

Mary Ann Clark

1847-1916



Mary Ann was born in 1847 in Cambridge, England to Joseph Onion Clark and Ann Clark. She came to America with her parents when she was five years old, and crossed the plains to Salt Lake City when she was ten years old.

As a seamstress, Mary Ann's mother was gone much of the time, so Mary Ann took care of the house and older children. Her mother demanded strict obedience of her children and administered very severe punishment. She was very impatient, quick tempered, and loved to scold. Her father was the opposite -- patient, kind, and pleasant. Although they had been converted to the LDS Church and come west with the pioneers, after living in Salt Lake City for thirty years and seeing much wickedness and enduring so much persecution, Joseph and Ann left the L.D.S. Church.

Everyone in the family, except Mary Ann, moved back to Independence, Missouri and became members of the Reorganized LDS Church.

Mary Ann was short, only five feet tall, and had brown, curly ringlets. She was much like her father in temperament.

One evening she attended a dinner dance. At the dinner table, Samuel Stewart placed her plate on his. When asked why he did that, he said, "She just as well start eating with me now. She will be my wife anyway." When Mary Ann was sixteen, they were married.

When Samuel's family came from Scotland and found he had married, his father was very displeased--but the family still lived with them for a while. Times were hard and they had little. Food was mostly bread, potatoes, and molasses. Mary Ann knitted a pair of socks once to trade for a beef 's head. Another time she knitted a pair for a pig's head, but the cheeks had been cut out, so not much meat was left.

In her patriarchal blessing, Mary Ann was told she had the power to heal. She couldn't see anyone or anything hurt or suffer. She nursed her children through diphtheria. She prayed to know what to do. A voice told her to go to the cupboard. In front of the dishes was a little blue box two inches square. She boiled the contents in water and gave it to the children. They recovered that very day with no ill effects. Another time she blessed one of the horses with consecrated oil. It soon recovered.

She fed the Indians many pancakes and was kind to them during the Indian trials, and they never harmed her.

She was also a visionary person. Often she had true dreams of situations of the future or someone away. She was very humble, had a lot of faith and trusted in the Lord. She was fussy about her appearance. She always had a pleasant expression and a sunny nature. She always sang at her work, no matter what her problems. She never slapped or spanked any of her children.

Before she died, all twelve of her children were married and endowed in the Logan Temple.