

Ann Rogers Taylor-A Pioneer Mother Taken from Heart Throbs of the West Volume 12 Pages 98-99

Ann Rogers Taylor was born in Liverpool, England, March 8, 1822. She was married to James Whiteland Taylor in Oldham, England in 1840. She joined the Church before emigrating to America.

While on the trip across the ocean, one of the sailors became very ill and Mrs. Taylor nursed and cared for him. He was so grateful that he gave her valuable information telling her how she could make some money when she arrived in New Orleans. He advised her to hire a negro woman to work for her and to then apply to do the washings for the captains and mates of sea-going vessels. She did so and was able to make enough money to buy a wagon and two yoke of oxen for the trip across the plains.

During their trip enroute to Salt Lake, the ran out of water, and since no one would go ahead to look for any, Mrs Taylor went herself as the children were suffering from thirst. She found water and brought back a bucketful. The adults came forward with their cups, but she said: "No, this is for the children."

Ann Taylor was a woman of great intelligence and sympathy. She was always ready to care for the poor and sick and and take care of the dead. It was told that at one time she used the last shirt of one of her small daughters for the burial clothes of a neighbor's child.

For many years after locating in Lehi, her husband was called to go on a mission to England and Wales, and left her and their four children with only fifty pounds of flour in the house. The only help she had was her oldest son, and it was necessary for her to go with him to the field to help with the plowing.

The next year, the grasshoppers came and took all of their crops. By

walking up and down the rows, lighting the grasshoppers, she saved a small patch of corn. When this was husked, she ground it in a coffee mill and made bread for the family. This was the first bread they had tasted in months. They had been living on fish which she had procured from the Lake.

That year one of her neighbors had planted a patch of potatoes on ground where a willow patch had stood. When the potatoes came up, willows also sprouted all over the fields, making it almost impossible to dig the potatoes. Mrs. Taylor bargained with the neighbors to dig his potatoes on shares and thereby procured her supply for the winter.

In the absence of her husband, she continued to be very industrious and preserving. Winter was coming on and the children were all barefoot. She did not know what she could do for something to cover their feet from the cold. One of the neighbors had an ox die and she asked for permission to skin it. With the help of her son, she skinned the ox and tanned the hide. From the skin she made moccasins for her children, which made them fairly comfortable until they got wet, when they stretched to twice their normal size.

The fat of the ox, she used to make candles that her family might have light during the long winter evenings. At another time her children were destitute for clothing and she had no cloth, so she cut up a wagon cover and converted it into shirts, pants, and dresses. One time she walked from Lehi to Salt Lake for a spool of thread which cost fifty cents a spool. When smallpox raged in Lehi, Ann Rogers Taylor took upon herself the responsibility and risk of vaccinating every child in the town.