

Jane Booth Cook

HAPPY DAY, ALL IS WELL



Family History StoryBooks

In the quaint town of Brightmet, Lancashire, England, a girl named Jane Booth was born on June 25, 1844. Jane's world was filled with love from her three sisters and a brother, though her brother's life was short. Her father, Joseph Booth, a weaver by trade, instilled in his children the values of diligence and perseverance.

Even as a young girl, Jane worked in the textile mills with her sisters, where the roar of machines drowned out the dreams of education and play. Education was a luxury Jane and her sisters scarcely knew. Her mother and sisters couldn't read or even write their names. However, the Booth family's strong bond and love for each other made their humble home a sanctuary of comfort and joy.







Jane's home in England was a simple stone and mortar structure, often dark and chilly, nestled in a bustling city. The large fireplace was the heart of their home, providing the only source of warmth and serving as the kitchen for cooking their meals. With the often grey and gloomy English skies, the Booth family relied on candlelight and oil lamps to brighten their evenings.

Their diet was modest, consisting mainly of bread, oatmeal, poultry, fish, and vegetables like potatoes, cabbage, and brussels sprouts. Occasionally, they enjoyed beef, milk, and cheese. Despite the challenges of their living conditions, Jane and her family found joy and togetherness in their daily life, learning to cherish the small comforts amidst the busy city.



A significant chapter in Jane's life began with the arrival of missionaries from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The Booth family listened intently to the missionaries' teachings, and Jane's parents were soon convinced of the truths they shared. They embraced the faith wholeheartedly and were baptized, setting an example for young Jane.

At the age of eight, Jane followed in her parents' footsteps and was baptized on December 10, 1852. This marked a new beginning for Jane and her family, as they embraced a faith that would guide and shape the rest of their lives. The teachings of the missionaries brought a new sense of hope and purpose to the Booth family.







In 1854, Jane's oldest sister, Eliza, married Roger Walmsley Openshaw. Shortly after their wedding, Roger, along with his brother Eli, embarked on the long journey to Utah, the land of Zion, to prepare a home for their families. The Booth family also dreamed of a new life in the American West.

A few years later Eliza left England with her in-laws to join Roger in Utah. They joined the Edward Martin Handcart Company. Eliza succumbed to the harsh conditions of the plains in Wyoming. Her untimely death left a profound impact on Jane and her family. Eliza's memory lingered with Jane, inspiring her own journey of faith and perseverance.



Despite losing Eliza, the Booth family decided to make their way to Utah. Their mother, Ann, had poor health but stated she would go even if she never saw Utah. In 1864, three years after Eliza's departure, they boarded a ship in Liverpool, England, and set sail for New York. The five-week voyage was a daunting one. They endured fierce storms, a collision with an iceberg, and a broken main mast. The ship's captain acknowledged later that if it had not been for the faith and prayers of the Saints, the ship would have been lost.

Upon arriving in America, the family later learned of their ship's fate: it had burned at sea on its return to England. This news filled them with sadness but also immense gratitude for their safe passage and reinforced their belief in the power of faith and prayer. As the family continued their journey, they traveled by steamboat and wagon across the country and even had to make detours due to the ongoing Civil War.







From Nebraska, Jane and her family traveled across the plains. Her role along with her sisters, was to gather buffalo chips for the campfires. She would carry these in her apron, often having to drop her heavy load and start over when the wagon train moved too far ahead. The vast, open landscapes of America were a stark contrast to the cramped city life Jane had known in England, offering a sense of freedom and possibility.

Jane and her sisters walked the entire way - almost 1,000 miles - while their frail mother rode in the wagon. Tragically, Jane's mother's health declined, and she passed away near Wyoming. The family clung to each other and their faith as this journey also brought a sense of hope and new beginnings for Jane and her family.



The Booth family's travels from England to Utah took a grueling five months. Upon their arrival in Santaquin, Utah County, they were reunited with their brother-in-law, Roger. This reunion was a bittersweet moment, as they remembered Eliza and celebrated the courage it took to make such a journey. Sorrow soon touched their lives again when Joseph Booth, Jane's father, fell ill and passed away.

Now alone, the three sisters, Sarah (26), Jane (21), and Hannah (17), looked for a place to belong. While Hannah chose to stay in Santaquin, Sarah and Jane ventured farther south to Fountain Green in Sanpete County, seeking new opportunities and a fresh start. They were grateful to have each other.







In Fountain Green, Jane's life took a hopeful turn when she met William Francis Cook, another immigrant from England. William's first wife had passed away along with their newborn son. Before her passing, his wife had expressed a wish for William to not be lonely and to remarry, even suggesting Jane Booth, a kind young woman they both knew, as a suitable match.

Jane, known for her kindness and warmth, captured William's heart, and they soon found solace in each other's company. This budding relationship was a beacon of hope and happiness for both, as they looked forward to building a life together.



In December of 1866 Jane Booth and William Francis Cook were married. Two years later they traveled to Salt Lake City, where Jane received her endowments and was sealed to William in the Endowment House. The ceremony, performed by Wilford Woodruff, was a profound affirmation of their faith and love that filled their hearts with joy and gratitude.

This sealing marked a new chapter in Jane and William's life together, one filled with love, commitment, and a shared journey in faith. They embraced their future with optimism and strength, ready to face whatever challenges and joys lay ahead, secure in the knowledge that their love was eternal.







Jane and William were eventually blessed with seven children, though their path to parenthood was marked by both joy and sorrow. Their firstborn daughter tragically passed away at birth. This loss was especially hard on William, who feared he might never have a living child.

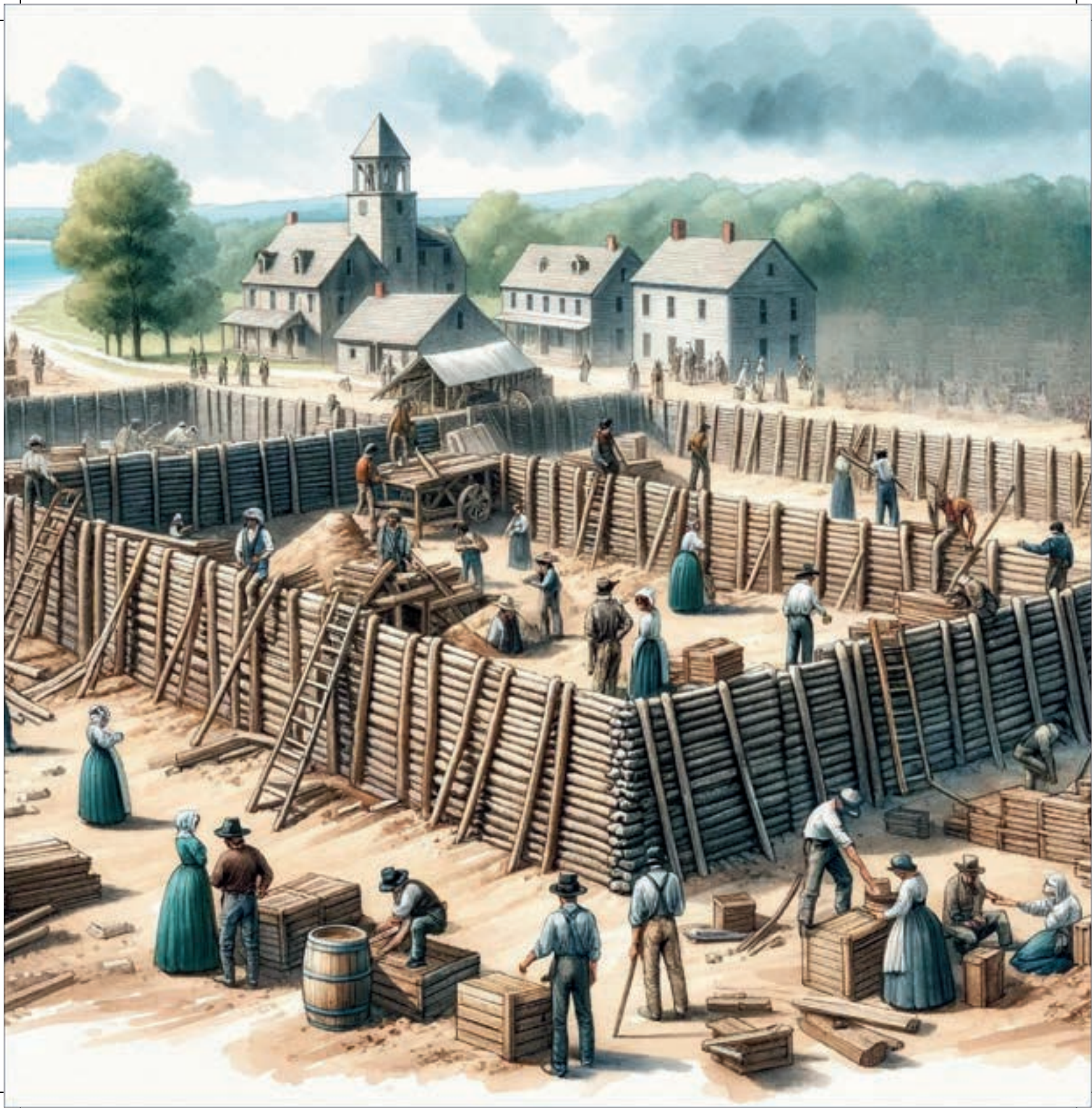
They were both overjoyed when Jane finally gave birth to another daughter, followed by five more sons. Each child brought a unique joy into their lives, filling their home with laughter and love. Jane and William cherished each child, and their family became a testament to the enduring power of faith and love in overcoming life's greatest challenges. Jane and each of her sisters named one daughter 'Eliza' in honor of their sister who died on the journey to Utah.



The Cooks faced the rugged challenges of pioneer life, including the turmoil of the Black Hawk War. For a time, members of the Ute, Paiute, and Navajo tribes became aggressive against the settlers. Jane's family played a vital role in the community's defense, helping to build a protective stockade called Willow Fort. This fort became a temporary home for the settlers during the most dangerous times.

After the war, the community celebrated the peace with an annual festival, honoring those who fought in the Mormon battalions and Black Hawk War. These gatherings were not just commemorations but also joyous reunions, strengthening the bonds between families and friends who had shared in the struggles and triumphs of those challenging times.





After the Black Hawk War, Jane's family moved back to their modest log house William had built. In time, they moved to a brick house with a small farm. Here, they lived a simple life, harvesting their crops by hand and tending to their animals.

The children were an integral part of the farm, helping with chores like loading hay, raking bundles of grain, and fetching water from the well. They also accompanied William on supply runs for the town store. In this simple, hardworking life, Jane and William found immense joy in their children and the growth of their family.







Jane and William continued to have encounters with the Native Americans. William herded sheep and often fell asleep under the cedar trees. In one instance he awoke with an Indian pointing a gun at him and threatening to kill all his sheep unless William gave him the largest one. William complied. Another time, an Indian paid partially for William's horse, promising to return after "10 moons" with the rest of the money, which he did.

Brigham Young's counsel to 'treat the Native Americans kindly and fairly' guided Jane and William's interactions with them. William's kindness towards the Native Americans ensured the safety of his family. He often shared his lunch with them and always treated them well. They never harmed him or his family.





Jane's sister Sarah lived just a block away with her family, allowing the siblings to remain close throughout their lives. They supported each other through life's ups and downs, sharing in both the challenges and joys of life.

Jane was known for her resourcefulness, making her own laundry soap and knitting socks for the family. She also made all the children's clothes until they were old enough to buy their own.

In her later years, Jane was remembered as petite and frail, yet fiercely independent and determined. She loved visiting her children and grandchildren. When asked if she felt strong enough to take a trip she would say "If I should die before my journey is through, happy day all is well". Her strength and resilience left a lasting impression on her family, inspiring them through her love and dedication. She lived to the age of 83.



Jane Booth Cook was a faithful member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, serving diligently in the early ward organizations and as a Relief Society Teacher. She also sang in the ward choir. Her kindness and thoughtfulness extended to everyone she met, and her commitment to cleanliness was well-known. Despite not having much in terms of material wealth, Jane was always content and happy in her humble home.

Jane was also known for her service, particularly in caring for the sick, knitting and making quilts. Her legacy of faith, sacrifice, and service continues to bless her descendants, who are grateful for the strong foundation she laid.

Jane Booth Cook's life was a remarkable journey of faith, resilience, and dedication. From her humble beginnings in England to her pivotal role in building up Zion, she embodied the spirit of the Latter-day Saint pioneers. Her steadfast commitment to the Gospel of Jesus Christ guided her through every challenge and triumph. Her legacy lives on in the hearts of those who continue to walk the path of righteousness, influenced by her unwavering faith, devotion, and love.



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JUNE 25, 1844 - JUNE 18, 1928

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Jane Booth Cook, age 27



Jane and William Cook



The old family home taken in 1932 just before it was torn down.



Cook Family



Pioneer Days with granddaughter Rachel



William and Jane Cook



The Blackhawk Reunion Encampment



What I shall be, I hope



The Cook Family:

**Back row (L to R): William, Thomas, George, Eliza, Joseph, David
Sitting: Jane, William**

