

History of Ann Morris Butler Rice

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Compiled by her great grand-daughter Miranda Campbell Stringham Ann Morris was born in Potent, Carmarthan, South Wales, June 13,1817. She was the daughter of John Morris and Mary Evans. Ann was married to 'William' Butler, who was a coal-digger in South Wales. Four children were born to this union: Elizabeth John Thomas, Jane, and William Richard. At the time John Taylor was President of the L.D.S. mission in Wales, Ann and William and their family were converted by Elder Dan Jones John Oakely and David Grant. Fourteen hundred saints sailed on the ship "Samuel Kerling the ship was divided into 11 wards. Bugle at six p.m. for prayer and at dusk to retire. Dan Jones was its Capitan and Commander. Ann and William Butler were arranging their affairs to sail. William, the father, worked in the mine digging coal Just as long as he could to obtain the money to sail with. He had bought the tickets on the boat when during a severe attack of Cholera he died, having been ill only a day or so. The following week, Thomas, a son, died, and two days before the ship was to sail, Jane, a daughter died. Ann the mother was almost compelled to take sail and her desire was to come "to Zion' So leaving the burial of her daughter and other business for her sister, Margaret Morris, and with a very heavy heart she and her two remaining children set sail from Liverpool for America on July 6,1856. The boat landed in Boston, in 1856, and was inspected by the health authorities and commended for its cleanliness for most of its passengers were Welch. They were quarantined in for Smallpox at Boston. They rode on a cattle train 1300 miles from Boston to Des Moines, Iowa. Many were induced to remain in Iowa, and those who did so either apostatized or died of cholera. They waited three weeks to get a handcart and ready to start the trek across the plains. Elizabeth was 14 and William R. was eight years old, having spent his 8th birthday on the Atlantic Ocean while sailing on Dan Jones' ship, "Samuel Curling". It was a 300-mile walk to Winter Quarters where each received 100 pounds of flour and other provisions. They had progressed some distance when Cholera broke out in Camp, and Elizabeth (my grandmother) took very ill with it. Ann, my great grand mother asked the captain if she could stop and doctor her sick child that she was too ill to walk. She asked if she could not ride on one of the provision wagons, but the Captain Edward Bunker, said, "No, we must go on, your daughter is old enough to walk. Great Grandmother prayed that something might happen to delay the company for she had laid her sick girl on her handcart and was pulling her. The first wagon had hardly pulled out when it broke an axle. A halt was called and Ann uttered a prayer "Thanks be to God." It was about nine hours before the wagon was repaired, By this "time it was near night so they did not move on 'til morning. This gave Great Grandmother Butler a chance to doctor her sick girl, and when morning came she was able to walk with her mother and brother; their

supplies were about gone, except bread, which they lived on for ten days. This company was mostly Welsh immigrants and many times they had to stop and wait for herds of buffalo to pass. They were killed to get grease, but most of them were too poor to make grease so little was found. A supply Wagon came to them or they would all have perished, but Great Grandmother and her two children arrived in Salt Lake Valley October 2, 1856. By this time, their clothes were in tatters, rags were wrapped about their feet, and they were cracked and sore from cold and exposure. Great Grandmother's dress was completely worn out across the back where the cart had rubbed. The only distance these children rode was across rivers on the provision wagon. I have heard my grandmother tell how the children would gather Sego Lily bulbs to eat, and how they tore the rawhide from the wheels of the handcart during a terrible storm, and used it to make soup. Wood was available as buffalo chips were used for fuel, these being plentiful on the Great Plains. Ann Morris and her two children helped pioneer Providence, Utah. Their main occupation was carding, spinning, and knitting wool. She knit sweaters, underwear, shawls, and stockings. Knitting needles were hard to get so she smoothed off feathers and taught her children how to knit with them. They lived at North Ogden then to Providence. While at Providence or there about, great grandmother Butler (Ann) met and married Ira Rice, in 1857. He built the second house that was built in Providence. He was a man of considerable means, having sold his ranch in Michigan for a box of gold dust he made a good living for great grand-mother. He had brought a bear trap with him from Illinois that was used to catch the bear that later killed the husband (Charles Henry Gates) of Elizabeth, my grandmother. In 1862 immigrants were called from Providence to southern Utah. Beaver Dam was where they settled in Washington County. Brigham Young had asked for volunteers and as these people had proved their worth went with many others to this new territory. Many hardships were endured here as well as having Indian troubles. Great grandmother had been a woman who was blessed with the spirit of discernment and vision. Many times she was warned by a dream of disaster. One of these dreams she told her family about. She was her husband carrying a load in a blanket and resting occasionally where it was rested a pool of blood was seen. Some days later Ira Rice her second husband and Charley Willis, a neighbor were digging a ditch when Willis was crushed by some rocks and Ira carried him to the house in a blanket, leaving a pool of blood everywhere he rested. Great grandmother was a midwife and a very good doctor She brought hundreds of babies into the world with no medical assistance. The country for miles around know and called for her assistance. A few years later this family moved to Washington, where William, the son, carried mail from St. George to Beaver Dam, about fifty miles. Later they moved to Escalante Garfield County, Utah. Great Grandmother took an active part in church work and attended church till she was too feeble to walk to the church house. She died in Escalante.