

Samuel George Read and Elizabeth Georgina Quilley Read Rodwell family sketches found on familysearch:

**Samuel George Read and Elizabeth Georgina Quilley Read Rodwell Compiled by Richard Arnold & Sherry M. Smith July 3, 2001**

Samuel Read was born 28 February 1807, at Stepney, London, Middlesex, England. He was the son of Jacob Read and Elizabeth Carter, and was the fifth child in a family of twelve children. We know nothing of his youth. Samuel's parents lived and died in London, England. Elizabeth Quilley was born 22 September 1805, just three months before the Prophet Joseph Smith was born. She was christened at Basing, Hampshire, England 29 September 1806 as the daughter of William Quilley and Hannah Evemey. Elizabeth preferred being called Georgina or Georgiana and added that to her name. History is silent about her growing up years also. Georgina's parents lived and died in England too. Following the marriage of Samuel Read and Elizabeth Georgina Quilley, they were blessed with five children: Clara Elizabeth Quilley Read, 16 Jul 1839, Lewisham, Kent, London, England Alicia Quilley Read, 20 Oct 1840, Limehouse, London, Middlesex, England Samuel Milford Read, 13 Oct 1841, Bethnal Green, London, Middlesex, England Thisbe Quilley Read, 25 Apr 1845, Stepney, London, Middlesex, England Walter Pyramus Read, 08 Aug 1848, Poplar, London, Middlesex, England The Read family experienced a major change in their lives when they became acquainted with the missionaries and the members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints. Family records show Samuel was baptized 18 Aug 1854, and Georgina was baptized 16 Jul 1855. LDS Church Membership records show Clara was baptized 10 September 1853, and Alicia was baptized 10 Sep 1853 by Elder E. C. Breind. Samuel Milford was baptized 11 Feb 1856, and Thisbe was baptized 13 May 1855 by Elder John Rodwell. While living in England, Walter was too young to be baptized with the other family members. Emigration to America Following their baptism, the Read family was feeling the spirit of Zion. Although they looked forward to joining the Saints in Utah, it was with great difficulty that they bid farewell to their home land. They left behind a large extended family and friends who probably wondered about their new found "Mormon" religion. The Read family boarded the ship 'Horizon' on May 22, 1856 at Liverpool England. On May 25, 1856, the ship set sail for America. Clara Read, their oldest child, did not accompany the family; she emigrated to Australia and lived with an uncle. During the three day period between the boarding and sailing, the ship Horizon was anchored in and then towed up the river Mersey. Records tell us that there were 836 people on board the Horizon, 108 of them being children. The Read family, with the other emigrants, sighted land the morning of June 28, 1856 and the ship anchored in Massachusetts Bay (Boston) that day at about 4:00 p.m. From the passenger lists, the ages recorded for the family are as follows: Samuel Read, 48; Elizabeth Read, 50; Elitha [Alicia] Read, 15; Samuel Read, 14; Frisbea [Thisbe] Read, 9; and Walter Read, 6. The entire cost of their passage was \$5,400. The corrected age for Thisbe at the time of sailing is age eleven and Walter was the age of seven.

John Rodwell and his wife Sarah were friends of the Read family. The Rodwells sailed to America at the same time. John had been involved in the teaching and conversion of the Read family. The Rodwells had six children, three living at the time they set sail. Being mature in age, Elizabeth, Rosina and Eliza Jane Rodwell did not emigrate with their parents to America at that time. On the Plains The main body of the emigrants left Boston "on the cars" (railway) on July 2, 1856. It is mentioned in some of the pioneers' journals that those traveling by train went through Albany,

Buffalo, Cleveland, Toledo, Chicago, and Rock Island. They crossed the Mississippi River in barges. They arrived at Iowa City around July 11, 1856. The actual departure from Iowa City was about July 25, 1856. When the handcart company arrived at an area called Keg Creek, a few miles east of Council Bluffs, Iowa, the Read family discovered that their young son Walter was missing from the group. After Samuel and Georgina had consulted together, it was determined that Samuel George and their son Samuel Milford would go back over the trail to find eight-year-old Walter. Georgina, with her two daughters Alicia and Thisbe, would continue on with the handcart company. It took the two Samuels three months to locate Walter. They found that Walter had been lured away from the handcart company by two men. They had promised Walter a pony, lots of money and some land if he would go with them. During the three-month time, Walter had been taken care of by several families. It was now too late in the season for the men to rejoin their family and they remained in Iowa. Samuel and Georgina divided the family money to cover expenses of their individual needs.

With the separation of the family upon Walter's disappearance on the plains of Iowa, Georgina Read positioned herself at the shafts in front of the handcart; with Alicia and Thisbe at the rear they pushed and pulled their handcart westward across the plains. One of their greatest tests came in crossing the Platte River near present day Casper, Wyoming. The river was full of floating ice that cut their legs as they pulled the handcarts across it. Alicia was carried across the river on a horse while Thisbe waited her turn. But her mother, knowing darkness was coming, would not wait. Georgina rolled her skirts up high and took off her shoes and stockings and dragged her heavy cart into the water. Thisbe's eyes were attracted back to the river by a shout of alarm. There was a cart half overturned in the river. It was Ma's cart. She was doing her best to right it. Without hesitation Thisbe waded into the river, shoes and all. She put her shoulder under the load, though the cold water lapped her face, cutting her breath off in a way that terrified her. Ma gave a great pull, someone else came quickly to help, and the cart was right side up again and climbing the far bank. To break the wind as much as possible, Captain Martin had assigned the position for each cart. Georgina pulled her cart to its place and made a fire with the precious sagebrush she had carried for an emergency. Before Georgina even put her own shoes and stockings on, she undressed Thisbe and wrapped her in a blanket from the cart. She carried Thisbe over to a log that had been cleared of snow so she could dry it in the fire's warmth. Neither fire nor being wrapped in quilts relieved Thisbe's quivering body. Georgina, Thisbe and Alicia huddled close together while Georgina tried to keep the fire burning. Thisbe had survived but she was so ill that she was placed in the cart. The next day Alicia and her mother walked onward pulling and pushing the handcart bearing their beloved Thisbe and their meager belongings.

The rest of October 1856 brought more wind, cold, snow and drifts. Alicia and Elizabeth trudged on painfully with Thisbe being too ill to do much of the pushing. The days were the same, one after the other. Thisbe drowsed and wakened and drowsed again. Each morning there was a burial trench, each more shallow than the last. After seeing the burial of a boy the age of their lost brother Walter, Alicia said to Thisbe: "God lost Walter to spare his life." All three women felt that "Pa" never could have endured the trip with the poor circulation he had in his feet. Samuel George had been discharged from the East India Company because of his asthmatic condition. It should also be remembered that generally it was the men and young children who were not able to survive this torturous journey. Through the grace of God, Elizabeth lost none of her family to death between Iowa City, Iowa and the Salt Lake Valley. It is not the intent of this brief Read family history to

present a comprehensive account of the sufferings of the saints, or the miraculous rescue of those who survived; it is clearly documented in other detailed writings. Suffice it to say that the majority of the Martin Handcart Company pioneers were preserved and rescued from certain death by the loving hands of the God of Israel. These courageous pioneers offered their faithful prayers which ascended unceasingly to our Heavenly Father, who personally sent forth messages through the Holy Ghost to begin the rescue of his beloved children. When Brigham Young learned of the plight of the hand cart company, the Lord inspired him, His prophet, seer and revelator, to adjourn the October 1856 general conference of the Church. He issued the clarion call for strong brave men filled with the love of God and the Holy Ghost to prepare and go to the rescue.

Ephraim Hanks had been on a fishing expedition at Utah Lake. He retired for the night but was awakened by a heavenly messenger who spoke to him three times. He was told that the hand cart company was in trouble and asked if he would go. Answering God's call, he got right out of bed and headed for Salt Lake City, arriving there about day light. The spirit of God directed other brave young men, who in deference to their own safety, went to participate in this effort also. God bless the memory of those who so bravely went forth to the rescue! Arrival in the Valley of the Great Salt Lake Georgina, with Alicia and Thisbe, arrived in the Salt Lake Valley November 30, 1856. When Alicia and Thisbe saw Salt Lake City, they were happy but somewhat disappointed. They had seen some of the great cities of the world: London, Liverpool, and New York City. The neatly planned row of adobe and log cabins found in this valley didn't look like a city to them. But it was now to be their new home. When the Read women arrived in Salt Lake City, they were invited to the Ephraim K. Hanks' home. Ephraim and his wife Harriet, cared for them until they could find other places to live. Georgina worked most of the time, taking care of the sick, bringing babies to sisters who didn't have their own kin to look after them, even helping out with cleaning and sewing and all manners of odd jobs. Alicia and Thisbe went to school, got acquainted with other children in the Valley, minded the Hanks children, did small jobs for Aunt Harriet and for other folks too, when the chance came. Neither Georgina nor the girls felt rightly settled. Thisbe would often think Brother Hanks would return home, maybe bringing Father Read and Walter with him or maybe bringing just a letter. The far away look in Georgina's eyes told plainly where her thoughts were most of the time. Return to Iowa Then Back to Salt Lake City Approximately two years after arriving in the valley, Georgina returned to Iowa with her daughter, Thisbe, to determine for herself the condition of the men in her family. The Read family had needed to regain their health as well as replenish their savings. Alicia stayed in Salt Lake City as she was employed by Brigham Young.

Undoubtedly Georgina had received information about her husband and sons as Ephraim was employed as a mail carrier. Arriving in Iowa, she visited with her husband Samuel and her young son Walter. During the time Samuel and Georgina had been apart, Samuel had formed a relationship with Martha, the woman he had been boarding with. Georgina also learned that Samuel in looking for Walter had posted notices in the local papers about their son and had offered a reward. It was one of those notices that finally bought the information they sought. One morning a good woman was fine combing her little girl's head and sought for a piece of paper to put the combings on. She tore a piece from a newspaper that had come to her home wrapped around a pair of boots from the cobbler. As she combed the child's hair, she read the item on the piece of paper before her. It was Samuel's notice of Walter's loss and the offering of a reward. The woman felt it was a description of a little boy that had come to her home to play with her daughter, Jamie. She

remembered that the little boy had finer manners than most children in this western country and that he spoke of the old man he lived with as uncle. The woman shook the combings from the paper into the fire and carefully put the paper away. The next time the child came over to play she asked him if his name was Walter. Walter told her that it was once but Uncle Billy gave me a new name. She asked if he was from across the ocean. Walter replied yes but stated that it was a long time ago. She said nothing more to Walter, but that evening she got her man to go with her to "Uncle Billy's" cabin. She showed him the clipping and said, "If you don't take the child into town and give him up, I will." That was the way Walter was returned to Samuel. Samuel spoke to the old man who stole him. The old man said he was very lonely and when he saw the boy sitting alone he thought he had been left. He picked him up and took him away with him. Walter didn't want to go with him and resisted but he adjusted quickly. The man was good to Walter, and gave him the best of everything. In 1859 Samuel parted company with Martha and arrived alone in the Salt Lake Valley. Georgina, Thisbe and Walter remained in Iowa. Thisbe earned wages by being a servant in the Milton T. Spoor home. Walter was living next door to Thisbe in the James Smith home. We know that Georgina was also employed at that time in order that they might have the means to make their return trip to Utah.

In 1861 Georgina, Thisbe and Walter joined with the Captain Ancel P. Harmon Company for their safe trip to the valley. Young Walter, now 13-years-old, drove the ox team for his mother Georgina, and sister Thisbe, all the way back to Salt Lake City. The exact location of Samuel Milford was unknown to the family other than he was living in Iowa. Samuel Milford also was working to gain savings.

**Clara Elizabeth Quilley Read - Brief Notes** Clara married William Greenley Cook in Sydney, Australia, 18 July 1859. William was born in Ludlow, Shropshire, England and was a mason by trade. Clara had been a governess until the time she married. Clara bore two daughters in Sydney, Elizabeth Georgina Cook and Milbrough (Millie) Alicia Cook. Sometime between 1871 and 1877, the Cook family emigrated to the United States. Along the way there was a burning vessel. The ship that they were sailing on stopped and boarded the passengers. William died in the Salt Lake City Deseret Hospital on 10 February 1880. Clara married John Snell on June 22, 1881. John was born in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. He was a builder and contractor and was in charge of the construction of the Kenyon Hotel, the White House, the Clift House and other familiar landmarks of Salt Lake City. Clara was a beautiful seamstress and particular in her mannerisms and dress. Clara was an artist and painted oil landscapes and scenes. Clara was congenial and gracious and a generous hostess. She was loving and attentive to not only her family but her extended family and friends. She ran a boarding homestead at 242 West 1st South in Salt Lake City. Clara moved to Missoula, Montana in 1909 to be close to her daughter Elizabeth Georgina Cook Richards Crawshaw. Clara died in Missoula, Montana, 2 February 1910. On the 6th of February 1910 she was buried in the Salt Lake City Cemetery. She was survived by her one daughter, Georgina as well as seven of her eleven grandchildren. Millie Cook Keysor Weyher and John Snell had preceded her in death.

**Alicia Quilley Read - Brief Notes** After arriving in the valley, Alicia Quilley Read worked for Brigham Young's families. It was during her work that she became acquainted with Orson Pratt Arnold who was also in the employ of Brigham Young. Orson, when 19 years of age, had been accidentally shot in the leg while serving with Lot Smith's group who were harassing the U.S.

Army (Johnston's Army) in Wyoming. Because of this injury, he had a stiff, crippled leg. Orson and Alicia were married 14 November 1860. Their first home was one small room at the Brigham Young Compound located at the present site of the Joseph Smith Memorial Building in downtown Salt Lake City. This building was also the former Hotel Utah. Their only furniture was a mattress tick filled with straw. They cooked out-of-doors on a community fire. They later moved to Third East and Second South where they had a home on the west side of the street, and later built another home and barns on the east side of the street. The later home was a lovely gracious home where many influential people came to visit with them. Alicia had a host of friends and was well respected. She had a rough time coming across the plains but she had not forgotten the things that she had learned in England. Alicia set a fine table and had to have her meals on time. She was noted for her beautiful bonnets that she always wore when she went out. The whole handcart affair was almost more than Alicia could bear. She refused to talk about it to her children or anyone else. It was just too painful to recollect. She once, however, told one of her grandsons, Paul Sorenson Arnold, that while she was crossing the plains she fainted either from sun or fatigue. When she came to and found that they had revived her with water from a buffalo wallow, she nearly fainted again. One day the granddaughter of Samuel Milford Read (Rhea Platt Nielsen) went to visit her great-aunt Alicia who lived across the street from the home of Rhea's father. Rhea would go and see her often. Alicia told Rhea many things about Rhea's mother and her family. Alicia would be "Grandma" to Rhea as she had no grandchildren at that time. One day Rhea went to see Alicia as she had been quite ill. Rhea asked her how she felt and Alicia said that she was very tired as she had traveled across the plains again in her dreams. Alicia went on to tell Rhea the story. Rhea regretted not taking a single note down in writing. Alicia told Rhea how sick her mother Georgina had been and how mean the leader of the group was to her mother. Alicia said, "if I had been a man I would have knocked him down." Alicia did not tell his name but to a 15-year-old girl this must have been hard to take. Undoubtedly some leaders had to push hard to keep the handcart company moving or many more may have perished from their frostbitten conditions. Alicia died in Salt Lake City 7 May 1922 and is buried in the Salt Lake City Cemetery.

**Samuel Milford Read - Brief Notes** Samuel Milford Read stayed in Iowa until he was 22-years-old. He arrived in Salt Lake City in 1862. According to Samuel Milford's sister, Alicia, he must have walked a long way because he had paper in his shoes to keep out the wet weather. She also said that when Samuel Milford arrived in Salt Lake City and went to visit his father, Samuel George Read, that his father did not recognize him and said that he was not his son. Nevertheless, Alicia knew her brother when she saw him. Samuel Milford had not been seen for four years by his father and the physical appearance of a young man can change significantly in that time. Samuel Milford's father was a very particular person about his way of dressing and to see a man in his son's condition was quite a shock. Georgina Read and the children lived in Salt Lake City for a few years and then she and her sons, Walter and Samuel M., went to live in Nephi. Walter started a business career as a harness maker. Samuel Milford worked with his brother for several years. Samuel Milford was a farmer and a miner, and would freight cargo to the different towns near Nephi. He married Mary Gardner Reid. They had three children. After Mary's death, Samuel married Annie Elizabeth Wilkey. They had two children. At the time of his death Samuel owned 360 acres of dry wheat land. They knew it as the Levan Ridge. Samuel died October 21, 1904, in Nephi, Utah at the age of 63. They buried him in Nephi, Utah.

**Thisbe Quilley Read- Brief Notes** Thisbe Quilley Read was 17-years-old when she became the third wife to Ephraim Knowlton Hanks, on the 5th of April 1862 in the Church Endowment House. “Eph” as he was called was 36-years-old at the time of their marriage. Thisbe and Eph had developed a deep respect for one another on the pioneer trails in 1856. As he was passing through on his pioneer expeditions, Ephraim taught young Thisbe how to fish. With the grasshoppers Thisbe caught Eph baited the hooks hanging from the willow pole and string. He showed her how to throw them out into the water. Thisbe would sometime take the fish that was left to other folks in the parties who were ailing and would relish a changed diet of bacon and flapjacks, and mush and beans. Thisbe sometimes wondered if the cart was really making any progress at all. Each night when she looked sadly at her wearing-away shoes she realized that they bore testimony that the road behind was growing daily longer and longer. During one of Eph’s visits on the plains Georgina unpacked her cart at bedtime and she found a beautiful pair of beaded moccasins. She also found one of the fishing outfits tucked away in one corner. The moccasins exactly fit Thisbe. The fishing tackle was to be like a gift of God to the whole company before it reached the Valley. Ephraim and Thisbe had twelve children born to them. As plural marriage was not recognized by the law of the land, Harriet Decker Young Hanks and Jane Capener Hanks would later divorce Ephraim. Ephraim’s marriage to Hannah Hardy had been annulled during the year of 1856. For Thisbe’s marriage to be legally recognized they would remarry in the Salt Lake County courthouse. Thisbe was devoted to her dear husband and patient with his long absences while he conducted business. It seemed like Eph had barely come home when he was ready to go again. She instilled thoroughness into her children and she was very affectionate with her children. She was a good housekeeper, cook and was inclined to be independent. Thisbe had that English air about her that showed that in her blood ran something of an artistic desire. She spoke with an English accent. Thisbe and Eph had a ranch in an area found in the Capitol Reef National Park. Until they built their home they lived in a cave, not more than fifteen or sixteen feet square with a log wall at the front and reinforced dirt and rock walls on the other three sides. Thisbe could almost reach up and touch the dirt ceiling, reinforced with cross pieces of split logs. Ten of them lived in this dugout. Their place of residence was known as Pleasant Creek but they affectionately called their humble home the Floral Ranch. This ranch was graced with 200 fruit trees with grass and flowers planted around the house. At harvest time there was sweet corn to gather, sugar cane to cut and boil down to make sorghum molasses. The surplus was taken over to Rabbit Valley to trade for things they hadn’t raised. Thisbe could take her horse Bess and ride the range. It was at the Floral Ranch Eph operated an “underground railroad” for fugitive polygamists. Many a Wayne County polygamist with an arrest warrant outstanding found shelter with Eph Hanks. When deputy U.S. marshals came into the county, sympathetic Mormons would get word to Hanks. Sometimes his son, Walter E. Hanks, would make a dangerous, shortcut ride on horseback down Pleasant Creek from Loa to arrive at the ranch before the slow-moving marshals. Hanks never got caught at his game. When the marshals arrived, there was never a fugitive to be found; they were well hidden in the back country.

Ephraim was born in Madison, Lake, Ohio and joined the Saints in the building the Nauvoo Temple. He was a member of the Mormon Battalion, a Martin Handcart rescuer, Pony Express Rider, Indian peace mediator for Brigham Young and Church Patriarch. He found the first mineral ore in Park City. Ephraim and Thisbe died at Floral Ranch. They are buried in Caineville, Utah home of their first son, Bishop Walter Ernest Hanks.

**Walter Pyramus Read - Brief Notes** Walter Read received his early education in private schools in Salt Lake City. As he wanted to gain his own livelihood and to be independent. At the age of sixteen he entered the harness business and remained in that vocation for the following sixteen years. Upon the sale of his harness business, he devoted himself to the railroad building. He successfully undertook and completed the building of the railroad line on the San Juan River, Colorado. Walter successfully completed ninety miles of the road from Pueblo north on the Denver and New Orleans, now known as the Denver and Fort Worth Railroad. His firm operated extensively in the Western States and secured a contract in Montana to haul wood to the Lexington Mills at Butte City from the lowlands. He had an extensive stock ranch in southern Utah comprising about six thousand acres stocked with upwards of 700 heads of horses and cattle. In 1885 Walter again turned his attention to railroad building in Montana. They formed the firm of McCune, Kirkendall and Co. in Helena. Walter, who had entire charge of its business in Montana, managed the extensive operations of the firm. Walter took up the management of the Salt Lake City Railroad Company. When Walter Read took up the management of this property, it was a poorly equipped crude system. Mule teams hauled the cars and the track had been extended but a small distance. Under his direction electricity replaced mule power in Salt Lake City. He eventually became vice president and director of electric street cars west of Omaha. He became superintendent, vice president and director of this company. In Juab County, Utah, Walter was elected and served as sheriff and was the first city Marshall of Nephi. Starting in life at an age when most boys are still under parental guidance, self-instructed and self-made, he achieved results that marked him as a great captain in the industrial development of the West. Walter married Martha Ann Pond, daughter of Stillman Pond and Elizabeth Bessac. They bore eight children. Walter died 30 August 1918 at the age of 70. Both Walter and Martha are buried in the Salt Lake City Cemetery.

**Elizabeth Georgina Read - Brief Notes** Georgina was very strong of body and character and had undaunted faith and courage. She was a practical individual. The Reads were well to do in England and when they left for America they sold most of their possessions. At Florence, Nebraska, Georgina invested some funds in medicine and first-aid equipment. She provided and cared for her two daughters as they came cross the plains as well as members of the handcart company. She was gifted in taking care of the sick, caring for them with herbs, dry sage, and with the meager medical supplies that she carried in her handcart. She often saved lives with her knowledge and supplies. Georgina was a good practical nurse. She became Brigham Young's right-hand helper. She nursed the ill and helped deliver babies. For many years Georgina was the only doctor in the city of Nephi. Elizabeth Georgina Read separated permanently from her husband, Samuel George Read after her return from Iowa. Georgina and John Rodwell were later married and sealed as husband and wife. John was very kind to the family and was very helpful to her during the trek and later in life. Together they lived at Nephi, Utah. The family buried Georgina in the Salt Lake City Cemetery in an Arnold family plot. There are four head stones in a row. From north to south are: Elizabeth Georgina Quilley Read Rodwell, John Rodwell (Georgina's second husband), Martha Monroe Bates Read (the fourth wife of Samuel) and Samuel 'George' Read. It was Alicia's desire to have her mother and father together, and out of respect for their current spouses these people are buried there too.

**Samuel George Read - Brief Notes** Samuel entered the British Army when a young man and was engaged principally in the East India Service. He made an excellent soldier and was promoted to a

Lieutenancy, and was a member of the Bengal Marines. Samuel adopted the name 'George' after he arrived in the valley to distinguish himself from his son, Samuel Milford. His clothes were always the best. He smoothly waxed and neatly clipped his Vandyke beard. Samuel's black eyes were always dancing at a joke or a happy story. In 1863 he was a bookkeeper in the building that housed the Deseret News. Its current location is the Joseph Smith Memorial Building and formerly the Hotel Utah. For a considerable time he was manager of the London Times Depot at the Rio Grand Western Railway Station. His bookstore was originally housed near old Salt Lake Theater on State Street. Samuel married 2. Laura Ann Gibbs (Beach Wood); 3. Helena Danielson; 4. Martha Munroe (Bates). Samuel had lived with Laura's family upon his arrival in the valley. Laura had been a widow for nine years when she married Samuel. Samuel and Laura adopted and raised a daughter Laura Mariah Read. With his wife Martha, Samuel adopted and raised a daughter, Josephine Read, until she passed away at the age of two. Samuel was still in business when he died 12 December 1893 at the age of 86. Speakers at Samuel's funeral bore testimony to the honesty and integrity of the man.