

Short History of Thomas Mendenhall, Sr.

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Thomas Mendenhall, son of Abraham Mendenhall and Elizabeth Wells, was born 10 March 1806, at North Carlson, Delaware. He married Mary Ann Sinex, daughter of John Sinex and Susannah Stidham.

In the year of 1843 he joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. his wife joined three years later in 1846. Before joining the church they were very desirous of coming west and joining the Saints in Utah. They left Delaware and went to Nauvoo where they began making plans for the long hazardous journey across the plains. On the 22 of July 1845 their little son, Edmond, who was almost four years old, passed away. 27 April 1847 they lost their baby girl, Elizabeth. She was two months old.

They left Nauvoo and started westward but after reaching Council Bluffs, his wife became critically ill and passed away on 27 April 1848, leaving her husband with four children to care for alone. She was buried at Council Bluffs. In March 1850 he married Catherine Barton and they continued on the journey westward, reaching Salt Lake City on 15 September 1852 and settled at Spanish Fork.

In the spring of 1860 Thomas with his family came with others to Idaho and settled Franklin, Idaho. He was a farmer and trader, traveling between Franklin and Salt Lake City, buying and selling merchandise.

His second wife passed away and he married Margretta Nielson. He was the father of six children who were Susannah, George Madison, Louis, Henry, Edmond, Thomas Jr., and Elizabeth.

He died at Dayton, Idaho on 2 September 1888, at the home of his son George Mendenhall.