

HISTORY OF
ELIZA BILLINGTON WELCH.

This fine Pioneer Mother was born in Audlem, Cheshire, England, on December 16, 1825, the daughter of Joseph Billington and Martha Brown Billington. She had one brother, Hugh, and one sister, Harriet. She came to America in the fall of 1842, and during the ocean voyage met John Welch, who was also a convert to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. They were married in Nauvoo, Illinois, May 18, 1845. They resided in Nauvoo after their marriage, about a year and a half, during which time they experienced hardships and sorrow as well as much joy and satisfaction, their lives being comparable with most of the other Saints residing there. They were well acquainted with the Prophet Joseph Smith and the Patriarch Hyrum Smith, associated with them in life, and were permitted to view their remains after the martyrdom. They were also present at the meeting where the mantle of the Prophet Joseph fell upon Brigham Young, and they knew he had been called by Divine authority and power.

The first child of Eliza Billington Welch was born in Nauvoo, April 2, 1846. Late that winter they left for the West, crossing the river on ice, and settling at Winter Quarters. From there they went into Missouri, first having buried their little son at the cemetery at Winter Quarters, where so many new graves were made at that time. They spent some five years in Missouri, preparing to make the long journey across the plains and helping others to leave for "Zion". During their sojourn in Missouri, two daughters were born, and the third daughter was born July 16, 1852, on the trail in

sight of Chimney Rock, as they traveled Westward. The immigrant train laid over Saturday (and Sunday, according to custom) and went on its way Monday morning, the mother and her new babe having been made as comfortable as possible in their wagon-bed, to continue the journey.

One day as they journeyed through the mountains, they came to a stream of water. The cattle had been without water for a long time and apparently were very hot and thirsty, and upon seeing the water, took a short, quick cut, upsetting the wagon and its contents in the creek. The wagon cover was cut and the frightened family rescued. Later, after they had reached safety and had been made comfortable with dry clothing, the two little girls were rehearsing the experience and one of them exclaimed, "The wagon went down a jugglin' an killed me."

Eliza Billington Welch, with her family, reached Salt Lake City in 1852. For a short time they resided in Salt Lake City, then moved to Centerville, and to Perry, and in 1884 they moved to Paradise, Cache County, Utah. She was the mother of ten children and her posterity today is great. Her teachings, as well as the interesting experiences of her life, have enriched the lives of all who knew her. She died in Brigham City, Box Elder County, Utah, on August 16, 1907, and was buried in the Brigham City cemetery.

Evaline S.D. Snow.