

## MARY ANN JONES DAVIES

1817-1905 (By her son Nephi James Bates)

Mary Ann Jones was born in the state of Tennessee, 13 April 1817. Her father being Richard Jones (born about 1785, died 1852). Her mother, Margaret Jenkins, daughter of John Jenkins and Anna Stevens, was born near the beginning of 1800, dying by fire in 1869. About 1832 or 1833, the family left Tennessee and located in Missouri and later removed to Illinois, settling at Alton, where they lived a great many years.

Mary Ann married about 1834, one Fields Jacaway, by birth a French Canadian. Five children were born to this union. Mr. Jacaway passing to the great beyond about 1845. Of the children, three died young, two only reaching a good old age, John and Susannah.

The widow, in time, married again, this time to James Bates. Of this union, one son was the issue, who lived to see the allotted three score and ten. The father died in Feb. 1849 and in 1850, the widow again entered into matrimony with an Englishman named Thomas Davies, by whom she had one son and two daughters.

Mother was short in stature and light in weight but plucky in spirit. A good specimen of the type of pioneers that went to make up the early settlers of Missouri, Illinois and Utah. In her girlhood, she became inured to hardships that prepared her for the great Mormon exodus beginning in 1846. In 1852 in May, the family now consisting of parents and three children: John Jacaway, Nephi Bates, and Letitia Davies. (Susan, the oldest having married and gone west.) They started from St Louis Missouri on the memorable journey across the plains to the Great Salt Lake Valley.

Most all of the household furniture was left behind, taking only such articles as necessity called for. Much was thus sacrificed. Into one wagon, the family and their belongings were loaded, a yoke of oxen and a yoke of cows hitched thereto; and on 11 May, the journey commenced, which led over plains, rivers and mountains; amid sunshine and rain, heat and dust, on, on, on toward the great land of promise, Utah. All summer long, with their company they moved, now meeting with obstacles to hinder their progress and again pressing on. One morning, all was excitement when it was discovered that Jamie (this writer) was missing. The train was stopped and a search for the boy began. Toward noon, he was found many miles from the company camp ground to where he had wandered with his dog, a great favorite. The only regret the child had being the fact that he never afterward could find his dog.

Mother's health was remarkably good during the whole trip nursing though she was, a baby girl of six months old at the start. On the 22nd of September, after more than four months travelling, the family reached Fillmore Millard Co., where they were to build up their future home. Here Susan and husband had preceded us and were located, having arrived the year previous. That you my properly understand conditions, I will try to describe the locality or rather the fort.

For better protection from Indian raids, a triangular fort had been erected and inside of which all houses were built. The rear wall of the house being against the fort wall and the front facing inward. The opening or gate was in the southwest corner in the south wall. Immediately on entering the enclosure, one turned to the right and came to a small room built by George Black, Susan's husband, where he and wife lived, in which place their first child was born and died. A little farther on, easterly, another brother had built his home and was comfortably situated. Between these two houses was a little space, perhaps 12 or 14 feet. This was utilized by building a front wall from the corner of one house, Susan's to the corner of the other and covered with logs and dirt to become the winter abode of the new comers. Glass was impossible, so mother found a piece of cloth that served for a window.

It would be useless to describe the hardships of that winter. Father made use of the time between our arrival and snowfall as best he could to get a few of the necessities of life, but where all were poor alike, it was hard to make much headway and by spring our stock of food stuffs was

getting pretty low. Amid all these things, the subject of this sketch never complained and if at times she felt a desire for the comforts of civilization, no one was wiser by reason of her complaints.

In the course of time, a more comfortable home was built in the bigger fort to the south, where a number of years were spent, to be finally exchanged for another house on a city lot containing 1 1/4 acres where the family resided for many years, the head of the family dying there in 1890. The children all named and mother, becoming seriously ill, finally disposed of the place and went to live with her youngest son, Thomas, with whom she spent the balance of her days. In 1900, she went with him to Canada and died there in Raymond in 1905, aged 88 years, loved and respected by all who knew her. Calm in her trials, patient in her afflictions, her days were brought to a close with a firm conviction of the truth of Mormonism and a strong hope of a glorious resurrection.

Patriarchal Blessing of Mary Ann Jones Davies  
1817-1905

Fillmore City Jan 1, 1856

A Patriarchal Blessing by Isaac Morley on the head of Mary Ann Davies, Daughter of Richard and Margaret Jones, born April 13, 1817 in Murray County, Tennessee.

Sister Mary Ann in the name of the Lord, and by authority of the Priesthood we lay our hands upon thy head and I seal upon you the blessing of the Fathers and the Patriarchs and a desire to seek for the welfare of thy father and thy progenitors. Ask of the Lord and he will manifest unto thee thy duty concerning them, and I say unto thee thou shalt share in common with thy partner the blessings of the Everlasting Priesthood, with him be exalted and crowned upon thrones and dominions, and thou shalt find these seals to become binding and obligatory upon thee, and whereby thy heart shall be comforted, thy mind become illuminated upon principles, thy duty will be made plain between thee, thy partner and thy offspring: keys of priesthood will be given thee to rear thine offspring in honor, prudence shall become the key of knowledge unto thee in arranging the affairs of thy household, for the Lord has blessed thee with an honest heart, with pure desires whereby thou wilt ever rest as a confidant in the bosom of thy companion. Thy offspring will confide in thy words and rely upon thy promises, with them thou shalt dwell in peace and be freed from the spirit of deceit or of guile. Thou shalt not want for bread, nor see thy children destitute of the comforts of life, for thou art and Ephraimite - an heiress to the seals of Priesthood. If thou art called to pass trials it will be for thy good, for without them thou canst not be sanctified; and I say unto thee through thy continuance and faith in prayer thou shalt have part in the first resurrection and be crowned with the sanctified in the kingdom of thy Father. Even so, Amen. (Scribe: Lenore A Morley)

Patriarchal Blessing of Polly Anne Jacaway (i.e. Mary Anne Jones Davies) By Hyrum Smith 15 Nov 1841 at Nauvoo Illinois: #121

The Patriarchal Blessing of Polly Anne Jacaway Daughter of Richard and Margaret S Jones Born in Murray County in the State of Tennessee the 13th day of April 1817.

Beloved Sister, I lay my hands upon your head in the Name of Jesus and bless you with Eternal Life by way of Promise and if you desire long life, this also by promise, communion and fellowship with the Saints, Communion with the Holy Spirit and a name that shall be made Honorable by your Posterity in future unto the latest Generation. And as you are an Israelite of the seed of Abraham to be blest in that Covenant you shall be blest with all things relative to the

Covenant Spiritually in the fullness of Times. And as to your Temporal Blessings shall be in Communion with your Husband so also your Inheritance with his. And you shall have the glory that shall be administered, even the same that was placed upon the heads of Sarah And Rachel. Now these are the Blessings which I seal upon you, Irrevocable. Even so, Amen. - Given by Hyrum Smith at Nauvoo Illinois Nov. 15th 1841  
James Sloan Clerk