

CATHERINE NORMAN

1849-1926

Catherine Norman was born on April 10, 1849 at Abbots Langley, Hertsfordshire, England. She was the second of seven children of William Norman and Sarah Thomson.

Life was not easy for Catherine. Her father was retired from military service and in poor health. The family moved frequently trying to locate work. Catherine was working as a domestic servant at the age of 22 in the city of Edinburgh when she married James Kirkland, age 21. James was a bachelor, a gentleman's coachman. They married on October 18, 1871 at St. Columbia Church on Cambridge Street, in the District of St. George, Edinburgh, Scotland. James was from Dundee, although his mother Margaret was deceased at the time of the marriage. Her father William died July 20, 1873, at Berwick-Upon-Tweed. (The family of Clifford Ward, grandson of Catherine, has her Bible. It reads in the front "Catherine Norman - Berwick-Upon-Tweed".)

To this marriage, three sons were born in Scotland: James on 12 Nov 1871, John William on October 24, 1873, and Henry M. born April 24, 1875.

It was during this time period, that the Mormon Elders introduced the gospel to Catherine and her sister Mary Ann. Mary Ann was baptized on June 5, 1875 with her husband, Robert Hogg. Catherine was baptized on July 10, 1875. We do not know if James also joined the Church.

Family records indicate that Catherine became a widow a short time later, although the death record of James has not been discovered. Either case, as a widow or separated from her husband, Catherine joined the Church and came to America to join her sister.

Catherine Norman, with three small boys ages 4, 3 and an infant, boarded the steamship "Montana", and left Liverpool, England on June 15, 1878. We can only try to imagine the thoughts and feelings racing through her mind at that time, knowing she would never again see her mother or her homeland. The total fare for the four was 20 English Pounds. On board were 221 emigrating Saints, 105 of these were from the Swiss and German Mission. The ship arrived at New York on June 25. Continuing the journey by rail the following day, the company arrived at Salt Lake City July 3, 1878.

Less than a year after arriving in Salt Lake City, Catherine became the second wife of Samuel Ward, a widower. They were married on April 10, 1879 in the Endowment House by D. N. Wells, and settled in Kaysville. Almost 15 years earlier, D. N. Wells had sealed Samuel and Ann Bunting in the Endowment House.

Samuel Ward's first wife, Ann, had died in 1875, leaving Samuel with seven living children ages 2 through 18 years of age. A year before his marriage to Catherine, two sons, William and Samuel died during a diphtheria epidemic. No doubt the children were in need of a mother's love.

Catherine was busy with her three little boys and Samuel's children. The family grew quickly, however. Sarah Harriet was born on May 31, 1880 in Kaysville. George was born Sept. 12, 1882, Norman arrived Mar. 29, 1884, and Samuel Norman was born Sep 19, 1885. Heartache entered Samuel's life again when Samuel Norman died only a few months later. Simeon Thomas was born Jan 6, 1887, Charles Heber on Jan. 16, 1889 and Catherine Isabell on May 21, 1892.

Life was not easy for Catherine. Needing direction, she received a patriarchal blessing from John Smith on June 4, 1883. Throughout the blessing, comment is made of the difficult trials and difficulties that she had experienced. Catherine was told to "be at rest in thy mind, and look forward to the future with pleasure, for better days await thee."

In 1894, Samuel passed away at the age of 64 years. He is buried in Kaysville along with other family members.

Catherine moved to the Mink Creek area, north of Preston, in 1895. Daughter Sarah moved to Preston in 1897, where she was attending the Oneida Stake Academy when she died of consumption on September 8,

1898. Nearly 50 years earlier, Sarah's grandfather, Robert Ward, died of consumption at the age of 46.

From the Mink Creek area, Catherine and family members moved to Felt in 1907. She continued to live in the Idaho area for most of her life, until entering a nursing home in Salt Lake City, where she died on 30 Oct 1926. She is buried in the family plot at the Kaysville Cemetery.

Family records are not complete on her son, James. In 1917, John William Kirkland was killed in a motorcycle accident. He is buried in the Kaysville Cemetery. At the time of his death, Catherine was living in St. Anthony and James was living in Salt Lake City.

Henry Kirkland Ward married Abbie Hanah Haven in 1899. They had 10 children, all born in Utah. In her later years, Catherine surely enjoyed her grandchildren. Abbie died in 1932 and Henry remarried Matilda Hansen. He died in Salt Lake City in December 1954.

In 1984, during a visit to the Kaysville Cemetery, grandson Clifford learned that only two of the original 14 grave markers were in place. What had happened to the older markers was not known. Two years later, Clifford and brother Rueland returned to the cemetery with cement, markers, and shovels. They spent the day once again marking the grave sites of our ancestors.