

THOMAS STOLWORTHY AND MATILDA JINKENSON STOLWORTHY

By T.H. Stolworthy

My father, Thomas Stolworthy, was born December 8, 1828, in Great Yarmouth, England. He was a molder of iron by trade. His father's name was Henry Stolworthy, a mill builder. His mother was Mary Howes. Father was the youngest of a family of ten children – two brothers and seven sisters.

Matilda Jinkensen, my mother, was born August 13, 1827 in Alton, England. Her father's name was Thomas Jinkensen, a shoemaker by trade. Her mother's name was Christianna Louvick. Mother had one brother and eight sisters. She was the youngest of the family. It is a strange fact that each was the tenth child of the family, and were the only ones to join the church in each family. They often remarked that they were "tithing" children.

Their families both turned against them and so far as they ever knew none joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Father joined the church in 1853. He was baptized by Elder Richard Cook and confirmed by Elder William Barnes. Two babies, both boys, were born to them there but both died.

Mother was baptized six months later by the same elders. They were married May 13, 1849 and set sail for America on the ship, Clara Wheeler, in November. It took about six weeks to make the voyage from Liverpool to New Orleans. There another baby was born and buried.

The young strangers spent New Year's day in New Orleans, and from there they went to St. Louis, where they stayed about six months while father worked in the iron works. They came across the plains to Salt Lake City in Captain James Alfred's company. Father got work with President Brigham Young during the summer and fall, and President Young came to feel a great friendship for the honest, hard working, young man.

At the time of the trouble with Johnson's army, the women and children were moved to the center of town for safety, and the men were called to fight to protect them. Father, ever ready to do his part, volunteered to go, but to his disappointment he was ordered to stay at home and mold bullets. He set his own feeling aside and obeyed the orders of the men over him. Mother was a midwife all her life and did much good.

Before the Saints were hardly located at Salt Lake City, President Brigham Young began to push out and settle adjoining country. Recognizing the dependable qualities of my father, he called him to go with others to settle Cache Valley. While there, a baby was born to them, and they called her Liza Cache, as she was the first white child born in the valley. The Indians all came to see the paleface baby while her mother was still confined to her bed, and she seemed to be a never-ending curiosity to them, but she died while very young.

From Cache Valley, father was called to Parawan to start a bucket factory and foundry. They stayed there about seven or eight months and then he was called back to Salt Lake City.

From Salt Lake City, father moved to Centerville and from there he was called to go with the Muddy Mission in 1868. On the way to the Muddy, the Navajo Indians were very troublesome, so they had to keep guard over their cattle at night. One night when they were camped about where Bunkerville is now, the Indians succeeded in running off their horses and mules. Father lost his two teams of big fat mules, and never recovered them. The company had to camp there until help was received to go on.

They stayed on the Muddy for several years and then the company was released from that call because Nevada had placed the taxed so high, that it worked a hardship on the Mormon company. Father moved his family to St. George where they lived with Brother and Sister Jarvis

all winter as one family. While there, father worked for a team of oxen. That spring, 1872, they were again called to go to resettle Mt. Carmel. They stayed there until Orson Spencer was sent from Salt Lake City to be President of the United Order.

Later they moved the Order from Mt. Carmel to Orderville. Here father acted as butcher and worked in the commissary. He moved to the wool factory and lived there for some time. When the Order broke up, father and mother moved to Huntington, and stayed there a number of years, and then moved to Tropic, Utah.

When they at last grew too old to care for themselves, they sold their own home and lived with their daughter, Elizabeth, at Tropic, Utah. They went to Richfield to visit their youngest daughter, Molly, for a while, but went back to Orderville where they spent their last days with Sister Rose. Father and mother were the parents of 11 children - five of them living to be grown. Father died Sept. 2, 1916, with pneumonia; he was 87 years old. Mother died on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 28, 1918, of old age.

Source: "Treasures of Truth" dictated by Henry Thomas Stolworthy, written by Lucy S. Burnham.