was camped. The Martin company had made their fateful crossing of the Sweetwater River, and gone into camp for shelter at Martin’s Cove the day before. By the 15th of December, Margaret and John arrived in Salt Lake City with the help of many rescue teams. It was just three days before Margaret’s 24th birthday.

John and Margaret settled in Ogden and then Willard, Utah. Margaret died in Willard in 1866 at the age of 34, following the birth of her ninth baby, Catherine Price (Richardson). The family had milk to feed the baby, but commercially produced bottles and nipples were not available to them. After much trial and error to determine how to feed the baby, they found the largest quill from a chicken feather and cut it to a useable length and wrapped strips of muslin fabric around it until it was of nipple size. They placed this over the bottle. After the baby was fed, the fabric was unwound, washed, boiled and dried for the next feeding. A neighbor, Mrs. John Gibbs, cared for little Catherine for a time, then returned the baby to John and his second wife, Susanna Thain.

Susanna Thain also traveled from Wales on the *Samuel Curling*. She was crippled and some accounts say her feet were frozen, but she traveled with the Bunker handcart company which did not get caught in the early storms. Susanna became a mother to Catherine as well as Margaret’s three other living children. The family then settled in Malad, Idaho, where Margaret’s children grew to adulthood and Susanna gave birth to five children of her own. John married two more women, Jane Lallis and Margaret Eynon. He had two more children from Margaret Eynon. John’s oldest son, Edward, apparently stayed in Wales. Family records indicate he died in 1882 at the age of 39.

Sources: Price family histories in possession of Jolene Allphin; welshmormon.byu.edu, (website by Ronald D. Dennis; see also *Welsh Mormon Writings from 1844 to 1862: A Historical Bibliography*, by Ronald D. Dennis)