



CLARISSA LAKE TAYLOR 1828-1900

Clarissa Lake, also known as Clara, was born 17 December 1828 in Ernestown Township in upper Canada to James Lake Jr, and Philomela Smith. Her parents joined the LDS Church in the summer of 1832. With the assistance of their friend Brigham Young, Clara's parents and family, including four year old Clara, boarded a boat in July 1833, to sail across Lake Ontario and travel to Kirkland, Ohio to be with other church members.

The Lake family helped build the Kirkland Temple.

Clara was baptized in 1837 while in Kirkland. In the spring of 1838, persecution of the LDS saints increased, and Clara's family traveled to Scott County Illinois where they rented a farm from 1834-1844 to replenish their supplies. In the early part of 1844, the Lakes moved to a farm about fifteen miles from Carthage. After the death of Joseph Smith in 1844, part of the Lake family moved to Nauvoo to be closer to other church members for protection. While they were living in Nauvoo, Clara's father helped in the construction of the temple and the Nauvoo House. Her parents received their endowments on 31 December 1845, and Clara was able to attend the temple and receive her endowments on 23 January 1846.

Persecution became so intense that the saints were again forced from their homes, and members of the Lake family crossed the frozen Mississippi River in February of 1846. They went west to Council Bluffs, Iowa. While there, Clara became better acquainted with Pleasant Green Taylor. He was born 8 February 1827, in Bowling Green, Kentucky to William and Elizabeth Patrick Taylor. His father died as they were traveling out of Missouri, and the Taylor family, like the Lake family, was also trying to secure supplies and prepare for the trip to the Great Salt Lake Valley. Clara and Pleasant Green Taylor married 2 February 1847 in Pottawattamie County, Iowa.

Shortly after they were married, the couple moved to Missouri where Pleasant Green found work in order to secure teams of oxen to take his family across the plains. In the spring of 1849, he was able to buy a team which he gave to his mother, enabling her to start for the great Salt Lake Valley about the first of May 1849. Pleasant Green and Clara remained in Pottawattamie County, Iowa until the harvest was in and their first child, Harvey Green Taylor was born on 6 October 1849. Pleasant Green's brother, Joseph Taylor, returned from his trek with the Mormon Battalion to California and his family and Pleasant Green Taylor's family moved back to Missouri where they worked during the winter to secure supplies for their trek west. By the spring of 1850, they were ready to travel to Florence to join a wagon train for Salt Lake. The James Lake Jr. family was also prepared to make the trip, and James was appointed captain of 50 with Joseph Taylor as Lieutenant. They arrived in Salt Lake 5 September 1850.

Pleasant Green and Clara Taylor went north from Salt Lake and made their first home at "Hayte" (Haight) Creek in Kaysville, Davis County where their son Levi James Taylor was born 20 May 1851. Joseph Taylor also settled in Kaysville where his wife, Mary, died leaving him with four small children. Joseph married Clara's sister, the widow Jane Lake Ordway. In the fall of 1851, Clara and Pleasant Green Taylor moved to Harrisville where they built a home and farmed the Urban Stuart claim along the Four Mile Creek. Clara became seriously ill following the birth of their third son, Alfred William Taylor. She remained frail and weak for some time, and Mary Eliza Shurtleff came into their home to assist in the care of the family. Clara gave consent for Pleasant Green to marry Mary Eliza Shurtleff as his second wife. They were married 5 July 1853.

Due to Indian problems in 1853, the settlers moved into Bingham's Fort where they remained until 1856. During this time, the men would farm their land while holding their guns ready for what might come. At night returned to the fort.

Pleasant Green was called to serve in the Salmon River Indian Mission in April 1855, leaving his wives to manage through the difficult winter of 1855-56. Pleasant Green and other men of the mission were able to make several trips back to their homes to deliver mail and get supplies. On one of these return visits, 6 April 1857, Pleasant Green took a third wife, Jane Narcissus Shurtleff, a sister of Mary Eliza. The two girls were daughters of Luman Andrus and Eunice Baggs Gaylord Shurtleff. Pleasant Green and his third wife Jane returned to the Salmon River Mission in Idaho.

On 31 March 1858, Clara Lake Taylor's brother, William Bailey Lake, who was also serving in the Salmon River Mission, was returning with nine other men to bring mail and a message to Brigham Young when they were attacked by Indians. William Bailey was killed. His body was returned to his home in North Ogden for burial. Pleasant Green and Jane returned to Harrisville and arrived as Clara, Mary Eliza, and other saints of Weber County were evacuating to Utah County because of the approach of Johnston's Army.

While the Taylors were in Utah County, President Young inquired of Pleasant Green about his sister-in-law, the widow of William Bailey Lake. Brigham Young told Pleasant Green that he should marry her, and take care of Bailey's family. So Clara again welcomed another wife into her family on, and on 20 June 1858 Pleasant Green Taylor and Sarah Jane Marler Lake were married in Provo by Brigham Young.

At first the four wives lived in log houses but later they had comfortable brick homes. Clara and Mary Eliza lived in one home (1264 North Harrisville Road), and Jane and Sara Jane lived in another across the street (1225 North Harrisville Road). Clara supported her husband Pleasant Green as he served about eighteen years as the first Bishop of the Harrisville Ward and then as Patriarch of Weber Stake.

Clara Lake Taylor was the mother of eleven children, Harvey Green, Levi James, Alfred

William, Clara Elizabeth, Julia Ann, Lidia Almeda, Pleasant Green, Amasa Lyman, Joseph Lake, Warren Chancy, and David Riley.

On Friday, 15 June 1900, 71 year old Clara Lake Taylor died suddenly at her home in Harrisville of “general debility.” She was buried in the Ogden City Cemetery.

SOURCE:

Jeffrey, Janet Franson. History of the James Lake, Jr. Family. Murray, Utah: Roylance Publishing, 1990, 179-183

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| Bingham Fort | Taylor, Clara Elizabeth |
| Four Mile Creek | Taylor, David Riley |
| Lake, James Jr. | Taylor, Elizabeth Patrick |
| Lake, William Bailey | Taylor, Harvey Green |
| Ordway, Jane Lake | Taylor, Joseph |
| Salmon River Mission | Taylor, Joseph Lake |
| Shurtleff, Eunice Baggs Gaylord | Taylor, Julia Ann |
| Shurtleff, Jane Narcissus | Taylor, Levi James |
| Shurtleff, Luman Andrus | Taylor, Lidia Almeda |
| Shurtleff, Mary Eliza | Taylor, Pleasant Green |
| Smith, Joseph | Taylor, Sara Jane Marler Lake |
| Smith, Philomela | Taylor, Warren Chancy Taylor |
| Taylor, Alfred William | Taylor, William |
| Taylor, Amasa Lyman | Young, Brigham |