

A life sketch of

Ann Moulton King Pitman (Lewis)

1814 – 1905

Ann Molten King was born in the southern part of England at Winferth, Dorsetshire on May 20, 1814. She was the daughter of Thomas and Mary Morris King. Ann was the second child in a family of nine children. Her brothers and sisters were:

Jane, Isabella Cromey, George Cromey, Thomas, David Morris, John Morris, Emanuel and James W. King.



At the time of her birth, England was engaged in a desperate war with Napoleon Bonaparte of France, and was also engaged in a war with the United States, which was known as the Second War for Independence. The wars that England were engaged in at this time and just prior to this time had impoverished the people of England.

The economic conditions of the people there were very bad due to the limited amount of land that could be cultivated. Only about half of the people were engaged in agriculture, and many of the people were working in the crude manufacturing factories that existed at that time. They worked long hours and received such low wages they could hardly live at all.

There is very little record about the life of Ann M. King while she lived in England. She was married to James Pitman and was the mother of two boys, Frank and James, and one daughter, Mary Ann. She joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and came to America with her husband and daughter. They sailed from Liverpool on May 30, 1857 on the ship Tuscarora. James died the following year.

We pick up the history of her life at Omaha, Nebraska, in a history written by Joseph Lewis. The following paragraph is taken from his history.

While attending meetings and associating with the Saints I made the acquaintance of a widow lady by the name of Ann M. Pitman, whose husband had been dead for about nine months and left her with one daughter, about thirteen years of age. I married Mrs. Pitman on the first of May 1859, and this union brought much happiness and encouragement to me. My wife was a good, kind, industrious woman, and a faithful Latter Day Saint. We were now able to lay by a little means preparatory to crossing the plains on our way to Utah where the Saints were gathering.

The daughter of Ann M. Lewis, whose name was Mary Ann, met John Hymas while they were living at Omaha. He was also a member of the Church and he and Mary Ann became very friendly. John left for the Salt Lake Valley in the spring of 1861. After he left Omaha, Mary Ann was very anxious to go to the Salt Lake Valley for it seemed she had fallen in love with John. She was quite young, but her folks made arrangements for her to go with John Stock and his family for twenty dollars. They arrived in the Salt Lake Valley in the fall and Mary Ann and John Hymas were married in the month of November.

A niece of Ann's, whose parents were dead, made her home with the Lewis family and they cared for her as they would their own child.

Ann had been trained as a mid-wife and was able to earn some money through this training. Joseph had good work at Omaha making shoes. Their work made it possible for them to save money for their trip west. They bought a wagon, one yoke of oxen, four cows, two stoves, a tent, clothing to last several years, flour and other food supplies to make ready for the trip. They left for the Salt Lake Valley on July 5, 1862. A young man, whose father was already in the city, was engaged to drive the oxen as Joseph was not accustomed to driving oxen. This young man was given his board for his services.

Ann and Joseph traveled with others who had the same desire of settling near other Saints in Utah. The journey was extremely tedious and monotonous. At Horn's Fork one of the wagon wheels broke down and they were compelled to lay over long enough to have it repaired, however they were able to reach camp late that night.

Joseph in his history tells this experience.

We had all enjoyed good health thus far except my wife, who had suffered much. While at Horn's Fork she had to be lifted from the wagon when she left it at all. Her faith in the power of the Priesthood to heal her was strong and unflinching and according to the pattern given by our Savior, they anointed her head with oil and rebuked the disease in the name of Jesus of Nazareth and almost immediately the petition was answered and she received strength. She arose, walked about and cooked dinner and ate heartedly. This was a striking testimony to all who were present and a very great blessing to herself.

The wagon wheel broke again when they reached Parley's Canyon and they used another wagon to carry their things into the Salt Lake Valley. They were in good health and were very happy to see their loved ones who had come ahead of them.

They were made welcome at the home of Ann's brother, David King, who had come to the valley in 1851. They also lived with Ann's daughter, Mary Ann and her husband, John Hymas, for several weeks. Joseph later bought a quarter of a lot with a log cabin on it for which he gave his wagon and oxen. He bought leather and began making shoes. Ann helped any one who needed her services.

While living in the Salt Lake Valley, Joseph and Ann were sealed in the Endowment House, February 13, 1864. They lived in Salt Lake and did very well until the spring of 1864, when they moved with the John Hymas family to Bear Lake, Idaho. They arrived at their new home in the month of May, entering the valley through Soda Springs. They located on North Creek.

Apostle Charles C. Rich, along with a group of settlers, entered Bear Lake Valley the year before in 1863, and made a settlement at Paris, Idaho. The Hymas and Lewis families located several miles northwest of Paris, which was later known as Liberty, Idaho.

They plowed some land and planted wheat as soon as they could, and began to build homes. The grain was frozen in the fall before it had time to mature, so this made food scarce and expensive. At this time wheat was worth five dollars a bushel.

Joseph went to Cache Valley, Utah, and found work at Hyde Park. In the fall, Ann went with John Hymas and her daughter, Mary Ann, to Salt Lake to get the rest of their things. On the way back Ann stayed at Hyde Park with her husband.

It was during their first winter in Bear Lake that a son was born to John and Mary Ann Hymas. Ann was staying with them at the time and was happy to welcome the new grandson.

The next summer Joseph married a second wife, Elizabeth Ann King, who was his wife's niece. They were married at Salt Lake on June 3, 1865. David King returned to Liberty with them and Joseph helped him drive his cattle.

The Lewis family moved from Liberty to Paris a short time later as Joseph was hired to make shoes for the Charles C. Rich family. They rented a small log room, which had no doors, windows or floor, and a blanket for a door. It was not long before they bought some land in the northwest part of Paris, and took the home they had built at Liberty to Paris to live in. Later another home was built on the same land.

Ann gave her services as a mid-wife for many families in the Bear Lake Valley. There were no doctors there at the time and several women served in this capacity during the early days. On one occasion, when Ann was staying in Liberty, she received a call to go to Nounan. It was in the winter and there was a lot of snow and no road to that part of the valley. She was taken on a hand sleigh with a box on it. Two men wearing snow shoes pulled the sleigh over the foothills to Nounan.

Elizabeth Lewis was the mother of eight children. Ann assisted at the time they were born and also helped in the raising of these children. Elizabeth went out to work at times and the children have told how Ann cooked nice meals and had them eat at her home.

Eliza Lewis Shepherd, the only daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth Lewis, stayed at the home of Ann Lewis a lot of the time. Eliza told of the great service of Ann as a mid-wife as she helped bring hundreds of babies into the world. In order to be ready when people called, she would put her hair in ringlets at night and lay her clothes over a chair so things would be ready when any one knocked on her bedroom window during the night. She took care of the mother and baby for ten days for two dollars and fifty cents. The way of travel in those days was with horses, buggies and sleighs. Walter Lewis, son of Joseph and Elizabeth Lewis, often took Ann to fill her appointments in the different towns throughout the valley.

Sister Sarah Shepherd, when talking of Ann Lewis said,

She delivered eight of my babies including the twins and when she could not do this anymore I felt I couldn't have confidence in anyone else. She used such good judgment, especially when the twins were born, who were delicate babies.

Many people living in Paris at the time Ann was serving as a mid-wife tell of her willing and faithful service to their families.

In the month of January 1878, two weeks after the birth of the tenth child to John and Mary Ann Hymas, Mary Ann passed away. This was a great shock to Ann. The baby, David M. Hymas, was taken to her home at Paris, where she cared for him through the years. He lived and grew to manhood in Paris with Ann filling the void of his lost mother. David loved his grandmother very much.

During the years, Ann lived in Bear Lake there were times when her son Frank and other members of the Pitman family came from Salt Lake City to visit their mother and grandmother.

In the year 1887, Joseph met with an accident and broke his thigh bone. He never fully recovered from this trouble before his death, which came March 14, 1900.

David, the grandson of Ann, went on a mission for the Church. He regretted leaving his wife, whom he had married several years before, as well as his grandmother. He left in April of

1904. After he was gone several months, his grandmother took sick and his wife helped care for her until her death, which came May 10, 1905, just ten days before her ninety first birthday.

When David learned of Ann's death, he wrote these lines in his diary:

This was news which made me also feel sad in one sense, because it was my dear grandmother who had been a protecting mother to me. While I realize she has now grown to be a good old age and spent her life in doing what was right and obeying the gospel teachings and her council and motherly advice to me all my life, has been such as has caused me to dearly love her and hold her even as a mother.

Ann Moulton King Pitman Lewis died in Paris, Bear Lake County, Idaho. She was buried in the Paris Cemetery next to her husband, Joseph.

This Life Sketch of Mary Ann King Pitman Lewis was written by her granddaughter, Edith P. Haddock. The original account has been revised and additions made to make it more complete from stories, documents and other records collected and kept in the Family History Library of K. Oswald.