

MERCY MARINTHA LONGHURST WHITTINGTON**MARINTHA LONGHURST WHITTINGTON HISTORY**

Marintha Longhurst Whittington is the sixth child of William Henry and Ann Preston Longhurst. She was born on the 26th day of March 1858 at Deptford England, and lived there with the family until she was 6 years old. Although she was just a child, there are some things she remembered while living there. One of which was that she with a number of other children were allowed to go to the Palace and there had the privilege of kissing Queen Victoria's hand. She also went to Westminster Abby. These two incidents seem to stand out in her mind and memory. She often told her grandchildren.



Then came the time when the family was ready to sail for America.. On the first day of June 1864 they boarded the sail boat "Hudson" and began the long journey to Zion. They were all so happy to have this privilege and never complained of the hardships they went through. Mother remembered walking a lot of the way across the plains, and stopped to gather buffalo chips to help make a fire. She also remembered the death of Bro. John Kay, president of the company, and of him being buried beside the trail. They arrived in Salt Lake Valley on the 2nd of November, 1864, just 5 months and one day after leaving England. They stayed in Salt Lake a short time. They lived in a dugout while there.

In the year 1865 they moved to Bountiful, Utah. In 1870 they moved to Woodruff, Utah. On the 11th day of Dec 1873, her mother passed away leaving her at the age of 14 years to care for her father and seven brothers, the youngest being only four years old.

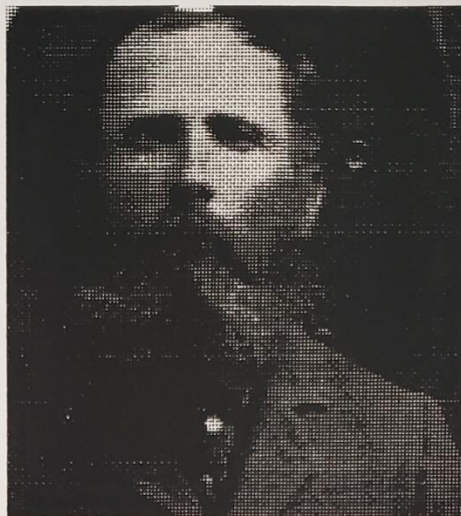
Now began real trials and sacrifices for her. She had to cook and keep house, learned to card wool, spin, and weave to make their clothes. She made, by hand, all the clothes for the boys, their coats, pants and underwear. She gleaned wheat, cut the heads for straw. The straw was braided and made into hats.

She gathered leaves, bark and roots from the hills to make dye to color some of the straw with. Although she was badly needed at home, her father saw that

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she went to school. She completed the 4th reader and always took her knitting and would knit at recess and noon, knitting socks for the boys.

When she was sixteen she fell in love with a young Texas cowboy, who was not of her faith. In those days outsiders were not allowed to attend the church parties and dances. These two young people were very much in love. Grandfather Longhurst told mother she wouldn't be left out of going to the dances, so he always took her and left the lad (father) to stay at away. Being a fine young man that he was, he respected their religion and soon joined it. He was baptized in Woodruff in 1874. They cut two feet of ice in order to find enough water for this purpose. (Bear River)



George A. Whittington

Mother and Dad were married 12 Jan 1876, in Woodruff. They moved to Garden City, I think the year was 1879. They lived there until 1917 when they moved to Logan, Utah where they did much temple work. In 1920 they moved to Ogden, UT, and lived with me. They were the parents of nine children, 3 of them died when they were babies. They lost three other boys who were married and had large families. Father came west when he was 21 and never returned or saw any of his people for 50 years. His youngest brother came to Logan to visit him for a short time. Father was always true to his faith and served as a counselor in the bishopric in Garden City for 21 years. My mother was a grand person, was talented, cheerful disposition, and everyone loved her. She had a lovely voice and was called on to sing at many places, especially funerals. She loved to care for the sick. They would come for her day and night to care for the sick and to lay out the dead. One incident I well remember was a man coming for her in the night to go to his wife who was expecting a baby. This family lived in the hills back of Garden City. It was miles up the Canyon and very dark and raining. One of the horses pulling the buggy slipped and broke a tug. The man became excited and not having wire or string to tie it with, mother took off her rag garter to tie the tug with and they were soon on the way. Mother was an active member of the Church and always held some position in it (Chorister for 15 years, 1st counselor Relief Society, teacher). She was a practical nurse and delivered over 100 babies without a doctor. She delivered the baby, cared for the mother for 10 days for \$3, and often she didn't receive the \$3. She loved her home and sisters and was happy to do anything she could for them. When Uncle Warren and Aunt Myra received a call to fill a

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mission for 3 years to Samoa, they had a little boy 11 years old they had adopted. Mother cared for him while they were away.

She did good wherever she could, helping the needy, cheering the sorrowful. I am thankful she was my mother and I pray I will be worthy of meeting her on the other side. She died 8th of Jan. 1938 at Ogden, Utah. She, my father, Brother Jim, his wife and my brother Warren are all buried in the Ogden Cemetery.

By Bessie Whittington Allsop

Note: Full name is Mercy Marantha Longhurst Whittington