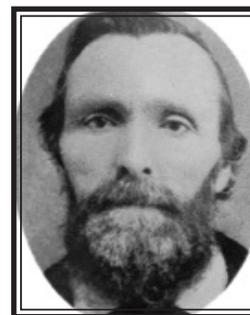


PETER WINWARD

Born: 22 December 1832 in Warrington, Lancashire, England

Age: 23

Rescuer



Peter's father, Thomas Winward, was among the first converts to the Church in England in 1841. His mother, Betty Silcock Winward, never could accept its teachings. In February of 1842, Thomas sailed from Liverpool with two of his sons, William and Peter, on the ship *Hope Duocburry*, leaving his wife and four other children, but hoping they would soon follow.

Thomas took his sons to Nauvoo where he bought a small lot and began to build a home, still hoping his wife would come and join him. He also worked on the Nauvoo Temple. Six months later, Thomas and William contracted diphtheria and were sick for several weeks. One day, as William was recovering, he and Peter were playing close by the chair their father was sitting in when they discovered he had died. Thomas had exacted a promise from a friend, Charles Shumway, before his death, that if anything should happen to him, Charles wouldn't send the boys back to England. This was a difficult promise to keep as the boys were so young and their mother had sent money for their return. Charles told the authorities the promise he had made to Thomas Winward and it was decided to let the boys choose for themselves. Remembering how seasick they both had been and frightened to make the long trip back, Peter and William decided to stay in America with the Mormons. Their mother wrote several letters to Bishop Hale, but the boys still stayed.

Peter and William lived with several families in Nauvoo, including the Shumway family, where Charles Shumway taught Peter to work as a blacksmith. One day the Prophet Joseph Smith came to visit the Hale family where Peter was then living. When Peter saw him coming he ran and opened the gate for him. Joseph placed his hand on Peter's head and said, "Always be a good boy and you will never lack for bread." Peter always remembered this and said it proved to be true.

Peter was 15 years old when he traveled to Utah. He worked in Salt Lake for a time and was then called to Manti to help build the temple there. He moved to Payson a short time later where he settled. In May of 1855, Lucindia Bingham also arrived in Payson. Peter met her at a dance, but said he had already seen her face in a dream. They were married six weeks later and Peter always called her his "dream girl." Peter was always active in the Church and community and served as Payson's Water Master. One reservoir in Payson Canyon is named after Peter.

The first of Peter and Lucindia's 12 children was born shortly before Peter volunteered to go out to meet the late immigrants of 1856. When Peter was in his later years he often went to the fields with his children and grandchildren when they had hoeing to do; showing [them] how to make the moisture stay in the ground longer. It was on these occasions he told [them] of the experiences he had endured [in the rescue]. One thing he said was that the snow in Emigration Canyon was so deep on either side that a whip stock laying across the wagon would touch the snow.

Winnie Curtis Wright wrote: Our grandfather was a religious man, and when troubled, he would always pray. On one occasion, he had several acres of ripe wheat to cut. He knew where he could get a scythe for \$3.00, but having no money, he was troubled as to how he could get the wheat cut. Walking home from work one night, he said a silent prayer [and] as he jumped across the ditch, there beside the road was \$3.00.

Peter was called to serve a mission in England in 1884. His sister, Ann Woods, was furious to see him and flung her husband's treasured Bible into the fireplace. As Peter and his brother-in-law removed what was left of the Bible from the flames, the damage had ended at James 1:5—"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

Sources: Letter and family histories from Eleanor Ferrin, 2006, including pictures and "Highlights of Peter Winward's Life Story" by Winnie Curtis Wright.