

Thomas Franklin Maloney

Thomas Franklin Maloney was born 15 August 1846 in Whitegate, County Cork, Ireland. He was the youngest of eight children of Michael Maloney and Mary Higgins. He married Mary Geary in 1864 in Cork, Ireland.¹ She died with the birth of their first son. He joined a ship crew and eventually ended up in America.² He was not very tall, but he was well built. He had a short iron-grey beard and mustache and blue-grey eyes.³

Thomas enlisted in the US Navy on 26 June 1866. He served as a 2nd class fireman on the *USS Ashuelot*. He was discharged September 1869.⁴ Family legend has Thomas accompanying John Wesley Powell on his expedition down the Colorado River to the Rainbow Canyon area. Indians attacked the expedition, but he and others managed to escape. They wandered across northern Arizona and eastern Utah.⁵

By 1870, Thomas was a miner, living in Hamilton City, White Pine, Nevada.⁶ He married Lucy Olive Lee in 1875 in Virgin, Washington, Utah Territory.⁷ They had twelve children (six died young). The family lived in Virgin⁸ until about 1885, when they moved to Silver Reef, Washington, Utah Territory. Five of their children were born there.⁹ Thomas was a good cook and served as cook for the miners.

The family moved back to Virgin about 1893. On the 1900 census, Thomas was a farmer, living with his wife, six children, and a granddaughter in Virgin.¹⁰ He served as camp cook while the Hurricane Canal was built.¹¹ It was a hand-excavated irrigation canal that diverted water from the Virgin River to the town of Hurricane, Utah.¹² He also served as a dentist, using the skills he learned during his time aboard ship. He also served as a justice of the peace during the oil boom in Virgin.¹³

Thomas and Lucy lived in Virgin for the rest of their lives.¹⁴ Lucy died of a heart hemorrhage in 1922 in Virgin and was buried there.¹⁵ Thomas died of hemorrhagic nephritis on 23 April 1833 in Virgin and was buried there.¹⁶

Thomas could entertain people for hours with his travel experiences. He was a good dancer and loved to dance the Irish Clog, the Highland Fling, and a dance with a broomstick. He read everything he could get his hands on. He always carried a cane and loved to walk.¹⁷

¹ Ireland Marriages, 1619-1898.

² Lauriann Rosenvall, *Familysearch.org*

³ Ada Beames Webb Memories of her Great Grandfather Thomas Maloney, *Familysearch.org*

⁴ United States Census of Union Veterans and Widows of the Civil War, 1890.

⁵ LaVarr Webb, son of Ada Beames Webb about his great grandfather Thomas Maloney, *Familysearch.org*

⁶ United States Census, 1870.

⁷ Western States Marriage Index, 1809-2011; tombstone.

⁸ United States Census, 1880; United States Census of Union Veterans and Widows of the Civil War, 1890.

⁹ *Familysearch.org*

¹⁰ United States Census, 1900.

¹¹ Lauriann Rosenvall, *Familysearch.org*

¹² *Wikipedia*: Hurricane Canal.

¹³ Lauriann Rosenvall, *Familysearch.org*

¹⁴ United States Census, 1910, 1920., 1930.

¹⁵ Utah Death Certificates, 1904-1956; Utah Death and Military Death Certificates, 1904-1961; Utah Death Index, 1905-195; Utah Death Registers, 1847-1966; Utah Cemetery Inventory.

¹⁶ Utah Death Certificates, 1904-1956.

¹⁷ Lauriann Rosenvall, *Familysearch.org*



Thomas Franklin Maloney (images from *Familysearch.org*)



(Image from *Findagrave.com*)