

## Thomas Hull III

*Taken from various writings of Elnora Hull Widdison, Bertha Laverne Hull Bates, Robert Rigby Hull and Gretta Rallison Merrill, including excerpts from Jack Hull Simpson*

Thomas Hull III was born March 17, 1837 in Tergoland, Londonderry, Ireland. He was the third child, second son, born to Thomas Hull II and Mary Benson. The Hull families were farmers and weavers. His grandfather, Thomas I, and brothers owned woolen mills. Thomas II helped manage this business. A dispute between the brothers caused the mill to go into liquidation in 1841; it was in the courts for 7 years. Thomas II became discouraged and moved his family from Ireland to Scotland. He had previously married Mary McIlvenna of Portglenone, Ireland about the year 1825. They had three children: Adam, Susanna and Peggy Jane, whom they called Peggy. Mary died and Thomas II married Mary Benson in 1834. They were the parents of 12 children. They moved to Scotland with five children, having buried an infant, Robert, in Ireland. They settled in a place called Dalry, by the sea near Ardrossen and Glasgow, then moved to a mining town close to Dalry called "In the Den" where Thomas III worked along the side of his father and brothers in the mines. At that time, a three-room house made of peat with a thatched roof was home for the family, which consisted of six girls and six boys.

One day, Mary, his mother, with some of her friends were in town and heard some Mormon Elders preaching about a new religion. People had been saying these Elders, among other things, were trying to get young girls to go back to America with them to become plural wives for some of the men. Mary and her friends thought this should not be, and they showed up to the next meeting prepared to meet the Elders with a bombardment of spoiled eggs, potatoes, and cabbages to be thrown after a signal given by Mary. The signal never came; Mary became interested and impressed with what the Elders had to say, and hurried home to tell Thomas that she had found the true church. The Elders were invited into their home to give the message to the whole family, and after studying it for a time, they wanted to become a part of it because they felt the Spirit, and knew in their hearts that it was true.

Thomas III was baptized in Scotland on July 24, 1849, probably in the River Garnet at Derby County,

Scotland and confirmed by William Sterrit. At this time in history, when his family joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, feelings were bitter, and it was not highly advertised to the community when you became a member. His father and brothers would have lost their jobs at the mine if their boss found out that they had joined the church. They were advised by church authorities to come to America to find work and better pay so that in time they could immigrate to Utah and join with Brigham Young and the Saints in establishing themselves in the Salt Lake Valley. Thomas II and his family decided this was what they would like to do, and began saving their money for the family to immigrate to America. After many disappointments, Thomas II and his family sailed from Liverpool, England on April 26, 1855 for New York on the ship "William Stetson." They left behind a boy and girl buried in Scotland.

There were about 1000 people on the ship and about half were LDS. During the journey, they had a terrific storm that lasted for days. The ship's officers fenced off the LDS from the rest of the passengers, treating them as though they were a bunch of cattle. They were on the water for 31 days when they reached New York then went by canal boat to Philadelphia. Now they were financially broke, and could not expediently continue their travels to Utah as they had desired. The boys immediately tried to find work in the mines of Pennsylvania, as that was work they were quite adept at now. The family moved to Peoria, Illinois 70 miles from Chicago where they found work and better pay. For 4 ½ years they worked diligently in the coal mines, saving their money.

Finally, they were ready for the trip to Omaha, Nebraska to join with the Mormons coming to Utah. In March 1859, they started their journey with a span of oxen and a wagon to carry their provisions. They walked 750 miles to Omaha, joining up with the William Stevenson Wagon Train, then walking another 1,000 miles from Omaha to Salt Lake, which took them three months, arriving September 17, 1859 (Thomas recalls sometimes pushing a cart on this journey).

After a short time in Salt Lake when Thomas III was in his late teens, he was called on a 2 year-long mission to quarry rock for the Salt Lake Temple. After this mission, he was called, as was his father Thomas II, by Brigham Young to settle the Franklin, Idaho area, which at the time was still Utah territory. He helped build the meeting house and helped labor faithfully with his time and tithes, as well as drilling in the militia.

He remained in Franklin approximately 10 years. It was here that he met and married Jane Price Roberts on April 2, 1864. They were sealed in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City on December 20, 1867. Their first two children, Thomas Martin and Mary Jane, were born in Franklin. Then Thomas was called to relocate to and settle Hooper, Utah, where he continued to earn a living in farming. Six more children were born including William Edward (killed in his teens by an Indian along with his Uncle Robert McClellan just south of Blackfoot, Idaho on April 3, 1891), Selena, James Simon, who died as a young child, Elizabeth Ann, Florence, and Owen Martin joined the family in Hooper, Utah. Their youngest son, Owen Martin, was just over a year old when Jane, Thomas's wife, died.

Thomas, still with young children in need of a mother, felt the need for a helpmate in raising his young family and a companion for himself. His brother, Robert McClellan, had taken a plural wife, Mary Ann Flueitt, but Robert's first wife, Mary Ann Chadwick, was not happy with their polygamist arrangement. One day, in 1886, Thomas journeyed to Whitney, Idaho where his brother was living with his two wives. Thomas said, "You don't need two wives; I am taking Mary Ann Flueitt to be my wife." She willingly left with Thomas, and they were married on February 12, 1886 in Clarkston, Utah. They settled into a full and happy life on their farm in Hooper, Utah. Seven more children were added to their family while living in Hooper: Joseph Clarence, Clara Suzanna, Loreta May, Harvey Day, Elnora, Myrtle Irene, and Bertha Laverne

Thomas was a hard man to please and was very particular. Food had to be just right or he wouldn't eat it. He loved Limburger cheese, boiled potatoes in their jackets and clabbered milk, beet greens, greens of all kinds and even dandelion greens. Smoked herring was his favorite; he called them bloaters and ate them often. Once, his son Joe shot a lot of sparrows and Mary Ann made sparrow pie. He liked blackbird pie too. He didn't like to have his picture taken. When he got older, he used a cane and he always wore a hat, even in the house, taking it off only to go to bed. Joe trimmed his beard and cut his hair. At 87 years of age he hardly had a grey hair. He always wore dark sun glasses and had quite good eyesight. He liked to work, even when he got old and never did like to sit around doing nothing. When Reat, his daughter, got married in December, his daughter Clara, her husband, Bill Kaufman, and Bertha made a huge fruit cake, which Thomas said was the best he had ever eaten. He didn't eat cake very much because he said it was not good

for his stomach. He had pneumonia three times and always had a hacking cough, asthma or consumption caused, perhaps, from coal mining.

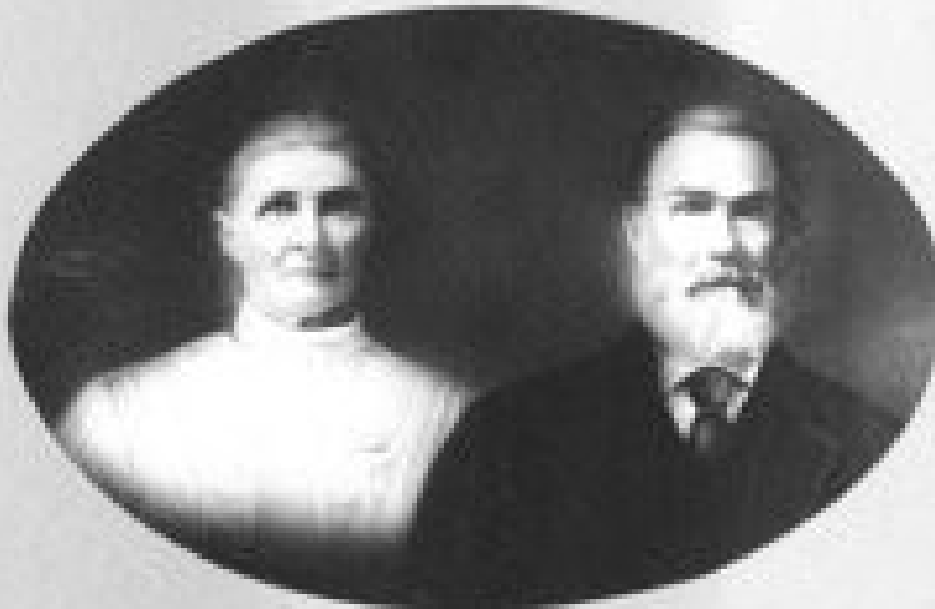
Thomas never liked to see anyone go without a meal no matter who came to the door. One evening just before Thanksgiving, two men stopped by after the family had everything cleared away. One of the men was a big, husky guy who did all the talking; the other a little, short man who wore a cap pulled down over his forehead, which he never took off, even at the table. They sat around talking with the family and showing them all kinds of watches and jewelry. Thomas gave them a bed in the barn, but later he got a little worried about the new mown hay, the barn and the horses, thinking that they might be out there smoking. He sent Nora and Mary Ann to check on them, as he himself wasn't able to get around very well. They had been smoking, but because everything was okay, they didn't dare report about the smoking, knowing how worrisome that would be to Thomas. Later that morning, some girls reported to them that the police had been looking for two men who had robbed a train at the Lucerne Cut Off at Promontory Point, a place just west of Brigham City, Utah. These two men looked like the pictures of the robbers. The men must have heard the family talking and when they went to fetch them for breakfast, they were gone.

Thomas especially enjoyed old Scotch and Irish songs (Annie Laurie was his favorite). He loved music, piano and singing. Out behind the chicken coop, he would try to teach Myrtle and Bertha to sing "Little Brown Jug." He liked to read and enjoyed being read to in his older years. Nora read to him every night during World War I.

He was quite plain spoken, always saying what he thought in his Scottish brogue. He had a great attachment to Clara's two sons, John and Alvin Kaufman; they came over and ate with him every day. He treated them better than his own kids, gave them things all the time. One winter, to bring a little more money into the home, he left his family to work in the mines in Butte, Montana. He also used to go to Promontory for work.

After suffering sometime from a broken hip he received in a serious fall, Thomas III died on June 20, 1923 at his home in Hooper, Utah. He is buried in the Hooper Cemetery.

Pictures furnished by Sonja Issacson



Mary Ann FLAHERTY and Thomas MULL III



Thomas MULL III  
Home and Farm  
Hooper, Utah



Top Left: Clara Suzanna, Loreta Mae, Harvey Day, Elnora, Joseph Clarence  
Bottom Left: Myrtle Irene, Mary Ann Flucitt, Bertha Lavene, Thomas HULL III



Thomas Hull III (with cane)  
On top of Horse: John and Al Kaufman  
Standing by horse: Lenore Widdison



Thomas H.H. III  
On front porch of his home  
in Hooper, Utah