

Mariah Elizabeth Duzette Edwards

From the original Sexton Records:

Name: Maria Elizabeth Edwards

Age: 32y; 11m; 26d

Relationship: Wife of Elizhia Edwards

Deceased: June 30th, 1847

Disease: Consumption

Birth Place: Not listed

Birth Date: July 4th, 1814

Grave No. 166

Birth Date: July 25, 1814

Birth Place: Madison, Madison, New York

Death Date: June 30th, 1847

Cause of Death: Consumption

Burial Place: Winter Quarters Grave #166

Father's Name: Philemon Duzette, Jr.

Mother's Maiden Name: Elizabeth Jane King

Spouse's Name: Elisha Franklin Edwards

Which Winter Quarters Ward or Iowa Branch was the family: Winter Quarters Ward 17

Where was the family in the 1850 U. S. Census? Listed as family #1000, District 21, Pottawattamie County, Iowa

Which Pioneer wagon train took the family west? The Edwards family initially traveled to the Salt Lake Valley in the Robert Wimmer Company in 1852. The family consisted of Elisha and his current wife, Jane Gould, and Elisha's children, Edward Erwin, James Peas, and Harrison Martin. Jane Gould died en route.

Also traveling in the Robert Wimmer Company was Elisha's brother, Caleb Gibbons, his wife, Cynthia Shepahr, and their children, Jane Ellettice and Caleb Elisha.

Any interesting facts or stories that might have been submitted.

Elisha Edwards was a pioneer from the day he arrived on December 13, 1806 in the scarcely-settled Western Connecticut Reserve of Ohio. His Edwards' ancestors were some of the earliest settlers of the American colonies in the mid-1600s. He was the second eldest of ten children of

Rufus Edwards and Letitia Windsor, born in the community of Mantua, Portage County, Ohio. Rufus had come from Connecticut to Mantua with his brothers and a sister in the spring of 1799. They were among the first to live in that wilderness area and Elisha's parents were the first couple to get married in Mantua, on December 18, 1803. When Elisha was twenty-five, he chose seventeen-year-old Mariah Duzett who lived in the same county to be his bride and they were married on January 8, 1834. Mariah was born in Madison, New York on July 25, 1814, the daughter of Philemon Duzett and Elizabeth Jane King. Four years before Elisha's wedding in 1830, Parley P. Pratt and three other missionaries from The Church of Jesus Christ had stopped in Kirtland, Ohio (the former home of Elder Pratt). They preached the gospel to a congregation of the Disciples or Cambellites whose pastor was Sidney Rigdon. The missionaries converted twenty members, and in succeeding weeks practically the entire group was brought into the new church. A large group in Ohio received the gospel and Joseph Smith and other members of the church came to the Kirtland area early in 1831. Joseph and Emma later moved to the Johnson farm in Hiram, Ohio, so that he and Sydney Rigdon could work on revising the Bible. In March an evil mob tarred, feathered, and nearly killed Joseph and Sydney. Mariah's father, Philemon Duzette, heard of the assault and rode the thirty miles from Kirtland to Hiram to investigate. He was converted while witnessing the Prophet's guileless preaching the day after such a terrible beating. Elisha Edwards was baptized into the Latter-day Saint church in 1833 by Orson Hyde. We do not have a record of Mariah's early baptism date, but it was likely about the same time as her husband. Two children were born to Elisha and Mariah while they lived in Mantua: Elisha Franklin on 18 November 1832 and Edward Erwin on May 10, 1834. There were many troubles for the fledgling the church at this time. The Saints in the Kirtland area were working hard to build a temple. The \$60,000 structure was a tremendous undertaking and had drained the treasury of the church and most of the ready cash of the members. In the spring of 1832, the Saints in Jackson County were being harassed by the old settlers in that area and by November 1833, twelve hundred Saints were driven away and two hundred homes were destroyed. Jackson County Saints crossed the Missouri River into Clay County. In the spring of 1834, Joseph Smith organized a group of two hundred volunteers in Ohio to march to the aid of their brethren in Missouri. Mariah's father, Philemon Duzette, joined this organization which came to be known as Zion's Camp. They arrived in Clay County, Missouri, July 3, where they disbanded and returned peaceably to Ohio. The Lord had given a revelation on June 22 to "wait for a little season for the redemption of Zion." Philemon Duzette did not return to Ohio with the others. We do not know what happened to him. Apostasy in the church in Kirtland reached a climax in 1837 when over half the membership there either left the church or were excommunicated. The failure to establish "Zion" in Jackson County, Missouri, and the failure of the Kirtland Safety Society (when hundreds of banks throughout the U.S. failed in the financial panic of 1837), were two reasons for this apostasy. Joseph Smith was kept constantly in the courts on one trumped-up charge after another, until on January 12, 1838, he was forced to flee from Kirtland in order to save his life from an infuriated mob of apostates. The close of the year 1837 and the year 1838 witnessed a general exodus of saints in the region of Kirtland who remained loyal to the Prophet. On July 6, 1838, a group of more than five hundred souls, designated as "The Kirtland Camp," made the journey from Kirtland under the direction of the First Council of Seventy, and arrived at Far West, Missouri, October 4, 1838. Elisha Edwards and his family made this long trip. We

do not know exactly with which group they traveled or when they arrived at Far West, but Mariah was pregnant during the journey. Eight days after “The Kirtland Camp” arrived in Far West, Mariah gave birth to her third son, James Peas, 12 October 1838.

Shortly after Elisha was released from prison in Richmond, Missouri, he and Mariah with their three little children pushed on north in the cold of November toward swampy Commerce, Illinois, soon to become ‘Nauvoo the beautiful.’ There Harrison Martin was born in 1841.

Beginning in February 1846, the Saints started their removal from Nauvoo, crossing the Mississippi River into Iowa, Sugar Creek, Garden Grove, Mount Pisgah, and Winter Quarters (presently Florence, Nebraska). The cry of the citizens of Hancock and neighboring counties had become so insistent for their removal that the exodus began two months before the Saints had anticipated. It had become absolutely vital that it begin if bloodshed was to be averted. The extreme cold and lack of adequate provisions and preparations caused much hardship and suffering upon the people. Elisha and his family were part of this sad exodus. They were at Winter Quarters intending to go west with the pioneers, but Mariah was weakened from the terrible living conditions and she died of consumption on June 30, 1847. She was still a young woman only 32 years of age. Elisha was left with four young sons, Harrison being only six years old. While still at Winter Quarters, on February 10, 1848, Elisha married twenty-seven-year-old Jane Gould. She was born on 7 Jan 1821 at Jay, Oxford County, Maine, a daughter of Samuel and Mrs. Polly Gould. The 1850 U.S. Census of Pottawattamie County, Iowa shows Elisha and Jane and the four boys living there. Jane was sealed to Elisha by proxy, (Elisha’s third wife, Elizabeth Ann Clark) on 31 October 1868, in the Endowment House, Salt Lake City. Jane Gould, died of cholera in 1852 somewhere on the trail between Council Bluffs, Iowa and Utah. Elisha traveled to Utah with his family in the Spring of 1852 with Captain Robert Wimmer’s company. The family settled in Manti.

([https://www.familysearch.org/photos/artifacts/10471182?p=16318502&returnLabel=Elisha%20Edwards%20\(KWJY-6K3\)&returnUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.familysearch.org%2Ftree%2Fperson%2Fmemories%2FKWJY-6K3](https://www.familysearch.org/photos/artifacts/10471182?p=16318502&returnLabel=Elisha%20Edwards%20(KWJY-6K3)&returnUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.familysearch.org%2Ftree%2Fperson%2Fmemories%2FKWJY-6K3))