



ABIGAIL ARILLA SMITH TAYLOR 1864-1906

Abigail Arilla Smith was the sixth child in a family of fourteen children, born 6 November 1861 at Farmington, Davis County, Utah. Her parents were early pioneers of Utah. Her father, Jonathan Smith, was sheriff of Davis County for a number of years. He also served as a doctor among the early settlers. Abigail's mother, Nancy Jane Taylor Smith was a sister to Pleasant Green Taylor, the father of Josiah Taylor, Arilla's cousin, who later became

her husband.

Sometime between 1872 and 1875, the Smith family moved from Davis County to Harrisville, Weber, Utah. While they were living in Harrisville, Josiah Taylor became well acquainted with Abigail Arilla, and in the years that followed, they fell in love. They were married 10 January 1884 and sealed in the Logan Temple on 30 September 1891. Close friends in the community called Josiah "Sy" and Abigail Arilla was called "Rill."

Josiah purchased a house and lot from his father across the street from the Harrisville Ward meeting house. He worked hard to improve this home and make it comfortable for his family. This home (presently located at 565 West Harrisville Road) is where they lived for the rest of their lives.

They were blessed with seven children: Abbie Arilla, born 22 June 1885; Loran Josiah, born 22 July 1888; Junius Ray, born 30 July 1890; George Leslie, born 25 October 1892; Marion Lewis, born November 1894; Laura Laverna, born 15 December 1897, and Rulon Smith Taylor, born 16 July 1903. George Leslie died in infancy on 30 January 1893.

Arilla was loved and respected by all who knew her. She served in the Relief Society and other organizations in the Harrisville LDS Ward. She loved her family dearly, but was not permitted to live to rear all of her children. She became ill with a heart condition and passed away on 30 May 1906, at the age of forty-five years. Her funeral was held at their house 1 June 1906, because Josiah was not able to go to the meeting house where funerals were normally held due to his poor health. President F. Middleton and Elders J. Harris and Leroy Cowles spoke at the funeral and offered words of comfort to the grieving family.

Josiah passed away about a year and a half after Arilla's death. They are buried beside each other in the Ogden City Cemetery. The little town of Harrisville mourned the passing of this young couple.

Their youngest child, Rulon S. Taylor, was still very young when his parents died. The oldest daughter Abbie was engaged to be married to Herman Bell. They were soon married and together lived at the family home and looked after the children who remained there with

them. With the assistance of Grandma Taylor (Sara Jane), Abbie and Herman helped to keep the family together for some time.

SOURCE:

“The Legend,” Jonathan Smith Family newsletter, Volume 7, 10 November 1998.

Taylor, Levi J. *Journals of Levi J. Taylor*.

Lake, Sarah Jane Marler	Taylor, George Leslie
Smith, Jonathan	Taylor, Junius Ray
Smith, Nancy Jane Taylor	Taylor, Loran Josiah
Taylor, Abbie Arilla	Taylor, Pleasant Green