

BIOGRAPHY

ELIZABETH ANN (THOMAS) COVINGTON

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21 April 1820 - December 1847 - Husband: Robert Dockery Covington

Arrived in Salt Lake Valley, with her family, October 1, 1847. An early pioneer

Elizabeth Ann THOMAS was born to John Pledger Thomas Sr., and Sarah COVINGTON on 21 April 1820, in the town of Marlboro, South Carolina. By the standards of her day she was educated in the local schools and taught all the important things of managing the household of a plantation.

She met Robert Dockery COVINGTON during these early years of growing up. He lived just across the border in the community of Rockingham, Richmond County, North Carolina. Elizabeth Ann and Robert Dockery were married 2 February 1839, in Rockingham, North Carolina.

Shortly after their marriage they moved to Somerville, Noxubee County, Mississippi, where her family had moved and established new plantations. With the help of slave labor they soon had a thriving plantation.

While living in the vicinity of Somerville, Elizabeth Ann gave birth to three children:

John Thomas born 7 August 1840

Emily Jane born 1 January 1842

Sarah Elizabeth born 1 February 1845

In 1843 Mormon missionaries, Elder Benjamin CLAPP, Samuel HURLEY and an Elder HULETT, were preaching the Gospel in a town 10 miles away. One of the THOMAS family, Daniel, found the strange religion interesting and brought home a Book of Mormon. After some three weeks of listening to the Elders preach, studying, praying and reading the Book of Mormon, Robert Dockery, his wife Elizabeth Ann and members of the THOMAS family were baptized on 3 February 1843, thus becoming members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

The call for the Saints to "gather" in Nauvoo, Illinois, brought about their leaving their life on the plantation. With members of the THOMAS family they moved to Nauvoo, Illinois, in 1845, arriving just prior to the Exodus.

During their short stay in Nauvoo, Elizabeth Ann received her patriarchal Blessing from Patriarch John Smith. Both she and Robert Dockery received their Endowments in the Nauvoo Temple, 20 January 1846. They departed Nauvoo soon after and spent the remainder of 1846 at "Winter Quarters" in Nebraska. It was here that their youngest daughter, Sarah Elizabeth became ill and died on 6 November 1846. She was buried alongside the many Saints who perished that year.

After spending over a year at "Winter Quarters", the time had come for the Saints to travel West. Brigham Young and his advanced group had already departed, in search of the place they were to settle. After forming up five new groups, each under different leaders of groups of 100, the order was given to move out. On June 17, 1847 Elizabeth and her family moved out under the leadership of Edward HUNTER. Elizabeth Ann was heavy with child and this proved to be a very difficult journey for her.

Some six weeks into the journey on 1 August 1847 at what is now Council Bluff, Nebraska, Elizabeth gave birth to a bouncing baby boy, whom they named Robert Laborius COVINGTON. He was their fourth child, one of whom had died at Winter Quarters, leaving three in tow to make the journey to their new home in the wilderness.

As they neared the end of the journey, in company with four other groups scattered on the trail, the Edward Hunter Group, numbering 352 men, women and children was the third group to enter the valley and did so on 1 October 1847. The first group under Captain Spencer, with 362 Saints entered the valley on 29 September, the second group comprising of 318 souls under Captain Smoot, entered the valley following the Spencer group. The last two groups one under Captain Grant with 331 members and the smaller group under Captain Rich with 127 members straggled into the valley during the 2nd to 4th of October. This group, or the five companies, totaled 1490 on arrival. Counting the initial group who arrived during the period 22-24 July, in company with Brigham Young, there were now 1638 Saints in the Valley. There were others who started with these initial groups but died on the trail, their graves marking the way for those to follow.

Elizabeth Ann was frail and weakened with the hardships of the journey. She fell ill of a severe respiratory infection and died December 7, 1847.

Her body was interred in the first pioneer cemetery, just east of the then Pioneer Fort. The cemetery was known as block 49, covering the area from 300-400 West and 300-400 South. The Pioneer Fort is now Pioneer Park. The pioneer cemetery was evidently lost in the building boom and it wasn't until 1986, while contractors were excavation the area, that 32 pioneer bodies were uncovered, nine of which were adults. Of this group only nine of the remains were identified, one of which was that of Elizabeth Ann (THOMAS) COVINGTON. These 32 bodies were reinterred on Memorial Day 1987 in the Pioneer Trail Park Cemetery in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Elizabeth Ann's 27 years of life was short but there were many grandchildren produced by her surviving children, John, Emily and Robert. A count would show 44 births, 14 would die in infancy but the remaining 30, most of whom married would carry forward her posterity into untold numbers. Thus her history, courage and pioneer spirit, plus her courage as an early, faithful, devoted wife and mother to her family and servant of our Lord will live on through eternity.

Following her death she was sealed to her husband Robert Dockery COVINGTON, 28 December 1856, in the Endowment House in Salt Lake. Representing her at the sealing, as proxy, was Nancy Roberts COVINGTON, third wife of Robert Dockery, whom he married and had sealed to him the same day.

All four of Elizabeth Ann's children were later sealed to her and her husband. Three of them, John Thomas, Sarah Elizabeth, and Robert Laborius, were sealed on 28 February 1879 in the St. George Temple, St. George, Utah. The fourth, Emily Jane (COVINGTON) FARR's sealing, to her parent, did not take place until 25 October 1967 and was performed in the Salt Lake Temple, Salt Lake city, Utah. Thus her dreams were fulfilled, that of being reunited with her family for all time and eternity.

Husband: Robert Dockery COVINGTON
Born: 20 August 1815, Rockingham North Carolina
Married: Elizabeth Ann THOMAS, 2 February 1839, Rockingham, North Carolina
Died: 2 June 1902, Washington, Washington County, Utah and is buried there.

Children - Four: As follows:

Married
Sept 1862

Wife

#1 John Thomas COVINGTON
Born: 7 August 1840
Died: 13 June 1908
Buried: Torrey, Wayne Co., Utah

#1 Johanna LUNDBLAD
Born 2 Sept 1846
Died 25 Sept 1903
Children: 10

Three wives - 30 children`

15 March 1875

#2 * Elizabeth Aikin ADAMS
A.K.A.: Elizabeth ADAMS and
Elizabeth Mann ADAMS
Born: 19 September 1854
Died: 29 October 1927
Children: 13

7 March 1883

#3 Lydia Mae CARLING
Born: 1 March 1866
Died 30 March 1953
Children: 7

#2 Emily Jane (COVINGTON) FARR 17 October 1858
Born: 1 January 1842
Died: March 1921
Children: 14
Wife #1 of four wives
Buried: Taylor, Utah

Winslow FARR, Jr.
(Four wives)
Born: 11 May 1837
Died: 18 February 1913

#3 Sarah Elizabeth COVINGTON Child
Born: 1 February 1845
Died: 6 November 1846
Buried: At Winter Quarters in
Nebraska

Child

#4 Robert Laborius COVINGTON 14 January 1892
Born: 1 August 1847
Died: 27 December 1928
Buried: Washington, Utah
Children: None

Rasmina (Iverson) COOPER
Born:
Died:
Children:

*Temple files show her listed under these three names 3-20.97

Biography Prepared April 1, 1997 by:

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Corrections and additions to this biography are invited and will be appreciated. The information was learned from many sources - dates have been verified as far as possible from official records.