

## 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.

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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.