

Peter Romeril Family Sketch

My grandfather, Peter Romeril, was converted and baptized on the 5th of March, 1852, while living in St. Helier, Jersey Island, by Elder Charles H. Hart. When my father was about two and a half years old, grandmother died, leaving five living children: Peter Charles Thomas, Clara Margaret, Ann Elizabeth, Durell, and a baby Henrietta. There were twin boys, both by the name of Henry Prosper, who died before (my) father was born.

Father says his mother died of a tumor, and she was operated on after her death and the growth, which was hard, was removed, sawed in half, and the pieces given to members of the family. Soon after grandmother's death, grandfather married her sister, Elizabeth, who said she married grandfather to look after her sister's children. They had one son whom they called Zenos Peter. The family moved to England. They were pretty well-to-do, grandfather being a ship's carpenter. Peter was a sailor, and brought 2 monkeys home, a large one which they kept chained, and a small one that used to sit on father's shoulder and pretend he was picking fleas out of his hair. They also had a black dog they called Ponto, and father's aunt used to buy steaks for him. She was a very kind woman and loved animals, and was also a very good cook. Father often talked about the pastry she made. Peter was drowned at sea. Clara was a dressmaker, and sometimes made dresses for my mother.

Grandfather was Branch President while in England and let nothing stand in the way of duty. At one time he cut his daughter Henrietta off from the Church for un-Christian-like conduct. I don't believe she ever came back into the church. She later married an Italian by the name of Dominik, and went to Canada to live, probably on the west coast.

At one time grandfather told his wife he dreamed he saw an accident where he would be working that day, so he did not go to work. The accident did happen and he saved his life by remaining home from work. After they came to Utah, and his wife was sick, he told her that he needed a new suit of clothes. She said if you wait till New Years you will have a new suit. She died about Christmas and soon after he came in from the garden and told my mother he didn't think he had long to live. He felt his wives were calling him. Mother said, "Oh, perhaps that means that old man Waddops is going to die," (he was sick at the time). He said, "No. It means me." New Years he died and as his wife had said, he got the new suit of clothes. Mother was out in the yard when he died, and as she came in father said, "He is gone." meaning grandfather. Mother said, "I know, I saw him go." She said she saw him leave as she was coming to the house.

Source: Romeril-Bean Family History, compiled and written by Maud Annie Romeril Shurtz, 1960. Page 4-6.