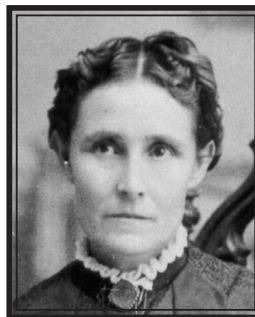


ELIZABETH ANN FARMER

Born: October 17, 1848 in England

Age: 7

Hunt Wagon Company



Elizabeth Ann Farmer



Emma, Agnes, Elizabeth

Elizabeth was only three years old when her mother died. She and her two sisters, Emma and Agnes, lived with their maternal grandmother until her father remarried in 1854.

The Farmer family, including the father, James (39) and step-mother, Mary Ann Biddle (25), children Emma Jane (13), Agnes Ann (10), Elizabeth (7), and new baby, Willard, sailed on the ship *Horizon* from England to America. Elizabeth's aunt, Mary Jane Farmer (26) and grandmother, Elizabeth Morris Farmer (68), were also with them. Grandmother Farmer died along the way in Illinois. Elizabeth also had two brothers, Frederick Richard (9) and James Frederick (13) who apparently stayed in England, perhaps with their maternal grandparents.

Elizabeth, or "Lizzie" as she was called, was ill the entire journey. She had a difficult time leaving her caring grandmother in England. This was a painful memory for her entire life. Lizzie rode with her Aunt Mary Jane most of the way.

Shortly after the family started their trek west from Iowa City in July, their little baby Willard died. He was only 9 months old, and was buried along the way on the trail. It was a difficult journey and they endured many hardships. They had to abandon many of their possessions along the way. When hunger and cold came, their oxen gave out and died.

Lizzie's father would not allow any in his family to lie down at night without taking off their shoes and covering up well so they wouldn't suffer from frozen limbs. Many people lost the flesh right off their feet when they pulled their shoes off. James tenderly massaged the feet of his little ones after removing their shoes each night. The family was finally rescued and helped into the Salt Lake Valley in December of 1856.

Of all their belongings that were abandoned along the way, they got one trunk back that contained several silk lace shawls. They were able to sell the shawls in order to meet some of their other needs once they arrived in Zion. The Farmer family first settled in the heart of Salt Lake City where Lizzie's father worked as a stone cutter on the temple.

In Salt Lake City, Elizabeth grew and eventually met her sweetheart, Almon Butterfield, from Herriman, Utah. They were married in 1866 when Elizabeth was 17 years old. Elizabeth and Almon made their home in Herriman where Elizabeth became a stalwart in the Church, serving faithfully in many callings. She was especially influential as an "appraiser" in the Relief Society.

Elizabeth became the mother of 16 children. Several of them died by accident. Her compassion for children extended to the entire community. Her patriarchal blessing promised Elizabeth the gift of healing and many people testified of her wisdom in caring for those who were ill.

Elizabeth died in 1931 on February 5, exactly five years after her husband died. She was 82 years old.

Sources: Daughters of Utah Pioneers history files; family histories from Carol Pace - letter to Kurt Ostler, December 19, 2004; "History of Sarah Jane Farmer," copied from Farmer family Bible; "History of Mary Ann Biddle Farmer," unknown authors, in files of Jolene S. Allphin; familysearch.org.



Elizabeth Morris Farmer