

William Webb Badcock Life Story

Edited by Lloyd W. and Ella M. Colvin

William Badcock was born in Littington, Cambridgeshire, England on April 25, 1843. (Dixie Pioneers 1866)

His mother, Mary Webb Badcock, was the eldest of a family of twelve children. Her parents, Dee Grass Webb and Mary Jackson, were very good members of the Episcopal Church, the dominate church in England. Grandmother told him how every Sunday morning her mother, with all the children, would walk five miles in order to attend Sunday School, and when my grandmother was married, she continued to take her children to Sunday School in the same church.

The fundamentals of music were taught in Sunday School in England at that time and it was here William first became acquainted with it. It was discovered that he had perfect pitch and also a wonderful voice and soon became a very good singer. This talent was inherited from his grandmother, Mary Jackson, who supposedly was brought up in the court of Napoleon Bonaparte, and as rumor has it, was an illegitimate child of that great soldier. When Mary Webb was married to Moses Badcock, she already had a little boy by the name of Stephen. The name of his father is unknown.

In June 1845 another baby boy, Moses, was born to Mary and Moses Badcock, and in June 1847 a baby girl, Martha Eliza was born, and in 1843, William was born. Later Emma Marta was born but died in infancy.

When William was about twelve years old his father Moses Badcock, whose ancestry supposedly went back to William the Conqueror and roamed in Devonshire when the Doones were at the height of their banditry, left home. He and his wife had quarreled over religious beliefs. He left his family with no means of support.

William being a very conscientious boy and a good worker felt keenly the responsibility of taking care of the family, and secured work in a bakery shop. He worked here for about two years, and then went as an apprentice in the stables of a great Lord named Warwick, at Cambridge. He had to sign up for seven years to become a veterinarian. His mother and sister Eliza found employment in a hat shop where they soon became expert in braiding straw, both plain and fancy, while Stephen and Moses found odd jobs to help all they could.

About this time the father came home begging to be taken care of as he was dying of consumption, or what was then known as the great white plague. This was quite an added burden for the poor little family, but they took him in and cared for him until his death in April, 1854.

William soon received a promotion from a stable boy to plowman, at which he became quite expert. It was said that he could plow a furrow a mile long just as straight as an arrow. He also learned about the care and dressing of horses for the great fairs which were so much in vogue in England at that time. At night the help at this great estate, would gather together and sing. Lord Warwick came in one night and heard William singing. He was so impressed with William's voice that he gave him the opportunity of going to night school, where he studied voice culture.

Annie Wilkinson Colvin says she remembers him as he held her on his lap and would sing "Birdy in the Cherry Tree," "Way Down in a Buttercup Meadow," and other songs, and he would give her a squeeze. He also played a trumpet in the first Dixie Band.

William met some Mormon Missionaries and soon he and his mother joined the church. William was baptized by Schuyler Everett on May 20, 1866. After joining the church their one great desire was to get to Zion. It is not known if William borrowed money for the trip from the emigration fund at this time or not, but he secured passage on the sail boat.

"The American Congress". He was twenty-three years of age and was married to Sara Dellow on the twenty-first day of May, 1866. "The American Congress" left London May 23, 1866, and arrived in New York on July 4th of the same year. His ticket number was 106 and cost nine pounds and four shillings. William's wife or sweetheart was listed as a spinster (Sara Dellow) having had to secure their tickets some time before the sailing of the vessel and they were not married until two days before sailing. The ship carried some 258 adults, 75 children and 17 infants.

A number of relatives of William's mother were on board, namely Emma Harridance (widow and sister of William's mother), her son Jeremiah Harridance, Sarah Ann Harridance (daughter), Benjamin, Mary, Robert and William Law (cousins). John Nicholson was president of the company of saints, with Joshua H. Whitney and John Rider as councilors. John Cunningham was the steward. There was advanced from the emigration fund 1,465 pounds and six shillings to pay passage for the saints on this trip.

The passage over was uneventful until the ship "American Congress" was near the shore of Newfoundland where a very thick fog prevailed for several days. This prevented Captain Woodward from taking observations, being unable to see the sun and he knew not just where they were.

At this time a group of men were conversing on the quarter deck when William spoke to John Rider and asked him, "What is that?" The fog had lifted as if a veil or scroll had been raised. Brother Rider, in turn, exclaimed to the captain, "What is that, Captain?" Here Captain Woodward, who was a tall powerful man, did not answer but sprang to the wheel house and knocked the man at the helm away, at

the same time he took the wheel, turning it with great rapidity. While doing this he was shouting orders to all hands to "bout ship". The sailors all sprang to their posts. The good ship "American Congress" swayed slowly around, and the company was saved from being dashed to pieces on the rocks and breakers of Newfoundland. Nothing was said to the company about the danger with which the ship had been threatened.

The Lord had fulfilled the promises made to the company by his servant Brigham Young Jr. at the time the ship left England for Zion "That they would be protected while crossing the turbulent Atlantic." The ship continued on its way and arrived at New York July 4, 1866.

William, with many others, continued on their way to Salt Lake City. They reached Nebraska July 14, 1866. The exact date of their arrival into Salt Lake City is not had by the writer, but it was some time in the Fall of 1866, about the time for the October conference.

At a public meeting Apostle Erastus Snow advertised for a teamster who could handle a four horse outfit. This was just the kind of work that William was looking for, so he applied for the job and was accepted. William left next morning with Isaac Hunt, who was an uncle of His wife, Sarah. She was not very well being with child and traveling over the very rough roads had caused her to lose her baby.

About three miles north of Scipio Sarah put her arms around William and said goodbye. The date was November 11, 1866. She died in his arms from heart trouble brought on by the loss of her baby and insufficient care at the time. She was buried at the little town of Scipio, Utah.

William proceeded on his lonely journey, truly a stranger in a strange land. On arriving at St. George, Apostle Snow gave him work freighting and caring for his horses. Brother Snow had three wives and William was assigned to live in the home of the third, Aunt Julia, as she was called. While working here he met Amelia Jarvis, a beautiful young girl of thirteen, who was living with the first wife, Aunt Artemesia. Their friendship continued some three years when they were married in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City, September 20, 1869. They traveled by team to Salt Lake City, Grandmother Jarvis going up with them. It took them six weeks to make the trip.

They started married life with very little of this world's goods, as William had saved barely enough to bring his sister from the old country. She, Martha Eliza, sailed on the ship "Colorado" July 28, 1869. They had many trying times with Indians and famine, sometimes having scarcely enough to keep from starvation. Amelia had the scrapings of the pot of cane seed mush and many times this was her diet for the whole day. Her older sister, Annie, almost started a war with the Indians by giving the son of the old chieftain a good beating, but after a meeting with the chief and

explaining, the situation was averted by grandfather killing one of their milk cows and giving it to the Indians, but the son of the chieftain was never allowed to take his father's place as Chief of the Tribe, and was always called a "squaw".

William and Amelia lived in St. George for a number of years. It was here their first child, William Jr., was born Dec. 5, 1872. Sometime later they moved to Heberville, later changed to Price, Washington County, about five miles south of St. George. They worked hard and saved to buy land and to bring William's mother from England. They soon had a nice home and farm.

On November 24, 1874 another baby boy, George, came to bless their home. It was during this winter, as William was hauling wood from the mountains in the west that he located a copper mine, later known as the Apex. On the 28th of March 1876 another boy was born, Joseph Walter.

Early in the year 1874, the first United Order was organized in Utah at Heberville, and William was one of the first to turn his property into the organization. Brigham Young and George Albert Smith were among the brethren from Salt Lake City to spend the winter in St. George.

The work on the St. George temple was being rushed at this time and William spent much time hauling lumber from Mount Trumbull for the temple.

In 1881 the name of Heberville was changed to that of Price and a ward was formed, with Nephi Robert Fawcett being chosen as bishop and Haden Church and William Badcock were his councilors.

On the advice of Brother Erastus Snow, William went to the Federal Court held at Beaver City, Beaver County, Utah and had his name changed from Badcock, taking the name of his mother "Webb". Also at the Federal Court at Beaver William obtained his citizenship papers in 1894. He was in the home guard established for protection against the Indians and stood on guard many nights when the Indians were troublesome.

He was sent by Erastus Snow with other men to dig wells along the route to California and was the first to discover the body of a young boy and his parents, who had famished from want of water across the desert. At Beaver Dam he took possession of some land, he and a so called friend. While William returned to St. George for supplies the friend jumped Williams claim, since they just had squatter's rights on the property.

William then returned to Price where their lives were routine for a number of years, having babies, farming, saving all they could to bring other relatives from the old country. His mother arrived on the ship "Wisconsin" in September 1877. Four children were born as follows: Amelia on the 2nd of February 1878. She died of

pneumonia in June of the same year. Ephriam was born the 5th day of March 1879, Heber the 11th of February 1881, and Annie, another girl, the 15th of January 1883.

Hoping to improve his condition, William moved his family back to St. George, having obtained a city lot and land at that place. He still kept his farm at Price and farmed it a good many years.

Soon after moving back to St. George another girl was added to their number, on the 28 of February, 1885. Sarah Ida was born. In January 21, 1887 Alma, another boy was born. Then Emma was born on the 14th of July, 1889 and Effie on the 11th of June 1892, and Samuel on the 19 of April 1894 who died at birth. This completed the round dozen, leaving ten children living.

William played the baritone horn in the Dixie Band, known as the Thompson and Eardley Band as also did William Jr. William Sr. always took care of the flag that belonged to the band and carried it wherever the band would go. He, with most of his boys and girls sang in the choir and Annie, his eldest daughter, was Stake organist for a great number of years in St. George.

William worked long and faithfully with a company making dams in the Rio Virgin, getting water on what was known as the Jarvis Field and many times the floods would take out their dams with great loss to their crops.

William and wife had very little schooling and were anxious that their children should have more. Two of their ten children received master's degrees and one his doctor's degree. The others all had graduated from high school or its equivalent. Five of their children spent from two to three years in the mission field, and William paid money for eight people to come from England.

William and his wife were good faithful Latter-Day Saints, teaching their children the gospel and instilling in their hearts great faith and a love for the same.

The last cotton raised in Washington County for commercial purposes was raised by William on a lot in St. George in 1899.

Amelia's prayers were answered almost immediately many times in behalf of her children.

When the Indians were bad and bothersome they had many, many interesting and exciting adventures.

They both died bearing strong testimonies of the truthfulness of the gospel. Amelia passed away August 13, 1908 at the age of fifty-five. Her death was caused by diabetes. William lived two and a half years longer, passing away on the 7th of

February 1911. He died of cancer of the stomach. They were both buried at St. George, Washington County, Utah.