

ELIZABETH STOLWORTHY JOLLEY

Elizabeth Stolworthy was born 17 September, 1858, to Thomas Stolworthy and Matilda Jinkerson in Parowan, Utah. She was the sixth child, five others having preceded her in death. As soon as her parents mission to Parowan was finished the family moved back to Salt Lake City. They purchased a lot where the Union Pacific Depot now stands and built a new home. Here baby Elizabeth was taken ill and Matilda's heart was filled with fear. She went about doing everything she could think of to care for her small baby, and as she worked there was a prayer in her heart that this child might be spared. A knock came at the door and as she opened it, she saw a strange man standing there. His hair was white and long, and he wore a white beard. He entered the room, closed the door and came forward. Putting out a friendly hand he said, "I have called to see your sick baby and to leave you a blessing. You have known great sorrow and bereavement. Your little girl will live, and you will yet raise a family."

He spoke a few more words of encouragement and then raising his hand said, "Peace be in this house". He left as suddenly as he came, closing the door behind him. Matilda remembering that she had not thanked him, stepped to the door to do so, but there was no one in sight. His footsteps showed plainly in the snow and she followed them to the gate where they disappeared completely. No one had seen the stranger, and in telling Pres. Young of the experience he remarked, "Sister Stolworthy, you were visited by one of the three Nephites." And so the young couple came to feel that this was the case, and as his words were a promise of future happiness, they were sure that the days ahead would be filled with much joy.

While living in Salt Lake City a baby boy was born to them and they named him Henry Thomas. Their stay here was to be short as they with others were called to go north and settle a new town to be called Centerville. This assignment was one of the hardest as they suffered many hardships. The winter after they first moved there was so cold and supplies so scarce that they had to bring the cow into the small house to keep her from freezing. Before spring they were even forced to empty the straw bed ticks to feed the cow as the milk she gave was about all they had to live on. Thomas had to bring wood inside to cut it into stove lengths as the wind was so cold it could not be done outside with out danger of freezing. At one time the wind became so severe that it took the roof off the house which caused much suffering to the small family. Some people of the small town froze to death that winter. The family lived here for several years and three more girls were added to the family, making five children.

In 1868 the family were called with others to go on the Muddy Mission in Nevada. The trip was hard but uneventful until after they had passed St. George; then while on the desert the Indians stole their mules and horses leaving them stranded. The little company had to stay there until men went to secure help. The family suffered many trials while living in the hot desolate country of Nevada. Finally Pres. Young released the men and their families from this mission when Nevada placed the taxes too high for the people to pay them. While there they built cabins with brush and sod roofs; once while Matilda was rocking her baby a large snake fell from the roof into the cradle and crawled on outside without doing any harm.

President Young sent two men with his buggy and covered wagon and moved Thomas and Matilda and their family back to St. George. Later that fall Father and young son went back

to the muddy to harvest the crops. This winter the family lived with Brother and Sister Jarvis, who were also converts from England.

The next spring they were advised to move north to Long Valley. On their way one of the oxen balked while crossing the Virgin River and would not pull the Wagon farther. Thomas tried to carry his wife out to keep her feet dry, but he fell down and both of them got wet all over. Every one had a good laugh as Matilda was angry and in her English brogue berated Thomas for his carelessness. They came as far as Pipe Springs where they had to stay for a while as all the children came down with the measles. They finally arrived at Mt. Carmel and began again to build themselves a home. Early Settlers once before had tried to settle Mr. Carmel but a band of Indians had made them vacate the place, later they returned and claimed the land, so the families who were trying to settle Mt. Carmel moved a few miles away and settled what is now called Orderville.

Because of the isolated conditions of this little band of Saints, President Brigham Young advised them to organize themselves into a United Order. In the Order there was to be no private property. "No man could say 'this is mine'". The property was the Lord's and was to be used for the advancement of the Order and the Church. However, each person was made steward over such personal effects as clothing, books, feather beds, and jewelry. Each family was to have (but not own) a separate home, consisting of a living room and one or two bedrooms 8 by 12 feet. Between the rows of homes a community dining hall and other public buildings were constructed. The dining hall was 22 by 40 feet and built of rough lumber put together with wooden pegs, and lined with adobes. It was large enough to seat all members of the Order, and was used for prayers, religious meetings, and social gatherings, as well as for eating. A kitchen and bakery were later attached. Members of the order also built a United Order office with store room and shoe shop attached, blacksmith shop, carpenter shop, cooper shop, tannery, schoolhouse and telegraph office, woolen factory, garden house, and dairy barns and sheep sheds.

Elizabeth went to school at the Order school, played with the other children, helped with the work in the big kitchen and attended the Sunday Schools, etc. It was while growing up that she met a young man from Mt. Carmel who did not belong to the Order and fell in love with him. He was one of the 'old settlers' who was not in sympathy with the Order; so against her parents wishes and in secret she was married to William Jackson Jolley Jr. 21 April 1875. This caused some very bad feelings among the others as no one was supposed to marry outside the Order. So one of the Apostles was sent down to settle the trouble. The trouble was cleared up and two years later when the St. George temple was completed they made the trip to St. George and were sealed to each other.

William Jackson Jolley was born 12 October 1854 in Springville. Most of his younger life was spent at Mt Carmel, Kane County, Utah. He worked and played and attended what school was available at the time. As he grew older he learned to play the violin. He and his brothers had their own orchestra. They became so popular that they were asked to play all over the county. After Elizabeth and William were married they bought a farm close to his brother Reuben, three miles from Orderville. The soil was good and there was lots of green grass. They called their farms Fiddler-Green because the men still played for all the dances. They added to

the home as the nine children arrived one by one. In 1894 they moved to Tropic, a new place just being settled. The father and mother felt that with their large and growing family they would have more opportunity to build a better home. They had a few live stock and plenty of ambition for hard work. Five more children were born to them in Tropic making a family of ten girls and four boys.

When the ward was organized, William was chosen first counselor to the Bishop. He held that position most of his life as he was called to serve with three different bishops. In the next few years Elizabeth was chosen to be president of the Relief Society. She also had three turns. She was president most of the years she was raising her family. She was a wonderful cook and housekeeper. William died 18 November, 1935, and was buried in Tropic, leaving Elizabeth alone for about 8 years, but she had so many interests in life and was so active that she was happy. She enjoyed her many friends and neighbors and went about doing much good, so that her last years were her best. She had been promised by the stranger who visited her mother when she was a baby that she would live as long as life was desirable, and be a leader among women. In May 1943 on Mother's Day, she bore her testimony in Sacrament meeting and visited the Cemetery and showed us where she wanted to be laid to rest, saying that she was ready to go. The next day she had a stroke and was unconscious for several days. She passed away May 25, 1943, at Tropic, Utah, having had every promise given to her fulfilled.