

ELIZA ROWLEY

Eliza Rowley was born in the year of 1823 in Suckley, Worcester England to William Rowley Jr. and Ann Taylor Rowley. There were seven children in this family, three sisters and three brothers. One sister was younger. Eliza was very young when her mother died. She was never very well, so frail and delicate.

When she was about twelve years of age her father married Ann Jewell, who loved Eliza as her own.

Her father and new mother was converted to the L.D.S. Church by Wilford Woodruff and baptized with the six hundred souls in the pond on Benbow's Farm.

The family had a nice farm and home and always made the Mormon Elders welcome. Many church meetings were held in their home.

They raised hops and fruit of all kinds and was doing well until the time the crops failed and her father met with a serious accident. The wagon he was driving tipped over with a load of farm produce. His horses were frightened on a bridge. The wheel of the wagon crushed his leg and hip so badly that he was taken to the hospital and the team and wagon was sold to pay expenses. He was in the hospital seven months and passed away on February 14, 1848, leaving seven little children all under twelve years of age. Eliza was a great help to her step-mother and stayed by her side.

Eliza's half brothers went to work at a brick kiln when they were very young. Her mother sewed till late hours making men's clothing and buckskin gloves.

It was her desire to immigrate with the family. In the spring of 1856, it was arranged for them to leave England with the help of the Perpetual Immigration Fund. On the 4th of May 1856, they sailed from Liverpool on the ship "Charles Thornton". The sea voyage took six weeks. There were several deaths. Once the ship was in a calm and the saints fasted and prayed and the Lord came to their rescue.

When the ship was on fire after a bad storm the Lord again came with his blessings.

Eliza didn't make it to Zion as she suffered blistered feet, hunger and cold. Her thin little body was laid to rest in a snow bank along the way sometime late in October 1856.