

Margaret Crawford 1;

from: "Ancestors And Descendants Of James And Margaret Crawford Houston" page 307

"Margaret Crawford Houston was a frail little woman hardly able to cope with the rigors of child bearing and pioneering but she had a very good "business head".

"While Margaret was in her teens she attended a dress-makers training school in Biggar Scotland, where the students were required to maintain a high degree of perfection in the art of pattern making and sewing. She was apprenticed to a Mr. Andrew Black as a female servant sometime during her growing up years. When living at home she helped her Father with chores and other tasks on his croft or farm, including driving a team of horses and taking care of livestock.

Margaret was nineteen years old when her Mother died on February 17, 1844, and she was able to make her Mother's burial clothes. About one-and-a-half years later Margaret became a member of the Church Of Jesus Christ Of Latter-Day Saints, being the last member of her family to do so. She was baptized by James Houston on July 26, 1845. She married James Houston on August 25, of that year, the ceremony being preformed by Peter L. McCue president of the LDS Glasgow mission.

On August 29, they went to Paisley Scotland to visit Margaret Houston Crawford, James's sister, who was married to John Crawford, Margaret Crawford Houston the bride's cousin. Margaret, the bride, stayed in Paisley while her young husband went to Glasgow to a conference where he was released from his mission. The Church members voted to pay for his ship passage to Nauvoo Illinois. James and Margaret set sail from Glasgow to Liverpool on September 3, 1845. After landing on the 4th, they transferred to the ship "Oregon" where they stayed until September 13th. During the ensuing days James met and assisted 125 Scottish LDS converts to make final arrangements for their passage on the boat. He was to preside over them during the voyage to New Orleans.

From: "Ships, Saints And Mariners: A maritime Encyclopedia Of Mormon Migration 1830-1890.

By Conway B. Sonne.

"Steamship Oregon

Ship 649 tons: 140" x 32" x 16"

Built: 1839 at New Castle, Maine.

On 1 september, 1845, the three-masted square-rigger Oregon sailed from Liverpool with about one hundred twenty-five Latter-Day Saints aboard. Little is known of this voyage, except that Captain James Borland commanded the ship, and that she arrived in New Orleans on 28 October--a fifty-seven-day passage. Captain Borland was a prominent mariner who previously skippered the 430-ton ship Wakona of the Dispatch Line, and in 1850 commanded the 943-ton ship Sandusky. In 1869 the 637-ton bark James A. Borland, named either in his or his relative's honor, was launched.

Three of the Oregon's owners resided in New Castle, Maine, which was designated as the vessel's home port. She ran in at least five packet lines: Nesmith and Walsh, New, Regular, Pelican, and Dispatch Lines. Her first registration states she had two decks, but the last in 1855, one deck. She had a square stern, no galleries, and a figurehead. In 1861 the vessel was sold to foreigners, presumably at Liverpool where her registry was surrendered."

The sea was very rough in the Irish Channel, but after that the trip was generally a pleasant one for the people on the 649 ton, clean convenient well ventilated boat. Margaret wrote, while on deck one evening, "I can hardly describe the beauty of this night, the moon nearly at full, a deep sky studded with stars, the reflection of which makes the sea appear like an immense sheet of diamonds. I have seen the mighty deep in its' anger, with our ship nearly on her beam end, and I have seen it as now, under a cloudless sky with scarcely a ripple on its' surface, and I know not which to admire most."

During the voyage rain was caught in barrels to use for washing. The journey took 57 days. After landing and seeing New Orleans Margaret wrote that it was a wonderful city for Negroes, mules, mud and cotton. James and Margaret went on a small steam boat up the Mississippi to Nauvoo. They were annoyed and persecuted by the people from the towns along the river.

They reached their destination the last part of November 1845, to find the church members in the midst of hectic preparation for an exodus west, while working to complete the Nauvoo Temple in order to participate in the ordinances it would make possible for them to have.

James worked on the Temple, and on January 10, 1846, he and Margaret were endowed and then sealed on January 26. After the first child Elizabeth was born on June 1, 1846, they went to Saint Louis Missouri, where James found work in the coal mines. They left Saint Louis on March 18, 1848, to join church members

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at Winter Quarters, before making the trek across the plains to Utah. They were well equipped with two yoke of oxen, a wagon, some young cattle, farm implements and an eighteen months supply of provisions.

On April 18, 1848, their first son John was born in a wagon box near Saint Joseph Missouri, while they were making their journey to Winter Quarters. On April 16, James was taken ill with chills and fever, so Margaret cared for the cattle. They arrived at Winter Quarters two weeks later, and in one month started for Salt Lake City in the Heber C. Kimball Company, which was one of the largest to cross the plains.

Margaret wrote daily in her diary. She had a positive attitude in spite of hardships. Her descriptions had many details and she included topics which are not always found in diaries. For example she wrote "Heber C. Kimball showed us how to make a new type of campfire. He dug a hole about eight by twelve inches. This was filled with buffalo chips. Other holes were dug near each end of this fire pit, and connected to it by small tunnels. The chips were set ablaze, and covered with metal to create a place for pots and pans. The side holes allowed the fire to breathe and to burn steadily. Much cooking was done with very little fuel."

On July 18, 1848, she wrote, "I rose this day with a thankful heart that our travels are nearly over, but the grandeur of the scenery, to my mind, takes away all fear, and while standing in admiration of the view of the surrounding scenery I heard a whippoorwill and analyzed my feelings as one of joy and gratitude for the protecting care the Lord has taken over me and mine during our long and perilous journey. I pray the Lord will give us strength and understanding to make it to the Valley to be with the Saints in His kingdom.

They arrived in Salt Lake City September 23rd 1848. Margaret wrote, "Indeed there is not language to express the gratitude of a thankful heart to the Almighty for our safe arrival. The provisions the Houstons brought with them helped them and others to survive the severe 1848/49 winter, which they spent in the fort

When spring came they worked together to make adobes for their own home. They had fifteen acres in the big field in the vicinity of the present, (1991) Liberty Park. They were members of the 1st ward, along with several of the friends they had traveled with from Scotland. Peter McCue, who had married them, was their bishop, and James was one of his counselors. Children born in Salt Lake City and their birth dates were: James Junior February 6, 1850; Joseph December 21, 1851; Thomas September 6, 1853; Margaret December 1, 1855; Hyrum September 9, 1860. James and Margaret were present April 6, 1853, when the first corner

stone of the Salt Lake Temple was laid.

In 1857 the people in the Salt Lake Valley were advised to go south because of the approaching Johnston's Army. Margaret went to Salem in Utah County, with Elizabeth age eleven, John age nine and baby Margaret twenty months old. They lived in a dug-out, and another baby daughter, Mary Dempster, was born there, June 6, 1858.

James the husband, James Junior age seven, Joseph age six and Thomas age four stayed in Salt Lake to care for their pigs and to irrigate the garden and farm. This was not an unusual circumstance since several men were selected to stay in the town.

In 1857 a most unusual event occurred in the James Houston family. McPhei describes it in the following paragraphs.

"James Houston served as a counselor under bishop Henry Moon in the 1st ward. An influx of Saints from Scotland came into Salt Lake, and in this group was a young lady, Margaret McNeil from Scotland.

She was born 14 June 1844 at Easthouse, Mid Lothian, Scotland. The same area James Houston labored on his mission in Scotland, and he also presided over the Scotland Saints on board the ship, (Oregon), coming to America. This made it possible for him to get acquainted with her, to visit and talk about her home land.

James took her into his home and her being a minor child, they are not allowed to consummate the marriage until she is seventeen years of age, or she has the right to see and decide for herself. Margaret McNeil helped to take care of the James Sr., and the three boys, James Jr., Joseph and Thomas.

James Houston and Margaret McNeil were married and sealed in the Endowment House on February 26, 1857, by Brigham Young. Witnesses were W. W. Phelps and S. S. Sprague. This marriage was void and annulled 31 December 1858. They were married twenty months.

Margaret Crawford Houston is very sick every time she becomes pregnant, and I guess James thought this young dame could help Margaret in many ways with six children and one on the way. Margaret C. Houston was pregnant when she went to Pond Town, and was confined to bed most of the time.

Margaret and James had a very serious talk about Margaret McNeil. Margaret C. Houston, with her Scottish damper and leadership ability, being small but mighty, said to James in her Scottish brogue: 'James, you decide which Margaret you want in this household. There is going to be only one Margaret. Me or her. If I go, the children go.'"

The above quaint paragraphs, describing a polygamous marriage, require further examination. In the Utah census of 1856, page 338, is listed a McNeil family living in the 11th ward of

Salt Lake City. Margaret is one of the persons listed. Although family relationships are not clear, her Father may have been Elisha McNeil. In other references her Father might have been Archibald McNeil. The International Genealogical Index shows that Margaret McNeil was born 14 June 1841 at Easthouses, Newbattle, Midlothian, Scotland.

International Genealogical Index (TM) - 1988 Edition - Version 2.14

NEILL, Margaret (F)..... B: 14 Jun 1841
B: 16 Jan 1975 SL 6940506 104149
Father: Archd MC NEIL Easthouses, Newbattle, Midlothian, E: 26 Feb 1857 EH
Mother: Scotland
SP: 30 Apr 1975 LA

At the time of the marriage, she was less than four months from her sixteenth birthday, not an unusual age for marriage in those days, and at the time of the annulment she was less than six months from her eighteenth birth day. In 1991 the International Genealogical Index shows the following LDS ordinances for Margaret McNeil: 1. Endowment 26 February 1857, in the endowment House. 2. Baptism 16 January 1975 at Salt Lake City Temple. 3. Sealed to parents 30 April 1975 at Los Angeles Temple. The source information is: Batch 6940506. Source call No. is: film 104149.

The International Genealogical Index shows another marriages for Margaret McNeal and James Houston on February 8, 1857, as follows:

International Genealogical Index (TM) - 1988 Edition - Version 2.14

MCNEIL, Margaret (F)..... M: 8 Feb 1857
SS: 8 Feb 1857 A183374 183374
Spouse: James HAUSTON Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah

Usually, before a polygamous marriage occurred, the permission of the first wife was obtained. It is amazing that Margaret C., even though "small but mighty", was able to have an act of Brigham Young set aside. At the time polygamous marriages were common in Utah. Margaret's brother John had, just the year before, taken a second wife, Elizabeth, the sixteen year old daughter of Gardner Snow. Margaret Houston's successful opposition to the polygamous marriage could be contrasted with the situation of Nancy Dayton, the maternal grandmother of Paul Bailey, as described in Paul Bailey's book, "Polygamy Was Better

Than Monotony."

In 1865 Nancy Dayton was a young woman in American Fork. A young non LDS army officer Joseph Barlow Forbes came to town and was persuaded to stay and teach school. Nancy Dayton did not like the idea of polygamy. When Mr. Forbes ask her to marry him she accepted, assured that she would never have to face the question of polygamy. Nancy became a nurse and her husband joined the LDS church. In her later life she told the denounment of the story as follows, "I didn't know your Grandpa was courting another woman, until one night, after a hard day with a sick patient, I came upon my husband and Janie Gardner sitting on the creek bridge, with their arms about one another. I was so damned furious I pushed the pair of 'em in to the creek."

Despite Nancy's fury, her arm was twisted sufficiently so she agreed to the marriage of Mr. Forbes and Janie Gardner. But Margaret Houston, with her Scottish fury, was much more successful.

The question is forced: What happened to Margaret McNeil? What happened to this 17 year old girl, dealing with adults twice her age, married for two years, then suddenly unmarried? Could there have been children?

At the time, there were other Margaret McNeils in Utah. One, Margaret Reid McNeil was born 14 APR 1846 at Tranent, East Lothian, Scotland. Her Father was Thomas McNeil and her Mother Emily Selkirk. The family lived in Cache County Utah. On 5 MAY 1861, Henry Ballard and Margaret Reid McNeil were married at Logan. She was only three weeks beyond her fifteenth birthday, not unusual for those days. The marriage was sealed in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City on 26 OCT 1861. The Ballards raised a family of eleven children.

The I.G.I. contains the information that another Margaret McNeil married John McCulloch on March 27, 1863, in Salt Lake City. Marion McCulloch, her daughter, was born May 23rd 1860 in Florence Nebraska. On December 20, 1879, Marian married William H. Nelson in Salt Lake City Utah. Marian died December 20, 1927, in Rexberg Idaho, and was buried December 23rd 1927 at Logan Utah. John McCulloch and Margaret McNeil had a second daughter, Margaret McCulloch, born 9 DEC 1870, at Lewiston, Cache County, Utah. Clearly, this is not our Margaret McNeil, as it would have been impossible for her to travel from Florence Nebraska beginning in late May and arriving in Salt Lake City in early July, and so be counted in the 1860 Utah census.

The correct Margaret McNeil is found on page 135 of the 1860 U.S. census for Utah. The enumeration was done on July 5, 1860, by George L. Smith, Assistant Marshall. She was living in the 1st Ward, household Number 993-33, the household of Edward Cuthbert, age 41, a blacksmith who had been born in Ireland.

There were five children in the house ranging in age from seven to fifteen years. There was no wife listed. Margaret was listed as seventeen and a domestic born in Scotland. Also, Mary Gibbs, age fifty, was listed as a domestic born in Scotland.

But what happened to the correct Margaret McNeil? Remember the 1860 census listed no wife in Edward Cuthbert's home. The ancestral file shows that, at a time uncertain, Margaret McNeil became Edward Cuthbert's second wife.

Edward Cuthbert was born January 16, 1815, he was actually 45 years old at the time of the census, at Temple Corran (Broad Island) parish, Barony of Lower Belfast, Antrim, Ireland. He married Susan McGee July 21, 1843, at Nauvoo Illinois. They had seven children: Edward Jr., 1844, Illinois; William Henry, 1845, Illinois; John Alexander, 1847, Nebraska; Campbell, 1849, Utah; Eliza Jane, 1851, Utah; Susan, 1852, Utah; and Joseph, 1854, Utah. The two older children died.

Susan McGee was born March 18, 1819, at Tobarmore, Kilcron, Aghan, Ireland. She died March 25, 1860, in Salt Lake City, just three-and-a-half months before the census.

Edward Cuthbert and Margaret McNeil Cuthbert had a daughter, Agnes, born April 29, 1866. She died January 21, 1868. Edward Cuthbert died December 21, 1868.

In the 1870 Utah census, only John and Susan Cuthbert are listed. John is married, and has a young son. Susan is living in the household of a widow and working as a domestic. The where-about of Margaret Cuthbert is not known.

Margaret Crawford Houston returned to Salt Lake City in 1860. She taught her children to write old English script, and they attended public school. She raised herbs to be used in cooking and for medicine. She tailored clothes and made a foot covering called a shoe pack, which resembled moccasins but covered the ankles. The packs had sturdy soles, and were stuffed with deer hair or dry leaves to make them warmer.

During the October 1861 conference in Salt Lake City, 361 families were "Called" to serve in the Dixie Mission at Saint George Utah. James and Margaret were called along with several of their friends.

The Houston family located temporarily in tents in the old Saint George Fort. The first summer was one of intense suffering, with hot days, scorching winds, flies and other insects and little food.

Hyrum died on July 13, 1862. James and Margaret's sixth son Brigham was born August 7, 1863, in Saint George.

On New Year's Day 1864, James was exhausted from making molasses. He was struck with severe pains in his head and side. Pneumonia set in and he died January 4, 1864. On July 28, 1864, Brigham also died.

Margaret and her children were grief stricken but worked together to finish an adobe home, raise corn, grain, sugar cane and cotton, and to cradle wheat grown by neighbors. She spun and wove many yards of cloth, designed patterns and sewed for people in the settlement. Her dress making skills proved to be of great value to her. She could fit clothes well, and was an expert in making boys suits.

In 1867/68 the older boys worked on the railroad in northern Utah. After that they had jobs taking care of Church cattle, and they also worked at Pipe Springs. They were paid with cattle, and soon had a small herd of their own.

John had gone to Panguitch during the Indian War, had liked the cooler climate and had decided the area there would be good cattle country.

The spring of 1871, John, James and Joseph went with a small company to resettle Panguitch. The next year, Joseph and James returned to Saint George to move their forty-seven year old Mother, Thomas eighteen, Margaret sixteen and Mary Dempster thirteen with their household belongings to Panguitch.

Margaret and her four sons worked together from 1872 to 1886. They had cooperative herds of range and dairy cattle and Clydsdale horses. Comfortable attractive brick homes were built for each family. They supported each other in civic and Church duties, and provided for the physical and emotional needs of members of the extended family.

In 1889 Margaret went to Manti to see her brothers James and John and their families. While there they did temple work for their ancestors. Her niece Elizabeth Munk of Manti described her as being "of fair complexion, her hair light with a sandy red tinge, her skin clear peach blossom pink. She was petite and spoke with a definite Scottish brogue."

Margaret had a keen sense of money management, a consistent love for her family, a great supply of energy, good judgment and good cheer. She had an alert mind, was an avid reader and could write well. She was self reliant, trusted in the Lord, was courageous and uncomplaining. She seemed to apply in her life one of her favorite quotations, "Dear Lord help me to live this day quietly easily, to lean upon thy great strength trustfully restfully, to wait for the unfolding of thy will patiently serenely to meet others peacefully joyously, to face tomorrow confidently courageously." She died July 30, 1912, at the age of eighty-seven of carcinoma of the bladder and liver, in Panguitch Utah, and was buried there. The four Crawford siblings who had come to America had died in the reverse order of their births.

Margaret Crawford Houston

From: The Deseret News, August 5, 1912, Page 8

Panguitch

Veteran of Nauvoo dies at Panguitch

Panguitch, Aug. 1. Another one of our pioneers to Utah was laid to rest today, Mrs. Margaret Crawford Houston. She was born in Bigger, Ayrshire, Scotland, March 1, 1825; heard the gospel in 1845 as taught by the Latter-Day Saints, and immediately embraced it; married James Houston and emigrated to America the same year, settling in Nauvoo. They were expelled with the rest of the Saints, making their home in Winter Quarters till 1848, when they came to Utah, locating in Salt Lake City. While crossing the plains her eldest son, John, was born. In the spring of 1862 with her husband they were called to settle up the "Dixie" Country and located in St. George. In January 1864, she was left a widow with seven children, and through her untiring efforts they are a credit to her. With her children she came to Panguitch in the spring of 1873 where she has resided until her death.

She was the mother of nine children, seven of whom are living; she has also 61 grandchildren, 44 living, and 66 great-grandchildren, 56 living; She died July 30, 1912, surrounded by all the living family.

Funeral services were held today. The speakers were David Cameron, John N. Henrie, James B. Haywood and M. M. Steele, Ira W. Hatch dedicated the grave.

FAMILY GROUP RECORD

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HUSBAND James HOUSTON:

BORN: 4 Jun 1817 PLACE: Paisley, Renfrewshire, Scotland
DIED: 5 Jan 1864 PLACE: St. George, Washington, UT
BUR.: Jan 1864 PLACE: St. George, Washington, UT
MARR: 26 Aug 1845 PLACE: Glasgow, Scotland

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WIFE Margaret CRAWFORD:

BORN: 1 Mar 1825 PLACE: Bigger, Lanarkshire, Scotland
DIED: 30 Jul 1912 PLACE: Panguitch, Garfield, UT
BUR.: 1 Aug 1912 PLACE: Panguitch, Garfield, UT
FATHER: James CRAWFORD:
MOTHER: Elizabeth BROWN:

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CHILDREN

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1. NAME: Elizabeth HOUSTON:
BORN: 1 Jun 1846 PLACE: Nauvoo, Hancock, IL
CHR.: 1 Aug 1846
DIED: 20 Dec 1932 PLACE: Panguitch, Garfield, UT
BUR.: 23 Dec 1932 PLACE: Panguitch, Garfield, UT
SPOUSE: Albert DELONG
MARR: 3 Jan 1867 PLACE: St. George, Washington, UT

2. NAME: John HOUSTON:
BORN: 14 Apr 1848 PLACE: St. Joseph, Behnn, MO

DIED: 4 Sep 1934

3. NAME: James HOUSTON:
 BORN: 6 Feb 1850 PLACE: Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, UT
 DIED: 26 Nov 1938 PLACE: Panguitch, Garfield, UT
 BUR.: 30 Nov 1938
 SPOUSE: Lucy (Edna) Rebecca COOPER:
 MARR: 18 Nov 1875 PLACE: Washington, Kane, UT

4. NAME: Joseph HOUSTON:
 BORN: 21 Dec 1851 PLACE: Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, UT
 DIED: 13 May 1935 PLACE: Panguitch, Garfield, UT
 BUR.: 15 May 1935 PLACE: Panguitch, Garfield, UT
 SPOUSE: Elizabeth Marcy CLARK:
 MARR: 28 Dec 1874 PLACE: Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, UT

5. NAME: Thomas HOUSTON:
 BORN: 6 Sep 1853 PLACE: Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, UT
 DIED: 8 May 1937 PLACE: Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, UT
 BUR.: 11 May 1937 PLACE: Panguitch, Grfld, UT
 SPOUSE: Christine Rassminia SCHOW:
 MARR: 2 May 1880 PLACE: St. George, Washington, UT

6. NAME: Margaret HOUSTON:
 BORN: 1 Dec 1856 PLACE: Salt Lake City, Salt Lake Co., UT
 DIED: 20 May 1911 PLACE: Panguitch, Garfield Co., UT
 BUR.: May 1911 PLACE: Panguitch, Garfield Co., UT
 SPOUSE: Riley GARNER CLARK Jr.:
 MARR: 28 Dec 1874 PLACE: Salt Lake City, Salt Lake Co., UT

7. NAME: Mary Dempster HOUSTON:
 BORN: 6 Jun 1858 PLACE: Pondtown (Salem), Utah, UT
 DIED: 22 Aug 1936 PLACE: Panguitch, Garfield, UT
 BUR.: 24 Aug 1936 PLACE: Panguitch, Garfield, UT
 SPOUSE: Ira WILDER HATCH:
 MARR: 18 Dec 1878 PLACE: St. George, Washington, UT

8. NAME: Hyrum HOUSTON:
 BORN: 9 Sep 1860 PLACE: Salt Lake City, S-Lk, UT
 DIED: 13 Jul 1862

9. NAME: Brigham HOUSTON:
 BORN: 7 Aug 1863 PLACE: St. George, Wash., UT
 DIED: 27 Jul 1864

End of group record