

FAMILY HISTORY

HISTORY OF THOMAS FENN	Thomas Fenn was born July 16, 1841 at Billington, Bedfordshire a small village 30 miles from London, England.
Pioneer of September 21, 1854	His father was Joseph Fenn, Born February 14th, 1819 at Billington, Bedfordshire, England. Joseph was the son of John Fenn who was born at Tryng, Bedfordshire, England 1776. John was converted to the Gospel by Robert Hodgert and ordained an Elder by him on August 6th 1848. He was the first to lodge the Mormon Elders at Eaton Bray, and permitted them to use his home for their meetings. He migrated from Liverpool, England on the ship Ellen January 6th, 1851. He was 75 years old and in ill health so he never got any farther than Saint Louis, Missouri; where he lived until his death December 17th, 1857 at the age of 82 years and 11 months.
Written by his niece -- Emma Jane Savage Jensen Information from his Sisters and the Latter-Day Saints Church Historians Office	Joseph Fenn's mother was Martha Wells Fenn, born 1780 at Stan-Bridge, Bedfordshire, England, She had a large family.
Camp: La Brea County : Los Angeles State: California	Thomas Fenn's father, Joseph Fenn, was a tall handsome young farmer with dark blue eyes and brown hair, When he was twenty-one years of age he married Jane Andrews on October 7th, 1840. She was the same age and they had two children, a boy and a girl. The boy was born July , 1841 in Billington, Bedfordshire, England, and was named Thomas. This boy had brown eyes like his mother and a very fine disposition. Two years later my mother was born on November 14th, 1843. She was given the name of Ellen and she had large blue eyes like her father had. When Thomas was four years and nine months old, his father died -- March, 1846. Joseph Fenn was credited with having a very determined nature and a powerful will. He submitted to the operation for the removal of a stone in the kidney. This was before any anaesthetic was discovered and it took courage and will power. Unfortunately, he did not recover and died March 1846 at Billington, Bedfordshire, England.
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1819	
Jane Andrews Fenn was born August 31, 1899 in Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, England, was now a widow at the age of twenty-seven with two children, Thomas and Ellen. This little family went to live with her parents.	and Ellen, emigrated from Liverpool, England for America on the ship Kennebec which sailed Saturday, January 10th, 1852. The Saints were under the direction of John S. Higbee. Quoting from Robert's Hodgert's diary he said; "Saturday, January 10th, 1852----Before-Mid - day we were sailing down the river Mercy; During the day we took our last sight of the land of our birth. Our feelings can not be described, except to those who have passed through the same ordeal. We were now sailing on the water with our faces set Zionward, trusting in the great preserver of his saints for our safety and deliverance out of all difficulties, and to bless and enable us to reach the home of Saints in the "Valley of the Mountains." Again he wrote; "On January 10th, 1852, we went aboard the ship Kennebec, as steerage passengers to New Orleans under Captain Smith. Cost of Adult passage \$17.55-----Children under fourteen years, \$14.55 which included the following;
Her mother, Mary Stevens Andrews, was born December 22nd, 1786; at Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, England, and died May 29th, 1875.	Schedule scale of provisions, weekly to each statute adult Oatmeal, 5 lbs; rice 2 lbs; biscuits 2 1/4 lbs; pork 1 lb; flour 1 lb; sugar 1/2 lb. tea 2 ounces; 3 quarts pure water daily; 2 lbs. butter; 3 lbs. cheese; 2 quarts mollasses; 1 pt. vinegar; during the voyage. Ten weeks provisions to each adult passenger to New Orleans is furnished according to law. The passage money includes head money, \$1.25 which is exacted from all emigrants, whether old or young, by the United States Government on their arrival in the United States. When the passage money, railway expenses and some extra provisions were paid for, I had \$ 51.10 left.
Her father, William Andrews, was born in Eggington, Bedfordshire, England, and died March 1851. He was a builder and lived in a large two storied brick house. My mother used to tell how she played in it and remembered the orchard, gardens and fields. She often said, she remembered it so well she thought if there, she could find it. I was caused to think she thought it possible, but in 1940 a relative visited the place and sent me a picture of the house and it was the same as she described it. The only change that had taken place, in all those years, was a new roof.	Quoting from John S. Higbee's Journal in the Church Historian's records he says; "He was in charge of the whole company which consisted of 212 adults -- 107 children between one and fourteen years of age and fourteen infants, making a total of 333 souls. There were eighty-five Irish emigrants aboard as well."
John Fenn was very fond of his daughter-in-law Jane and her two small children. He urged them to visit him often. While on one of these visits to his home in Eaton Bray, my grandmother met the young Yoxton Elder Robert Hodgert. She became very interested in the Gospel and was baptised by him on October 5th, 1847. He also baptised her mother Mary Stevens Andrews, and her brother Thomas Andrews and his wife.	The trip was a hard one. For days hail storms and high winds
John Fenn encouraged the friendship of the missionary and the young widow which resulted in their marriage in Circuit, near Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, England, on December 27th, 1847. She was five years older than Robert Hodgert, who was still laboring as a missionary, so she and the children continued to live with her mother until he was released.	
Robert Hodgert, his wife Jane and her two children, Thomas and	

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prevailed. The top mast and part of the sails were blown away. January 19th, the cook house was washed down and many were sick.	Miss. River. It was Sunday, March 14th, 1852 that they left New Orleans for St. Louis, Mo. The steamer had to lay by part of the first night
Sunday, Brother William C. Dunbar preached, meetings were held and the Sacrament passed. Many children had died. Saturday, the 21st. we came in sight of Buba. Wednesday March 3rd, anchored outside the bar near the mouth of the Mississippi river after a journey of 6000 miles on the water. On this and the three following days we remained on the bar unable to get off of it. Foggy, cold weather.	out, because of a storm and drift wood. There was much sickness and several deaths.
Monday, March 8th, still out on the bar, provisions very short, nothing left but oatmeal and rice. Friday March 11th, 1852, the Captain sent us up to New Orleans on the steamer "Hercules". We were put out on a wharf boat at the lower part of the city--New Orleans. When we were stuck on the bar, a piolet boat came along and offered his services, but the Captain refused. Next day, three tugs tried to get the ship off the bar and failed--Then the Captain hired the steam boat.	Two children fell of the boat and were drowned while going up the river. My grandmother, Jane Hodgert gave birth to her third child, a boy named Robert Alexander was born on March 18th, 1852.
They were nine weeks crossing the Atlantic in the sailing vessel and the Kennebec was so badly damaged that it sank on the return trip to England.	Ellen remembered this trip very well and used to tell how the boat would frequently stop to get wood to burn in the boilers. When it did all the children would get out and play and have fun on the sand. After thirteen days on the Mississippi River, they reached St. Louis, March 26th, 1852.
Jane Hodgert was pregnant when she left England and the long, hard voyage was very hard on her. She had been in bed most of the time. She had such a high fever that she had lost all of her hair. Fortunately; Robert Hodgert was able to care for the two children and cooked all their meals and tended to all their wants. Ellen was nine years old and Thomas was seven; They never forgot the voyage nor their fear. My Mother always remembered how she played with a group of children and got lice in her hair. She described how her stepfather cut her hair and had to wash her head over a large tub.	John Fenn, my mother's grandfather, was living in St. Louis, so the little family group went to his home. Here they received love and help until they could find suitable quarters in which to live. The baby boy, Robert Alexander, was very ill with what they called "white mouth" and died on April 25th, 1852. He was five weeks and three days old. This was their first sorrow in America.
In John S. Higbee's journal he says the steamer "Pride of the West" took the emigrants and their baggage aboard to take them up to	Robert Hodgert got work immediately at a sugar refinery and Thomas worked too. When Janes health improved, she got a job sewing by hand, the hoods that covered the machines. She did this work in her own home. They were prosperous and began to save every penny because of their great desire to go with the Saints to Salt Lake.
	Thomas and Ellen were both baptised in a pond by the moonlight by Thomas Yates on March 26th, 1853 at St. Louis, Missouri.
	Ellen's Mother, Jane Hodgert, gave birth to another boy while in St. Louis. He was born March the 9th, 1854 and named Alfred Robert.
	Two years had passed since they arrived in St. Louis, Mo. Every member of the family was in good health and they had prospered. They had saved

SRP's
company

William Field Company
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enough money to buy a new covered wagon and a team of oxen so they could cross the plains. Robert and Jane Hodgert, Thomas thirteen years and Ellen aged eleven years and they had a new baby Alfred Robert Hodgert just eight weeks old; left St. Louis on Thursday May 9th 1854 on their long journey to Utah. William Field was appointed Captain of the company which consisted of thirty-nine wagons and one cart.

Later this Company was divided into two companies and they were under Issac Groo. The courage of those Pioneers will ever be an inspiration to me.

Robert Hodgert was not used to driving oxen, he was not a farmer but had been a preacher since he was eighteen years of age and my grandmother, with a tiny baby, to have the courage to make a trek over 1000 miles long; (1000 and forty to be exact.) They had all the experience of other companies in those early days. Buffalo stampedes, Indians, and all the ordinary troubles with wagons breaking down, sickness on the way, etc. Yet, they always felt that God was with them, and was guiding them on their way. Faith lightened their pathway and at night when the wagons were formed into a circle, the company would hold its prayer meeting. They would sing the songs and all rejoice that they were going to Utah.

The two children, Thomas and Ellen, walked all the way across the plains because the wagon was heavily laden and the little mother with her tiny baby had to ride. At one time when they were descending a mountain, she became so frightened that she tried to jump out of the wagon, but fell and the wheel went over the middle of her body. The wagon train was stopped and a prayer circle was held and my grandmother was able to continue the journey. It always seemed a miracle that her life and all was spared.

My mother was so frightened that she never could forget that experience. It made such an impression upon her that all through her life she remembered the power of Faith and Prayer. It was Thomas and Ellens job to run along and gather "Buffalo Chips" with which to build a fire. As they traveled on all went well until just as they were nearing the end of their journey. They were right in the mouth of Emigration Canyon when one of the wheels on their wagon collapsed. It was utterly useless. Robert Hodgert left his family and walked alone all the way to Salt Lake City to purchase a wheel. He bought one from Hohn Sharp and walked back with it and put it on the wagon. This family entered Salt Lake Valley on September 21st, 1854. They had been exactly four months and twenty-two days on the way.

Even at that early date, Brigham Young did not want all Saints to locate in Salt Lake and requested them to make their homes in different parts of the Territory.

The Hodgert family went, upon their arrival, into the home of Issac Sutton where he and his wife made them welcome. Brother Hodgert and Brother Sutton took a trip south from Salt Lake looking for a place to locate. The beautiful mountains and valley of Provo was everything they could desire. They both loved Provo and decided to settle there.

After the October Conference where both Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball spoke--the two families removed to Provo on October 19th, 1854. The weather was very cold. Robert Hodgert rented a log cabin for \$3.00 per month which housed them the first winter. The first thing he did was to plant corn and it ripened just before the snow fell. He left the ears of corn right in their husks and on the stalks. These were put into high stacks and all through the winter he could shake the snow off the stacks and get green corn to eat. It was sweet and delicious. It provided them with food.