

DANIEL ROBERTS AND FAMILY (Grandfather to
Jesse L. Roberts.)

Daniel Roberts and his family consisting of his wife, Gwen, and daughters Catherin and Eliza and sons William and John Lloyd left Bendu Isaf Cwm, Crouser, Llanfrothan, North Wales, on October 9, 1850, for Liverpool, England amidst the tears of family and friends with Salt Lake City, United States of America as their final goal. They landed in Liverpool in due time and on the 17th set sail from Liverpool in one of the old sailing vessels of the time, to cross the Atlantic Ocean. After an uneventful journey they landed in New Orleans, La. on Nov. 23, 1850. After remaining there but a short time they embarked on a Mississippi River Boat for passage up the river, with St. Louis as their destination. During this time there was an epidemic of Asiatic Cholera raging along the river and during the course of their journey the little son, William, then about three years old, took sick with the dreaded disease and died, and Uncle Daniel contracted the same disease, dying within a few hours thereafter. They were buried side by side in November 1850, on the banks of the Mississippi River at a place called Worthing's Landing, in the State of Kentucky.

This was a sad, sorrowful and trying time for Aunt Gwen. She was now left in a strange land, among strangers, with two little girls, Catherin and Eliza, and one little boy, John, who was only eleven months old. She could speak hardly a word of English, nor could she understand, which made her position very trying and difficult. But she was brave and strong, and would not turn back. She continued struggling onward, reaching St. Louis, Missouri, with her little family about the first of May, 1851, remaining there for about a month. Then she started out for Council Bluffs, Iowa, (Then known as Winter Quarters) arriving there about the 10th of June, 1851. She remained at Winter Quarters, battling for an existence for herself and family, for about thirteen months, or until July, 1852, at which time she left for Salt Lake City, by the dreary march across the plains with a caravan of ox teams. She had a long, tiresome journey of about three months, arriving in Salt Lake City, September 29, 1852. She lived in Salt Lake City with her family until July 8th, 1853, on which date she was married to a man by the name of David R. Evans, who then lived at Brigham City, Box Elder County, which was North of Salt Lake City about sixty miles, to which place she moved with her husband and family. They lived happily together and were prospered at Brigham City. During the eventful night of January 3, 1861, David R. Evans suddenly passed from mortality to his last long rest and sleep without warning.

Aunt Gwen (my grandmother) was again left without a companion and so continued to live a widow during the remainder of her life. She was now left with three children by her first marriage and five more children, one posthumus, to carry on the struggle of life. Fortunately she was left with a nice little home and a good farm, well stocked, at Brigham City, and she struggled along successfully there, mindful of her duties and emplanting, or seeking to emplant, in the hearts of her children the principles of everlasting truth which she had espoused and for which she had sacrificed so much. She continued living on the little farm at Brigham City until the month of April 1871, at which time she sold the property and went to Malad Valley, in the State of Idaho. She gave her children the best education the country afforded at the time and in every way gave them a good start in life. She was permitted to see six of them attain their maturity and each married their choice and started out in life for themselves. She lived faithfully to the testimony she had been given as to the truths of Mormonism and continued to a ripe old age. The summons of death came with a welcome and a feeling of satisfaction that she had lived her life honorably, well and faithfully. She was buried at the side of her 2nd husband, David R. Evans, in the Brigham City Cemetery, Utah.

Aunt Gwen had closed her days in peace, surrounded by those she loved, satisfied with the splendid work she had accomplished and honored and loved by all who knew her. She left a numerous and honored posterity or her sons and daughters; there are still living, Catherine, Eliza, and John L. Roberts by her first marriage; and David L., Charles and Lorenzo Evans by her second all living in parts of Idaho.