

Ann Brazier Gunn Holyoak

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Transcription: Chad Nichols (step 4th great grandson)

Ann Brazier, daughter of William Brazier and Sarah Newill Brazer, was born 10 January 1793 or 1794, at Hertfordshire, England. She married John Gunn about 1820 and they had the following children: William, Lois (infant who died at 3 months), John III, Thomas, George, Mary Ann, Lois, Alfred, and Benjamin.

John died 27 October 1840 in England from an ear infection which caused a gathering in his head. The youngest of their nine children was born three months after his death – the oldest child was 18. An industrious family, the boys worked hard to help their mother obtain a livelihood. This deprived them of attending much school. Ann took in washing to help earn a living. With no washboard, she had to rub everything between her hands.

Her son Thomas went to London to work. While there he went to a meeting of the Mormon Church in the Finsbury Branch in London with some acquaintances. He was favorably impressed, and eventually baptized. Ann became converted and was baptized 20 October 1854. Her brother, William Brazier, was the only other member of her parent's family to join the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

In April 1855, Ann Brazier Gunn, her two daughters, Lois and Mary Ann, and her sons, Thomas, William, John George, Alfred, and Benjamin, left England for America. They sailed on board the ship "Chimborazo." After a five week voyage they landed safely at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on 27 May 1855, where they remained for five years earning enough money to continue westward. A daughter, Lois Woodford, died there in March of 1858.

The family left Philadelphia in May 1860, traveling by train and then boat up the Missouri River to what is now Omaha, Nebraska. They left Omaha 19 June 1860 in Captain John Smith's company and entered the Salt Lake Valley through Parley's Canyon on 1 September 1860. During the trip Mary Ann's husband, John Aday, was accidentally shot and killed by his own gun. Thomas buried one child enroute. William Brazier (Ann's brother) left England in March 1860 and settled in Salt Lake City.

In 1861 or 1862, Ann Brazier Gunn went with two of her children, George and Mary Ann Aday, to Southern Utah and settled in Parowan, Iron County, Utah. After some time, she married George Holyoak. This marriage meant a home for Ann and a companion for George. Not much information exists about her pioneer life in Parowan. George died in Parowan in 1875. Mary Ann married Hyrum Paramore. Thomas spent a short time in Parowan, but settled in Adamsville. William settled in Hoytsville, while John, Alfred, and Benjamin lived in Salt Lake City.

Ann had a round face and brown eyes. She died at Parowan on 6 February 1878 at age 84 and is buried in the Parowan City Cemetery. Her gravestone merely bears the initials "A H."