WILLIAM TAYLOR AND ELIZABETH PATRICK TAYLOR

William Taylor, a son of Joseph Taylor and Sarah Kendrick Best, was born 21 March 1787 in Edgecomb County North Carolina. He had two brothers, Allen and Joseph and eight sisters. Elizabeth Patrick, daughter of John Patrick and Elizabeth Kendrick, was born 9 Dec 1793. After they were married, they lived in or near Bowling Green, Warren County, Kentucky. In the spring of 1830 they moved to Missouri, Nonroe [sic] County and settled between the two forks of Fishing River. This state at the time was a wilderness in which there were many Indians and wild animals. It was a beautiful rolling prairie with some timber. The Allred family came from Tennessee and settled there also.

They must have been guided there to receive the Gospel, because they were situated in the line of March of Zion’s Camp. When the Proghet [sic] camped on Fishing River, it was the time when a mob from Missouri had gathered to fight Zion’s Camp which they believed to be a monstrous army due to reports they had heard, that night an immense storm arose. It so swelled the river that it was impossible for anyone to cross thereby saving the members of Zion’s Camp and giving the members of these families a chance to hear the gospel. They arrived Friday night and William Taylor gave them shelter. The brethern [sic] preached that evening, 19 June 1834 and the next day. Sunday twenty-eight persons were baptized, William Taylor being the first person to be baptized in the Missouri River. He and one of his sons, and Isaac Allred and one of his sons joined the camp and went with the Prophet to Jackson County. The camp disbanded there without fighting because the saints decided it was better to give up the land than to cause bloodshed. Soon after his baptism William was ordained an Elder and became an earnest expounder of the doctrines of the church.

The Taylor family had sold slaves in Kentucky and had quite a sum of money when they came to Missouri. Their farm was a valuable one consisting of six hundred and forty acres of valuable land. That fall they gathered with the Saints on Fishing River, they had to move out due to persecution and so received nothing for their land. They were robbed of $500.00 besides other things. Next they moved to Long Creek, eight miles south of Far West. In the fall of 1838 they moved into the streets of Far West because of mob violence. They shared all the trials of the saints and on 8 February 1839 they were again compelled to leave their homes. For 320 acres of land and 1,000 bushels of grain they received a neck-yoke worth about two dollars and a half. In all, they had owned a thousand acres in different parts of Missouri, from which they had not received a cent.

William Taylor died on the way to Nauvoo, 9 September 1839, and was buried on the main road from Lima to Warsaw. Before his death he had called his family together and had counseled them to rally around the priesthood and to remain with the main body of the church. The prophet gave the family a lot three quarters of a mile south of the temple on which they build [sic] a house of one and one-half stories. At the time sickness was broken out in Nauvoo, one of Elizabeth Taylor’s little girls was healed by rubbing a red silk handkerchief on the face of the child. The handkerchief had been given to one of the boys by the Prophet who was too busy to come in person and administer to the child.

Elizabeth sold butter and eggs to the Prophet. Her sons Joseph 14 and Green 12, worked for twenty-five cents a day to help provide for the family. The family were all present at the laying of the cornerstone of the temple and they worked every tenth day on it. The members of the family were very true to the Prophet and his cause. Two sons were guards to the prophet. This family saw the bodies of the martyred men brought to the city. They saw the Apostle, Brigham Young, take on the appearance of the Prophet and knew that he was their new leader. The 24 January 1846 Elizabeth and her three sons, Allen, Joseph, and and Green received their endowments in the Nauvoo Temple. The 8th of February they crossed the Mississippi River on ice. They reached Council Bluffs in June and planned to come to Utah. This was interrupted by the calling of the Mormon Battalion and so they were not able to come until 1850.

The children of William and Elizabeth Taylor were: John, Allen, Julia Ann, Mary Ann, Louisa, Elizabeth Ann, Sarah K. Best, Joseph, Pleasant Green, William Warren, Levi, Nancy Jane, Amanda Melvina and James Caldwell. They all came west but Melvina, who died when a child, and Sarah K. Best. They married and moved to various parts of the west where they did their part in pioneering. Green Taylor settled in Harrisville. His mother lived with him until her death 25 October 1880. (by Lola Taylor Wells)