

Thomas Jefferson Adair 31 May 1814

By Shaelle Douglas

Thomas Jefferson Adair was born on May 31, 1814 in Alabama. He was also my fifth great grandpa. When he was twenty one he joined the army and went to fight the Seminole Indians in Florida .He almost lost his life a couple of times. I think he is brave for doing that and not giving up. After that he got married to a woman named Frances Rodgers. They had five children. Thomas belonged to the Methodist church. After he heard the Mormon elders preach he knew what they were saying was true and he and his family were baptized into the Mormon Church. This made the Methodist churches people angry, so they sent their elders to try to get him and his family back. When they found it was no use they told him they would tar and feather him and run him out of town. He said ok come if you must, I'm not afraid of you. At daybreak the next morning they came. He dressed himself and got his rifle and shotgun, sat down in the doorway, and told them to come. He was a very good shot, so he was not afraid. The mob also knew he was a good shot, so they didn't come within range of the guns. Just within calling distance. They swore at him and showed him they had the tar and feathers. He told them to come and get him, but they did not come. He sat by the door until midnight. He didn't remain there long but started to move with the Saints. I think he was really strong and brave for doing that.

After that he traveled to Nauvoo with a company that got fed quail. Him and his family went to Mount Pisgah and was there when a very bad sickness came. He lost his wife, two kids, and mother. Many other relatives died. There was a monument made in 1888 in memory of all the saints left in the cemetery. I bet it was a really hard time for him.

Mary Vance Waggle Adair was born October 27, 1820 in Illinois. Mary was a widow of Jacob Waggle they had five children and then he died. She married Thomas J Adair then went to Mount Pisgah. Then they crossed the plains in the summer of 1852. All they had to eat was ten bushels of corn meal and one bushel of salt. They had two cows, so they got a lot of milk. Thomas was chosen hunter of the company, so they had plenty of meat. They were real pioneers. With their families they were called by Brigham Young to settle in Dixie on April 15, 1858. There, Mary Elizabeth was born. She was the first baby born in Washington. His family spent their whole lives in the pioneering of new country. They both served the Lord and had 11 children.

Thomas died when he was 76 years old on September 19, 1890. Mary Vance Waggle died when she was 97 on June 16, 1918. They both died at Apache County, Arizona. I think Pioneers must have been really hard workers. I also bet they had a lot of happy times. I am glad that I was able to find out about my relatives. I didn't know that I was related to pioneers and some of the things they had to go through.