

# James Taylor

Born 21 June 1783 - Westmoreland, England  
Died 27 May 1870 - Salt Lake City, Utah Territory  
by Jean Naisbitt, 27 January 2000<sup>1</sup>

James Taylor was the last child born to Edward Taylor, and his second wife Elizabeth Saul. His father married had his first wife, Jane Noble, when they were both 24 years-old. They had five children, two sons and three daughters. They were married for 17 years before Jane died at age 41.

Edward then married Elizabeth Saul when he was 45, and she was 39 years old. Edward and Elizabeth had three daughters; Mary, Jane, and Agnes. Unfortunately Edward died after five years of marriage, at the age of 50. Elizabeth was three months pregnant with their fourth child, a son. At that time she was 43 years-old. James was the baby she was carrying at her husband's death. Elizabeth died 18 years later at the age of 61, when James was 17 years old.

At the time of Edward Taylor's death, the English law of primogeniture was in effect. That meant the oldest son took the estate and left the younger branches of the family to provide for themselves as best they could. Because James was the youngest son, and he had two older half-brothers, he did not receive any of his father's estate. He was, however, able to get a good English education and became proficient in the Latin and Greek languages. He also excelled in the higher branches of mathematics.

His father's great-uncle William T. Moon, brother to James' grandmother Ann Moon, tried to make up for the sudden death of James' father, which left him without an inheritance. He bequeathed to James a small estate in Hale, Westmoreland.

James met and later married Agnes Taylor on 23 December 1805. Agnes' maiden name was the same as James', however, as far as we have determined she was not related to him. Born to James and Agnes were eleven children, nine sons and two daughters. They were as follows:

	<b><u>Born</u></b>	<b><u>Died</u></b>	<b><u>Age</u></b>
Edward (#1)	1806	1828	22 yrs.
John	1 Nov 1808	25 Jul 1887	78 yrs.
James	1810	1878	68 yrs.
William (#1) Moon	1812	1812	0 yrs.
George (#1)	1814	1814	0 yrs.
William (#2)	1815	[abt.] 1820	5 yrs.
Elizabeth	4 Sep 1819	31 Jul 1909	90 yrs.
Agnes	2 Oct 1821	12 Dec 1911	90 yrs.
William (#3)	2 Sep 1823	17 May 1910	87 yrs.
George (#2)	9 Jan 1826	1836	10 yrs.
Edward (#2)	Chr:12 Feb 1830	1836	6 yrs.

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<sup>1</sup> Information was gained from B.H. Roberts' book on John Taylor, and family records.

Notice how they gave the same name to several of their children. It was common practice in those days to give the same name of a sibling, who had died, to another younger child born after the older sibling's death.

James received an appointment under the government in the Excise department, which deals with taxes. That job required him to move from place to place. In 1819 he left the government employment at Liverpool, where he had lived for five years. He moved his family to the estate he inherited in Hale, Westmoreland, England.

In 1830, at the age of 47, James again moved his family, this time to Ontario in Upper Canada, leaving behind his oldest living son, John, who was to settle the affairs of the estate. (John later became our 2nd great grandfather.) About two years later John was able to complete the business, and he followed the family to Canada. While in Ontario, Elder Parley P. Pratt visited John and his wife Leonora Cannon, and taught them the gospel. John gathered some investigators together, and in the spring of 1836 John, Leonora, and most of James' family were baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Two years later James' entire family moved to Far West, Missouri to be closer with the Saints.

James and his family endured all the hardships the rest of the Saints did during the early history of the Church. He was 63 years old when they left Nauvoo in the harsh winter of 1846. A year later at the age of 64, he walked across the plains to Salt Lake City. James stayed faithful to the Church his entire life, and died at the age of 87.