

A life sketch of

Eliza Williamson Homer

1817 – 1912

Eliza Williamson Homer was born December 15, 1817* in Spafford, Onondaga*, New York state, the daughter of John Williamson and Nancy Sickles*, who were pure blood Dutch. She was the fifth child in a family of nine. Their home was the usual pioneer home built of logs. The country around them was rugged and the winters bitterly cold, hardships plentiful and comforts scarce.



All the clothing was made by the mother and daughters, who took the wool off the sheep, washed and carded it, and spun and wove it into cloth.

Eliza's family were neighbors and good friends of the Benjamin Cobb Homer family. Eliza was fond of their son, Russell King Homer. They were married, December 20, 1836, and spent a short honeymoon at Erie, New York.

Eliza and Russell were personally acquainted with Joseph Smith. On one occasion, Eliza was ill with a high fever for weeks and the doctors could not help her. The Elders told her if she would be baptized she would get well. She was baptized in a creek where a hole had been cut in the ice. They put her on a sheet held by four men, one holding each corner, and lowered her down into the water. The next morning she got up, dressed herself and was entirely cured of her fever and all other bodily ailments.

When the Saints were preparing to move west, Heber C. Kimball asked them to stay where they were and inspect all the cattle and horses before they crossed the Plains. In 1856, they moved to Crescent City, Iowa, where they opened a hotel called the Homer House. They assisted with and furnished transportation for Mormon Elders who traveled across the plains and many more Saints that didn't have the money to travel.

On July 3, 1858, the Independent Wagon Train Company left Florence Nebraska, to go to the Salt lake Valley. Russell King Homer was appointed captain.

After two months of Indian conflicts, high waters and dangerous storms they arrived in the Salt Lake Valley, October 8, 1858. Eliza gave her consent for her husband to marry three wives in plural marriage.

Russell and Eliza Homer were the parents of eleven children: Elizabeth, Edmund, Nancy Ann, Anna Eliza, Russell King Jr., Louisa Matilda, Julia Caroline, Benjamin John, Mary Ann, Rosetta Katherine and William Harrison.*

Eliza was of a quiet, calm disposition. She was small in stature and kind to everyone. She was a good cook, seamstress and had a hobby of making log cabin quilts and crazy quilts.

Eliza passed away peacefully on June 11, 1912 at Blackfoot, Idaho*. Eliza was ninety-six years old.

This Life Sketch of Eliza Williamson Homer was taken from Pioneer Women of Faith and Fortitude- author unknown.

** Information and/or facts added from verified records in possession of K. Oswald, and family history records in possession of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.*