

FEDERAL WRITERS' PROJECT

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Life History of Elizebeth Stolworthy Jolley

Elizebeth Stolworthy Jolley, daughter of Henry Thomas and Matilda Jinkersen Stolworthy, and one of the oldest pioneers now living in Tropic, was born in Salt Lake City September 17, 1858. Her father at that time was working for Brigham Young. A few months after her birth, he was called to Parawan to help with the iron works; as he was a molder of iron by trade. It was here that tiny Elizebeth had her first great experience. She became very ill and her parents feared she would die. They had lost all their children before her, so the mother was about to give up in despair when her baby became sick. But an unusual thing happened; a strange old man came into the room. He asked the woman if there was anything wrong at the house, because he had been sent there. Seeing the sick baby he went over and blessed it, then left. Instantly the baby was healed; the mother was so startled and thankful that she forgot to thank the old man. She ran out of the house and looked up and down the street but could see no sign of him. She and her husband inquired around but no one else in the neighborhood had seen anyone answering that description. In that blessing she was promised she would grow to womanhood and raise a large family.

Her parents were then called to the Muddy Mission by President Brigham Young, but due to the high taxes in Nevada and the poor conditions of the Saints, they were released to come back to Utah. At that time Long Valley was being resettled after the Indians had become more friendly. While at the Muddy the Indians had stolen Mr. Stolworthy's team of mules, leaving him no means of returning to Utah. It looked as if they would be left behind, and feared the Indians would come and kill them. But good fortune smiled upon them, Brigham Young had heard of their plight, and sent his carriage and team and wagon to move them out; so instead of being left behind, they were the first ones to move, That was Elizebeth's first carriage ride, and what a thrill it was for her.

They moved to Mt. Carmel, and when the United Order was started all the settlers who wished to live it, moved a little farther north and called the new settlement Orderville. There was some ill feeling between the new town and Mt. Carmel – the former being called Heaven and the latter being called Hell. People from one town had very little to do with those of the other. Fate played an important part in Elizebeth's life; she became friendly with a boy from Mt. Carmel named William Jackson Jolley. Three times he went to the bishop of Orderville to get his consent to their marriage, each time he was told if he did not marry in the Temple, they would both be cut off the Church; also if he found anyone else had married them that person would be cut off also. At last they made up their minds and were married in secret, not making known the party who married them. When Church authorities came down they learned there was nothing to fear in regards to being excommunicated, and naturally they felt better. Out of the ten years in the Order, Elizebeth was the only girl that married out of the Order.

After they were married they moved to a place called Fiddlers Green, (so named because both men who lived there played the fiddle) situated between the two towns. With, a team of oxen to farm with, a small log house to live in, and a young bride of sixteen; the Jolley boy started out to earn a living. Times were hard and they had a struggle at first. In 1894 they moved to Tropic, a small town just being settled. There things began to look brighter for them.

He went into the sheep business, and later operated the store and a farm in the town; soon they had quite a comfortable living and the biggest and nicest home in the community.

Mrs. Jolley had a few narrow escapes in her life. One August, when she was riding with her husband, she was thrown to the ground from the springseat on the doubled-bedded wagon; the fall broke her leg. In those days they knew nothing of setting broken bones, so she lay on a board bed with her leg in a wooden box. In September, one of her children was born. It was late the following spring before she was able to be up. Another time she had her arm and leg broken.

They lived in Topic 27 years then moved to Monroe. The last few years when they became old, they had a desire to return to Tropic, so they moved back and lived in part of their son's house, where Mr. Jolley died two years ago.

Mrs. Jolley is the mother of 14 children and has 78 grandchildren and 60 great grandchildren. At the present time she is 81 years old and seems healthy, happy and cheerful.

This material was obtained by interview.

Certification of Authentication

Signed W. L. Willis Merchant

Henrieville

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