

WILLIAM TAYLOR JR AND MARY JANE SINGLETON TAYLOR

William Taylor, Jr. was born November 5, 1848 in Bedworth, Warwick, England, the second son of William Taylor, Sr. and Mary Ann Taylor. He made his home in American Fork until he was in his early twenties. He courted Mary Jane Singleton and they were married in Salt Lake city on January 19, 1873. She was eighteen and he was twenty-five. Mary Jane was the daughter of John and Catherine Creer Singleton.

In the fall of 1878 William and Mary Jane and two small children, Mary Ann and William Earnest, came to Castle Valley and settled with a group of settlers on the Ferron Creek to make a new home. William's parents, William Taylor, Sr. and wife, Mary Ann, were in this group of settlers.

William and Mary Jane homesteaded 160 acres and built a one room log house. They put in a wood floor with lumber they had hauled with them from American Fork. The settlement of Ferron celebrated the Christmas of 1878 in the home of William Taylor, Jr. because this was the only home with a board floor and Christmas was celebrated with a dance. William drove a team and wagon around the settlement and picked up the women and children and brought them to the party. There were 17 in number. Four of this number were women. A delicious dinner was served and then they all enjoyed games and dancing. The music was furnished by Brother Edson King on his accordion. At the close all were all taken home on the wagon.

About 1880 William brought the first apple trees into the settlement. They were small but grew well. After moving from their farm into town, they ran a hotel. It started with three rooms and at various times more rooms were added until there were ten. It started as a livery stable and a place for the sheep and cattlemen to stay when they came to town for supplies. Later it became a stopover and horse exchange station for the old white-top stage buggy that carried mail and passengers as well as traveling salesmen.

Mary Jane Taylor became famous as a hotel manager. It was said that she served the best meals and buttermilk so rich that it tasted like cream. She also had the only telephone in Ferron for many years. This business flourished until 1925 when it was closed to the public.

William Jr. was appointed the first postmaster on June 25, 1880, during the administration of President Harrison. They kept the post office in their home for many years.

William and Mary Jane owned the first one horse black buggy in the settlement. He clerked for awhile in the second store of the valley, established and owned by Joseph Thornton. He was a stock holder in the first co-op store to be built in Ferron and the superintendent for several years. He also served as secretary and treasurer of the Co-op store for a number of years. He was also a stock holder in the Ferron Roller Mills.

They had one of the first cement cisterns which they filled from the irrigation ditch by first running the water through a settling tank and filtering it through charcoal to help purify it. Many people came there for their drinking water. They claimed it was the best water in the valley.

This couple were active Church members, both holding responsible positions in the ward, she in the Relief Society and he in the Bishopric.

They were the parents of ten children: Mary Ann, William Earnest, John Alma, Ellen (or Nell), Catherine (or Kate), Emma "S", Mable, Tenna and two sons stillborn. They also raised their granddaughter, Alice Barton, whose mother died at childbirth. She was cared for as their own.

When John Alma (called Jack) was born June 12, 1879 records state that he was the first male, white child born on Ferron Creek. The mid-wife was probably Mary Ann Dean Taylor, the baby's grandmother..

She, with the help of her children, and later on grandchildren, carried on the hotel business until 1925 when it was closed to the public. She had 37 grandchildren. It can be justly said hers was a lovable, unselfish life devoted to the service of others and indeed a friend to all. She passed away at her home of pneumonia in her 75th year, January 26, 1930.

Edit the following: **William died on 14 November 1899 in Ferron. Mary Jane died 26 January 1930 in Ferron. They are both buried in the Ferron City Cemetery.**