

# Margaret Jane Meeks Hamilton

Margaret Jane Meeks (also known as Peggy Jane) was born 8 May 1838 in Brown Township, Champaign, Illinois.<sup>1</sup> She was the fourth of five children of Dr. Priddy Meeks and Sarah Mahurin (all of her siblings had died by age 12).<sup>2</sup> In 1840, the family was living in Brown, Illinois,<sup>3</sup> where they joined the Mormon Church. Margaret's father served as a bishop and then they joined the saints in Nauvoo in 1842. The family crossed plains with the Jedediah M Grant and Joseph B Noble company to the Great Salt Lake Valley, arriving in October 1847.<sup>4</sup> Margaret's father served as the first president of the Society of Health.<sup>5</sup>

On the 1850 census, they were living in Iron County, Utah Territory.<sup>6</sup> Margaret's father helped to settle the town of Parowan, Iron, Utah Territory, in 1851.<sup>7</sup> The next year, Margaret married Samuel Hamilton in Hamiltons Fort, Iron, Utah Territory. They had six children. They lived in Parowan in 1856<sup>8</sup> and then moved to Hamiltons Fort, where her husband was appointed postmaster in 1859.<sup>9</sup>

Margaret and her husband and two children were farming in Hamiltons Fort in 1860.<sup>10</sup> They moved to Dixie for six years then back to Cedar City.<sup>11</sup> On the 1870 census, she was living with her husband and five children, farming in Harrisburg, Washington, Utah Territory.<sup>12</sup> In 1873, her husband took a second wife; they had one son. He died in 1874 in Harrisburg (it is interesting to note that his second wife, Lucy Marie Fuller, remarried to David Gordon Davies and she had fifteen more children).<sup>13</sup>

Margaret was a widow, living with four children in Harrisburg, in 1880.<sup>14</sup> By 1900, she was living with her oldest son in Leeds, Washington, Utah.<sup>15</sup> They moved to Cedar City in 1916<sup>16</sup> where her son was a veterinarian, constable, and fish and game commissioner.<sup>17</sup> After a lingering illness, Margaret died 12 March 1922 in Cedar City and was buried there.<sup>18</sup> Margaret was considered one of the oldest residents of early Silver Reef.<sup>19</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel, 1847-1868.

<sup>2</sup> *Familysearch.org*

<sup>3</sup> Unites States Census, 1840.

<sup>4</sup> Utah Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel Database, 1847-1868.

<sup>5</sup> Dr. Priddy Meeks memorial monument in Orderville, Utah.

<sup>6</sup> United States Census, 1850.

<sup>7</sup> Dr. Priddy Meeks memorial monument in Orderville, Utah; Iron County Record, 17 March 1922, p. 1.

<sup>8</sup> Utah Compiled Census and Census Substitutes Index, 1850-1890.

<sup>9</sup> Iron County Record, 17 March 1922, p. 1.

<sup>10</sup> United States Census, 1860.

<sup>11</sup> Iron County Record, 17 March 1922, p. 1.

<sup>12</sup> United States Census, 1870.

<sup>13</sup> *Familysearch.org*

<sup>14</sup> United States Census, 1880.

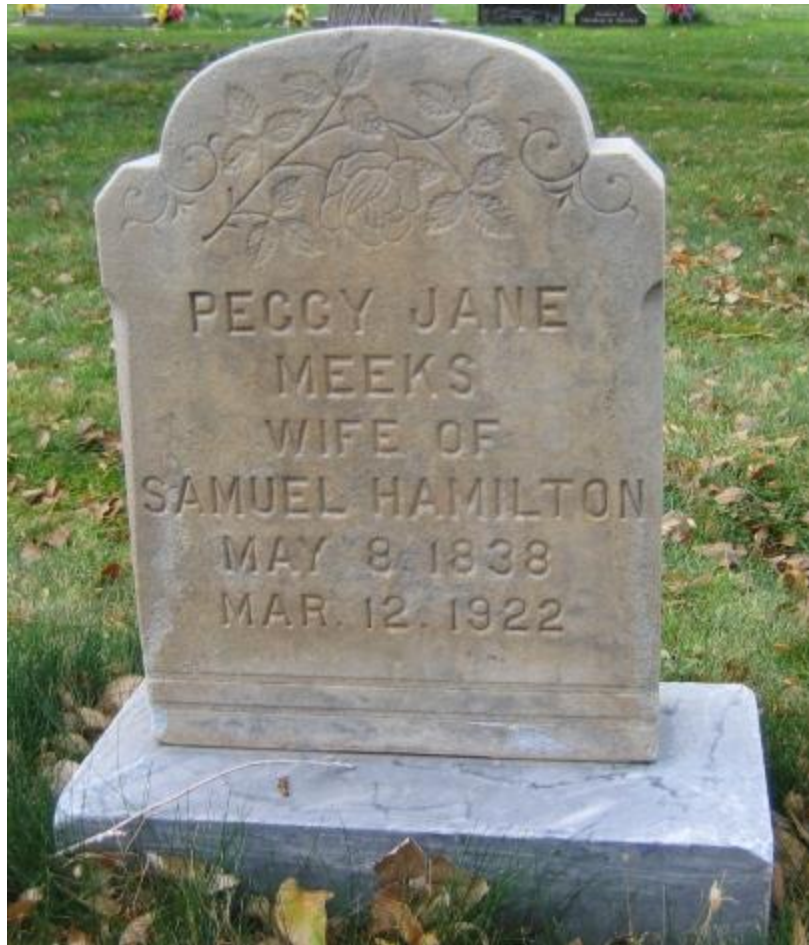
<sup>15</sup> United States Census, 1900.

<sup>16</sup> Utah Death Certificates, 1904-1964.

<sup>17</sup> United States Census, 1920; Iron County Record, 1 August 1919, p. 3; 31 October 1919, p. 4; 26 August 1921, p. 8.

<sup>18</sup> Utah Death Certificates, 1904-1964; Utah Death Registers, 1847-1966.

<sup>19</sup> Iron County Record, 17 March 1922, p. 3.



(Image from *Findagrave.com*)

Research by Elaine Young, Silver Reef Foundation historian, 2017  
Please email [eyoung@youngzones.org](mailto:eyoung@youngzones.org) for additions or corrections