

AUSTIN CRAVATH AND ELIZA DOTY
(Parents of Laura Cravath)

Born: 19 October 1805
Norfolk, Litchfield, Connecticut
Died: 2 October 1844 (39 years)
Nauvoo, Hancock, Illinois

29 April 1808
Fairfield, Herkimer, New York
12 January 1889 (81 years)
Kamas, Summit, Utah

Married: 25 December 1828

Parents: Ezekiel Cravath and
Roselina (or Roxania) Bingham

Ira Doty and Betsey Murray

I am including this sketch of my great, great grandparents because I have good information and because Eliza's extraordinary story displays the indomitable courage of many of the early pioneers.

When Austin was three years old, he moved with his parents to Gainesville, New York. They lived not far from the Doty family. He married the oldest daughter, Eliza. Austin and Eliza operated a prosperous farm. Austin tapped trees on his land to make maple syrup. Austin was a tall man; his wife could stand under his outstretched arm. Eliza was small in stature and had auburn hair; she was described as having a "sweet, saintly face" that denoted a strong character.

Austin and Eliza joined the church in the spring of 1844. They sold their farm and moved to Nauvoo. Austin was assigned to help drain the swampland to make it useful to the settlers. He became ill with the malaria that was prevalent in early Nauvoo and died there, leaving Eliza with four young children.

Eliza was a descendant of Edward and Faith Clarke Dotey, who had sailed to America on the Mayflower. When her husband died, she was counseled by Apostle Kimball to marry again since she and her family would need help in the move West. She married her cousin William Murray, becoming his second wife in plural marriage. He confiscated her property and sold it to provide for his own family to go West. He left Eliza and her children to find their own way. (William Murray died on the trek west.)

April 30, 1848, Eliza married Alfred Brown, a widower with two small children. They remained at Council Bluffs, where Eliza gave birth to a son. They joined the wagon train of "Warren Foote's Hundred," in

Kanesville, Iowa. Along the trail, Alfred died from cholera, and two days later her 17-year-old son also died. This left Eliza with three daughters, her new baby, and the son and daughter of Alfred by his first wife. Eliza was now 42 years old.

Her family begged her to return to the east but she refused and pursued her way westward. She and her daughters yoked and hitched up the oxen and drove the team. She had a yoke of cows which not only helped pull the load but gave milk for the family.

Heber C. Kimball, hearing of Alfred Brown's death, and realizing the difficulties she faced, sent word to have her drive into his yard when she reached Salt Lake, which she did September 17, 1850. Eliza married Heber for time only and lived in one of his houses until his death in 1866. Her daughter Laura later commented on the great love and respect they had for this good man. After Heber's death, Eliza spent her time in the homes of her three daughters. She was said to be "an incessant toiler for the benefit of her family and friends, helpful and considerate of others, self-sacrificing, without enemies, faithful and true in all things and strong in her faith." (See source material.) She died at Laura's home in Kamas and was buried in the Salt Lake City Cemetery.