

THOMAS RIGBY 1793-1833

Thomas was born 31 October 1793 at Pemberton twp, Wigan, Lancashire, England. He was christened 23 November 1793. Thomas was the son of Betty Taylor of Pemberton. He was raised with the name Thomas Rigby. His natural father James Rigby was christened 29 March 1767 in Wigan, Lancashire, England. Betty Taylor and James Rigby never married.

His mother Betty was 15 years old when Thomas was born. She was the daughter of Daniel Taylor and Mary Gaskell and was christened 21 June 1778 at Biltinge, Wigan Parish in Lancashire, England.

When Thomas Rigby was about two and one half years of age his mother married Thomas Hitchen. They were married on 16 May 1796 at Wigan, Lancashire, England. Betty was 18 years old when she married Thomas. Thomas Hitchen was the son of Peter Kitchen and Jane Winstanley. Thomas Hitchen was christened 27 June 1773 in Billinge, Lancashire, England.

Betty and Thomas Hitchen had four children together. Her son Thomas Rigby was reared with the Hitchen children. His half brothers and sisters were: Mary christened 13 March 1797, John christened 4 May 1799, Alice christened 5 December 1801, and Ann christened 24 September 1803. They were all christened in Wigan, Lancashire, England.

Thomas Rigby and Jane Stanley were married 20 May 1822 at Wigan Parish church by Edward A. Hill, Curate. This marriage was solemnized in the presence of Samuel Hickox and Samuel Vigord.

Thomas was a weaver at the time of his marriage. He was also a coal miner working in the mines for many years.

The following children were born to Thomas and Jane: James born 24 June 1822, Joseph born 7 Jan 1824, Sarah born 21 June 1825, Thomas born 11 Mar 1827, Elizabeth born 1829, John born 6 March 1831, and Hannah born 1833. Their first four children were born in Lowton. The last three children were born at Hindley.

Family tradition relates that Thomas Rigby was standing on a street corner, in the Wigan, Hindley or Lowton localities, and a man approached him, gave him a package and asked him to hold it for a few minutes while the man went into a "pub". The police came and Thomas Rigby was asked concerning the package, which was seized by the police, and was said to have contained stolen cheese. Thomas Rigby was arrested, and later sentenced for possession of the stolen goods.

The Quarter Sessions records in England from 1830 to 1837 state there was an occurrence of Thomas Rigby in 1830, when under the description of Thomas Rigby of Winstanley, aged 38, he was charged with feloniously stealing 20 pounds weight of potatoes, the property of Abraham Fairclough. He was tried on 24 January 1831, when he was sentenced to three months imprisonment.

Thomas Rigby died about 1833 soon after their youngest child Hannah was born. His death was probably a direct result of hard and dangerous work in the coal mines. Their family has completed their temple work in the Logan Temple.

**JANE STANLEY RIGBY HALSALL
1801-1868**

Jane Stanley was born 10 January 1801 at Lowton, Winwick Parish, about five miles from Hindley, on the road to Warrington, at a house on Sandy Lane, a cross-road, running parallel to the main road, but a mile back. She was baptized 1 February 1801 at Lowton Chapel.

She was given the name Jane after her mother. She was the daughter of Joseph Stanley and Jane Maddock, one of eight children. The children of Joseph and Jane Stanley were these: James born 21 March 1790, Joseph born 1794, Betty born 1796 and was buried 15 March 1797, Betty christened 22 September 1798, Jane born 10 January 1801, Sarah born 2 June 1803, Catherine born 13 February 1805, and Mary born 1808.

Thomas Rigby and Jane Stanley were married on 20 May 1822 at Wigan Parish Church by Edward A Hill, Curate. This marriage was solemnized in the presence of Samuel 1-lickox and Samuel Vigord. Thomas was a weaver at that time. He was also a coal miner.

Thomas and Jane were the parents of the following children: James born 24 June 1822, Joseph born 7 January 1824, Sarah born 21 June 1825, Thomas born 11 March 1827, Elizabeth born 1829, John born 6 March 1831, and Hannah born 1833.

Thomas and Jane Rigby moved from Lowton to Hindley. Their first four children were born in Lowton. The last three children were born at Hindley.

About 1833 her husband Thomas Rigby passed away after their youngest child Hannah was born.

After the death of Thomas Rigby, Jane Stanley Rigby married Thomas Halsall. Jane had seven children. Thomas Halsall had several children (Thomas, Betty, James, Ann Clementine, and Sarah) by his first wife Clementina Counce. They were married at All Saints Church at Hindley in 1836. He was an agricultural laborer and also a hand loom weaver.

Jane and Thomas Halsall had four children together. Wilmer was born 11 July 1837, Catherine and Ann, twins, born 1 November 1839. Catherine died 13 November 1839 and Ann died 26 December 1839. Their youngest child Ann was born 8 June 1841. They were all born at Hindley.

In the 1851 Census their home was at 20 Deansgate, Hindley.

Her husband Thomas Halsall died about July 1, 1859. He was buried at Hindley, Lancashire, England

Jane Stanley Rigby Halsall died 11 August 1868 at Vipers Alley, Hindley, Lancashire, England at age 68. Cause of her death was Apoplexy (stroke). She was buried 14 August 1868 at Hindley. Her ancestors have completed the ordnance work in the Logan Temple, sealing her spouse and family together forever.

WILLIAM LIPTROT

1809-1881

William Liptrot, who played an important role in the destiny of the Rigby family, was born September 27, 1809 at Parbold, Lancashire, England. His parents were Thomas Liptrot and Mary Jackman Liptrot. The family belonged to the Church of England where William was christened at the Douglas Chapel in Parbold. Parbold seems to have been the residence of the Liptrots for many generations.

William may have sailed on the River Douglas and on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal with his uncle William Spencer, who was his maternal great-uncle. William Spencer owned two packet boats that made regular trips along these waterways. Being the youngest child of the Liptrot family, William must have received a great deal of love and attention.

William was educated in the local grammar school. Not all children born at this time had the privilege of attending school and learning to read and write. Many young children were required to work in coal mines and get employment where ever they could to help supplement the meager incomes of their parents. Apparently William moved in a different direction. His having been able to write and thus record his family's genealogy has saved his posterity a great deal of time and money in research.

We believe that William married Elizabeth Hesketh in 1832, although we have no verification of that date. They became the parents of six children, three of them dying in infancy. Their daughter, Grace, who became our grandmother, was born just 17 days before her brother's death. We can well imagine the family's sorrow and also their concern that baby Grace would not also contract scarlet fever.

Some time before the summer of 1850, the family moved to Hindley where the Mormon missionaries found them. Nothing is known about their conversion except the dates of their baptism. Elizabeth was baptized on August 30, 1850, making her our very first English convert. For some reason William wasn't baptized at that time but later on November 2, 1850. Like many other converts, they suffered their share of persecution for joining the Church.

In the 1861 Census we find William Liptrot living alone at 195 Ladies Lane, Hindley, Lancashire, England. His wife Elizabeth passed away in 1857. Grace had married John Rigby the year before on 16 September 1860. William listed his occupation in 1861 as that of "agricultural laborer".

A severe depression gripped Lancashire at this time. The Latter-day-Saints in England were encouraged to gather to Utah and they were assisted by the Perpetual Emigration Fund for those who couldn't afford their own fare. Probably due to these inducements, William Liptrot, son John Liptrot, daughter Grace Liptrot Rigby and her husband John Rigby, decided to immigrate to America. They sailed on the ship CYNOSURE, embarking on May 30, 1863. The family arrived in Salt Lake City on October 4, 1863. Soon after traveling to Farmington, his son John, who was 19, passed away leaving only Grace to carry forward the family heritage

In 1869 the family finally established a homestead in Hooper, where the Rigbys and William took up a tract of land and started to farm. He never married again, having lost his wife in 1857 while living in England. William was devoted to his daughter Grace, and assisted her in the education of her children. By pioneer standards he lived with some prosperity. He maintained that he was far better off in American than he had ever been in England. He lived a long, eventful, industrious and religious life. He passed away on June 18, 1881 and is buried in the Hooper, Utah cemetery.

ELIZABETH HESKETH LIPTROT

1805-1857

Our faithful and dedicated ancestor, Elizabeth Hesketh Liptrot, had unusual courage. She was forty-five years old when she joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day-Saints. She was baptized on August 30, 1850 at Hindley, Lancashire, England. Though she was tested countless times and suffered many trials during her life, she had great love and devotion for her Heavenly Father. She was the first Latter-day-Saint convert in the Rigby family from England, which allows us to have even more gratitude for her love for the Lord.

After her baptism, she reflected the missionary spirit as an example of the gospel. Her devotion assisted in the conversion of her husband, William Liptrot, who was baptized on November 2, 1850. Their three living children, Thomas, Grace and John were baptized on June 17, 1852 at Hindley by Elder Joseph Moss and were all confirmed June 20th by Elder Thomas Paul Bidoes. We can imagine that this devoted mother felt joy and satisfaction to know that her family was now prepared to receive eternal blessings. Her three living children could eventually be sealed to their parents, along with three deceased and precious infants, Mary, William and Thomas, who had passed away earlier. Only her daughter Grace would live long enough to marry and raise her own family.

Elizabeth was born on January 8, 1805 at Blackrod, Lancashire, England, the third daughter of Peter Hesketh and his wife, Elizabeth Files. There were nine children in the family who were taught to be fair, upright and honest. Even when small, they learned to help on the farm and to do household tasks and obey their parents. It is likely that Peter and Elizabeth took their children to the Church of England and offered them minimal education in the voluntary schools. Some girls attended school for only a year or two and were taught sewing and knitting.

Before 1819 the Peter and Elizabeth Files Hesketh family moved to Hindley. In the 1841 English Census, their residence was at "Long Lane" and Peter's occupation was "farmer". Long Lane was located midway between Hindley and Hindley Green where William and Elizabeth lived for a time.

It was some time in the 1820's when Elizabeth carefully designed and skillfully embroidered a beautiful sample. This is the only known artifact of hers that remains. This sampler is now on permanent display in the Latter-day-Saint Museum in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Elizabeth and William Liptrot may have been married in 1832, although the exact day and year have not been located. In the 1841 English Census, William and Grace lived in Grange Farm, Liegh. He was listed as a farmer at 30 years of age, and his wife, Elizabeth was 33. His only living daughter at this time was Grace, who was five months old. She gave birth to six children. Only Grace lived long enough to continue the heritage. Just before her 53rd birthday, Elizabeth died of unknown causes on December 30, 1857 and was buried January 3, 1858 at Hindley Church Cemetery which was located in the church yard.



JOHN RIGBY

1831-1918

John Rigby's parents, Thomas and Jane Stanley Rigby, moved from Lowton to Hindley, England just three years before John's birth on March 6, 1831. Thomas Rigby was listed as a weaver on some of the children's marriage licenses, but he was also a coal miner. Due to worry and exposure he died right after their last child Hannah was born. John was only five or six. A year later, Jane Rigby married a widower, Thomas Halsall. He was a yeoman farmer with eight children. With Jane's children, there were 15 children in the family. Later, Thomas and Jane had four children of their own. Thomas Halsall proved to be a good step-father, encouraging John to be self-reliant.

In the late 1850's, Hindley wasn't a large town, and it was bound to happen that John would notice the attractive Grace Liptrot. From the first time he saw her, she was the one he wanted to marry. However, she was a Mormon. Her family members were Mormons. When John's family heard that alarming news, they did all they could to dissuade John from dating her. Their efforts were in vain. John, at 29 years of age, had a mind of his own as well as determination. He was determined to persuade Grace to marry him. John and Grace were married September 16, 1860 in the parish church at Deane, Lancaster, England. She was 19 and he was 29. They both listed Westhoughton as their residence at the time of their marriage. Mormons were considered non-conformists in 1841, and the legality of their marriage was recognized only in the established Church of England.

John's main occupation was working as a coal miner. This work proved to be very dangerous as he chiseled and worked underneath the area being mined. One day John was lying on his side, working a vein of coal. In those close quarters, he was hacking away when suddenly a massive chunk of coal came loose and painfully crushed his arm. As a result, his arm was bound in a sling for some time. It healed in a crooked position and the doctor was alarmed. Without any notice, the doctor firmly grasped the misshaped arm and yanked it straight. John fainted dead away from the intense pain. But he recovered and got the use of his arm back. Fortunately it was his left arm and not his right.

Because of their desire to immigrate to America, John and Grace joined William Liptrot and his son John for a trip to America, leaving on the ship "CYNOSURE" on May 30, 1863. After a challenging trip across the ocean and the American plains, the family finally arrived in Salt Lake City on October 4, 1863. A few days later Grace's brother, John, passed away in Farmington. The 19-year-old boy was laid to rest in the Farmington, Utah cemetery by his grieving family.

John and Grace's first home was made at Birch Creek and later in Ogden. In 1870 they moved to Hooper, where they resided until Grace's untimely passing in 1886. They were the parents of seven children. Two passed away as children, while the others married and produced 30 grandchildren. John became a prominent resident in Hooper. He lived alone in Hooper at his home after his children were married. He never married again and was a widower for 32 years. His belief in the Gospel of Jesus Christ never dimmed. During the later part of his life, he developed a nervous condition which caused him to shake his head back and forth, up and down. The constant movement worsened with age. Eventually, he had to be fed. He passed away on November 29, 1918 at age 87 and is buried in the Hooper, Utah cemetery next to his beloved Grace.



GRACE LIPROT RIGBY

1841-1886

Grace was born to farming parents. Her birth took place in Bedford, Leigh, Lancashire, England on January 13, 1841. She learned the alphabet and numbers at her mother's knee while stitching a sampler. Her mother taught her to do beautiful embroidery work. Her mother died when Grace was sixteen years old. Grace was apprenticed as a seamstress in England. She was baptized a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on June 17, 1852.

Grace married John Rigby, a coal miner, in September 1860. After their marriage, John was baptized into the Church. Soon after that, they made plans to immigrate to America. They sailed on the ship "Cynosure" on May 30, 1863. They crossed the Plains and arrived in Salt Lake City on October 4, 1863.

Before leaving England, John and she had an unusual experience. As John was returning home one evening after a day's work at the mine, he saw a white pig trotting along the top of a concrete wall which was about three feet high. Momentarily his attention was distracted from the pig, and when he glanced back, the pig was gone. John looked on both sides of the wall and searched the whole area; he could find nothing. It was such an extraordinary happening, that he related it to Grace when he got home. Grace decided it was a warning to him of some imminent danger and advised John not to go to the mine the next day. He heeded the advice.

It was the habit of John to always be in the mine before his partner. He was generally at work half an hour or more prior to the starting bell ringing. That morning at nine o'clock, John's excited partner rushed to the house and told him that just as he was about to step into the area where they had been working the day before, the ceiling caved in and his first thought was of John. He would have been killed.

Upon their arrival in Utah, they went to Ogden to settle. Grace raised peach and apple trees and current bushes. She was very happy when she got her first sewing machine. It was run by a hand wheel instead of a treadle. She made all of the family's clothing. She frequently tailored men's suits for ZCMI. She also taught sewing to the Relief Society sisters and assisted neighbors with her expert ability.

From her home, she witnessed the railroad coming through Ogden in 1869. It sounded like old times in England. Their land was right on the edge of the railroad. They soon sold their property and moved to Hooper, where Grace and her sons helped John build a house.

Grace had a good singing voice. She used to tell Bible stories and sing songs to her children. She was bright and alert and enjoyed having fun. Her health was very frail, but she did all that she could while on earth to further the work of the Gospel. She used every bit of energy she had to help others and care for her family.

Grace passed away on March 30, 1886 at the age of forty-five, leaving her husband and five children. She is buried in the Hooper Cemetery

JOHN THOMAS RIGBY 1865-1940



John Thomas Rigby was born October 10, 1865, to Grace Liptrot and John Rigby. He was born hale and hearty in a humble one-room adobe house 12 feet by 14 feet with a fireplace in the east wall. Almost on cue the night of his birth, the rain which had been threatening all day began to pore down. In an effort to keep the damp away from mother and baby, the few available pans and containers were distributed about the humble cabin to catch the water dripping in from the sodden roof.

John Thomas was four years old when he moved with his parents and two brothers to Hooper. When John Thomas was nine years old, his father got him a colt. He had the job of herding cows. He and his brothers liked to chase the chickens and hear them squawk. When their parents weren't there, they liked to ride the calves for a little excitement.

Grandfather Liptrot taught John Thomas to read and write and to do sums. He taught him so well that by the time he started school, he was placed in the third grade. John Thomas's English accent, which his parents and grandfather had given him, caused some amusement for the other pupils. John and his brothers attended school for only a few weeks each winter. Even during these few weeks, school hours had to be fitted around duties at the farm.

Since his mother's health was never good, John Thomas helped a great deal around the house. As a result, Grace taught John Thomas to knit and to cook. He also helped with the care of the smaller children and they all adored their big brother.

John Thomas knew the meaning of Proverbs 13:19, "*The desire accomplished is sweet to the soul,*" for he was a man who could set a goal and accomplish it. Many of his desires and accomplishments are recorded in his diary. He writes, "When I commenced keeping a diary, my age was 12 years, 2 months, and 22 days. It was the last of January 1878." In his diary he mentions going to singing school and studying violin. He graduated from Brigham Young College in Logan with a focus on modern history. His desire was to be a school teacher. Consequently, he became a bachelor teacher in Bern, Idaho, where he met and married the brown-eyed, brown-haired, attractive Eliza Rebecca Kunz. His wife became one of his students.

That spring John T. bought a ranch at Gray's Lake where the newly weds set up housekeeping. Early one morning, they were awakened by a vigorous pounding on their door. The excited rider was warning them that the Indians were on the war path and that they should leave immediately. John T. and Lizzie talked it over and decided to make it a matter of prayer. They felt impressed to stay and take care of their cattle. Their hired man agreed with them. The rest of the people fled to Soda Springs to safety. As John and Lizzie were milking, they looked up and saw the Indians coming in the distance. They knew the Indians were impressed by bravery. Sure enough, the Indians were decked out in war paint and their long wagon train pulled along side the corral and stopped. John T. went to meet the chief who asked for something to eat. Thinking to be good to him, he handed him a pan of cold milk with cream on it. The chief blew the cream off and drank the milk. Lizzie shared what bread she had and the band departed. They felt that the Lord had indeed protected them from the Indians who had explained to John T. that they were going to the reservation to bury their dead who had died in battle.

To John and Eliza were born 12 children. All of the children have written tributes to their parents thanking them for requiring them to use good grammar, taking them to church every Sunday, teaching them the value of work, and sharing with their family a love of music. It was in 1940, several years after he had been afflicted with Parkinson's disease, that he told Eliza that his mother had come to him and told him that she would come and get him in six days. Sure enough, in six days he died of pneumonia, on June 1, 1940, in Logan, Utah. He was buried in Bern, Idaho.

WILLIAM HENRY RIGBY
1866-1879

William Henry Rigby, son of John and Grace Rigby, lived a short 12 years. He was born November 29, 1866 and died 24 January 1879. During those years he worked with his brother John T. to build their family home.

When the school house was finished in 1876, John T. and Willie started school. Because the boys needed to help on the farm, they only went to school a few weeks each year. In the School Trustees Annual Report of District # 6, which was Hooper, dated November 1, 1876, we find some interesting facts. There were two female teachers and one male teacher. They taught 78 male children and 71 female children between the ages of six and 16. The average daily attendance was 99. A salary of \$350 was paid to the male teacher and \$300 to the female teacher.

The boys were taught songs by their mother and learned bible stories.

In January 1879, Grandfather William Liptrot made the following entries in his journal:

- 19 January 1879, Sunday, at home. William Henry began to be sick.
- 21 January 1879, Monday, William Henry worse.
- 22 January 1879, Tuesday, William Henry worse.
- 23 January 1879, Wednesday, William Henry worse.
- 24 January 1879, Thursday, William Henry died.
- 26 January 1879, Monday, William Henry interred in the Hooper Cemetery.

Such terse expressions mask what must have been an overwhelming sense of loss that his grandson, his names sake, should depart this world in so short a time.

JOSEPH LIPTROT RIGBY
1869-1872

Joseph Liptrot Rigby was born June 8, 1869 and died March 26, 1872, thus being two years and 11 months at his death. Joseph was the third son born in the covenant to John and Grace Rigby. When he was four months old, the family moved to Hooper.

Their life in Hooper centered on farm work. They were sowing wheat, planting potatoes, planting beans, and hauling straw. A shallow well had been dug on the farm. It was probably a cistern dug for the purpose of catching water. Being almost three, Joseph was walking well, but apparently he got too close to the edge of the cistern and tumbled in. The water wasn't deep, but it was deep enough that he drowned. A frantic search was made for little Joseph, and they found him face down in the water.

An interesting commentary on the death of Joseph came from Thomas Halsall in a letter which he wrote to Ray Rigby from England. "I well remember the years the story lasted, about the little boy being drowned in the well. How he got there in the well was for long the subject of many a far-fetched guess. The generally accept story was that a bear frightened the boy, and running for the house, he stumbled into the well."

As always, the strong faith of John and Grace and Grandfather Liptrot in the gospel sustained them in their sorrow.