

John Martin and Johanna O'Leary

John Martin was born about July 1849 in Rossie, St. Lawrence, New York. He was the sixth of eleven children of John D Martin and Anastacia E Griffin. His parents had immigrated from Ireland to America about 1845. John's father was a farmer while the family lived in Rossie for the next twenty years.¹

John came west to Utah Territory² to Silver Reef during the silver rush. He went back to Rossie to marry his childhood sweetheart, Johanna O'Leary, in 1883. Johanna was born in 1859 in Rossie, daughter of James O'Leary and Johanna Barry of Ireland. Her parents were very worried about her coming out West. Johanna wrote in her diary that they left 10 April 1883 and arrived 17 April in Salt Lake City. Four days later they left for Silver Reef, stopping at Grapevine Springs³ in May. She began housekeeping in Silver Reef in August. They had two children in Silver Reef, the second died at two days old.⁴

After becoming financially well off, they moved to the Salt Lake area about 1888. They built a two-story home in South Jordan. They had about 120 acres of farm land and farm animals. They had five more children.⁵ They lived there with their children and some of their grandchildren⁶ until John died at home of stomach cancer on 19 May 1919. His body was shipped to Rossie Cemetery in New York for burial.⁷

Johanna moved to Salt Lake City with three of their adult children and two grandchildren.⁸ She eventually moved back to New York and died in Ogdensburg, St. Lawrence, New York, in 1929. She was buried in the Rossie Cemetery.⁹

Anastasia Martin Matthews

John and Johanna's oldest child, Anastasia, was born in Silver Reef. When the family moved to South Jordan, she attended Jordan High School where she met and fell in love with her teacher, Bertrand Nephi Matthews. Her parents denied permission for them to marry as Stasia was only 16 years old and Bertrand was a "Mormon". They married without her parent's permission in 1901 in the Catholic cathedral.¹⁰

Stasia gave birth to two children but died at age 18 in South Jordan after a two-week illness following the birth of her second child. Family history credits her death to an inebriated doctor who severed an artery during his post-natal examination, causing her to bleed out within 20 minutes.¹¹ Bertrand was teaching school in Tooele at the time, so it was decided that John and Johanna, the grandparents, would care for the young children, who raised them to adulthood. Bertrand married Frances S. Smith in 1906 in California and had twelve more children.¹²

¹ United States Census, 1850, 1860, 1870.

² *Salt Lake Tribune*, 21 May 1919, p. 5.

³ Grapevine Springs is on the Black Ridge above Ash Creek, about two miles east and a little south of Leeds.

⁴ The Matthews Family History, pp.2- 3.

⁵ The Matthews Family History, p. 3.

⁶ United States Census, 1900, 1910.

⁷ Utah Death Certificates, 1904-1964; Utah Death and Military Death Certificates, 1904-1961; *Salt Lake Tribune*, 21 May 1919, p. 5.

⁸ United States Census, 1920.

⁹ The Matthews Family History, p. 3.

¹⁰ The Matthews Family History, p. 2; Utah County Marriages, 1887-1940.

¹¹ *Salt Lake Telegram*, 16 January 1904, p. 10.

¹² The Matthews Family History, pp. 4, 9A.

Maud Martin

John and Johanna's second child, Maud, was born in Silver Reef. She died two days later and was probably buried at Silver Reef.

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