

*Robert Cowan Petty (1812-1856)*  
*Margaret Jefferson Wells Petty (1806-1890)*  
*Mary Adelia Carbine Northrup Petty (1824-1906)*  
Summary of Histories at Family Tree Site for Robert Cowan Petty

**Robert Cowan Petty**

Birth: 20 November 1812, Piney River, Dickson, Tennessee, United States  
Death: 6 February 1856, Grand River, Cherokee, Oklahoma, United States

**MARRIED:** 27 Oct 1831 OR Abt 1832 at Dickson Co., Tennessee

**Margaret Jefferson Wells**

Birth: 2 March 1806, Edgecombe, Pender, North Carolina, United States  
Death: 20 January 1890, Lewiston, Cache, Utah, United States

**CHILDREN:**

11 Children, refer to Family Tree for details of children

Robert Cowan Petty was the youngest son of Thomas Petty Sr. and Jane (Darwin) Petty. He was born 20 Nov. 1812 in Dickson Co., TN, near the Piney River about one mile north of the border with Hickman County.

Margaret Jefferson Wells was born on March 2, 1806 in Edgecombe Co. North Carolina. She was born to Leonard and Sarah Barnes Wells. She was found in Tennessee in 1825 as she married there.

Margaret Jefferson Wells was married to R. C. Petty's first cousin Samuel Petty. Samuel died in 1829 leaving Mrs. Petty with two small children.

Robert Cowan Darwin Petty, who preferred to be called R.C., was living with his parents and struck up a relationship with Margaret. Despite being her junior by over six years, They were married on 27 Oct. 1831. After their marriage, they remained living in the household of Thomas Petty Sr., who was now aged 66 while his wife Jane was approaching sixty, so help was needed in running the home

Thomas Petty Sr. sold his remaining land in **Dickson Co., TN**, to his son James Darwin Petty and in 1835, Thomas with wife Jane and daughter Keziah along with the families of John M. Petty and R.C. Petty moved west to the area that was to become **Benton Co., TN**.



**Robert Cowan Petty (often referred to R.C.) was well educated for his time and would be known later in life as Doctor Petty because of his knowledge of medicine. He was also versed in knowledge of law and in 1836 he became the Sheriff of Benton Co., TN. It was through his office as Sheriff that he first came into contact with the Mormons.**

**Shortly after the Petty's arrived in Benton County, Mormon Missionaries (including Wilford Woodruff) came to Benton County. They stirred up quite a controversy among various clergy and their members.**

**On June 19, 1836. About forty men armed with deadly weapons, led by Sheriff Robert C. Petty and a Colonel and Major, with some other officers, and a Methodist priest with a gun on his shoulder, surrounded the house of Seth Utley, In Benton Co., TN. The Sheriff informed the brethren that he had a States' warrant for D. W. Patten, W. Parrish and W. Woodruff, issued on complaint of Mathew Williams the Methodist priest, who swore that those brethren had put forth the following false and pretended prophecy: 'That Christ would come the second time before this generation passed away.' and 'That four individuals should receive the Holy Ghost within twenty-four hours.' After examination bros. Patten and Parrish were bound over to appear on June 22, under \$2000 bonds.**

**When R.C. arrested the missionaries, he thought they were such clean men that he didn't want to put them in the dirty jail. So, he took them home with him. Then he asked what they were teaching that upset the preachers so much. They proceeded to tell him. They were up most of the night telling him and his father, Thomas. Thomas was converted immediately. It took R.C. a little time before he was ready to be baptized -- partially due to the objections of his wife Margaret.**

**The Magistrate Court records in Benton County show that after the case was heard, the Mormon Elders were let go since they agreed to pay the court costs and leave the county immediately.**

**Then in 1841 father, Thomas Petty Sr., died at the age of 76. Both R.C. Petty and his brother, John M. Petty, were appointed executors to the estate,**

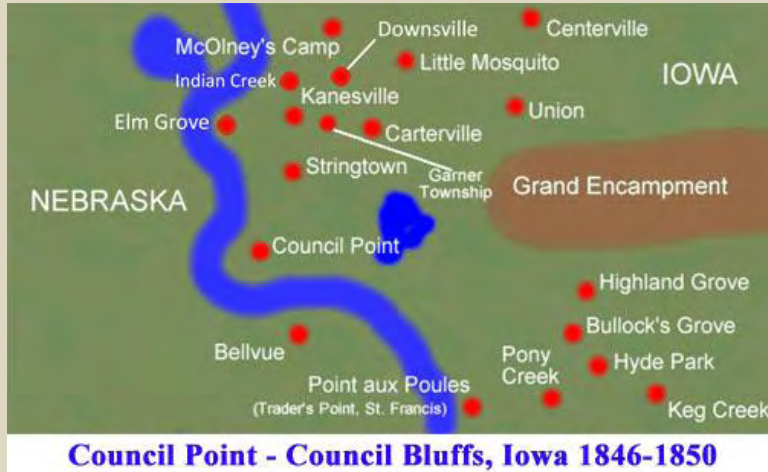
**1937 Albert Petty moved to Iowa. In 1944 he returned to Benton Co., TN, as a Mormon Missionary. Albert was related to R.C. Petty by marriage only, Through his teachings Robert completed his conversion and on 4 Apr. 1844 he was baptized a member of the Mormon Church**

**In the *Times and Seasons*, vol. 5, p. 606, is a communication under date of June 23, 1844. " *Times and Seasons* was a 19th-century Latter Day Saint newspaper published at Nauvoo, Illinois. "The Eagle Creek, Benton Co., TN, Branch was organized, with 17 members. "Robert C. Petty was chosen to preside and was ordained an elder."**

**His wife, Peggy (Peggy was Margaret Jefferson Wells nickname) was not so inclined. She had grown up with a strong Methodist background and did not accept the Mormon teachings.**

**Following his baptism, R.C. Petty was ordained an Elder in the Church and was immediately chosen as the branch president of the Eagle Creek Branch, where he worked to strengthen and lead the members of his congregation over the next few years.**

**After the death of his mother, Jane (Darwin) Petty in December 1844, Robert decided to migrate west to join other members of the Mormon Church and began planning the trip. He sold off his property and gave a portion to his stepdaughter, Sarah (Petty) Russell who was married to John Russell, and by 1846 he was ready to depart.**



**Council Point - Council Bluffs, Iowa 1846-1850**

In the summer of 1846 Robert C. Petty and his family moved to **Council Point, Iowa** on the Missouri River. The story was told was that Margaret did not want to leave TN...but R.C. told her he was leaving and she could come or stay there in Benton Co. She decided to go. It was at this time, that possibly, Peggy joined the church as two of her daughters were baptized in 1847 and we know she was baptized before she reached the valley and was endowed in 1853. There is no record that gives a baptism date for Peggy

Several miles **south of Council Bluffs, Iowa**, on the east side of the Missouri River, was a site known as **Council Point**. It was a support town for the construction and operation of the Middle Mormon Ferry, where members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and others could cross the river. The bend in the river where they crossed is no longer situated

Aug 30, 1848 OR In the spring of 1849, **R.C. Petty married** a plural wife, as was the custom of the early Mormons. This wife, Mary **Adelia (Carbine) Northrup**, was the young widow of Amos Northrup, who had died on Christmas Day being shot by an unknown assailant, leaving his wife with an infant daughter. Robert was asked by the church leaders to take her as his wife and care for her and her daughter as part of his family since she was without home or support, having been in Iowa for only a short time when her husband died.

Mary was born February 27, 1824, in Cairo, Green County, New York. Her family joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints while she was still in her teens. With her family she moved to Nauvoo, Illinois. It was in Nauvoo that Mary met and married Amos Northrup. They were one of the relatively few couples to be married in the Nauvoo Temple.

Shortly after reaching Winter Quarters, Mary's young husband was murdered (Dec. 1846) by an unknown assailant on Christmas Day. Until her death she grieved at Christmas time for her first and greatest love.

18 May 1848 Pres. Young drew an order on ... Robert C. Petty for \$200.00 to help him fit out for the mountains.

Friday 21 Jun 1850. Wilford Woodruff organized a company of emigrants at Council Bluffs, Iowa. Elder Robert C. Petty was appointed Captain of the first hundred." Remarks were made by W. Woodruff concerning the order of the camp and regulations, etc. He strongly opposed drinking, swearing, gambling, whipping oxen, etc. and was followed by Capt. Petty, who sustained the remarks made by W. Woodruff.



By the 14th of June 1850, the Mormon group was ready to start the move west and left Council Point, crossing the River Missouri. Robert Cowan left with his two wives and 12 children. On June 21 June 1850, Robert was appointed captain of the Hundred.

Wilford Woodruff Company

About 209 individuals and about 44 wagons were in the company when it began its journey from the outfitting post at Kanessville, Iowa (present day Council Bluffs).

Departure: Council Bluffs, IA 16 June 1850

Arrival: Salt Lake City, Utah 14 October 1850

Name	Age	Birth Date	Death Date
<u>Petty, Robert Cowen</u>	38	20 November 1812	6 February 1856
<u>Petty, Margaret Jefferson Wells</u>	44	2 March 1806	20 January 1890
<u>Petty, Mary Adelea Carbine Northrop</u>	26	29 February 1824	13 November 1906
<u>Petty, Mary Priannah</u>	17	3 June 1833	26 March 1901
<u>Petty, Jane Caroline</u>	14	8 July 1835	2 April 1909
<u>Petty, Keziah Albine</u>	14	8 July 1835	23 April 1907
<u>Petty, Martha Narcissa</u>	12	8 November 1837	21 March 1905
<u>Petty, Louisa Minerva</u>	10	27 December 1839	19 February 1891
<u>Petty, Robert Thomas</u>	7	22 September 1842	23 August 1904
<u>Petty, George Albert</u>	6	14 February 1844	1854
<u>Petty, Lewis James</u>	5	11 January 1846	29 August 1936
<u>Petty, John</u>	2	20 March 1848	18 July 1850
<u>Petty, Margaret Jefferson</u>	1	13 September 1849	22 March 1922
<u>Petty, Llewellyn Emery</u>	Infant	1850	18 July 1850
<u>Northrop, Eugenia</u> “Eugenia Northrop Petty”	5	1845	1862



Steel engraving of the Council Bluffs Ferry, which ferried pioneers across the Missouri River from Iowa to Nebraska at Council Bluffs, Iowa. Illustrates cottonwood trees, pioneers, cattle, and wagons.

**Kanessville. Crossing Pioneers ferrying 'Old Muddy' at a point near present Council Bluffs (Old Kanessville) Iowa.]**

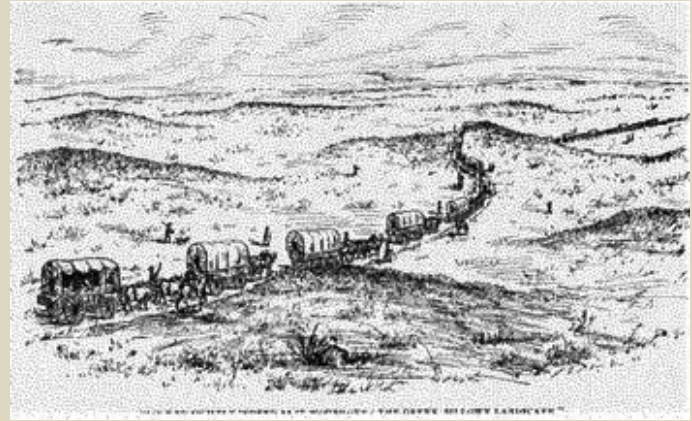
“Thurs. July 18, 1850. Robert C. Petty lost a child six months old; it was buried in the morning.”  
 Wilford Woodruff Journal

“Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel, Wilford Woodruff Company List of individuals”

Lists two Petty children, Petty, Llewellyn Emery AND Petty, John, both of who are shown as having died 18 July 1850. The Company camped at Plum Creek, Nebraska the night of July 17 1850. Plum Creek near Lexington, Neb. and about 40 miles west of Fort Kearney, Neb. (refer to: Wilford Woodruff Journal)



Mon. July 29, 1850. In a wild stampede 'Bro. Petty's two wagons were turned over. My (Wilford Woodruff) family wagon with four yoke of oxen ran over one of his wagons, and a wagon ran over one of his children. (Woodruff, Wilford, 1850) - MANY INJURIES BUT NO DEATH REPORTED DURING THIS STAMPEDE.



20 to 23 July 1850 - Robert C. Petty was taken dangerously sick With pleurisy in his side...

At the end of September, the wagon train had reached Fort Bridger (Wyoming) and then they finally reached their destination of Salt Lake City, Utah on 14 Oct. 1850.



<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/MCS6-RX7>

1850 Robert Petty, "United States Census"

Name: Robert Petty

Event Place: Great Salt Lake county, Great Salt Lake, Utah Territory, United States

Gender: Male . Age: 38 . Birthplace: Tennessee , Birth Year (Estimated): 1812

Household	Gender	Age	Birthplace
<a href="#">Robert Petty</a>	M	38	Tennessee
<a href="#">Margaret Petty</a>	F	44	North Carolina
<a href="#">Mary P Petty</a>	F	17	Tennessee
<a href="#">Jane Petty</a>	F	16	Tennessee
<a href="#">Keziah Petty</a>	F	15	Tennessee
<a href="#">Martha M Petty</a>	F	13	Tennessee
<a href="#">Louisa M Petty</a>	F	10	Tennessee
<a href="#">Thomas Petty</a>	M	8	Tennessee
<a href="#">Lewis J Petty</a>	M	5	Iowa
<a href="#">Margaret Petty</a>	F	1	Iowa





### 1860's Salt Lake City, Utah

After their arrival in the Salt Lake Valley, Robert and his family were assigned to settle with the community south of Salt Lake called Fort Herriman, which was a fertile area west of the Jordan River. For the next five years, life was productive for the family and several of Robert's daughters married and set up their own homes with their husbands.



Ft. Herriman built in 1855 by Thomas Butterfield, Henry Herriman, Samuel Egbert, Robert Petty and John Stocking, as protection against the Indians. The fort was abandoned in 1858, under instructions of Brigham Young, upon the approach of Johnston's Army. Some of the settlers returned a few years later and established the town of Herriman. The fort was named for Henry Herriman and Butterfield Canyon nearby for Thomas Butterfield, pioneers of this section

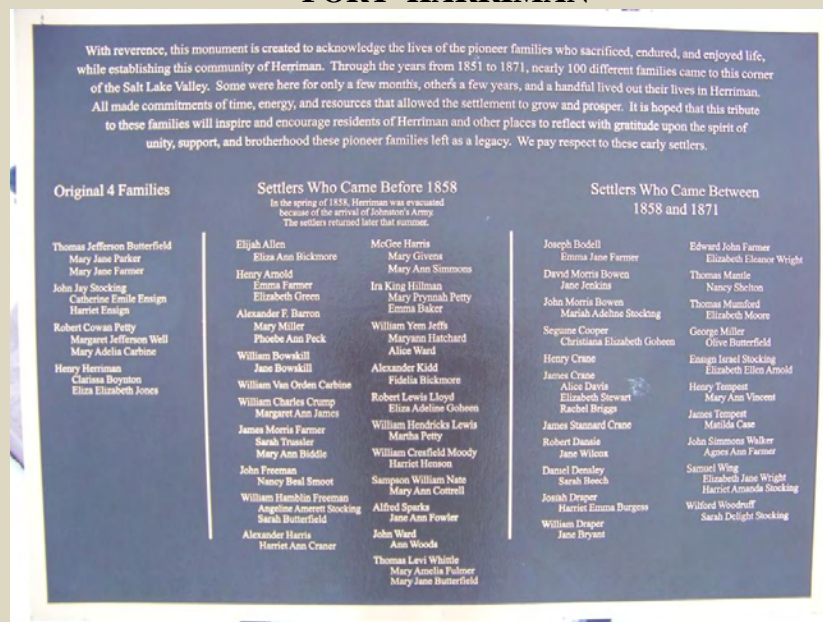
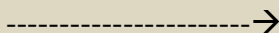
### FORT HARRIMAN

#### ORIGINAL SETTLERS

Robert Cowan Petty

Margaret Jefferson Wells

Mary Adelia Carbine



On 25th August, 1852, Robert and Peggy were endowed in the Endowment House and then they were sealed on August 30, 1852.

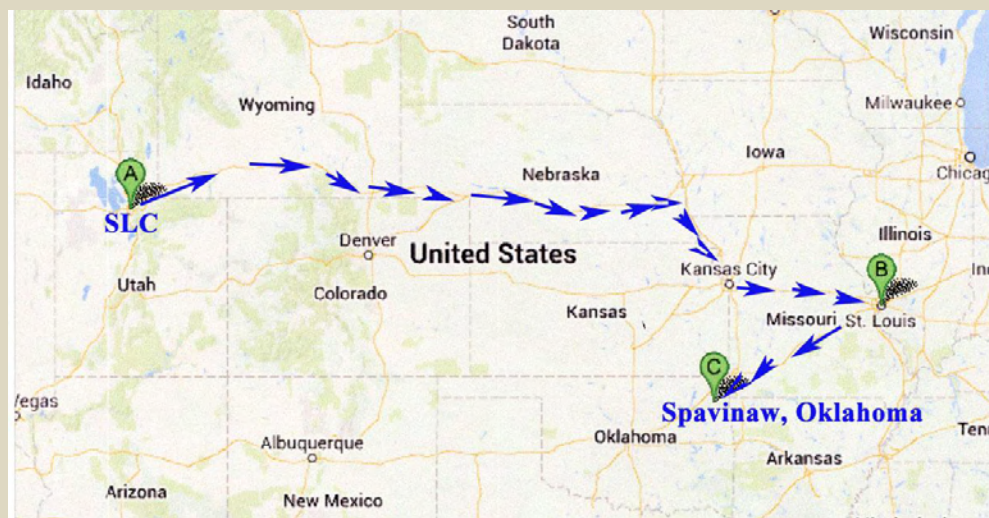
On the first day of November 1854, Robert C. Petty and his wife Margaret Petty received a Patriarchal Blessing from Isaac Morley at Fort Herriman.

During the General Conference held April 6, 7 & 8, 1855 Robert C. Petty received his mission calling to go to the Indian Territory which is now Oklahoma.

Petty was ordained a Seventy. He left home on his mission to the Cherokee Nation during May 1855 Robert C. Petty, chaplain, the company

On 7 May 1855, Robert left his home in company with the other missionaries This company of missionaries arrived in St. Louis, MO., June 25, 1855.

Arriving 4 July 1855 at the residence of Captain Jacob Croft on the Spavinaw River near Grand River in the Cherokee Nation, Indian Territory. It was during this missionary period, that R.C. Petty became sick again



Thursday, July 19, 1855 - Bro. Petty who was sick.

27th July 1855 Elder Miller returned to Bro. Croft's place, where he found Bro. Robert C. Petty very sick.

Monday, July 30. 1855 waiting upon Bro. Petty who was still very sick.

Friday, Feb. 1, 1856 Robert C. Petty who lay very sick

Saturday, Feb. 2. **Elder Robert C. Petty having died** early in the morning (at 2:45 a. m.)

"Robert C. Petty died while on his mission Cherokee Nation 8 miles from Grand Saline 2 Feb 1856, Elder Robert C. Petty, aged 43 years 9 months 18 days.

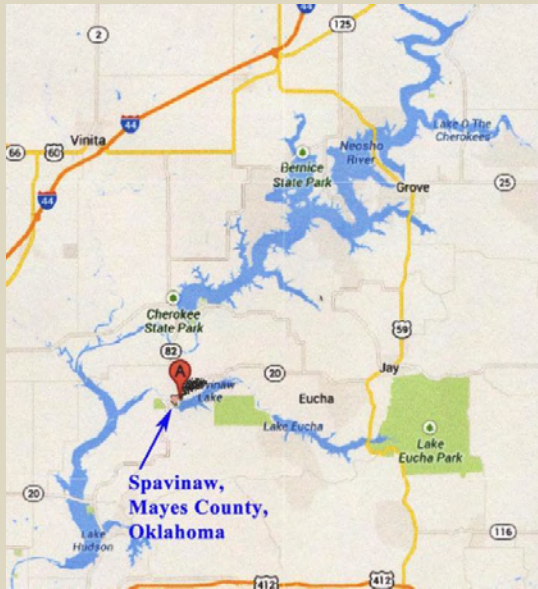
Sunday, Feb. 3, 1856 The remains of Elder Robert C. Petty were interred at the burial ground of Joseph M. Lynch, between Grand River and the Spavinaw River. The death of Elder Petty cast a gloom over the Saints of the Indian Territory Mission

In October 1856, Chief John Ross ordered all Mormons out of the Cherokee nation.



## Find A Grave - Robert Cowan Petty

<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=55977822>



### Spavinaw, Mayes County, Oklahoma

By Susan E. Woods

**“This past spring in June of 2008 I went to the Spavinaw Valley and learned that the Mormon Colony was in Spavinaw and that the old Spavinaw cemetery was located on the banks of the Grand River. In 1922 the Spavinaw Dam was constructed and water was pumped the distance of 65 miles. The old Spavinaw Cemetery was moved to the present day Spavinaw/Strang Cemetery. If Elder Robert Cowan Petty was buried in this cemetery and his body was found in this area his remains will be at the Spavinaw/Strang Cemetery and his grave will be unmarked and unknown. If his body was not recovered from the old cemetery, if that is where he was buried, his body will lay under Lake Spavinaw.”**

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spavinaw,\\_Oklahoma](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spavinaw,_Oklahoma)

**The first recorded settler here was Lewis Rogers, son of Captain John Rogers. Lewis set up a mill, a distillery and a salt works in 1829. In 1839, the Eastern Cherokees began moving into the Spavinaw area of Indian Territory. The Cherokee council outlawed the operation of distilleries in their area and dispossessed Rogers of his distillery and the salt works., both of which had already been damaged by a flooding of Spavinaw Creek.**

**In 1846, Jacob Croft, a Mormon en route to Utah, decided to settle here instead. He was hired by Joseph Lynch Martin to restore the mill. In 1855, a group of Mormon missionaries from Utah arrived at Croft's home and began converting Cherokees and Creeks. When they began urging the converts to move to Utah, Lewis Rogers complained to the Cherokee council. In October 1856, Chief John Ross ordered all Mormons out of the Cherokee nation.**

## **Margaret Jefferson Wells Petty**

It is said that Margaret Jefferson Wells Petty learned of her husband's death 6 months later. After the abandonment of Ft. Herriman in 1858 Mrs. Petty moved to Lewiston in Cache Co., UT with her four youngest children Thomas, Louis, Margaret and Sarah. Margaret wove cloth to make her clothes and also for other people, to make money to support her children. Following Robert's death, the wives and younger children in Salt Lake City fell back on the several sons in law for support. In Nov. 1857,

Hendricks Lewis and some of the other men in Fort Herriman were called by the church leaders to take their families and settle a community in northern Utah called **Richmond**. Together with his wife and children, William took his mother in law, Peggy Petty and her younger children.

[http://www.mendonutah.net/history/cache\\_county/37.htm](http://www.mendonutah.net/history/cache_county/37.htm)

In the fall of 1859, the settlement of Richmond was founded by the following settlers: Agrippa Cooper, Vincent Cooper, Josheph Biddlecomb, John Bair and families among whom were his son Hyrum Bair; Moroni Cole, William Allerm Isaac Shepard, Justin Shepard, William H. Lewis, **widow Petty** and children, Margaret Petty, Thomas Petty, Lewis Petty, Sally Petty, Enock Daly, Alvin F. Stewart, Henry Gibson, Gilbert Bright, Mr. Whittaker and families.

With the other settlements of the Valley, **Richmond did its share by sending men and ox teams to the Missouri River and other points to help poor emigrants to come to Utah**. It was a round trip of two thousand miles and took from five to six months to make the journey. Some of the teamsters who made these journeys were Robert Lewis, William Thompson, Joseph Bright, **Lewis Petty**, Judson Shepard, L. P. Swenson, Joseph Albiston, C. H. Allen, Thomas Petty, John Buxton, Eli Harris, William L. Skidmore, S. Rodgers, Joseph Stewart, Henry Hobson, Isaac Bright and Marquis Funk.

Margaret Jefferson Wells Petty (Peggy) passed away in Lewiston, Cache County, Utah on January 20, 1890 at the age of 89 years old.

## **Mary Adelia Carbine Northrup Petty Grant Taylor**

Mary again faced the problems associated with widowhood and providing for a young family. She became the second wife of George Roberts Grant, who also married her cousin Mary Helen Van Orden in Winter Quarters. It was not long before Mary faced another difficult situation. George Roberts Grant was called before a Bishop's Court over some difficulty with a hired hand and unjustly excommunicated from the Church. George decided to go to California. Mary did not want to go to California because she would not be recognized as a legal wife in that state. George, who was quite well-to-do, made provision for her and her tiny son and left them in northern Utah

As before there was only one course open to Mary-marriage. Therefore, in the early 1860s, Mary was married for a fourth time to William Warren Taylor, her sister's husband. Later the family moved to New Harmony in southern Utah. This marriage, too, was a source of heartache for Mary. William Warren Taylor died tragically in New Harmony when a cellar caved in on him.

Mary Adeha Carbine Taylor was appointed Postmistress of New Harmony, Kane [sic] County - [Washington County], by the Postmaster General of the United States on September 24, 1878, and served in that capacity for 25 years.

The loss of her eyesight eventually forced her to relinquish that position. She also served as one of the first school teachers in New Harmony, teaching at the John D. Lee property until she got her own home. She worked as postmistress during the day and taught school at night. Mary also washed, corded, and spun wool into cloth to support her family. This great woman died in Delmar, Nevada, on November 13, 1906, at the age of 82 after a life filled with joy, sorrow, challenges, service, and accomplishment."

<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=11245566>



## Find A Grave

<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=11245566>



### Margaret Jefferson Wells Petty

[Richmond City Cemetery](#) Richmond, Cache County, Utah



## Find A Grave

<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=53507>



### Mary Adelia Carbine Taylor

[New Harmony Cemetery](#) New Harmony, Washington Co., Utah



**Mary Adelia Carbine Northrup Petty  
(1824-1906)**

<http://wchsutah.org/people/mary-adelia-carbine.php>

**BIOGRAPHY: MARY ADELIA CARBINE - (teacher, postmistress)**

**PEOPLE OF HISTORICAL INTEREST TO WASHINGTON COUNTY, UTAH**

**Prepared by J.E. Anderson for Aunt Polly Ruth Wardle 1904-1989 who is**  
**Great Grand Daughter of: Robert Cowan Petty 1812-1856 & Margaret Jefferson Wells 1806-1890**  
**Grand Daughter of: Samuel Egbert 1814-1888 & Louisa Minerva Petty**