

MARY JANE GOODRIDGE FLINT

Mary Jane Goodridge Flint, daughter of Benjamin and Penelope Goodridge, was born on the 11th of June, 1825, at Lunenburg, Massachusetts. She, with her father's family, left with the Wilford Woodruff Company for the Salt Lake Valley. On July 10, 1850, they reached the Platte River where May Jane was baptized by Wilford Woodruff.

The teams consisted of from two to five yoke of oxen to one wagon. In a stampede there would often be thirty to forty teams running in all directions, knocking down anything that happened to be in their way. Wilford Woodruff ran into the midst of one of these stampedes and rescued his wife, Emma and several others. Another time, Prescott Hardy was injured in the arm and thigh. Many others were injured at this time but none were killed. Mary Jane drove a yoke of oxen all the way across the plains and one day when they stampeded she narrowly escaped death. There happened to be an opening through which she fled, fortunately without injury. She often said that those who had never witnessed a stampede could not imagine the awful confusion and terror that reigned.

On December 24, 1850, Mary Jane married William Flint, having known him only three weeks. To reassure her as to his respectability, he referred her to Heber C. Kimball, for whom he had worked. She went to Brother Kimball, who recommended William very highly and told her she would be making no mistake. After their marriage they went to Farmington, Davis County, where they lived in a dugout until they could get enough logs to build a house. Her life there was very hard, with quite a few exciting incidents. One day while she and her husband and brother were eating dinner, a large snake dropped by its tail from the roof and hung over a pan of milk. Another time a snake was curled up under the chair on which she was sitting. As she was expecting a baby soon, her husband didn't want her to know so he asked her to step outside for a moment. He then went in and killed the snake. During a time when the Indians were hostile and her husband was standing guard against them, an old Indian slipped into the house and demanded a gun that was standing back of a bed. Mary Jane refused to let him have it. He jumped across the bed, snatched the gun, which was loaded, and was pointing it at her when their big dog grabbed him by the leg. The Indian dropped the gun and begged her to call off the dog, which she did. He had been bitten quite badly, so Mary Jane bathed the wound and let him stay a while. When her husband came home, he said the

Indian could remain all night. The only light they had at night was a lighted rag in a tin of grease. It was called a "slut." Later on she made candles out of tallow.

In 1856, they moved from Farmington to Salt Lake City and made their home in the 19th Ward on the corner of 2nd West and 3rd North, where they lived the remainder of their lives. Mary Jane wove the materials for her family's clothes, linsey, flannel and worsted. After her husband was incapacitated by an accident, she added to the family income by weaving beautiful carpets for other people. They raised their children without ever having a doctor. Mary Jane was the first to pass away. The last year of her life she was seriously ill with cancer. There were few drugs available in those days to alleviate pain, but she her sufferings with great fortitude. She died January 19, 1883, at the age of 58.

William Flint, one of the Utah pioneers of 1848, was born Jan. 28, 1814, in Onondaga County, N.Y. He became a convert to Mormonism in the State of New York through the labors of Orson Hyde. He located in Nauvoo, Illinois, then came west during the exodus and spent two years at Winter Quarters. In crossing the plains in 1848, he drove a team for Mary Fielding Smith, mother of the late President Joseph Fielding Smith, from Winter Quarters to the Three Crossings of the Sweetwater. From there Mr. Flint was sent back on the road to assist he later companies of that year's emigration to the Valley. After his arrival in the Salt Lake Valley, he married Mary Jane Goodridge in 1850. Eight children were the issue of this marriage, namely, Sarah Jane, Valeria Ann, William L., Fidalia (who later married Henry Jacobs), Harriet, Abel, George, and Sophia. William Flint died Sept. 21, 1890, at the home of his daughter, Valeria, in Parley's Canyon. He was a farmer by avocation, and died a faithful Latter-Day Saint, being the only one of his father's family who joined the church.

—From the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers Lesson For January 1972, compiled by Kate B. Carter