

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF ELIZA WILLIAMSON HOMER
WRITTEN BY HER SON WILLIAM HARRISON HOMER, 1931, PROVO, UTAH

Eliza Williamson Homer was the daughter of John Williamson and Nancy Sickles (pure blood Holland Dutch.) She was born December 15, 1815 in Onondaga C. New York. She was married December, 20, 1836. To Russell King Homer,. Their parents were friends and neighbors and they knew and loved each other from childhood, the two families moved from Onondaga County, New York to Crawford County, Pa. When they were about fifteen years of age. Once when Mother went back to the old home on a visit, her mother got quite anxious about her return and told father if he could go and bring her back home he could marry her. He replied that he would like to go to the old home town and spend the Christmas holidays and bring home a wife, accordingly he went after her. They were married and spent a short honeymoon in the town of Erie New York. A most thrilling and eventful trip, especially a boat ride on Lake Erie.; While on this trip, mother became acquainted with a young lady by name of Mary Van Horn. She was the heroine of an episode that happened in the war of 1812. It was written in ballad form and she purchased it and sent it in a letter father. It was called "James Bird," after the hero of a battle that was fought on Lake Erie and he was the sweetheart of Mary Van Horn. Father memorized it and sang it as long as he lived almost every day.

Their first child, Elizabeth was born and died in Pennsylvania. The second Edmond was born there too.

HISTORY OF RUSSELL KING HOMER

Russell King Homer, youngest child and son of Russell King Homer and Eliza Williamson, was born the 6th of July 1859, at Salt Lake City, Utah. The Homer family were living in an adobe house that belonged to Phineas Young between 7th and 8th South and 4th and 5th East. The father was a good provider so that the family did not suffer for the want of food or warm home as many families did at that time.

As a boy his favorite game was marbles, when he was old enough he started school, which was in a rather crude building. The seats were slabs smoothed off on one side for the seat, with pegs under them for legs. There was no definite grades in school, but all children attended school as much as they could. As a boy Russell herded the cows, horses and oxen on the hills near by. When he was sixteen years old he finished his school at Three Mile Creek, or what is now known as Perry, did chores for his board and went to school there for two or three months. His first school teachers were Dan Brian, Franklin S. Richards, and his brother, William H. Homer.

Soon after he finished his school, his father moved his family to Cache valley where his father introduced dry farming. Russell assisted on the farm and when he was eighteen years old he was called to act as a Counsellor to the President in the Young Men's Mutual Improvement association. He accepted the call and was happy to have the opportunity for it was the beginning of his activity as a member, in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Russell joined with the young people of Clarkston in having a good time and during the long winter evenings would go to a dance or for a sleigh ride, having a good time with the crowd of friends. It was only natural that the boys would choose their girl friends to accompany them to the parties and dances. The girl that Russell seemed more devoted to than the others was Eleanore Marie Atkinson