

**History of
The Life of Martha Allen May
Of Call's Forte, Now Harper,
Box Elder County Utah
September 25, 1852**

Written by
Jennie Hunsaker Crowley
May 4, 1940
Of Camp Mary Louis
Daughters of Utah Pioneers
Twin Falls, Idaho

Typed and assembled
in the 1970s by
John Theodore Arbon
of Bountiful, Utah
Davis County



Martha Allen
Born September 26, 1839
Farmer, Loraine County Ohio
Married James May August 24, 1856
Died November 17, 1923, Calls Forte, Utah

Home Sweet Home 1869
Calls Forte, Utah



Frank
Born November 18, 1872
Calls Forte, Utah
Married Nettie Wight
Died October 31, 1923
Buried Calls Forte, Utah



Harriett
Born August 7, 1874
Calls Forte, Utah
Married Robert Kelly
Died September 7, 1918
Buried Rockland, Idaho



1 - Sarah Margaret B. Sept 23, 1867
 Calls Forte, Utah
 Married Osro Barnard
 Died August 23, 1941 Garland, UT
 Buried at Calls Forte, Utah

2 - James Ira B. Nov 29, 1857
 Bountiful, Utah
 Married Elizabeth Ann Henrie
 Died March 30, 1938
 Buried Calls Forte, Utah

3 - Martha Ellen B. Mar 14, 1865
 Calls Forte, Utah
 Married Enoch Hunsaker
 Died February 27, 1943

4 - George B. Nov 28, 1861
 Calls Forte, Utah
 Married Alice Hall / Martha Davis
 Died Dec 22, 1942 Coolie Hospital
 Brigham City, Buried Calls Forte
 Services in 3rd Ward Brigham City,
 Utah

Henry Lyman B Jan 25, 1863
 Died Feb 8, 1863

5 - Joseph Eugene B. May 24, 1882
 Calls Forte, Utah
 Married Agnes Lee
 Died April 3, 1958

6 - Emma B. Sept 19, 1880
 Calls Forte, Utah
 Married Arthur Davis 1904
 N.L Hansen 1928
 Died October 5, 1954
 Dee Hospital Ogden, Utah
 Buried October 9, 1954
 Calls Forte, UT

7 - Andrew B. Feb 22, 1871
 Calls Forte, Utah
 Married Laura Summerill
 Died February 6, 1958

8 - Evaline Born June 26, 1869
 Calls Forte, Utah
 Married Elzarus Hunsaker
 Died August 29, 1946



Jude Allen B. Oct 14, 1859
Bountiful, Utah
Married Rose E. Perry Dec 22, 188x
Died Aug 7, 1946
Buried Lovell, WY



Richard B. Jun 27, 1876
Calls Forte, Utah
Married Ella Snell Aug 8, 1898
Died Oct 15, 1955 Salt Lake City, UT
Buried Oct 18, 1955 Salt Lake City, UT



Mary Ann B. Apr 20, 1878
Calls Forte, Utah
Married John Arbon May 5, 1900



Ella and
Richard Charles
Mr. and Mrs. R. C. May

Ella and Richard May



James May
Family Reunion
Bee Hive Girls
Summer Camp
Logan, Utah
June 1936

James May Family Reunion 1936 Bee Hive Girls



Bee Hive Girls' Camp
Logan, Utah

Page 1 – Martha Allen May History

Martha Allen, the daughter of Jude Allen and Mary Ann Nicholas, was born September 26th, 1839, at Parmer, Loraine County, Ohio. Her parents joined the church of the Latter- Day Saints and when Martha was eight years of age she was baptized by Elder Johnson at Kanessville Mo. and confirmed the same day.

In 1843 with her parents she moved to Nauvoo Illinois, where they resided for about two years. It was during this time the Saints were so sorely persecuted and subjected to mob violence. She distinctly remembered seeing the Prophet Joseph ride through the streets of Nauvoo on his famous black horse "Brigham" and of seeing the Prophet's body guard. She also remembers seeing the Prophet's brother, Hyrum Smith. She saw them lying in state at their home, after they were murdered. In company with her Mother and many others she was shown the tub of bloody clothes taken from their dead bodies; this being impressed very vividly upon her child mind, and which she never forgot. She remembered the gloom and sadness that prevailed among the Saints, during those troubled days.

While yet a young child, her parents with others left Nauvoo in Emmet Company, traveling as far as Fort Vermillion, wintering near the French and Indians. She saw the Indians in their war-paint, when they tried to attack the settlers, but the families were protected by the men of the camps. Her family wintered one year on what was called Big Ponca, moving the next spring to Little Ponca, where her Father planted and tried to raise a crop. He was advised to move on westward, thus the crop was never harvested. The Allen family was poor, having scant provisions to resume the journey. Their next stop was at Kanessville, on the Missouri River, opposite winter quarter. Leaving here they stopped next at the place called North Pigion, staying here three years. Here they raised a garden , flax, corn and wheat.

Benjamin Gardner was the name of the President of this branch of the church in which they lived. In the month of May, many families with her father moved nearer the banks of the Missouri River, where they waited three weeks for the waters to recede, in order that they might be ferried across to Winter Quarters.

Benjamin Gardner was made Captain over fifty wagons and families. Her Father was made Captain of ten families. So finally, in 1852, after eight years of moving from one place to another, Jude Allen and his family were ready to begin the journey to Utah. Before starting on their way, orders were given to the company that no one person or group, walking, stay far behind the wagon train.

At one stretch of the journey, berries were plentiful, Martha and some other children tried to gather some of them after eating all they wanted. The wagon had kept on going and the children were far behind. Before they reached the wagons some Indians gave them a terrible scare, fortunately no one was hurt. When they caught up with the wagons they were given a sound scolding and they promised to never lag behind again, which promise they kept the rest of the journey.

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Martha remembered seeing many roving bands of Indians prowling coyote, wolves, and large herds of buffalo, as she walked across the plains driving a small band of sheep, she also gathered wild berries to eat and wood to build their camp fires.

After journeying for some time due to poor food and bad water, thee dread disease, cholera, broke out in the company. In a short time twenty-four members were dead, among them, her brother Jude.

Every remedy the Saints had used in an effort to stop the dread disease. Finally in desperation, Martha's mother mixed vinegar with water – which happened to be the right remedy to neutralize the alkali in their systems which was making them sick. The alkali had entered their bodies in the dust they had breathed. Martha's father gathered cakes of alkali or saleratus which he brought to Utah; it being used as soda in their bread making.

Going hungry, scantily clothed, walking barefoot, driving a small band of sheep being tired and travel worn, she arrived in the Salt Lake Valley, September 25, 1852.

The Allen family lived on the church farm for two months, where they worked for John Dalton. They then moved on to what is now Bountiful Davis County, Utah, which was then called Sessions Settlement where they bought a home.

Due to ill health and lack of funds with which to pay for schooling, Martha never had the privilege of attending school, never learned to read or write. Being blessed with a wonderfully good memory she obtained an education far above the average. Her English being almost perfect and as for arithmetic, she could do sums mentally very readily and accurately.

When the Kimball Grist Mill was finished a big celebration was given dancing, singing, and feasting being enjoyed. During the fun three girls, Mary, Martha's sister, Martha, and Hanna Jones chumming together as girls will, were standing together beneath some stair steps, laughing at the awkwardness of three young men, English emigrant boys trying to dance; little dreaming they would be their future husbands. But such they proved to be in the persons of John Dewey, James May and Thomas Harper.

First Mary and John were married then Hannah and Thomas, finally Martha and James, who were married August 24th, 1856, and strange as it may seem these three families were very closely associated the remainder of their lives. While living in Bountiful, Martha's and James' first baby James Ira was born Nov. 29, 1857.

In the fall of 1857 the Mormon War occurred, when the President of the United States send troops to Utah to clean up the unlawful Mormons. Pres. Brigham Young was appointed governor of the Territory, be put the territory under martial law. Every able bodied man had to fall into line. Three companies of cavalry were organized and equipped under the leadership of Captain Lot Smith, Porter Rockwell and others.

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They burned wagons, ran off stock, burned the grass and harassed the troops in every conceivable way, for several months, or until the soldiers went into winter quarter at Fort Bridger. Thomas L Kane sent by the government to find out what the trouble was learned that the reports sent to Washington were not true. His message to the government cleared up the trouble.

When Brigham Young first heard the army was coming, he ordered all the people to leave their homes and move south, leaving everything to be burned by a few men chosen to remain behind to carry out his orders if the troops entered the valley. It was not necessary to burn the homes, and the people moved back, finding fine crops on nearly all the farms. Wheat, especially had grown without plowing or sowing.

While south, Martha, James and baby James with many others were camped on the Provo (river) bottoms. They had just arrived and had no tent or wagon cover and then laid some canes over the top of a deep wagon box. It rained all night. In the morning they were wringing wet but none of the caught cold or suffered any ill effects.

Their second son, Jude Allen, was born in Bountiful, Davis County, Utah, October 14, 1859. In the spring of 1859 they rented a small farm from Anson Call of Bountiful. It was located in Box Elder County, north of Brigham City. They did not move to Calls Fort permanently until 1861 when her father, Jude Allen and family and brother-in-law, John Dewey and wife came with them to find a home. Later John Dewey and wife went farther north and settled near a spring, calling it Dewey's spring; later changed it to Deweyville. James and Martha and two babies, Jude Allen and family settled in Calls Fort.

Martha's first home was a dugout in which she lived for fifteen months, and was very happy. Another baby boy, George came to gladden their home, Nov 28, 1861.

To help make ends meet Martha made pies which James, her husband, took to the soldiers camps to sell. It was in the year 1862 he met a young soldier boy Luther Burmiman, camped at Hampton's Bridge north of Brigham City, some twenty odd miles. His company was returning from California. James invited Luthur to come spend the evening at his home. After staying all night Luthur joined the company of soldiers on their way to Salt Lake City. Staying there a month, he with part of his company were sent to quiet some Indian trouble in Cache Valley.

While on his way back he again visited James and Martha. He became greatly interested in the Book of Mormon.

One day while reading it, Chief Pocatello and twelve braves came to deliver a saw James had bought from the Indians; at this particular time James was away from home gathering iron from plow shares and other farm implements from the remains of an immigrant train camp that had been massacred and burned out west in the Raft river country.

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Martha was on here knees scrubbing the floor, when a shadow passed over her shoulder, upon looking up to see the cause, she saw Chief Pocatello. When he reached in to five her the saw, he saw the soldier boy, with one word "To quash" all his braves were head and shoulders inside the door. Through the pleading of Martha making known who the boy was. She said "Sick Boy, homesick to see his Mother", "No bad man-no kill Indians, No kill papoose." His life was spared.

James returned in the evening and escorted Luthur under cover of darkness at night part way home, through Mantua, Martha thought. After James returned in the early morning hours three of the Indians unknown to Chief Pocatello or any one, sneakingly, came back and searched the room, attic and cellar for the soldier boy intending to kill him – after more pleading and persuading they finally left satisfied that the soldier was not hidden anywhere.

In March 1860, the year before they moved to Calls Fort, they received their endowments and were sealed for all eternity. They moved from the dugout into a two roomed log house. Henry Lyman was born Jan 25, 1863 but died shortly after from a cold on Feb 8, 1863.

A daughter Martha Ellen was born March 14, 1865, another daughter Sarah Margaret was born Sept. 23, 1867. That same year in Sept. they finished their barn 30 x 40 ft. June 26, 1869 – another daughter, Evaline was born. That same season they put up a rock house, just the walls and roof and finished the kitchen part. The railroads met at Corrine, Box Elder County, UT in 1869.



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In the fall of 1869 her husband James was called on a short mission laboring in New York and Ohio, arriving home Mar 4, 1870. Feb 22, 1871 – Andrew was born. They had a small band of sheep. The wool from them was made into clothing and bedding for their family needs.

Nov 18, 1872, another baby boy, Frank was born. Before 1874 they took stock in a Brigham City Co-op to the amount of \$1900 and received \$100 for their investment. In Sept 1874 her husband was called on a cotton mission. They located a place six miles east of Washington, Utah. They build a dam in the Virgin River which is still used today for irrigation. He was engaged in this work for three years, off and on.

This was a trial for Martha, left at such hard times, to care for her children. She suffered a very serious sickness, which lasted off and on for two or three years after which her health was good.

A daughter Harriet was born Aug 7, 1874 and a son Richard Charles June 27, 1876.

Nov 21, 1877 her husband married Rohda Ann Lang – daughter of William and Mary Lang of St. George, Utah. He also did temple work for this Father, Mother and brother Thomas in the St. George temple Nov 3rd and 4th of the same year 1877.

April 20, 1878 baby Mary Ann was born and baby Emma was born Sept 19, 1880. May 24, 1882 Martha gave birth to her last baby, a boy, Joseph Eugene. Bringing into the world eight sons and six daughters. Through thrift and economy and hard work they reared them to man and womanhood all except Henry Lyman who died when he was two weeks old.

In 1886 her husband served a six months term in the State penitentiary and a \$100 fine for polygamy. To escape further punishment for polygamy, Sept 20, 1888 he loaded his wife Roda and four children, Minnie, Missia, Ben and Agnes into a light wagon and started out to find a new home, landing in Cardston, Alberta, Canada, after traveling twenty-three and a half days.

Mother Martha always encouraged her children to study and get an education and was proud of her children and grandchildren, when they graduated in their lines of learning.

She was a natural and willing nurse, and went at all times of the day or night, to the assistance of the sick, suffering, and the dying.

When her husband moved to Canada, George, her third son, who was living in Rockland, Idaho, with his three children George Absalom, Martha Lillian and James Eugene, having just lost his wife – Alice was called home by his father to help her raise the family. During the three years his father spent in Southern Utah it was son George who wrote the weekly letter to his father for his Mother. At the time he thought he was very much abused and imposed upon, but now he is happy he could do this for her and today the May children living, can thank him for keeping the old home in the May name.

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Martha raised George's three children beside her own. Her home was always a refuge to the homeless, the needy, and the tramp.

Into the mission field she sent five sons and helped finance grandsons and others – some twenty-one missionaries.

She was a staunch and faithful church member, never allowing any thing disrespectful to be said of the church authorities and when her husband took a plural wife and because of the trouble that arose from this practice – and his moving to Canada, leaving her with her large family of small children, she never allowed one of them to say one word of disrespect against him. Because of this great stand she took, every one of her children are firm believers in the Faith.

She worked in the Relief Society as first Councilor for many years and was a Relief Society teacher. She was also President of the young Ladies Mutual Improvement Association for some time. She was inoffensive, patient, and in her kindly way helped many young people with her council and advice.

Although she could not read to spend the time, her hands were never idle, there was always knitting, needles knitting and purling, a stocking for a son, son-in-law, or a grandson. She almost always had a pair around at Christmas time. Sunday was a Holy day for her – a day of rest and worship. She never touched her knitting or did any work more than necessary.

In the late nineties she made a trip by team to the Yellow Stone Park in Wyoming. This was a wonderful trip to her as she often talked about it.

In July 1900 son George and his wife Martha and children Alice and Leon took Mother Martha to Canada to visit her husband and family. While there they spent a week on Coutney Lake. They went by rail.

Another trip she took of much distance, was to Park City to visit her daughter Emma. Her granddaughter Jennie, Evaline's daughter accompanied her on this trip, they traveled by rail also.

Her husband after spending twenty-two years with his second family in Canada failed in health, becoming critically ill, requested that he might finish his last days in peace and love in the old rock home, that he and his first wife had labored so hard and diligently those many long heart-aching years ago. Built in the Springtime of their young and tender love. Did she fail him? No indeed. In Feb 1910 her youngest son, Joseph Eugene, was sent to Canada, to bring him home. He lived but a few weeks passing quietly away March 29, 1910, in the old home, one no grander on earth, one of honor and love for noble parents, brothers, sisters, relatives, friends, and the stranger within its gates. Truly like the song he loved, "The Rock of Our Salvation."

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Mother Martha's eyes began to grow dim and dimmer until finally she was in total darkness due to cataracts on her eyes, this she endured for three years. They were operated on by Dr. Stauffer in Salt Lake City, who saved the sight of one eye. Oh! What joy she felt when she saw the first train pass through the old cow pasture below the house as she sat on the back porch.

The old home had been fitted up with electric lights and later water piped into it, affording modern conveniences for here to enjoy.

Her first grown child the tenth born to her, to pass away, was her daughter, Harriet, who died while yet so young, hoping against hope for a long and beautiful life, Sep 7, 1918 at the age of 44 years. And again, death came to the family taking Son Frank the 9th. "The Great May Scouter," honored and beloved by all Oct 31, 1923 at the age of 51 years. In her declining years she wanted her daughter Emma to take care of her. In fact she would have no other. Thus through Emma's love for her Mother she sacrificed her home and husband to care for her Mother, which covered over a period of fourteen years.

It was the following month after her son Frank's death Nov 17, 1923 at 2 PM that her noble spirit left its earthly tabernacle. She was laid away by the side of her husband James and son Frank, in the Calls Fort Cemetery where her life long friends, Hanna and Thomas Harper were buried.

In her passing no other will ever fill her place until and when we through our lives and clean and honest living will meet her and Father, face to face, and they will say "We welcome you, our generations through our children."



Mary Ann May Arbon

Taken about 1936-37

A Memory by Mary Ann May Arbon of Snowville, Utah

One time when Emma and I were young, before Father went to Canada, Mother sent us with dinner to the South field for father and the boys who were working there. We were told to hurry home after we had eaten with them. Gathering up the dinner dishes we started off, barefooted as we so often were.

Joseph and Libbie Yates lived on the high way, the nearest place to the field, and had two small girls Annie and Katie, who were near our age. Among the four of us we decided to stop and play house. Emma was surely good on the organ even at that early age, using a five gallon can on its side for the instrument. Annie the really neat mother. Katie and I were book agents. Truly we had seen one once.

We were enjoying ourselves so much we forgot the time. The sun was going down, father and the boys had gone home. We hid while they went past. Darkness grew upon us. We were a little afraid and did we hurry.

Going quietly upon the back porch, everyone was eating supper. We could see Andrew eating green onions and father's whiskers going up and down. We heard ma say "I wonder where those girls are?"

"Here we are ma." "Well it's about time where have you been?"

"Annie coaxed us to stop and play. Her pa and ma were in Salt Lake City."

Father looked up under his heavy eye brows, "You two girls go into the smoke house."

The bigger boys knew what that meant. Well we dragged our tired hungry little selves there, stepped inside and commenced crying. We were afraid of the dark smoke house too. Old Carlo, our dog, felt sorry for us and kept sniffing around. He knew what he got sometimes when he couldn't find all the cows in big Canyon. He got a scolding or whipping and had to go back. Sometimes he got it anyway for growling at Aunt Sarah Allen when she'd visit us.

Poor dear Hattie, she had the dishes to wash. We most always hid when they were dirty. One time after dinner (noon) we climbed up the apple tree and hid among the leaves on top the porch. She called and called us. Makes me sad to think of it now. We never came down till we heard her pour the dish water in to old swill barrel buried in the ground near the porch. (the only one near drowning in it was Maggie's baby, Roy.) Then we heard ma say "Hattie, find those girls and lets sew some carpet rags, before time to get supper.

Well back to my story. We were still crying and trying to comfort each other. Father called "Tottie, Emma, your girls come and go up to bed." No, he never whipped us, but his looks could surely hurt. Ma said we couldn't have any supper and that hurt worse than ever. We got into bed still crying and Emma said "Yes, and my little toe hurts too, what I got froze last winter." Then we heard footsteps on the stair and then, that mean old pa, we called him, handed us each a cup of milk with a piece of bread and butter and honey, saying "Your ma, sent me with this. Now eat your supper and next time hurry home." He kissed us and said "Goodnight little girls," and went down stairs to mother.

It any of we children should falter by the way we can never blame our mother for she taught us all to pray.

December 3, 1940

Left: Mary Ann May Arbon
Snowville, Utah

Right: Ida Barnard Rhodes

Taken at the home of Mary Ann
May Arbon by Eanone A Robbins





Aunt Emma May Davis
Aunt Agnes May – Wife of Joseph May

Taken about 1950-51 at the home of
Eanone Arbon Robbins, Ogden Utah
Daughter of Tottie