



## **ELIZA ALBERTA BARLOW HARRIS 1872-1947**

Thomas and Eliza Barlow celebrated the birth of their fifth child, Eliza Alberta, on 19 September 1872. Eliza's parents were among the first settlers in Ogden. Thomas Barlow became the first weaver in town. In 1861, he wove the cloth for all the family clothing. From 1883 to 1889, he ran a store and bakery shop. Later, with his son Cato, he sold real estate. He became a contractor and builder and owned considerable property on Barlow Avenue, located between 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> Streets and

Madison and Liberty Avenues. He gave half a block to the city, which was named Barlow Avenue until 1918.

In 1890, Eliza's 20 year-old brother, Cato, died of pneumonia after a week's illness. It was a great shock to her, having always been idolized by him. Her father never fully recovered from this sorrow, and during the railroad strike and panic of 1893, became very ill. Because he left the business details to Cato, during Thomas' illness, the family knew nothing of his business dealings. A business associate, who held a mortgage on some of the family's property, took advantage of them and seized four houses and two lots. When Thomas realized his loss and the treachery of his friend, he lived for only two more months.

Eliza grew up in a home of luxury, but after her father's death was forced to make a living by working in a laundry. Previous to this time, she had been given a choice of going to college or working as an apprentice to a dressmaker. She chose the latter and had six months training when she was forced to quit and work in the laundry. The manager of the laundry was a friend who assigned her to do the fancy ironing. She worked two or three weeks and then had a serious accident involving her arm. After recovering, she worked in a book store until her family needed her at home.

In 1893, Eliza's oldest sister's husband, John Tillotson, died leaving his wife, Annie, with four children, the fifth being born six months after his death. Annie took the children home to her mother and sister. When the baby, Bea, was eight months old, Annie went into nurse's training, leaving Eliza to rear her children. She raised them for seven years, and in the ensuing years they still treated her as their own mother; ready to do anything for her happiness and welfare.

Eliza met Leander Sargent Harris in February 1900, and married him on 10 October 1900 in the Salt Lake Temple. After their marriage he took her to Harrisville to live in the old family home, located about five miles from Ogden. The names of their five children as follows: Dorothy, 26 September 1901, Myrtle, 16 April 1903, Arvil Barlow and Alvin Larkin, twins, 28 May 1906, and Thomas Sargent, 5 May 1914.

Two weeks before her second baby was due, Eliza was resting at home while her husband gave an Arbor Day speech at the school. A passer-by noticed the house was on fire. She ran in and told Eliza. Men from the brickyard were alerted and ran to help. One of them found Eliza standing on a chair in the attic with a bucket of water. The man ordered her away from the house while they tried to stop the fire by chopping the roof away. The baby arrived the next day, 16 April, 1903. Eliza and Leander named the baby girl Myrtle after the myrtle that bloomed in the warm spring weather.

In approximately 1907, the family moved to Logan and spent the winter there. Mr. Harris attended the Agricultural College, and in his spare time worked in the Logan Temple. The doctor recommended a change of altitude for Eliza because she was not well. Her husband, on leaving the doctor's office, met an old friend, David Eccles. David asked him to take a job on the railroad near Baker City, Oregon. The family moved to Austin, a little lumber camp sixty miles north of Baker City.

Austin had twenty families in its one mile square area. The railroad company owned the lumber camp and saw mill and built the Harris' a home. While they waited for the completion of the house they lived in a hotel for a month, but the children proved too lively to stay there, so they lived in tents until the house was ready.

Eliza and Leander saw the town burn twice during the three years they lived there. The town consisted of one block, and the first fire burned the hotel, post office, two saloons, and the butcher shop. The origin of the fire was never determined. The second fire started from escaping gasoline fumes in a saloon when the bartender attempted to light a lamp.

The Harris' moved back to Harrisville in October, 1910, to the same home, and Eliza became very active in church work. She taught Primary, served as superintendent of religion class, president of the women's Farm Bureau, Captain of the Daughters of the Pioneers, and counselor in the Women's Relief Society.

Following is one of Eliza's favorite memories as told by a friend:

When (sic) a young girl, a crowd of young people went up to Wyoming on a camping trip. It was something in those days to go so far away from home, and since they were in the wilds, the men took it upon themselves to see that no girl left camp alone. But Eliza was daredevil enough to take with her at times a gun and a book and go out, saying that if anyone strange came near her she would shoot. There was good fishing in the mountain streams where they were, so the men would leave camp to go two or three miles away for the day. But one man would always stay in camp as a protector, as two girls were always left in camp to do the cooking. On the last day everyone wanted to go fishing, and that day was Eliza's turn to be cook, she having promised to make lemon pie. After quite a debate, it was agreed that the two girls would stay by themselves, Eliza agreeing to fire a shot three times if a man entered the camp. When everyone had gone, two boys came by on horseback, they were old friends from

home. While talking to them, Eliza remembered her promise to shoot the gun if a man entered camp; they had already promised to stay for supper, so on their dare, she fired the gun. The men came tearing back; the first to arrive being an asthmatic person. They all threatened to throw her in the river for scaring them so, but she said the pies would go with her, so they desisted.

In 1934, Eliza went to Palo Alto, California where she took care of her daughter, Myrtle, for four months, nursing her through a serious illness. In 1935, she went again, but only stayed six weeks because she became very ill and suffered a nervous breakdown. She returned home where she convalesced for five months. In 1937, fully recovered from her sickness, she returned to California for the Christmas holidays.

In 1940, the government purchased the Harris' land and property, along with surrounding territory, for the Utah General Supply Depot. Eliza and Leander then moved to Ogden where they bought a home at 3421 Adams Avenue.

Eliza's husband, Leander, passed away 12 September 1945. The following year their daughter Myrtle passed away. Eliza died 14 April 1947, while living with her daughter Dorothy.

Eliza had the ability to make and keep friends who loved and admired her. She always tried to help others forget their troubles, and never mentioned her own problems.

**SOURCE:**

Harrisville Ward Relief Society Scrapbook, 1881-1964. "Life Sketch of Eliza Alberta Barlow Harris." Unpublished manuscript.

Robertson, Dorothy Harris. "Eliza Alberta Barlow Harris." Unpublished manuscript.

Barlow, Annie	Harris, Dorothy
Barlow, Cato	Harris, Eliza Alberta Barlow
Barlow, Eliza	Harris, Leander Sargent
Barlow, Thomas	Harris, Myrtle
Eccles, David	Harris, Thomas Sargent
Harris, Alvin Larkin	Tillotson, Annie Barlo
Harris, Arvil Barlow	Tillotson, John