



PLEASANT GREEN TAYLOR 1827-1917

Pleasant Green Taylor was born at Bowling Green, Warren County, Kentucky, 8 February 1827, the ninth of fourteen children of William Taylor and Elizabeth Patrick. His life on the frontier began at age three when his parents moved to Monroe County, Missouri. Because of his father's conversion to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the family was persecuted, harassed, robbed and compelled to move four times in the next seven years. He was baptized by Isaac Allred and confirmed by his father in the spring of

1837.

After being driven from their home, the Taylor family was traveling back toward Illinois when Pleasant Green's father died 9 September 1839. Twelve year old, Pleasant Green Taylor had to assume a great deal of responsibility for the family. When they arrived in Nauvoo they did not have the means to purchase a farm, but were given a lot in the city. To obtain food and supplies for the family, Pleasant Green and his brother, Joseph, went to LaHarpe to find work with John Gilmore, who was not friendly to the saints. They worked for 25 cents a day and took corn for pay. The Taylor family also rented a farm and shared the crop to pay the rent. Pleasant Green Taylor and other family members also worked every tenth day on the Nauvoo temple until it was completed.

While at Nauvoo, Pleasant Green was a member of the Nauvoo Legion and the police force. He was present when Brigham Young was divinely chosen to lead the church as prophet. He received his endowments in the Nauvoo Temple 24 January 1846, along with his brother Joseph and his sister Sarah.

Pleasant Green's mother and her family took part in the exodus from Nauvoo, crossing the Mississippi River on 8 February 1846, gathering at Sugar Creek. Progress was slow from there, only about three miles a day, because roads and bridges had to be constructed along the way. They arrived at Des Moines River with very little food. While there, the Lord sent a large flock of quail into the camp. Hundreds were gathered and prepared as food. The family traveled to Garden Grove, Mt. Pisgah, and Council Bluffs where his mother stayed for the next three years, departing for the Salt Lake Valley 12 July 1849.

Pleasant Green was in Missouri working when the call came to serve in the Mormon Battalion and march to California. He and his brother Joseph went immediately. However he was taken sick and remained behind, but his brother Joseph went with the battalion all the way to California.

Pleasant Green married Clarissa (Clara) Lake (daughter of James Lake Jr., and Philomela Smith) 2 February 1847. Six days after their marriage, he returned to Missouri to work and

obtain means to enable them all to continue their journey west. Pleasant Green and Clara remained behind to farm. Their first child, Harvey Green Taylor, was born 6 October 1849, in Pattawattami County, Iowa.

Pleasant Green and his brother Joseph were successful in getting necessary supplies and on 10 May 1850, they took their families and joined the saints and crossed the Missouri River. Pleasant Green and Clara traveled with her father James Lake who was captain of the company. This season was difficult with many deaths from cholera and mountain fever. They arrived in the Salt Lake Valley 5 September 1850, and shortly after their arrival, both Pleasant Green and Joseph moved their families to Kaysville, Davis, Utah. Their second child Levi James was born there 20 May 1851. In the fall of 1851, Pleasant Green and Clara Lake moved their family to the "Eighth District" (later became Harrisville). During the Indian uprising in the summer of 1853, they moved into Bingham's Fort where his family remained until 1856. He worked his farm during the day and returned to the fort at night.

On 5 July 1853, Pleasant Green entered into Plural Marriage when he married Mary Eliza Shurtliff as a second wife. (She bore him nine children). At the April Conference two years later, he was called to fill a mission to the Indians in Salmon Idaho, and departed on 15 May 1855. The men in this mission returned frequently to Utah to bring mail and get supplies. On one of his return visits, he married a third wife, Jane Narcisus Shurtliff, 6 April 1857. He took her with him when he returned to the Salmon River Mission at Fort Lemhi. She was the sister of his second wife, Mary Eliza. (She bore him seven children). The mission was discontinued and they returned 25 April 1857. His brother-in-law William Bailey Lake was killed by Indians as he was returning. Upon Pleasant Green Taylor's arrival, he helped his families evacuate their homes and move to Utah Valley because of the coming of Johnston's Army. While in Utah County, Brigham Young inquired of Pleasant Green about the condition of his sister-in law, the widow of William Bailey Lake, and her four children. Brigham Young instructed Pleasant Green to marry Sara Jane Marler Lake and care for her and Bailey's children. They were married 20 June 1858 in Provo by Brigham Young (She eventually bore him six children).

Pleasant Green served in many responsible positions both civic and religious. He served as the first bishop of the Harrisville Ward for twenty years. Upon his release, he was ordained a Patriarch for Weber Stake, an office which he held until his death.

About 1886 the state and federal officers began arresting men practicing plural marriage. In 1888, Pleasant Green went into hiding and went to Canada for a short time rather than give up the principal of plural marriage and abandon part of his family. He returned in the fall of that year, gave himself up, and was sentenced to three months in prison and a \$300 fine.

Pleasant Green Taylor died 16 May 1917. He was survived by 36 children, 234 grandchildren, 392 great-grandchildren and 15 great-great grandchildren. He is buried in the Ogden City Cemetery.

SOURCE:

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Bintham Fort	Taylor, Elizabeth Patrick
Lake, James Lake Jr.	Taylor, Harvey Green
Lake, Philomela Smith	Taylor, Jane Narcissus Shurtliff
Lake, Sara Jane Marler	Taylor, Joseph
Lake, William Bailey	Taylor, Levi James
Mormon Battalion	Taylor, Mary Eliza Shurtliff
Salmon River Mission – Fort Lemhi	Taylor, Sara Jane Marler Lake
Shurtliff, Jane Narcissus	Taylor, Sarah
Shurtliff, Mary Eliza	Taylor, William