

Sketch of the life of Elizabeth Rowley Udall  
Written by her daughter Kate Udall Bailey

In the town of Herefordshire, England, was born William Rowley in the year 1785. He was a well-to-do farmer. He married Ann Jewell, who was born Dec. 5, 1807 at Lye, Worcesterhire, England. To this union were born seven children, among them, Elizabeth, the second child, who is the subject of this sketch.

Elizabeth was born Dec. 14, 1838 at Sackley, near Hill England. When Elizabeth was three years old, Wilford Woodruff, Levi Richards and Thomas Kingston were in England on missions for the U. S. Church. In Wilford Woodruff's History he tells of the conversion of William Rowley and his family and of Ordaining Brother Rowley to the office of a deacon. The Rowley home was always open to the elders to hold their meetings. They had received the Gospel in 1840. One evening the Saints had been invited to hold a meeting at their home, with President Woodruff in charge. A mob surrounded the house. Brother Rowley went outside to try to quiet the mob so Brother Woodruff would be protected, but the angry mob seized Brother Rowley and beat him very severely.

When Elizabeth was eleven years old, her father died, on Feb. 14, 1849. Although but a child, she helped her mother support the family by needle work, making smockrocks and gloves, which were made in the home then sold to the gentry.

In 1856 the family, consisting now of the mother and her seven children, and a daughter of her husband's by a former marriage, whose name was Eliza, left their home to join the saints in far off America, aided by the Perpetual Immigration Fund. Little is known of the journey across the water, but so much could be told of the trip across the plains in Captain Willie's Hand Cart Company. This eighteen year old girl walked, pulling the loaded cart with all their earthly possessions. Eliza, the half sister, did not have strength to go on and died on the plains. Elizabeth remembered how her brother, John, tired, frozen almost to death was whipped by the Captain to go on and not give up to the drowsiness caused by the extreme coldness of the early winter that came to this belated company. On the last part of the trip they were out on rations of only a small piece of bread a day. Elizabeth was so hungry at times that she felt if there had been grass she could have gladly eaten it.

When they were three hundred miles west of Florence, they barely escaped being trampled on by a buffalo raid. Provisions ran so low that on Oct. 12th ten ounces to each person was allowed, then another reduction was made, and on Oct. 19th the last flour was used.

The snow was now eighteen inches on the level, and they were soon compelled to camp on the snowwater, where a relief party, sent out by President Young, met them. The company had not tasted food for forty-eight hours. With the aid of these brethren the company pressed on and arrived in Salt Lake on the 9th of Nov. 1856, having buried on the way side, one sixth of its numbers.

When arriving in Salt Lake, Elizabeth went to work for Daniel H. Wells and family and her mother with the younger children went on down to Nephi.

When Elizabeth went to Nephi, she became acquainted with David Udall and became his second wife April 5, 1857. Having entered in plural marriage at the request of his first wife, Eliza, who placed the hand of Elizabeth into that of her husband. She made her home in Nephi until 1872 when her husband took her to Kanab, where he had been called to build that place,

On the journey to Kanab, the Indians were on the war path and one night were so close that the boy who was driving the one wagon became so frightened he pleaded to be locked in a sort of a cabin where they were camped and David and Elizabeth sat up all night to guard the other members of the party. Next morning, tired though they were, they hurried on their journey.

In April, 1874 they joined the United Order in Kanab, where she lived until 1877, then she returned to Nephi.

Elizabeth Rowley Udall was an excellent cook and homemaker, and from her experience as a girl in sewing, she became an excellent seamstress, which served her well in caring for the twelve children that came to her.

Her children were William David, Emily, Elizabeth Ann, Sarah Jane, Edwin, Louise, Alice, George, Willie, Emma Katura, Kate Evelyn, and Alvin Jewell. Her first born William David, died when six months old. Later, at different times she buried Emily, Emma Katura, Willie, Edwin (in his twenty fourth year) and so she was to meet death within her ranks six times before she died on June 24, 1907 in Nephi, City Utah

She lived as a plural wife for fifty years. She with her husband celebrated their golden wedding April 5, 1907. Great rejoicing was done at that time for the numerous blessing that had come to her in their home in Zion.

She had always cut her husbands hair keeping him neat and trim. For the next three years of his life his daughter Alice Udall Edgehill did it, so he never went to a barber shop.

Elizabeth had a strong testimony and was faithful in attending her Relief Society meetings and the remaining time was taken up by making soap, knitting socks, curring pork, churning butter and caring for her large family. She loved her flowers and her Iris and Lilace she highly prized. She was never known to interfere in the affairs of others. With her it was peace at any price.