

# Margaret Buckwalter

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**Synopsis:** Margaret was born in southeastern Pennsylvania to John and Sarah Shuler Buckwalter. Her family joined the Mormon Church and moved to Nauvoo, Illinois. Margaret moved to Utah in 1852 and settled first in Farmington, Utah and then southern Idaho. Margaret was of noble character, deeply religious and always concerned more for the needs of others than for herself.

**Source:** *Rice Pioneers: Family Groups and Stories*, compiled by David Eldon Rice. Pocatello, Idaho. 1976. No copyright information listed. **Editor's note:** This work contains a few minor changes to David Rice's work.



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## Margaret Buckwalter (1828-1918)

Margaret Buckwalter was the daughter of John and Sarah Shuler Buckwalter, born 12 November 1828, in Westenantmeal Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania. At the time the missionaries came to their home preaching the restored gospel, her father was very ill. He told his family that he knew that it was the truth, but he passed away before he could be baptized. All of his immediate family joined the Church; Margaret was the oldest child. They left their home state to join the Saints in Illinois. Margaret was married to Lemon Wickel on 23 April 1847 by Nathaniel Felt. One son, Henry L., was born to this union. Lemon Wickel departed this life on 4 June 1850.

Margaret came to Utah in 1852 with her baby, mother and brothers and sisters. The Buckwalter children and the Babbitt children had attended the same private home school in Nauvoo. The reunion of Margaret and [Elizabeth Almira Babbitt](#) was one of gladness. There seemed to be a strong, mutual affection between these two ladies. President Young married [Leonard Gurley](#) and Margaret on 2 January 1853, and a closeness existed between their two families through the years. Margaret had seven children, four boys, a girl who died as a baby, and last, a pair of twin girls.

The best rice grew in Farmington, Utah, it was said, as Rice sons (sometimes considered "wild rice") appeared at frequent intervals. According to the two mothers involved, it was good rice, none-the-less.

Margaret was of noble character, deeply religious and always concerned more for the needs of others than for herself. She was known by her friends and relatives as an extremely saintly woman. She loved to read Church books, and was a strict tithing payer. Her cleanliness was a legend with those who knew her. Spotlessness was a ritual in her humble cottage.

Margaret went to live with her sons who had moved to Cassia County, Idaho, about 1882. Later she settled in the Teton Valley and lived with her daughter, Martha Rice Drake. When she was sixty-one years old, Margaret filed on a homestead next to her son-in-law, Asa Drake. To “prove up,” she had to build a house, clear land, plant crops and build fences. With the help of Asa, she did “prove up.” Her hands were never idle -- gardens grew, wheat was ground and eggs, butter and cheese were always on hand.

Later, her family built her a good home in the village of Victor, Idaho, where she could attend Church as often as she pleased. She remained firm in the faith that she had accepted from Mormon missionaries years before. She left a life that had been a challenge in trying times, in exchange for eternal joys on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of October, 1918, and was buried in Victor, Idaho.

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