

## Biographies of Elizabeth Taylor

Elizabeth Taylor was born in Bristol, England 27 April, 1842. Her parents, Steve King Taylor and Caroline Rogers Taylor, were anxious to come to America. Elizabeth Taylor set sail at Liverpool, England and came as far as Winter Quarters with a family by the name of Littlefield. Winter Quarters was later named Florence, Nebraska. She stayed with them for about a year. At that time, her parents and others came to America (and to Winter Quarters where Elizabeth was staying). They all left Florence, Nebraska 3 July 1860. Many hardships, trials and troubles, as well as happy times. Were their experiences as they journeyed to Salt Lake City. Both the Ute and Washikii Indians troubled them for food, and said that no Mormons were going West. The Captain had faith that all would land safely and they did.

Oscar Orlando Stoddard was Captain of the company they traveled with. Some in the company could talk with the evil spirits and make tables and lamp chimneys respond. They persuaded Elizabeth to join them. Because of being so young she didn't realize the danger of it and so became one of them. She was overcome by the evil spirits and became very, very sick. Her mother sent for Captain Stoddard. He said she would have to be baptized before she could get well. They were by the Platte River in Missouri. It was a huge, wild and raging river, and very dangerous. Mrs. Taylor said she was afraid if they went into that rough, raging water they would be washed down. The Captain told her to prepare her daughter and he would prepare for the baptism and the waters would be quiet and calm. So they made ready and went to the banks of the river. Her mother was amazed at how calm the waters had become. Elizabeth said she felt it would be safe. Captain Stoddard took Elizabeth Taylor in the Platte River and baptized her. She was confirmed and made well. The company had forded the river safely and then it became rough again. Her sickness left her for good and she pushed a hand cart and walked across the plains. Her parents had a wagon, but she wanted to be with the rest walking and doing what she could to help. She helped the smaller children. She also helped gather buffalo chips to burn to help cook the meals. She would help yoke up the oxen. She joined in singing and dancing at nights around the camp fires. One song she liked very much and sang many times was "Come, Come Ye Saints". They did as the song says, "no toil or labor fear, but with joy wend your way". Another song was "Some must push and Some must pull as merrily on our way we go until we reach the valley, oh!"

They landed in Salt Lake City, Utah September 24, 1860. They were the last hand cart company to cross the plains. They settled in Holladay and built an adobe house on the northeast corner of the Irving School lot. While living in Holladay they had to go to Salt Lake City to attend Sunday School and church. They took their lunch and hay for the oxen. They walked several times

Elizabeth Taylor and Captain Stoddard were married the second day of October, 1860 by bishop Isaac Hill and went through the sealing room April 10, 1861, Brigham Young officiating in the sealing. She was little of stature, dark hair, had one grey and one blue eye, and was born with two teeth.

They lived in Salt Lake Valley until the fall of 1863. During that time, Oscar Orlando Stoddard was called to go back across the plains to assist in the immigration of other immigrants. He left Elizabeth and went back as far as the Missouri River, returning again on September 23, 1864. He

later went on two other missions, crossing the plains seven times without purse or script. He was ordained an Apostle of the Seventies and joined the thirty third quorum the day after his marriage to Elizabeth Taylor. They lived then in Salt Lake. He was teacher under Bishop David Pettigrew until the fall of 1863 when they were called to settle in Rush Valley where they had much trouble with the Indians. In fall of 1864, they were called to Tooele until summer of 1868. From there they moved to West Portersville, Morgan County.

On 24 September 1861 a son, Oscar Orlando Stoddard, was born to them in Salt Lake City. On 21 April 1863 another son came to them in Salt Lake City, William Henry Stoddard. While in Tooele they had three girls: Martha Elizabeth (4 November 1864), Caroline Matilda (26 March 1866?), and Emily T. (9 April 1868?). While in Portersville, they buried Caroline Matilda, who died 4 August 1869. On 29 July 1872 a son, Joseph Hyrum, was born. Mary Ann Tripp was born to them on 13 June 1874 and 2 December 1878 brought Mabel Maria Stoddard to them, who lived until she was 14 years, 11 months and 7 days old, and then died with diphtheria.

Their children were all married in the Temple and raised families. Elizabeth was proud of them. She was always ready to help in everything; sickness, harvesting of crops, church, relief society, quilt making and serving.

She had a carpet loom and would weave yards and yards of carpet. She also did much knitting. She never learned to read or write.

Her husband was a noted man: a teacher and a carpenter. In arithmetic and spelling he was excellent. They couldn't spell him down in a Spelling bee, which was popular at that time. On Sunday evening, the young folks all liked to gather at their place and he would read to them all. She always "had some dainty thing to treat them with, cookies, doughnuts, popcorn or honey candy.

Her husband had a stroke and was an invalid for a long time. She did the best she could to care for him. He died With the hicoughs in 9 September 1896.

Elizabeth experienced many strange things during her life. One was her husband was gifted for casting out evil spirits. There was a young lady very sick; she would raise a few inches from the bed in the air, then back- she was so overcome with the evil spirits. The house was full of people, some relatives, friends, and others would come for curiosity. Brother Stoddard said he would have to ask certain ones to leave the room; he called them by names, as he was gifted to distinguish the ones with faith or without faith. After the ones named had gone out, he closed the door and laid his hands on her and asked the evil spirits in the name of the Lord to depart and they did. She was made well. Elizabeth always believed her husband was called by God to do these works at different places at the right time.

After her family was married she sold her Portersville home. She had a horse she called Fan and a little black one-seated top buggy. She lived at different times with her different children. She took the buggy and horse to her daughter, Emily, in Holladay. There she made her home most of the time when she wasn't visiting her other children. Her daughter Emily, and Emily's husband, William James Wayman, gave her a room of her own in their home. She was always busy and

tried to keep all the young folks doing good. (She had a red wooden bed her husband had made for her. The springs were ropes strung from top to bottom around wooden pegs made for that purpose, about two or three inches apart, then woven in and out from one side to the other and tightened and tied. It was very comfortable. She had a straw tick and her featherbed tick on top and warm blankets and pretty homemade quilts. Her bed was so high she had to use a chair to get in. She had a white ruffle around her bed which reached to the floor and always looked nice, white and clean. No one was ever allowed on her bed, only to sleep.)

She did lots of Temple work. Her sister Emma was blind and Elizabeth persuaded her to go to the Temple for her eyesight. She did this and was able to see.

She was very sick later on in life. She taught her grand daughters to pray, and to pray that she would get better. She also had faith in the Elders of the Church. They came several times to administer to her during the time about 1901. She got better.

Elizabeth Taylor Stoddard very proudly told her grandchildren of the many interesting things her husband and father had done. Her father was a blacksmith and her husband a carpenter. They helped to build the Mormon Temple, Tabernacle, and the Old Salt Lake Theatre, all in Salt Lake City.

Besides being a good mother and wife, she was a very good grandmother. All her children and grandchildren loved her very much. She did much in teaching them to go straight and keep their virtue. She had ways to keep the small children still; one of which, she gave one of her grandsons a dollar once to keep still an hour. He did. She told them to "always do what was right, let the consequences follow. Tell the truth, nothing needs a lie". One of her favorite sayings was, "if you will hurry and do your work, I will give you a silver new nothing to hang by your side when my ship comes in". Another was, "first work and then play". Still others were, "waste nothing; always be on time; and keep faith".

She liked to tell about making tallow candles. The first candles they used at that time were rags dipped in the tallow, placed on a tin plate or in a can to burn. Later they had the coal oil lamps. She told of having an old tinder box to cart their fires with. She would go along old fences to gather the sheep wool that had been left as the sheep passed through. She would spin some of this and card some for quilts.

This beautiful character passed away on 31 August 1913 at the age of seventy one. She was buried in Portersville beside her husband and babies that had died before her.

She had to her credit, 8 children, 46 grandchildren, and 14 great grandchildren when she died.

Facts derived from this information:

- Elizabeth Taylor was born April 27, 1842 in Bristol, England Came to America approximately 1859, making her approximate age 17 years.
- Left Winter Quarters, Nebraska July 3, 1860 at age 18 Arrived Salt Lake City, Utah September 24, 1860

- Above dates indicate journey to Utah took them 2 months 3 weeks
- Was baptized July 25, 1860 in the Platte River enroute to Utah
- Elizabeth Taylor married Oscar Orlondo Stoddard October 2, 1860
- Above information makes her age 18 years 5 months at marriage
- Oscar Orlondo Stoddard was born December 30, 1821 in New York
- He was 38 years 9 months at the time of their marriage (approximately 21 years older than she was).
- Elizabeth Taylor was Oscar Orlondo Stoddard's 2nd wife Record indicate he was 25 years 11 months when he married his first wife, Polly Serafina Ferguson, on November 30, 1847. There is no indication in this history that she was with him at the time of his marriage to Elizabeth, nor that she was ever with him throughout the rest of his life.
- He was baptized into the Church January 13, 1856 at age 34.
- He was the leader of the last hand cart company to cross the plains.
- Oscar Orlondo Stoddard died September 9, 1896 at age 75.
- Elizabeth was 64 years old at the time of his death.
- She died August 31, 1913 at age 71.

## STORY OF MISS ELIZABETH TAYLOR, 1842

Miss Elizabeth Taylor was special;  
As we read in her records today.....  
She was a small, brown haired lady -  
With one eye blue and the other eye grey.  
Bravely, she left her loved ones in England: (1860)  
Sailing with the "Littlefield Clan"  
Living with them at Florence, Nebraska;  
Not far from a Spiritual Band.

In her innocence they beguiled her  
To join in their evil play:  
She became their outstanding Medium ----  
Suitable in their Settings and Circles  
Under their Circuit Man.  
As time passed, they grew more serious  
and frequented her more in their plan.

She became fearful and wanted to leave them  
But, an Indian Doctor had said,  
She'd never go on to Zion,  
She'd die at Platte River Crossing, instead.  
Well, one year later, her parents  
And others from England, traveled by where she stayed,  
Joyfully she joined their number  
And their travels were not delayed.

She learned as they pushed forward  
More pitfalls were along the way.  
Hungry Ute and Washikikii Indians plagued them,  
Taking their food away.  
Some Spiritualists too, were found  
Traveling with their company ---  
Making tables and chimneys talk  
And causing Elizabeth agony.

Tw'as noon at the Platte River crossing;  
Where they were crossing the river that day  
That Elizabeth was found on some bedding  
In the shade of the wagons there;  
So completely possessed by the devils -  
Was this maiden so young and fair.  
Very ill, she was seized in writhing spasms and jerking -  
They felt she would surely die.

Sadly they huddled together -  
And many began to cry.

No doubt - there was utter confusion,  
As the groups milled 'round about'  
Perhaps saying, "Can't someone do something -  
To help this poor girl out?"  
Then her mother sent for their Captain  
Who was inspired so they say -  
To lay his hands upon her head  
And cast those devils away.  
Immediately the spell was broken --  
She turned and asked them why  
They stopped her from going  
To that nice home in the sky?

He promised her she'd go on to Zion  
And cross the river she must!  
He called for her baptism and in the Lord to trust.  
The river waters grew turbulent,  
Storm clouds darkened the sky;  
They continued their preparations,  
Captain's promise was fulfilled;  
Her baptism was finally over  
And the turbulent elements stilled.  
The Spiritualist bonds had been broken,  
Elizabeth was healed that day  
And at that river crossing, they cast her troubles away.

This girl became a new person  
So helpful, tender and kind;  
True happiness filled her bosom  
And gave her peace of mind.  
Eventually they reached Zion,  
The only excursion that year ---  
And - then, she married her Captain;  
For he had fallen in love with her.

They were sealed for Life Everlasting  
And had eight sons and daughters to rear,  
Who grew up by the Gospel -  
In Zion's glorious sphere.

During his life, Captain Stoddard  
Led seven companies over the plains.  
His darling wife and children were honored,

And lovingly never complained.  
This dear little Lady ---  
Who drank deeply from the Fountain of Life  
Was my children's great grandmother,  
Who has gone to that Better Life.

Marie Wayman

[Based on all information presently available(1991), Oscar Stoddard only led one company across the plains, though he did indeed cross the plains seven times before the train provided that transportation. The first trip was prior to his baptism in 1856, which took place in Utah. Four of the trips were his two missions to Michigan. The return trip from his second mission was when he led the last handcart company in 1860. The last two crossings Oscar made were in 1861, assisted in bringing in the immigration, he traveled as far as the Missouri River and back on this trip.]