

# Willis Lemmon and Anna Eliza Homer Lemon

## WILLIS LEMMON

BORN: AUGUST 12, 1837 — QUINCY (SPRINGFIELD),  
ADAMS CO. ILLINOIS

MARRIED: NOVEMBER 1, 1859 — ANNA ELIZA HOMER

DIED: JANUARY 4, 1909 — SMITHFIELD, CACHE CO.  
UTAH

BURIED: SMITHFIELD, CACHE CO. UTAH

PARENTS: WASHINGTON LEMMON AND TAMER STEPHENS

## ANNA ELIZA HOMER LEMMON

BORN: MARCH 9, 1843 — LOGAN, ILLINOIS

MARRIED: NOVEMBER 1, 1859

DIED: JULY 6, 1911 — SMITHFIELD, CACHE CO. UTAH

BURIED: SMITHFIELD, CACHE CO. UTAH

PARENTS: RUSSELL KING HOMER AND ELIZA WILLIAMSON

by Melinda South

Willis Lemmon Homer was born August 12, 1837 in Quincy, Adams Co. Illinois where he grew up. He married Anna Eliza Homer November 1, 1859 and one year later on November 18, 1860 Anna Eliza Lemmon was born in Smithfield, Cache Co. Utah. They had nine more children there in Smithfield and all but one lived into adulthood and married.

When Willis Lemmon died the *Deseret News* reported on January 9, 1909 his death:

"Last Monday morning Willis Lemmon, one of Smithfield's oldest residents, died of stomach and liver trouble after an illness of several weeks.

"Mr. Lemmon was born in Ohio [sic] 71 years ago last August. He came to Utah with his father and the other members of the family in 1853. He first lived in Mill Creek Ward and came to Smithfield in the fall of 1859 and has resided here since the spring of 1860. He crossed the plains to bring emigrants to Utah and was an active Church Worker all his life. He is survived by a wife, six daughters, two sons and many grandchildren together with a host of friends.

"The funeral was held today in the tabernacle where consoling remarks were made by Bishop W.L. Winn, Richard Roskelley, Samuel Nelson, Peter Hansen, George Hinds, and W.L. Skidmore."

Anna died just 2 and a half years later on July 6, 1911.

February 18, 1859

Salt Lake City, [Utah]

Patriarch John Young

A Blessing given to Annie Eliza Homer February 18th, 1859 S.L.C.

Patriarch: John Young Salt Lake City Feb. 18, 1859

A Patriarchal Blessing given G. S.L. City, Feb. 18th, 1859, by John Young upon the head of Annie Eliza Homer, daughter of Russell K. and Eliza, born March 19th, 1843, Logan County, Ill. (Father assisted)

Sister Annie, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we, his servants, lay our hands upon your head and seal upon you the blessings of the new and everlasting covenant which you have embraced with an honest heart and a desire to do the will of the Lord to be saved in His kingdom. You shall be delivered from the grasp of the evil one, be the blessed of the Lord, for you are a lawful heir, entitled to the blessings because you are a daughter of Abraham, through the loins of Ephraim. You have a claim to all the blessings promised to all the faithful followers of Jesus, you shall have, not only temporal, but spiritual blessings, have long life upon the earth.

In the own due time of the Lord you shall be blest with a companion, who shall be able to teach in the way of life and salvation, have power to govern and control yourself, be a mother in Israel. Your posterity shall be numerous, be numbered among the blessed of the Lord.

I seal upon you the blessings of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. You shall have flocks and herds and an abundance of earthly goods, have power to administer to the afflicted in Israel. In all times of danger and distress the Lord Almighty shall bless you and deliver you from the grasp of the destroyer. Be a blessing to your Father's house, to your brothers and sisters and all who desire your welfare. If you carry out the counsel of your Father and Mother, and those set to counsel you, you shall have dreams and visions opened unto you that shall be a comfort to your heart.

Be a blessing to your Father's household in all



things, an honor to the cause. Your name shall be honorable in Israel and among the daughters of Zion.

I seal all the blessings of the heavens, but you are entitled to the blessings promised to the children of God, and if you will abide the laws of His kingdom you shall come forth with the just and the redeemed who shall stand upon Mount Zion. Be faithful in keeping the commandments of the Lord, you shall be blessed from this time forth and forever, and we confer them upon you according to the holy order and sealing power which the Lord has committed to bind for earth and for heaven. We seal you up to eternal life and say you shall live forever with the righteous and redeemed, and we do it in the name of Father, Son and ever blessed Spirit, Amen.

*J.N. Long, Recorder*

## History of Russell King Homer brother of Anna Eliza Homer Lemmon

**R**ussell 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 nearby.

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 Counselor 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.

*Author Unknown*

# Washington Lemmon

BORN: OCTOBER 6, 1806 — SHELBYVILLE, SHELBY CO. KENTUCKY  
MARRIED: AUGUST 1826 — TAMER STEPHENS — CORYDON, INDIANA  
MISSION: INDIANA — CA. 1844  
MARRIED: MAY 22, 1856 — RACHEL SHARP  
MARRIED: ANN WALTERS  
DIED: OCTOBER 2, 1902 — MILLCREEK, SALT LAKE CO. UTAH  
PARENTS: JAMES LEMMON AND SARAH CARR

**April 24th, 1844 (not sure of year)**

## **Patriarch Hyrum Smith**

A Blessing given to Washington Lemon Patriarch:

A Patriarchal Blessing of Washington Lemon, son of James and Sarah Lemon, born in the county of Shelby, State of Kentucky, Oct. 6th, 1806.

Brother Washington, I lay my hands upon your head in the name of Jesus of Nazareth, to place and seal a blessing upon you in office of my calling, touching upon your priesthood and the right you have unto that holy order, also upon your rights inherent and lineage, manifesting a few of the more important points of your existence for future considerations.

Behold, I say unto you, Washington, your blessing is your inheritance and in the possessions of your fathers, and the honor of your name and in the sheaves and the reward of your labours.

Although you shall be remembered in mercy in your house and habitation, and the blessings of your posterity and in the priesthood to go down from generation to generation, in which you have rights in the covenants you have made with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, your fathers, from whom beginneth your reckoning, in these last days, passing through the loins of Levi and you shall be blessed in your lineage and in the inheritance of your fathers and in due time shall all these things be made known unto you. And you shall be blessed in your testimony and in your goings forth, incomings and out-goings and in the fullness of the covenant.

And your name shall be perpetuated from generation to generation and written in the chronicles of your brethren. And your days and years shall be

many upon the land and you shall be brought to stand in your place upon Mount Zion according to your appointment if your faith fail not.

These blessings I seal upon your head. Even so, Amen.

Given by Hyrum Smith, Patriarch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

April 24th, 1844 (not sure of year)

## Washington Lemmon

Washington Lemmon was the fourth child born to James and Sarah Carr Lemmon born October 6, 1806 in Shelbyville, Shelby Co. Kentucky. Around 1813, when Washington was about seven years old his mother died shortly after the birth of her seventh child. Sometime before April 1818 the Lemmons moved to Harrison Co. Indiana.

After living as a widower with seven children for five years James married Amy Rawlins. Amy and James had five children added to the seven. Here in Indiana when Washington was almost 20 years old he married Tamer Stephens.

James Lemmon moved his family to Adams Co. Illinois between 1828-1831 and Tamer and Washington came with them with their son and daughter. James and Amy had four more children in Adams Co. and Washington and Tamer had 10. All lived to adulthood.

On the "Crossing the Plains Film #289,441" it lists: "Lemmon, Washington of 15 persons including wife and 10 children.

- "Lemmon, Tamer Stephens, wife of Washington
- "Lemmon, Alfred son of Washington and Tamer
- "Lemmon, Artimsie (or Artemisia) daughter of Washington and Tamer
- "Lemmon, Hyrum son of Washington and Tamer
- "Lemmon, Leander son of Washington and Tamer
- "Lemmon, Mary Emily daughter of Washington and Tamer
- "Lemmon, Nancy Melissa daughter of Washington and Tamer
- "Lemmon, Oliver Perry son of Washington and Tamer
- "Lemmon, Stacy Ann daughter of of Washington and Tamer
- "Lemmon, Willis son of of Washington and Tamer.

*(Continued on page 4)*

# Lemmon Family

In 1763, Robert S. Lemmon, emigrated from Ireland and settled at Baltimore, Maryland, where he remained for a number of years. He strongly advocated the question of American liberty and when independence was declared in 1776 was at the front and aided in bearing the brunt of battle. He was present at General Braddock's defeat and also at the capture of Cornwallis.

Robert S. Lemmon had four sons: Robert Jr., William, James and John, of whom Robert Jr. died at New Albany, Indiana. William went to Louisiana and later to Mississippi where he passed away. James served as a messenger boy in the Revolutionary War, carrying messages between George Washington and his father, Robert S. Lemmon. He was at that time a youth of seventeen. He lived in Pennsylvania until 1786 and then removed to Kentucky. His younger brother, John, died in Kentucky in young manhood.

James Lemmon subsequently removed to Corydon, Harrison county, Indiana, in the year 1818. He married Sarah Carr, who became the mother of Washington Lemmon.

Washington Lemmon was born Oct 6, 1806 in Shelby county, Kentucky, and was reared to manhood in Harrison county, Indiana. In 1830 he removed to Adams county, Illinois where he resided for twenty years. In 1841 he joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and he became a personal friend of the Prophet Joseph Smith and assisted in building temple at Nauvoo. During the time that Joseph Smith was a candidate for the presidency of the United States, Mr. Lemmon made campaign speeches in his behalf throughout Illinois.

He was absent in Indiana at the time that Joseph Smith suffered martyrdom at Carthage. For two years Mr. Lemmon resided at Council Bluffs and on the 10th of September, 1852, arrived in Utah. He settled on a farm in Millcreek Ward of Salt Lake county and became a prosperous agriculturist of that region.

At Corydon, Indiana, in August 1826 he had married Tamer Stephens, a daughter of John and Stacey Stephens. They had a family of twelve children, eight sons and four daughters, all of whom reached adult age, namely: James William, who was born May 16, 1827; Stacey Ann, who was born March 8, 1829, and married Vergil Merrill; John Wesley, born August 15, 1831; Nancy Melissa, who was born September 6, 1833, and married Patriarch John Smith; Jasper, born August 5, 1835; Willis,

August 12, 1837; Leander, November 10, 1839; Alfred, Jan. 9, 1842; Oliver Perry, Sept 25, 1843; Mary Emily, Sept 17, 1845; Artimzie Caroline, November 8, 1847; and Hyrum, November 23, 1849.

Washington Lemmon, the father of this family, was a prominent church man and served as Bishop's counselor for more than twenty years. He died October 2, 1902, at the notable old age of ninety-six years at Cottonwood, Salt Lake County, Utah.

*Received from Newell Anderson*

*(Continued from page 3)*

"1852: crossed plains in 7th company, Captain Henry B. M. Jolley. J.H. Dec 31, 1852, Supplement p.48."

Their sons James William (age 25 in 1852) and John Wesley (age 21 in 1852) did not come with them.

Washington and Tamer crossed the plains in 1853 and settled in Millcreek, Salt Lake Co. Utah.

On May 22, 1856 Washington married Rachel Sharp of Missouri. It was her second marriage being a widow. She and Washington had one child, a daughter, in 1857. Washington married a third time to Ann Walters.

# Tamer Stephens Lemmon

BORN: JANUARY 5, 1807 — FRANKFORT, FRANKLIN CO.  
KENTUCKY  
MARRIED: AUGUST 31, 1826 — WASHINGTON LEMMON —  
CORYDON, HARRISON, INDIANA  
DIED: OCTOBER 2, 1893 — MILLCREEK, SALT LAKE CO.  
UTAH  
PARENTS: JOHN STEVENS AND STACEY TEWELL

**June 4, 1853**

**Great Salt Lake City, [Utah]**

**Patriarch John Smith**

Patriarch: John Smith

G.S.L.City. June 4th, 1853--A blessing by John Smith, Patriarch, upon the head of Tamer Lemon, daughter of John and Stacey Stephens born Payette, New York Jan. 6th, 1807.

Sister Tamer, in the name of Jesus Christ, I lay my hands upon thy head and seal upon you the blessing of a father, even all the blessings of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Thou art a daughter of Abraham through the loins of Joseph and heir by inheritance to the everlasting priesthood which shall be sealed upon you in fullness in due time, teaching you mysteries which have been kept hidden from before the foundation of the world. You shall be endowed with all the power that was sealed upon the daughters of Joseph, in common with your companion. You shall be able to heal the sick by the prayer of faith; shall have power over the destroyer. Your children shall become exceedingly numerous, be mighty in the Priesthood, and extend their dominions to the ends of the earth.

You shall be satisfied with the fruits of the earth and every desire of your heart, and you shall inherit the riches of eternal lives if you desire it with a perfect heart. You shall see your Redeemer stand upon the earth in all His beauty and glory and shall inherit all the blessings of His kingdom in a world without end with all your father's house. Even so, Amen.

## Notes on Tamer

Tamer Stephens was born in Frankfort, Fayette Co. Kentucky, the same town in which both her parents were born.

Tamer was the fourth child of six, and when she was about two years old her parents moved to Harrison Co. Indiana. She grew up there and met and married Washington Lemmon at the age of 19.

Tamer wrote a poem entitled "Christ's Second Coming" published in the *Millennial Star* Vol. 14:464.

# Russell King Homer

RUSSELL KING HOMER

BORN: JULY 15, 1815 — ONONDAY CO. NEW YORK

MARRIED: DECEMBER 20, 1836 — ELIZA WILLIAMSON

DIED:

PARENTS: BENJAMIN COBB HOMER AND ANNA WARNER

**February 18, 1859**

**Salt Lake City, [Utah]**

**Patriarch John Young**

Blessing given to Russell King Homer February 18, 1859

Patriarch--John Young

A Patriarchal blessing given in Salt Lake City, Feb, 18, 1859 by John Young upon the head of Russell King Homer, son of Benjamin and Anna, born July 15, 1815, Ononday County, New York.

Brother Russell, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I lay my hands upon your head and bless you with a Father's Blessing and those of the everlasting gospel, and gratify and confirm all that have been heretofore sealed upon you, for you are entitled to the blessings of the new and everlasting covenant and all that has been promised to the faithful in Christ. You have embraced the truth, left your native land, and chosen rather to suffer afflictions with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; you have chosen the better part which never shall be taken from you.

You are a literal descendant of Joseph through Ephraim, and have a right to the blessings of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, which is a numerous posterity upon the earth; you shall have wives and children, be a blessing unto them, have power to govern and control your household and all under your jurisdiction with propriety, being clothed with the priesthood your mind shall expand as you advance in years. Be a blessing to your father's house and to your progenitors, and to your own family, and they shall call you blessed in consequence of the integrity of your heart. Assist in calling forth the work of the last days, your name shall be known as honorable in Israel, you shall do much good in the land of the living, your flocks and herds shall be multiplied unto you, be a blessing unto thousands.

Peradventure the time may come when you will be called by the voice of the spirit to bear the

fullness of the everlasting gospel to the world, and your mind shall be stored with knowledge, and if you will give your mind to it you shall have a tongue like the pen of a ready writer, if brought before kings and rulers, you shall overcome your enemies, escape their grasp. You are one of a family, and as the Lord has said, He would take one of a family and two of a city therefore you shall be blessed and prospered in your outgoings and your incomings, and the Lord Almighty shall sustain you inasmuch as you put your trust in Him. You shall live till you are satisfied with life, till your hair becomes as white as the pure wool, if you desire it live to see the saints return to the center stake, build the temple upon the consecrated spot of Zion, have power to overcome everything that opposes, be able to administer to the sick, in particular, many of those in your own family; on whomsoever you lay your hands they shall be healed.

You shall have the gift of seeing that when an enemy approach you have the power to detect him. If you feel in your heart to abide celestial laws, celestial blessings are yours; you shall come forth in the first resurrection, assist in avenging the blood of the prophets when called to do so, your arm shall be strengthened and moved up to accomplish the great work in which you are called to do. If you keep the commandments of the Lord you shall stand upon the earth in the last days and enjoy the blessings which Job said he would enjoy to see the Redeemer in the flesh; you shall have all the blessings promised to the faithful in Christ in connection with your family for they shall be a blessing unto you and you shall have all you desire in righteousness; you shall be a savior upon mount Zion, assist in the redemption of the forefathers who have died and you shall be crowned in the kingdom of our Father.

I seal these upon you by virtue of the holy sealing power which is given to bind for earth and for heaven, and in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, even so. Amen

*J. V. Long, Reporter?*

*S. A. (A.?) Long, Recorder*

# Russell King Homer

**December 6, 1884**

**Clarkston, Cache County, Utah**

**Patriarch John Smith**

A blessing given by John Smith, Patriarch, upon the head of Russell King Homer, son of Benjamin and Anna Homer, born in Spafford Onondayo County, New York July 15, 1815.

Patriarch--John Smith Clarkston, Cache County, Utah December 6th, 1884

Brother Russell King Homer, thou art of the house of Israel and have yielded obedience to the gospel with an honest heart, and while in thy youth you were taught to fear God, and in Him put thy trust. The adversary many times has laid snares for thy feet and thy life to a certain extent has been a checkered one. Thy pathway has been fraught with difficulties. Thy guardian Angel has watched over thee from thy birth and delivered thee from among thy enemies. He has also preserved thy life and brought thee out from Babylon to partake of the blessings in Zion. Do a work for thy kindred and secure unto thyself the blessings of Eternal life and I say unto thee be of good cheer. Let thy heart be comforted, look forward to the future with pleasure for the Lord knoweth the secret of thy heart. He has witnessed thy trials, he has heard thy petitions and is pleased with thy integrity and thou shalt verily receive thy reward.

Thou art of the blood of Joseph through the loins of Ephraim and entitled to the blessings of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Therefore reflect upon the past, present and future and seek wisdom that you may fulfill your mission for thou knowest that the Lord has heard thy petitions in the past and that he will hear and answer thee in the future inasmuch as thou wilt ask in faith and thou shalt be made equal to every task. Thy days and years shall be prolonged until thou art satisfied if thou wilt follow the promptings of the monitor within thee for thou shalt be warned of danger by the Spirit and thy guardian Angel will give thee counsel in time of need and ward off the shafts of the adversary in the future as in the past.

Thy memory shall also be strengthened, thine intellect shall continue strong that thou shalt be wise in counsel that the younger may receive benefit through thy experience. Therefore be at rest in thy mind, be prudent in the care of thy body, listen to the whisperings of the still small voice of the

comforter and all shall be well with thee both here and hereafter and as a Father in Israel thy fame shall be known far and near. Thy name shall live in the memory of the Saints and be handed down with thy posterity in honorable remembrance from generation to generation and thou shalt receive thine inheritance on Mount Zion, the New Jerusalem.

Therefore be comforted for better days await thee, this with thy former blessings I seal upon thee in the name of Jesus Christ and I seal thee up unto eternal life to come forth in the morning of the first resurrection a Saviour among thy kindred even so Amen.

No. 941 Clarkston Cache County, U.T. December 6th 1884

*Percy Tanner Recorder*



# Homer Family

Of the Homer Family we give briefly this, that the name means "a low island" or "a low place near water." In the year 1066, when William of Normandy sailed to invade and conquer England, one De Holmere went with him and fought at the Battle of Hastings.

The earliest direct ancestor to whom we can definitely trace, was **Richard Homer** who was born at Ettings Hall England, March 1540 who married Margaret Wright of Sedgley in march of 1565. His fourth child was born about 1600, married **Elizabeth Wilkes**. The eldest son of Edward and Elizabeth was **Edward Homer Jr.** He married **Anne Gibbons**, they had a family of five sons and three daughters. **John**, fourth child of Edward and Anne, born 20 March 1665, each of these were born at Etting Hall as it passed from father to son.

John went to sea at a very early age and at twenty-seven was master of his own merchant ship. And early in 1692, he sailed for America. On the 13th of July 1693, he was married to **Marjorie Stevens** of Boston. The second son of this family, **Benjamin Homer**, was our ancestor. He married 1721 **Elizabeth Crowell** and they were the parents of six sons and two daughters. Two of these sons became sea Captains, one Capt. **Thomas Homer** who was next in our line was born 31 March 1736 married **Elizabeth Sears**. Their family consisted of six sons and four daughters, three of whom (sons) were lost at sea in young manhood before marriage.

Next in our line was the third remaining brother, **Benjamin Cobb Homer** born 24 June 1777. He married **Anna Warner** who's great-grandmother was a princess of the Cherokee Indian Nation. Her grandmother lived to be 113 years old.

Their son, **Russell King Homer** married 26th of December, 1836 in Erie, N.Y. **Eliza Williamson**. These two joined the church and became friends of Joseph Smith, Martin Harris and others of the church leaders. He died Feb. 1890, his wife Eliza died 11 June 1912, at the age of 97 years.

**Anna Eliza Homer**, fourth child of Russell King and Eliza Williamson was born 19 March 1843 in Logan County, Illinois. She knew the difficulties and hardships of pioneer life. She assisted her mother in caring for a hotel and store in Crescent City, Ohio. There they entertained missionaries, emigrants and Indians. When she was fifteen years old she came across the plains walking and some-

times driving an ox team.

After arriving in Salt Lake, she met **Willis Lemmon** who lived with his parents on Mill creek. 1 November, 1859 there was a triple wedding in the old Endowment house, when she and Willis Lemmon, her sister, Nancy Homer and Martin Harris and their friend Stephen White and Agnes McGregor were married.

Early the next spring the two sisters and their husbands settled in Smithfield, Utah and built a log house. Soon after, the brother-in-law was called to go back to Iowa and bring a train of emigrants across the plains, which took about six months. During this time, there was Indian trouble, Eliza and Nancy ran for the fort, Nancy in the excitement dropped her baby in the creek, however she recovered it and they safely reached the fort.

Eliza's oldest child, Anna Eliza, was born before her husband's return. Eliza died in 1911, was the mother of ten children. This child, **Anna Eliza**, was born 16 November 1860 and was the first girls born in Smithfield, Utah. She grew, and attended school as often and as much as other pioneer children did and being the oldest of her mother's family, shared in the responsibility and work of caring for a large family. Many times did the children huddle in fear in corners when the Indians came to the doors demanding or begging for food.

One evening when her parents went to some social gathering they left Eliza in charge of the smaller children. There were no electric lights or even lamps so they cautioned her to be very careful of the candle and take good care of the baby. She sat by the baby until she became so tired she fell asleep still clasping the candle stick to keep it safe.

Eliza was left handed and one teacher she had became very cross with her because of that and one day he whipped her severely because she did not do her lesson with her right hand. When she went home and her father learned what had occurred he waited near the gate till the teacher came by and preceded to thrash him as he deserved.

Each fall after Eliza was large enough she would go to Mill Creek to the home of her grandparents to gather and dry fruit for the family because their own orchards had not begun to produce.

Eliza liked singing and did sing much at home and in public. She also attended school in Logan, it was there she met Justin A. Knapp and their ro-

mance was carried on around the low walls of the Logan Temple where he was working at the time. They were married 9 October 1879 in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City. His home was in Richmond, Utah there they built a home where four of their 12 children were born.

Anna Rozina who married William Widdison; Mabel who married C. Heber Ward; Jennie who married Frank Walters; **Justin W.** married **Mabel Hale**. Then they moved to Rexburg, Eliza and children coming to Market Lake (now Roberts, Idaho) on the train and the rest of the way by team. Their house hold goods were coming by team. Soon after she arrived, her fifth child, Lydia, was born who lived but a few months. They settled on a farm on the Teton River west of Rexburg, called Island Ward, later given the name of Hibbard in honor of their first Bishop who was the husband of her sister, Julia.

There her seven other children were born: Leone, died when she was seven year old; Elsie may married Charles M. Larsen; Warren died when he was nine years old; Ester Jane married Leslie Robertson; twins one died at birth and the other in childhood.

Eliza knew the hardships of building a new home in barren land, in making the desert to blossom as the rose. She had not many of the material comforts of life. She must have craved the prettier things, for later when all the children were married she would buy the little trinkets a child would delight in. Cache Valley was so far from Snake River Valley in those days of slow travel, that many years of homesick days passed before she again saw her father and mother. Yet on the farm or at the sawmill she carried her share of life's load cheerfully and with a song on her lips, other people's trials were made her burdens. Her oldest daughter died a few weeks after her first child was born. Her own little baby died a few months after she reached this lonely barren country. Typhoid Fever took the little seven year old girl. Later this dread disease visited their home again, this time took a son while at the same time two or three children lay in the shadow of death for weeks. Very few people would come to give assistance because they were afraid of the disease.

Then her twin babies came. One died at birth, the other from an accident when he was about two years old. Thus half her children were taken from her. Then when the rest were all married, her husband, too, passed on leaving her alone in her home. Through all this she did her duty as she saw it. Her son and husband filled missions. She sent

the children to school and went with them on Sunday with a song on her lips and a prayer in her heart. She lifted her eyes to the Lord and her burdens were made lighter.

Much of her time she gave to the Relief Society, going about from place to place with her horse and buggy, making quilts, doing Red Cross work during World War I; visiting the sick and cheering the sad, as is the calling of a Relief Society President. She also raised her voice in song as chorister in this Woman's organization.

Much needed help was given her children in their homes at different times.

After suffering about three strokes, she left this life to join her loved ones beyond, 13th December, 1931 leaving behind hosts of friends and six sorrowing families.

*Author Unknown, possibly written by Mabel F. Hale Knapp.*

# Eliza Williamson Homer

ELIZA WILLIAMSON HOMER

BORN: DECEMBER 15, 1816 — ONONDAY CO. NEW YORK

MARRIED: DECEMBER 20, 1836 — RUSSELL KING HOMER

DIED:

PARENTS: JOHN WILLIAMSON AND NANCY SICKELS

**February 18, 1859**

**Great Salt Lake City, [Utah]**

**Patriarch John Young**

Blessing given to Eliza Williamson Homer  
February 18, 1859

Patriarch--John Young

Patriarchal Blessing

A Patriarchal Blessing given G.S.L. City, Feb. 18, 1859, by John Young upon the head of Eliza Williamson Homer born Dec. 15, 1816, Ononday County New York, daughter of John and Nancy Williamson.

Sister Eliza, In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ--I lay my hands upon your head and confer upon you all the blessings of this glorious gospel of the Son of God which you have embraced with an honest heart--before the Lord, being baptized into the kingdom according to the holy order, and therefore you are entitled to the blessings promised to the faithful in Christ--in these last-days, for you are a lawful heir, a daughter of Abraham through the loins of Ephraim, entitled to the blessings of the new covenant with your husband to the blessings of your Fathers which I confer upon you at this time. Your posterity shall be numerous and shall call you blessed because of your testimony, (integrity ?) and notwithstanding you have been tempted and tried but the Lord Almighty has had his eye upon you and you shall be blest from this time forth and forever.

If you will live your religion be humble and obey your husband and those set to counsel you in Israel no good thing shall be withheld from you. Be a blessing to your own household and to others; you shall be a blessing to your father's house and to your progenitors; if you will endure to the end you shall be exalted, your name be had in honorable remembrance among the daughters of Zion, your heart shall be comforted with dreams and visions, the holy Spirit shall be with you to administer unto,

and in times of difficulty and danger the angel of mercy and peace shall be with you according to your faith hold the holy priesthood with your husband: Let thy heart be cheered for thou shalt be blest.

I seal upon you life and health, you shall live on the earth to do good, fill up the measure of your creation, be a comfort to your family, a blessing to your husband--a blessing to your husband-live until you are satisfied with life and with staying in the body, therefore Sister Homer, be humble and cleave unto the Lord, have the desire of your heart as far as you desire things in righteousness. You shall have the blessings of the heavens and of the earth, have houses and land, flocks and herds, have great joy while on your pilgrimage here. If you consent to abide celestial laws you shall have celestial blessings come forth in the resurrection of the just be among that company which John saw.

Be faithful govern and control your feelings, bring everything unto subjection then all is yours and you are Christ's and Christ is God's, all which I confer in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, even so. Amen

*J. N. Long, Recorder.*

# Eliza Williamson

ELIZA WILLIAMSON

BORN: DECEMBER 15, 1817 — SPAFFORD, ONONDAGO  
CO. NEW YORK

MARRIED: DECEMBER 2, 1836 — RUSSELL KING HOMER

DIED: JUNE 11, 1912

PARENTS: JOHN WILLIAMSON AND NANCY SICKLES

## 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, Pennsylvania 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. 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 war of 1812. It was written in ballad form and she purchased it and sent it in a letter father. It was call "James Birnd," 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.

**December 7, 1840**

### **Camp of Israel Winter Quarters Patriarch John Smith**

Blessing given to Eliza Williamson December 7th, 1840 Patriarch--John Smith

Camp of Israel Winter Quarters December 7th, 1840 A blessing by John Smith, Patriarch, upon the head of Eliza Williamson, Daughter of John and Nancy Williamson, Born Dec. 13, 1816 Co. Onodag N.Y.

Sister Eliza by virtue of the Priesthood I lay my hand upon thy head in the name of Jesus of Nazareth I seal upon you all the blessings of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

According to the order I hold of the Priesthood thou art a daughter of Abraham through the loins of Joseph thou art an heir to the Priesthood which shall be conferred upon thee in fullness in company with thy companion in due time. Inasmuch as thou wilt obey the wishes and hast been willing to make a sacrifice of thy good name and reputation among the gentiles and of friends that were near and dear unto thee for the Gospel's sake and thy losses shall be made up to thee and thou shalt be duly rewarded for all thy trials and privations and the time shall come when thou shalt have houses and homes and all things that is considered to happify life and friends an hundred fold more than you have even enjoyed.

Thou shalt have power over the Destroyer. By thy prayers the sick shall be healed in thine house. Thy children shall grow up about thy table like live plants and shall continuously increase so that they cannot be numbered. The ways of wealth and peace and health shall dwell with thee. Inasmuch as you desire with a repentant heart thou shalt live to see

Three Mile Creek

January the 27, 1869

Dear Brothers and Sisters

I take my pen in hand to rite a few lings to you to let you know that we are all well at present and I hope these few lines will find you all the same, it is about a year since I heard any thing from you. I wrote a letter to you in answer to your letter that father got last fall. Charles and Hiram wrote a letter to you last January and I have sent to you our news papers but I have never heard whether you got them or not as I thought I would write again and let you know that I have not forgotten you. You said in your letter you thought I would write again and let you know that I have not forgotten you, You said in your letter you thought we had forgotten but it is not so for there is never a day passes that I do not think of you and wonder how you get along, we can read of work been very scarce and beef been very deer and of poor people suffering a great deal in England but you never write and tell us whether you are in better luck or not this is a very lonesome day for me. My husband has been gone to the city and it is very stormy today, he has been gone a week, I expet him home day we have no nabers very close we do not live in a town the people hear all liv on thear farms we have a very good farm and a planty of every thing to eat and I milk one cow we do not drink eney tea or coffe we drink water milk all to gether we believe in keeping the word of wisdom that we mey be helthey and strong.

I have four childrin three girls and one boy I tol them that they have uncles and ants in England they often talk about you and ask me if you are every coming to see us I wish you would write to me and let me know how you all got along isac has never writen a word to us sins we left England and I think it is time he did I want him to write to me and tel me all the news and I will ascer every line Richard do write to me and tell me all about how you all get along I have not heard eney thing from eney of our folks for two months exept phebe I heard from her two weeks ago she has two children a girl and a boy they are geting along forst rate William is living with and going to school he tels me he has forgotten how you look he is going to write a little to you and put in with mine and I have one of Charleys likenesses I will send to you William is going to get his and send to you and I think when we can go to the city next spring we wil get ours and send to you and let you see what kind of a looking man I have got. he is a very good husband I will close my letter for this time giv my love to all my uncles and ants and all inquireing friends and exept

the same you selfs no more at present from your affectionate Sister

Eliza Homer

please  
please direct my letters  
to Misis Eliza Homer Brigham City  
Boxelder County Utah teritory.

# Letter From William Thornton

Dear father and mother as I am at my Brother Johns I feel advised to write a few lines to inform you that what my Brother John has put in this letter is truth as she rote a letter stating he might do as he had a mind to do she would not come to america the question is what would you have don would you had a little of your own mind or you would lived a batchelor all the days of your life as she stated in a letter that she would send him the money if he would come back to England mony which he send her to come with he lived something like 6 years then he thought he would try again it is something like William wood and Jane Kurner it is not a pleasant affair where ever such a case meets but in the midst of all he has got a comfortable home enough te eat and wear and to spare and every apearance of a good wife it is tru you have had bad reports of him and me as well but that dont make any diferance I ham just the same if they turn me inside out it make no diferance i did not come to gain homer welth and fame but to obey my saviour if you was all like me you be betor than what you are but take your own choice you will gain wat you laber for I am sattisfied and dois well as Brother says I have a little aforehand and if any of will lend to my son Richard as much as willbring him to me I will send it to you as soon as he comes or to my Brothers little washington or Moss street south-work between 7th and 8th streets Philadelphia I could like him to inquire for the first ship in Liver-pool and come as he has been working at the foundry he might do very well hear for men that atends to the mason with bricks and lime receives ten shilings per day comences at 7 oclock and gives up at 6 in a foundry it will be better according to what you work at brings 12 pair of mens stockings and as many womans and coton handerchifs and coton shirts and other things as you can such as flanel shirts and drawers for winterand if you could bring good cloth for a coat to cut america live and dress the way they do you can get any kind of goods cheaper in England than you can hear if you can bring 2 or 3 pair of boots god strung sunday boots they would be strong enuf welingtons boots stenderer for sundays razers and knives will make mony if you had mony you might make much what you bring lay it very snug in the botom of your box and if you have coat cloth show it saying you wantslike to have it america fashion what I have is clothing for my own wear and fater you have been hear a little while you can write to Isac to inform him oubt coming but be carfull and have everything locked

up tite if you dont you will loss you will want light clothing for summer if you had rather come to my house land in castle gardens New York leav your box inquire and cross fultan fery and see if there is any wagans for rockvill center to fetch you along his name is Jake Jones please write back as soon as you receive this and od as I have wished you to do so no more at pressen from you kind and affelctionate father

William Thornton.