

DUP AF Book 2
Biographical Sketch
of
Elizabeth Okey Spratley

by Mary Spratley Webb, her daughter

Pioneer Year 1851
Alfred Cordan Company

Born 23 Nov 1843 at Nauvoo, Illinois
Married James Spratley 10 Dec 1862 in the Endowment House
Died 19 Jun 1930
Buried June 22 1930 in American Fork City Cemetery

Elizabeth Okey Spratley, daughter of Edwin and Mary Pitt Okey, was born on November 23, 1843, at Nauvoo, Illinois. She was but seven months old at the time of the death of the Prophet Joseph Smith, and her mother took her to his funeral and held her up to see the martyred prophet as they passed the casket. Shortly after this, her parents moved up the river to Burlington, Iowa, where her father took up his trade as shoe maker, having been engaged in this work in Manchester, England before coming to America.

At this place (Burlington) they lived for eight years, during all this time continually making the necessary preparations to immigrate to the Valleys of the Mountains. At last, the chance came. In the spring of 1851 they went to Council Bluffs where they were organized into companies. Alfred Cordan was their captain and into the fifty-three wagons were loaded the valuable provisions of food and clothing, which was to be their humble fare before arriving in the "Promised Land." And many were the hardships endured, the fear of the Indians, the trouble with the wild buffalos, shortage of food and much sickness, etc.; all these things were very trying from time to time. But the Saints seemed possessed of a fearless faith and were anxious to reach their destination and they plodded on until they arrived in Salt Lake City, October 3, 1851.

Their first home in Utah was at Kaysville, where they lived for three years then they moved to Salt Lake City where the father worked at his trade. After two years he died leaving his widow and five children as follows: Daniel, aged 14, Elizabeth 12, Sarah 7, Edwin 4, and Joseph five months.

And now the widow being left with five small children to provide for and no finances seemed a very difficult problem to solve, until finally friends sent for her to come to American Fork, where she and her family shared the one small room of George Spratley which was on First South between Center Street and First East until the next year, when she got a small lumber room of Thomas Featherstone and had it moved on the lot on Second South, First East on the South East corner of the block where Joseph Okey now lives, which was their home.

Elizabeth Okey became the wife of James Spratley on December 10, 1862, having gone through the endowment house and received their sealings by George A. Smith. From this union they were blessed with twelve children, seven of whom have passed to the great beyond. Those surviving are: James E. Spratley, Mrs. Minnie Webb, Mrs. Alice Stewart, Mrs. Martha Chadwick, and Albert Spratley, also 40 Grand children and 32 great grandchildren.

Elizabeth Okey Spratley has been a loving and devoted wife and mother. As she was the eldest daughter, a great responsibility was placed upon her, in helping to care for her younger sisters and brother. And she was taught to spin yarn and to braid straw for hat making. At the time Johnson's army was stationed at Camp Floyd, they, like many other families, sold butter, buttermilk, eggs, and garden truck to the soldiers who were eager to buy. These girlhood experiences made her capable of hard work and responsibility, which was placed upon all mothers of those pioneer days. Although of a retiring disposition, she was a worker in the Primary for many years and a life-long Relief Society worker. Her house was open to the homeless. She took back home her eldest son, James, and his daughter, Sadie, for five years, after the death of the first wife, until he married again. She also had the privilege of helping to care for two of her daughters, Mrs. Minnie Webb and Mrs. Alice Stewart, while their husbands were doing missionary work in the Southern States.

In later years, when their children were all married, they sold their home and went to live with their son, James Spratley Jr., for a short time, and then plans were made for them to make their home with their daughter, Zina Brown, at whose home the husband and father, James Spratley, passed away on April 4, 1925, at the age of eighty-eight. The death of the daughter, Zina, occurred about a year later. Mrs. Spratley was taken to the home of her daughter, Mrs. Minnie Webb, where she lived for three months, then moved to her daughter, Mrs. William Chadwick, where she passed away. She died June 19, 1930.

Funeral services were held June 22, in the Tabernacle. The speakers were W. S. Robinson, James T. Gardner, J. P. Aydelotte, and Bishop Robinson. Miss Loraine Boley sang a vocal solo, "My Faith in

Thee." Mrs. A. C. Nillson rendered "Teach Me to Pray". A quartette--Leo Hansen, Kenneth Robinson, Mrs. Helen Walker, and Mrs. Nan Wright--sang the concluding number, "I Will Give You Rest". Thomas Coddington pronounced the benediction. Interment was in the City Cemetery, where Will Chadwick dedicated the grave. The open number was a vocal duet by Moral D. Steele and Mrs. Helen Walker, with Miss Ann Chipman at the piano. President Earl S. Greenwood offered the invocation.

Written By: Mary Spratley Webb Her Daughter