

THE LIFE OF HUGH MOON

Hugh Moon was born August 5 at 10 o'clock in the morning in the year of our Lord, 1815. He was the fifth son of Mathias Moon, who was the son of William Moon. This William Moon married a woman by the name of Hannah Herefore, and had seven sons born unto him. These are their names; (In Lancheshire, England) Henry, John, Mathias, Edward, William Thomas and Robert Moon.

Mathias Moon married a woman by the name of Alice Plumb and had five sons and four daughters. These are their names in the order they were born; Hannah Moon was born May 29, 1802 at 1 o'clock in the morning; Dorothy moon was born February 9, 1804 at 7 o'clock in the morning; Richard Moon was born June 20, 1805 at 4 o'clock in the morning; William Moon was born April 25, 1807 at 1 o'clock in the morning; John was born July 2, 1809 at 7 o'clock at night; Lydia Moon was born October 9, 1811 at 7 o'clock in the morning; Thomas Moon was born September 30, 1813 at 6 o'clock in the morning; HUGH MOON was born August 5, 1815 at 10 o'clock in the morning; Alice Moon was born July 31, 1818 at 10 o'clock at night.

The following is taken from the diary of Hugh Moon.

My Grandfather was a strictly honest and upright man. He belonged to the Church of England. (This was told me by my Father). My Father also belonged to the Church of England for some twenty years, then he joined the Methodists. Grandfather belonged to the Methodists about Forty years when two men by the name of Heber C. Kimball and Orson Hyde came from America preaching the words of "Endless life". He heard then talk and preach, he believed and was baptized with all his house. He lived a few years enjoying the blessings of the Gospel of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day saints, which he had lived for and hoped to see, and died with a hope of a glorious resurrection.

I was the youngest son of my father. My parents were not very rich and did not give me much schooling. When I was fourteen years of age, I bought books to instruct myself. I learned to read well, then I studied figures until I got a knowledge of them. I was beginning to study the Latin language when the True Gospel came to my Fathers's house, then I turned my attention entirely to the study of the Bible and the principles of the everlasting Gospel.

My brother John was traveling through the country places selling tea, coffee, spices, etc.. He was called to go out to preach and I took his place traveling etc., yet I ceased not in bearing testimony to the truth we had received. Many would rail again it but the honest would believe.

I sold out to a man by the name of William Moon, a Roman Catholic. He was very much astonished to hear me talk to my customers when he went with me to learn the places and customs, but he hardened his heart and rejected the truth.

When I was a boy, I worked with my father on the farm. He used to instruct me in the great many righteous principles, which were engraved on my heart in the days of my youth and which I shall never forget. May God reward him for all his diligence to teach children true principles, that is in the day when the Trumpet shall sound and awake the dead and Christ will come forth to inherit eternal life and to stand at the head of His family.

My father and mother had a custom of going to pray in secret every day at noon. They prayed every night and morning with their family. They taught their children to strictly be honest in all their dealings.

These men told us that God required all his people to gather together in the land of America, because he was about to destroy the wicked and ungodly from off the face of the earth. After the death of my father we sold all our property that we could not take with us, to start to the land of America. Brother Heber C. Kimball told me to write everything that transpired down in my journal from the time we left our homes.

We left Penworthen to go to Liverpool and take shipping for America on the 30th day of May in the year 1840.

We got all of our luggage on board that night. We brought some more provisions the day after. June 2nd we bought Richard Moon, my oldest brother, 36 yards of linen, for a tent. When we returned to the ship we found Elders Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball aboard. They had stretched a curtain across our cabin and commenced blessing the company. They bid us walk in. They showed us a way and gave us directions about the route we should take to Commerce.

June 5th - We went out into the river about 2 o'clock.

June 6th - About 4 o'clock we were let loose in the river and set sail.

June 7th - Sunday, most of us were sick.

June 8th - We had a strong and boisterous wind.

June 9th - Some of began to get a little better.

From about this time to the 18th of June we had much sea sickness, sea sickness and flukes and a strong head wind.

June 19th - The passengers were aroused to much excitement by the sailors beating the old cook. The captain and the first and second mates were called. They laid hold of the sailor who began the fight, to put him in irons, but all the balance took sides with him. After quite a stir, they got the sailors quieted down again.

June 28th - We had a fine day, but with much sickness aboard.

July 2nd - We got to the banks of Newfoundland, saw a fishing craft, bought some fish, etc.

July 17th - We cast anchor in sight of New York City. We stopped in the river two days, then come to the city, stayed in the city eight days. I could neither sleep, eat, speak nor drink anything. They carried me to Brother Addison Averred's room. William W. Rust gave me some medicine which opened my throat. Sister Averred nursed me with all the care of a mother till I could be moved again.

July 28th - We took steam boat for Philadelphia, sailed 2 hours and 15 minutes, then took railway 2 hours 22 minutes, then steam boat again. Reached Philadelphia at 3 o'clock.

July 29th - I left Philadelphia for Pittsburgh.

August 6th - Got to Pittsburgh about 10 o'clock at night.

August 7th - Rented a house in Piraston, Pittsburgh.

August 21st - Crossed the Allegheny River, rented a house in Allegheny City.

October 2nd - Thomas Moon died at 25 minutes past 10 o'clock at night of Bilious Fever.

October 9th - Moved out into the country about fifteen miles, rented a log house in Pine Township. The waters were so low we could not travel, so we went into the country to thresh grain till spring.

January 19th, 1841 - Henry Moon, my uncle died. Age 71 years.

April 3rd - Went to Pittsburgh, put our things on a boat by the name of William Penn.

April 4th - Started up the river, got to Wheeling at 6 o'clock.

April 7th - Touched at Cincinnati.

April 12th - Got to St. Louis.

April 16th - Got to Montrose, saw my Aunt Lydia and brother William Clayton. He helped us to move our luggage to a log cabin half a mile from the river.

April 20th - We got Uncle Thomas Moon's oxen and moved to a log cabin about three miles from the river, or rather from Montrose.

At the time of mobbing at Nauvoo, myself and two sisters and my brother, John, came over to Montrose. My youngest sister, Alice, had got married to a man by the name of James Pulley.

August 4th 1846 - I went over the river with Marie E. Mott to get married. We were married at William Mott's house by Elder Thomas Cottam. We lived for a while with my brother John and two sisters, and then I rented a log house of Grant Cuttervack.

October 21st 1847 - Hugh Moon Jr., son of Hugh and Maria Moon was born. There was a man by the name of Robert Wilson working near to where we lived in a Copper Shop. I went and engaged with him to learn me the copper trade in order to make a outfit to go to Salt Lake Valley, where a company of

pioneers had gone the year before. I made sufficient to buy tires, iron, etc. for a wagon, the timber of which I got out while at Nauvoo.

Hyrum Mott, uncle to my wife, paid for the black smithing, which was a great blessing to us, for we were poor in consequence of sickness. Maria, my wife, had a yoke of small steers and two cows, or rather a cow with a broken hip bone and a heifer. I made my wagon myself. We hitched up our little team and put our little duds in the wagon and in company with Moses Whitter, started for Salt Lake Valley on May 15th 1848.

June 1st - We got to Pisgah.

June 14th - We reached Council Bluffs.

July 2nd - We started for Salt Lake.

July 6th - Crossed Elkhorn. We overtook Amaseky Lyman's company under the command of Captain Fleak.

July 8th - We camped on the Platte River.

July 16th - We crossed the Upperfork.

July 28th - A pleasant day, hard drive. About 6 o'clock we drove up between the Platte River and a chain of Sant Hills, stopped a little while, then was turned back by Captain Fleak. We went 3/4 of a mile and camped.

July 30th - Touched at the Platte and had meeting, divided the company into three divisions, brother A. Lyman gave some good instruction etc.

August 7th - Met a party of Sioux Indians. They stopped the company, held a council, we gave a small donation then they let us go on.

August 19th - Crossed the Laramie Forks at the Fort.

August 29th - Came to Deer Creek. Stopped a week to recruit the stock.

September 28th - Crossed Green River.

October 11th - Came to Weber.

October 19th - Got to Salt Lake Valley.

Hugh Moon, Jr., son of Hugh and Maria Moon, died on the 7th of November 1848, being one year and seventeen days old. He died in consequence of the hardships of coming over the plains to Salt Lake.

When we got to Salt Lake, Brother Simon Baker invited us to come and camp in his field and help him with his crops. He was very kind to us and helped us all he could. He let us glean some buckwheat and gave us all the green corn we could eat.

December 11th - We moved to our appointed location in the First Ward of Great Salt Lake City, Lot No. 1, Block 17, where we had built a little cabin of 10 by 14, of poles and a dirt roof on it.

October 30th 1849 - At 10 o'clock in the morning, Dorothy Adealie Moon, daughter of Hugh and Maria Moon, was born in Salt Lake City.

July 12th 1850 - John Moon, my brother, died of cholera in traveling to Salt Lake City. He was 45 years of age.

Marie Emeline Moon, daughter of Hugh and Maria Moon, was born February 10th 1852, between 11 and 12 o'clock in the morning.

February 21st 1854 - Eveline Moon, daughter of Hugh and Maria Moon, was born, two minutes past 1 o'clock in the morning. Angeline Moon was born 20 minutes past 4 o'clock in the morning of the same day, twin girls.

A little while before the death of John Smith, uncle to Joseph Smith, I got the following blessing under his hands;

November 27, 1853

In the name of Jesus Christ, I place my hands upon your head as a Patriarch and seal upon you all the blessings and glories of the Redeemers Kingdom. You are of the blood and lineage of Ephriam and a lawful heir to the Everlasting Priesthood, which shall be confirmed upon you, teaching you mysteries which have been kept hid from before the foundation of the world. Your family shall increase like Jacob, be mighty in the Priesthood and Saviors upon Mount Zion, and inherit all the blessings which the Lord hath in store for those who walk uprightly. You shall be a counselor in Zion, have wisdom that none shall be able to gain say, live to see the winding up scene of wickedness and inherit all the blessings and glories of the Redeemers Kingdom, with all your Father's House, even so -- Amen.

Also on November 27th 1853, a blessing by the hands of John Smith, Patriarch, upon the head of Maria, Daughter of Abel and Lydia Mott, born Upper Canada, July 22, 1823;

In the name of Jesus Christ, I place my hands upon your head and seal upon you a Patriarchal or Father's blessing, in as much as you have no father to bless you. You shall have fathers and mothers and friends in abundance, you shall be blessed with health in your habitation, you shall have power to heal the sick in your house and to cast out devils, or do any work of miracle that shall be for the health or happiness of your family, you shall have peace in your house, you shall prosper in all your concerns in life, you shall have wisdom to direct you in righteousness to conduct all your affairs rightly. You shall live to see the winding up scene of this generation and receive all the blessings and glories of the Redeemers Kingdom with all your Father's house, for you are of the blood of Ephriam and a rightful heir to that inheritance, Amen.

From what you have read, you are aware of the fact that I had not a living son to my name at the time I was blessed by Father Smith, but shortly after I got acquainted with two young girls by the name of

ELIZABETH KEMMISH AND JANNETT KICOL, which were both married to me June 11, 1854, by President Brigham Young.

Lydia, daughter of Hugh and Jannett Moon, was born 8 April, 1855 at 33 minutes passed 6 in the morning.

Alice Elizabeth, daughter of Hugh and Elizabeth Moon was born May 5, 1855 at 45 minutes past seven in the evening.

Hugh Allazender, son of Hugh and Marie Moon, was born January 25th, 1856 at 1 o'clock in the morning.

Maria Emeline, daughter of Hugh and Maria Moon, died August 27th 1855, of croup, at 8 o'clock at night.

Ephriam Thomas, son of Hugh and Jannett Moon was born August 2, 1856, at three o'clock in the evening.

Manassah, son of Hugh and Jannett Moon, was born September 10, 1857 at 15 minutes past 2 o'clock in the morning.

Sarah Helen, daughter of Hugh and Elizabeth Moon, was born March 18, 1858 at five o'clock in the morning.

Joseph Benjamin, son of Hugh and Jannett Moon was born November 14, 1858, at 1 o'clock in the morning.

Helorum, son of Hugh and Elizabeth Moon, was born December 2, 1859 at ten o'clock in the morning.

Jannetta, daughter of Hugh and Jannett Moon, was born May 7, 1860, at half past 5 o'clock in the morning.

Lehi, son of Hugh and Maria Moon, was born July 17, 1860, at 4 o'clock in the evening.

Heleman Joseph, son of Hugh and Elizabeth Moon, was born November 3, 1861, at twenty minutes to 8 o'clock in the evening.

About 14 years ago I began making strong drink . The strong drink which the people had brought with them to Salt Lake being all used up, they began to inquire who would make a little for medical purposes, so agreeable to the commandment which says "wherefore, a commandment I give unto you that you shall not process wine, neither strong drink of your enemies, wherefore you shall partake of none except that it is made new among you, Yea in this my Father's Kingdom, which shall be build upon the earth." I commenced making in a small way, having saved the refuse while making molasses, for the purpose. Myself, Peter L. McCue, Bishop of the First Ward where I lived, and John Blamford, went to ask President Young's consent to make the refuse into strong drink. He told me to go ahead and make some, but be careful not to sell it to the young men who wanted to sport with it, so I made up all my refuse and sold it. It gave good satisfaction to all who bought it and when done, they wanted me to make more from grain. So I procured a license from the city council and enlarged the factory and continued making.

The business did very well. I made property fast, bought me a farm 21 miles north of Salt Lake City (Farmington). I build hog pens and yards for cattle and made a good deal of pork and beef every year, feeding the refuse of grain from the still.

Several times the City stopped me from making, and others would begin, but the people were not satisfied with the article they made. Then I would get a license again. The city authorities kept raising on my license, till they charged me one hundred and twenty five dollars a month. For renewing, they charged me one dollar, and together amounting to one thousand five hundred and twenty four dollar a year.

note-After 1/3d of the US Army invaded the Territory in June 1858, to quell the secessionist movement, Camp Floyd was established, November 1858, in the book Camp Floyd and the Mormons, page 75, the officers noted the alcohol drinks included, "...Moon's Best and Pure Dew From the Moon..." the cost for the whiskey available was \$12 a gallon.

The amount of liquor I made would average about twenty two and half gallons a day. I found out that the authorities wanted me to quit the business, so I went in partnership with a man by the name of McMasters, a rope and twine manufacture. We intended to manufacture all kinds of rope, from the cable to the shoemakers thread, also cloth from grain sacks to fine linen. To start a bone mill and grind up all the old bones in the country for manure, and drive one or two can mills during the time of making can molasses, for which purpose I put up a water wheel, thirty feet high, built a large vat to rot the hemp and flax in the stream. Built a shade long enough for common rope making, dug a cellar and built a foundation for a two story house.

To the Cotton Mission-

When we were busily engaged making molasses, Brother Thomas Bullock came and showed me a written notice of my appointment to go three hundred and fifty miles South for the purpose of raising cotton and tobacco with my family and locate there to live. I had laid out a great many thousands dollars in my new establishment, which I left in the care of Bishop Henry Moon, my brother-in-law and Joseph Porath, my clerk, to do whatever they thought best with it after I was gone south. They helped me to get ready all they possibly could, it getting late in the fall, buying oxen and wagons for the journey, grinding wheat and sacking flour.

We were ordered to take one year's breadstuff with us. The women were busy making sacks, wagon covers and packing up for the journey, two of my wives were near their confinement. Elizabeth had a boy four days before we started and was carried to her wagon when we were ready to start.

The neighbors, several of them stopped work to help us get ready, especially Bishop Henry Moon. Many feelings sorry to lose a useful neighbor. As there were many little items in our traveling south which are not of general interest, I will put it down in a chapter by itself.

November 7, 1861 - I left Salt Lake City to go scout to raise cotton and tobacco, with five wagons, twelve yoke of oxen, four cows, one pony and two horses. Tow of my wives, Elizabeth and Jannett, ten children, a hired girl by the name of Ester Barnes, five men as teamsters, Samuel I. Burgess, John Mudd, Richard Hawkins, John Pilling and William M. Mellon.

Camped at Cottonwood at Thomas Bullock's farm.

November 8th - Camped at Dry Creek, Joseph Booth and William Hobbs met us with a load of hay from American Fork, which was a great help to the stock, feed being all ate up so late in the fall.

November 9th - Camped at Provo River. Joseph Booth and Hobbs came again with hay.

November 10th - Camped at Spanish Fork bridge.

November 13th - Drove to Chicken Creek that day - rather windy, dusty and cool, roads pretty good.

November 14th - Camped at the Sevier River at the bridge. The river is about 80 or 90 feet wide and the water is rather muddy but good, the bridge is a poor thing. I suppose the man that put it up made money at it. We pitched the camp tent and sat the stove up. Elizabeth came out of her wagon for the first since she was carried into it at Salt Lake.

November 15th - We camped at Round Valley, when we got the tent pitched and all in it there came a storm. It hailed and the wind blew tremendously. We expected the tent to blow away. The rain beating through it in every direction. We finally got the women and children into the wagons, they gave three cheers for Zion, then three for cotton country.

November 16th - We left Round Valley at 10 o'clock. Camped at Cedar Springs. The day very cold for the little children.

November 17, 1861 - Sunday, Levi, Son of Hugh and Jannett Moon was born at 10 minutes past 9 o'clock at Buttermilk Fort on the road to the cotton country.

November 19th - Left Fillmore. It snowed a little but cleared off and was a fine day. We camped at Corn Creek.

November 20th - We left Corn creek. One wagon mired down, got out, drove to Dog Valley. It blew up cold, covered the ground with snow, very cold night.

November 21st - Left Dog Valley, rolled off in fine style but soon came to a very hard hill, double trees and the chain of the big wagon broke, letting the wagon and tongue and cattle go down hill. It soon locked but did no damage. We drove to Pine Creek but there happened to be no creek there, so we took it without water again. It was the coldest day we had had. The snow came 3 or 4 inches deep. All the children crying with the cold. We dug up the sage brush, shoveled away the snow. Pitched the tent, made a good fire, got the children in and the crying ceased.

November 22nd - Cold and clear, we got up the cattle and horses and rolled on. The roads very sloppy and rough. We doubled teams three times. Traveled through a canyon, on the tops of the hills, a strange road to Wild Oat Canyon.

November 23rd - Left Indian Creek. Camped at Beaver. We found it a good settlement. The people felt good towards the missionaries traveling to the cotton settlement. They found the missionaries would let them have their school house free.

November 24th - Left Beaver, had about 8 miles up hill in the Beaver hills. Had a fine day. When we got to the top, we tumbled down rapidly, traveled about three miles and camped for the night. We saw scrub pines from four to eight feet high, which I suppose is three or four hundred years old.

November 25th - We traveled fourteen miles, came to some springs, watered the stock, drove on. Camped without water tonight. There is a fine valley, all long and narrow, has a fine soil but no water for farming purposes, the road today very good. The weather getting warmer every day.

November 26th - Traveled uphill, passed through Paragonoy or Red Creed, roads pretty good, drove through Parawan, camped at the west gate.

November 27th - Traveled mostly uphill, found some sandy road going to Cedar, drove through Cedar and camped. I went and looked at the iron works, they have a doleful and forsaken appearance. Thousands of dollars must have been spent here to no avail.

November 28th - I got a ham, some corn, etc., of Bishop Lunt. Traveled over pretty good roads, mountains on the left, hills on the right, till we dropped into a narrow valley, traveled a while. We saw an opening to the south, which looked different to any we have seen before on this road. The mountains begin to slope down rapidly. We met a cool wind from this opening. We camped at a spring on the left, which had the best feed we had seen on the road.

November 29th - We started at 15 minutes past 10 o'clock, found good roads passed Fort Harmony, Hugh Moon, seemed to portray the pioneers using the Hamblin-Judd road, close to Ash Creek. After passing the first Fort Harmony, the Moon company camped on Ash Creek. On November 30, the group crossed the creek "and struck the black Ridge which is about 3 mile of very rough road, nothing but rocks. We crossed Ash Creek 5 times, crossed the south fork and Ash Creek and camped." The next day, he noted, Here is a road made on a back of a ridge of black rocks, a large mountain of yellow rock on the east. . . . At the bottom of the hill the road forks, the left hand goes to Stokerville [Toquerville]. We took the right to go to Washington. #supposition on my part, he asked where the left road went? Answer: It'S Tocqueville, thus, Stokerville....

Moon then turned to overstatement:

The brethren told us we should soon come to Jacob's Twist and Johnson's Twist, but I thought we had come to the Devil's Twist. It was down into a sandy canyon and remarkably crooked, small rocks about the size of a load of hay.

After the twist, they faced two miles of sand, which sometimes reached ten inches in depth, and then came to Grapevine Springs. Marveling at the local sights—cacti and yuccas, “black nasty rocks that looked as if the Lord had made them for nothing but to bluff off our enemies and spoil the land,” and mountains of sandstone—they continued on and camped at the first Cottonwood Creek.

As Moon's account demonstrates, the pioneers sometimes personalized their descriptions of the Black Ridge country, viewing it as a conscious, malignant stretch of land.

we drove over a small hill, then down hill in earnest. Camped on Ash Creek. The brethren told us we should soon come to Jacob's twist, and Johnson's twist, but I thought we had come to the devil's twist. It was down into a sandy canyon and remarkably crooked, small rocks about the size of a load of hay. We took the big wagon down first, when I returned from helping them through the boys asked me how the twist went. I told them in the following rhyme:

Sands and rock and solid stones.

Sage and cedar, the Devil's groans,

Crack and whip went Dick and Tom,

All to make the wagon come.

About two miles of heavy sand then run down into another valley called Grape Vine Springs.

December 2nd - Traveled to Cottonwood. Saw Brother B. F. Blake. He told us he had been called to Washington, Utah. He said it looked to be a poor place. He saw three children sick with chills and fever. Several of the brethren passed us going to St. George from Grafton. They say there is no land up there of any amount. This place is called Harrisburg. There are two small huts poorly put up and about an acre of garden fenced.

December 4th - Started to see St. George and Washington City. (or the place where St. George is to be built). We lived in St. George five years, we as a family suffered much. All for the gospel sake. We almost starved to death. #lot number 22 100North 300 West NE corner.

Bishop H. Moon came to St. George on June 6, 1866. We left St. George June 11, 1966. We got to Salt Lake City, June 23rd. We sold out all our improvements but left our cattle in care of Sam Burgess. We never got a thing for them.

July 2, 1866 at 15 minutes t 9 o'clock in the morning a son was born to Hugh and Jannett Moon, named William Moon.

December 7th - I left Salt Lake city with Elizabeth and her children to my farm at Farmington.

December 8th, 1867 - J. William Henry Moon departed this life at twenty minutes past five o'clock in the morning.

December 12th 1867 - Julia Ann, daughter of Hugh and Elizabeth Moon was born 20 minutes to 2 o'clock in the morning.

March 20, 1868 - Went to Salt Lake City to bring Jannett Moon and her family to the farm to live.

In 1868 Lydia Moon, daughter of Mathias Moon and wife of Henry Moon, died at 10 minutes past nine in the morning of July 9.

August 11th, 1868 - Heber, son of Hugh and Jannett Moon was born at 11 o'clock in the morning.

January 14th, 1870 - Hortensia, daughter of Hugh and Elizabeth Moon at 11 o'clock at night.

June 22nd, 1870 - John, son of Hugh and Jannett Moon was born.

April 12, 1870 - I went north to see the country of Malad, a distance of 90 mile. I bought a farm of Josiah D. Price. I paid eleven hundred dollars.

May 5th - Jannett and her children came to live on it.

We went through the Endowment House with the first fifty that went through it in Salt Lake City. We went through a second anointing shortly after coming from St. George in the Social Hall.

February 5th 1863 - Ruben, son of Hugh and Jannett Moon was born at five minutes to ten in the morning.

October 15th 1863 - Asenath, daughter of Hugh and Elizabeth moon was born between 5 and 6 in the morning.

Jannetta Moon, daughter of Hugh and Jannett Moon died January third 1866 in St. George-Washington, Utah.

September 20th 1864 - Maryett, daughter of Hugh and Jannett Moon was born at one o'clock in the morning.