

Biography of Samuel Henry Tew

by Minnie Eleanor Tew, daughter

Samuel Henry Tew was born in Birmingham, Warwickshire, England January 20, 1842. He was the son of Thomas Tew and Hannah Smith Tew. He left England November 1854 on the ship Helen Maria. Their ship was wrecked in the British Channel and he was forced to return to Liverpool, England. He stayed in Liverpool three weeks and then took passage on the ship Charles Buck. After eight weeks and three days journey, he landed at New Orleans, sailed up the Mississippi River to St. Louis, thence to Mormon Grove, Kansas. He crossed the plains by ox team in Captain Milo Andrew's company, arriving in Salt Lake valley on October 26, 1855. He soon paid back the money to Brigham Young which was loaned to him by the Emigration Fund.

He made two trips across the plains in 1864 and 1865, bringing emigrants to Zion. Each trip took five months. Mr. Tew later moved to Springville, where he married Nancy Eleanor Mayberry July 30, 1870 at Cottonwood, Utah. In the years during his life Samuel was always a faithful church worker. He was always ready to help in any way to further the work of the Lord. He made many trips to obtain granite rock, by ox team, which was used in building the Temple and also helped make the first plough used in Utah Valley.

Samuel's father, Thomas Tew, was born at Burbidge, Leicestershire, England. He enlisted as a soldier June 24, 1825 in the 38th Regimental Infantry, serving five years in the East Indies. Then he bought his discharge and returned home. During his career as a soldier, he rose to the rank of Sergeant. Soon after his arrival in England, he married Miss Hannah Smith. They were blessed with a family of eleven children. He joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1847 and emigrated from England to America in 1854. He arrived in Utah on October 26, 1855. He crossed the plains in Captain Milo Andrew's party and settled in Springville, Utah. His death took place in Springville December 24, 1888. He lived the life of a true Latter-day Saint. He was ordained a High Priest before his death.

Minnie Eleanor Tew Thomas

In the early days of Springville, when Utah was but partly settled, I was born to Nancy Eleanor Mayberry and Samuel Henry Tew 6 January 1873. My parents were hard working, conscientious Latter-day Saints. They were a typical pair of pioneers and community builders of that time, striving to make a comfortable home for their thirteen children, five of whom are now living.. My childhood days were spent in Springville and its vicinity, obtaining as education in a one-room schoolhouse, and enjoying all the pleasures dear to the heart of the country girl...with no little hard work thrown in on the side.

When I reached the age of 24, I met and married Mr. William Thomas. He was born 19 November 1874 in Spanish Fork, Utah. His mother was born October 29, 1855 in Myrthvitidvale, South Wales. She emigrated to America in September 1866 and settled in Spanish Fork. She and her husband were both active and steadfast workers in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.