



JANE NARCISSUS SHURTLEFF TAYLOR 1840–1924

Jane Narcissus Shurtleff, daughter of Luman Andrus Shurtleff and Eunice Baggs Gaylord, was born at Nauvoo, Illinois, on 29 September 1840. Her parents had moved from Farr West, Missouri, just five months before she was born and were given a lot on the southwest corner of the fourth block north of where the Nauvoo Temple was built. Her father was employed teaching school during the winter. Jane lived in Nauvoo with her parents until she was 6 years old. On 5 October 1845,

Jane's mother died leaving six children. Her mother's parents had bought a house just across the street from the family. Mr. Gaylord had died so Jane's father moved his family to his mother-in-law's home. November 1845, Jane's father, Luman Andrus Shurtleff, married Altamira Gaylord, sister to his first wife, Eunice.

The LDS Saints were advised to leave Nauvoo, so on 6 May 1846, the Shurtleff family crossed the Mississippi River and began their journey westward. They traveled 175 miles to Garden Grove, where they put in crops. They moved on to Winter Quarters on 3 November 1847. From there they moved to Springville, 6 April 1848. Jane's oldest sister Elcemina, who was 17 years old, helped care for the family. They worked hard to make a living on their claim. The girls worked in the fields like boys. Many times they were in need of clothing and food.

On 20 May 1851, they were finally able to start west. They arrived in the Salt Lake Valley 23 September 1851. After staying at Brown's Fort a short time, Luman Andrus Shurtleff moved his wives and children to Bingham's Fort. He built houses and moved his families into them in the late summer of 1853. On 6 April 1857, Jane Narcissus, age 16, was also married and sealed to Pleasant Green Taylor, becoming his third wife.

A few weeks later Jane, accompanied by her husband and her brother, Lewis, went back to the Salmon River Mission where these men had labored among the Indians for some time. On this mission they endured many hardships. One day an Indian whose keen nose for scenting food led him to venture into Jane's house. Jane took up her fire poker and quickly drove him from her home.

The Salmon River Mission closed, and Jane and her husband returned. They gathered the rest of the family and journeyed to Spanish Fork because of the threat of the approaching Johnston's Army. While in Spanish Fork, Jane gave birth to her first child, John Emerson, 31 May 1858. Jane was confined in a covered wagon, and she related that the wind blew so hard that some of the men had to hold tight to the wagon cover to keep it from blowing away. While they were still in Spanish Fork, on 20 June 1858, her husband married Sara Jane Marler Lake, widow of William Bailey Lake. Bailey was killed by Indians while returning

from the Salmon River Mission. William Bailey Lake was a brother to Pleasant Green Taylor's first wife, Clarissa.

Soon after the Taylors returned from Spanish Fork, they moved from Bingham's Fort and made their home in Harrisville. Eventually Pleasant Green Taylor built a lovely brick home across the street from the brick home occupied by Clara and Mary Eliza. Jane lived in one side of the house and Sara Jane lived in the other side.

Pleasant Green was always proud to bring the brethren of the church and his friends to Jane's home to dinner, for her home was spick and span and there was always plenty of good things to eat. In 1868, Jane was called as counselor in the first Relief Society organized in Harrisville. She always had compassion for those in need and took care of her husband's mother, Elizabeth Patrick Taylor, for eight years preceding her death. Young folks often gathered at her home to hold socials and parties. Jane Narcissus was the mother of seven children: John Emerson (1858), Nephi Fernando (1860), Green (1862), Elizabeth Jane (1865), Emeline Lydia (1868), Orson Shurtleff (1870), William Heber (1873).

After a long illness, Jane Narcissus Shurliff Taylor passed away at the home of her daughter Elizabeth McEntire, in Rexburg, Idaho, 10 April 1924. She was buried in the Ogden, Utah, cemetery beside her husband.

SOURCE:

Taylor, Orson S. *A Sketch of the Life of Jane Narcissus Shurtleff Taylor*. Unpublished manuscript.

Pleasant Green Taylor Family Record.

Journal of Luman Andrus Shurtleff. Information furnished by Clifford M. Taylor, 1976.

Baggs, Eunice Gaylord	Shurtleff, Mary Eliza
Bingham's Fort	Taylor, Clarissa Lake
Gaylord, Altamira	Taylor, Elizabeth Jane
Gaylord, Eunice	Taylor, Elizabeth Patrick
Lake, Clarissa	Taylor, Emeline Lydia
Lake, Sara Jane Marler	Taylor, Green
Lake, William Bailey	Taylor, John Emerson
Patrick, Elizabeth	Taylor, Mary Eliza Shurtleff
Salmon River Mission	Taylor, Nephi Fernando
Shurtleff, Altamira Gaylord	Taylor, Orson Shurtleff
Shurtleff, Elcemina	Taylor, Sara Jane Marler Lake
Shurtleff, Lewis	Taylor, William Heber
Shurtleff, Luman Andrus	