

WILLIAM AND MARY ANN DEAN TAYLOR, SR.

William Taylor, son of Richard Taylor and Ester Smith, was born August 16, 1824, in the parish of Hamptonarden Warwick, England. He was their fourth child and first son.

William's father was a farmer and William assisted his father on the farm when he was old enough. His schooling was limited. When the railroad was first being built in Warwick County, England, William and his father worked on the railroad until it was completed. They then returned to this farm. Later William returned to railroad work. While he was working at the Lemington Station he became acquainted with a young lady by the name of Mary Ann Dean. Mary was born April 10, 1828, the fourth daughter of James and Susannah Dean. After a brief courtship they were married on June 16, 1845 at the St. Mary's Church, Warwick County, Warwick, England.

Children of William and Mary Ann were: George Thomas, William, Jr., Mary Jane, Charollette Elizabeth, John, Sarah Ann, James Dean, Richard, and Joseph.

William and Mary Ann joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1851. Their children, George and Mary Jane, emigrated to America in 1863. William, Jr. emigrated in 1864. Their parents hoped to follow their children to America. February 23, 1866 William and Mary Ann received a letter from President Brigham Young from the Liverpool office that stated he had received a draft for 11-8-6 to apply on their emigration. With help from President Young and Brother John Chadwick, a loan was made to complete the money for their passage and they emigrated in 1866. They were met in Salt Lake City by their nephew, Josiah Nichols and their son, William, Jr. They immediately left for American Fork, Utah and built a home on the corner next door to their son, George. Two more children, Ester Alice and Susannah, were born to them in American Fork, Utah.

In the fall of 1878, William with his wife and remaining unmarried children, James, Ester Alice, and Susannah, moved to Ferron, Utah. He was accompanied by his son, William, Jr., and wife Mary Jane Singleton Taylor. His son-in-law, George McDaniel, husband of their daughter, Mary Jane, helped them in reaching their new location. The trip took one week because they had to go slowly for the roads were very poor. The wagon which contained their few valuables was drawn by two yoke of oxen. They traveled through Salina Canyon where on the high mountains there were heavy snows.

Thomas Cunningham was one of their number who assisted their son, James, in driving a herd of cattle belonging to Joseph Wrigley. They were herding on shares.

William and Mary Ann and their family lived in a one room log house with a dirt roof and floor. They had brought with them some small glass windows to be put in their house.

Farming was the activity of the men in the new section. The loaning and borrowing of tools, farm equipment and helping hands given each other, coupled with the blessings of the Lord proved their loyalty and success.

William Taylor, Sr., was ordained the first Bishop of Ferron Ward by Brother Canute Peterson, President of the Sanpete Stake on October 9, 1879. There was no meeting house at that time. Meetings were held at Brother Sven Larson's home. William Taylor Sr.'s wife, Mary Ann Dean Taylor, was the first President of the Ferron Relief Society.

William was made President of the Irrigation Company which position he occupied for three years. The harvested wheat had to be hauled a distance of twelve miles over very poor roads to Orangeville to be ground into flour.

Again, by united effort a meeting house was soon erected. Six men hand cut and hauled the logs for the room. James Taylor hauled lumber for the floor from a saw mill in Joe's Valley. When completed a grand opening dance was given. James Feldsted, a fiddler, furnished the music. This house was afterwards moved into town and used as a school house. While William was holding the office of "selectman", now called county commissioner, he was instrumental in opening the roads to Price and through Salina Canyon. He served from 1880 to 1887. Along with many other positions he was chairman of the Board of Health and director in the Co-op store.

William Taylor, Sr., was always active in Church work. Among the different offices he held was President of the High Priests Quorum of Emery Stake. In this position he traveled a good many miles in his single buggy visiting hoes of Quorum members. His wife, Mary Ann, had been a helpmate to him in every deed through all the experience of pioneer life. He had learned to love her dearly.

Mary Ann passed away February 20, 1903, at the age of 74 years and 10 months. William Taylor followed her February 20, 1904 at the age of 80 years and 9 months each going to meet the reward of a well spent life.