

Saint George, Utah

Millie Tullis

Not named for the Saint
who met the princess by
the lake and with her girdle
leashed the dragon. Who killed

it for the people's conversion.
Whose chapel in Windsor
holds a part of his skull
part of his arm or

his heart. In a cup
of griffin's egg
two fingers.
Mormons have no saints

save the pioneers. Saint George
the cousin of Joseph Smith.
George A Smith whom the Paiutes
called *Non-choko-wicher* takes himself

apart after watching
him remove his teeth
glasses and wig. Who did not
settle that place but called

the saints to settle it.
Instructed them to eat
potatoes raw with skin
to prevent scurvy.

They called him Potato Saint.
A few miles north my English
great great grandmother
Agnes ate only potatoes
and salt for three weeks
when her husband was on a mission
in Europe. Because there was
no other food.

I do not know
what her sister wife
ate. When her baby
fell into the fire

Agnes rubbed halved
potatoes onto the burned
hands. Wrapped each finger
separately so they would not

graft together.
A finger was taken
three months later.
Someone said

it was corrupting
the other fingers.
Agnes told a story
from England.

A poor woman's
pastor visits and asks
to pray with her.
As he prays she

interrupts
him with
potatoes!
potatoes!

When he stops
praying she explains
God might hear her
between the man's words

and think to send
a starving woman
potatoes
potatoes.

This is the joke.

MILLIE TULLIS is a poet and folklorist from Northern Utah. She received an MFA from George Mason University in 2021 and is currently studying folklore at Utah State University. Her work has been published in *Sugar House Review*, *Rock & Sling*, *Cimarron Review*, *Ninth Letter*, and elsewhere. She is the editor-in-chief for *Psaltery & Lyre*, an online literary journal publishing literature at the intersection of faith and doubt.