

History of Edward John (John Edward) Farmer

Edward John Farmer, the seventh child of Richard and Elizabeth Morris Farmer, was born 20 February 1825 in Winforton, Herefordshire, England. Richard and Elizabeth Morris Farmer had the following children: Christiana born 25 Dec 1812 and buried 13 March 1829; Eliza christened 18 September 1814 and buried 30 December 1829; James (Morris) born 12 November 1816 and died 25 January 1895; Emma Farmer Arnold born 11 December and died 15 February 1891; Ann born 15 February 1820; Richard born 27 June 1823 and died 11 January 1907; Edward John born 20 February 1825 and died 20 January 1915; Mary Ann born 1827 and buried 5 Aug 1829; Mary Farmer Butterfield born 12 October 1829 and died 1 January 1890: Little is known about his early childhood. His father died, 28 August 1830, in Preston Wynne, Hereford, England when Edward John was 6 years old.

Edward John was baptized in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 7 May 1842, according to his records. He was rebaptized and confirmed 6 May 1844 by Henry Tyler¹. He was ordained a Deacon in July 1844 by Henry Arnold; a Priest November 1847 by Moses Thurston; an Elder November 1850 by Soren Babbit; All of these ordinations were in England. He was ordained a Seventy by Horace S. Eldredge, in the 94 Quorum of Seventy, no date has been found; and a High Priest 24 March 1906 by President Hyrum Goff in Clifton Idaho Ward.

He married Mary Ann Parker, 25 December 1853 in Spittlegate, Lincolnshire, England. They were married at the Parish Church by Banns. He was 27 years old and she was 22 years old². They had a son, William Edward, born 23 Oct 1854 in Snenton, Notts, England. He died 4 July 1856 in New York City. Elizabeth Ann, a daughter, was born 28 March 1856, in Spittlegate, Lincolnshire, England. She died 1874 in Herriman, Utah. A stillborn daughter was born to them in New York City, 14 January 1858. Mary Ann Parker Farmer died in childbirth on that date.

They sailed for America on the ship "Thornton" 4 May 1856, with their two little children. Edward John was listed as a stone mason age 30. Mary Ann was age 24, William age 1, with Elizabeth Ann, 3 weeks old. The "Thornton" carried 764 LDS passengers and arrived in New York City 14

June 1856, having been on the ocean 41 days. The LDS Company leader was J. Willie.³ Edward John and his family stayed in New York City, and did not go to Utah with the Willie company.

Mary Ann Parker, was the daughter of William and Ann Burrows Parker. She was born 20 June 1831 in Grantham, Lincoln, England. She was christened in the Church of England in Spittlegate. She died in childbirth, 14 Jan 1858, in New York City. Mary Ann was baptized 28 Sept. 1847 in England in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints; the date was lost and her temple ordinances were performed for her after her husband arrived in the Salt Lake Valley.

After the death of his wife, Mary Ann, Edward John married Elizabeth Eleanor (Ellen) Wright⁴. They were married in Philadelphia, Delaware, Pa. 26 September 1858. They went back to New York City, where he was working in a factory. She became the mother of Elizabeth Ann. Their first child a son, John Edward Farmer, was born 23 November 1859, in New York City. He died 16 November 1860. She was pregnant with another son, Erastus Grenig, when her parents, John Ward and Elizabeth Bailey Wright, came to New York to start their journey west, with them. Erastus Grenig, was born 29 June 1861 in Florence, Douglas, Nebraska, in a covered wagon. After resting a couple of days they joined the John R Murdock Company and arrived in the Salt Lake Valley, 12 September 1861.

John Edward's sister and husband, Emma Farmer Arnold and Henry Arnold, had settled in Fort Herriman, Utah. More of the Farmer family came to America in 1856. The shipping records for the ship "Horizon" that sailed from Liverpool, 25 May 1856 has the following people listed. James (Morris) Farmer, wife, Mary Ann Farmer, children Emma Jane, age 12; Agnes Ann, age 11; Elizabeth F. age 7; (all children of his 1st wife, Sarah Trussler) their baby Willard, and a sister, Mary. A brother Richard Farmer and his wife Harriet, Elizabeth Farmer and Anne M. Farmer (Elizabeth was his mother, Elizabeth Morris Farmer). His mother died on their way to Utah, and was buried in Chicago. Some of the family records indicate that it was Iowa and that Richard and his wife, Harriet, stayed there to take care of her grave.

After arriving in the valley they traveled south and settled at Fort Herriman, Utah. They had other children: Emma Louise, born 3 September 1863, and died 1864, in Herriman; Mary Ann Theresa Farmer Reese, born 8 October 1865, in Salt Lake City, and died 10 February 1947; Richard Wright, born 25 December 1867, in Herriman, and died 17 May 1927; Robert Frederick, born 15 August 1870, in Herriman, and died 1 November 1960; and Sarah Jane Elizabeth Farmer Egbert, born 17 August 1872, in Herriman, and died 11 November 1960.

In the spring of 1862 John Edward went with a company of settlers to Bear Lake County on the border of Utah. Owing to the state of his health at the end of the year, he was obliged to return to his former home. He then located at Salt Lake City and after remaining there for two years and fully recovering his health, he settled his family at Fort Herriman and went into farming.

His wife Elizabeth Ellen died 14 February 1889, in Herriman. He married Christine May Nolstrom Arnold. They had a daughter, Julie Elvie, born 7 July 1891, Herriman. This marriage was of short duration and he made his home in Emmett, Idaho with his daughter, Mary Ann Theresa Farmer Reese. He passed away there 20 January 1915. He was buried in Herriman, Salt Lake, Utah, 25 Jan 1915.

1. Record of Members, Herriman Ward Records, 1909-1910. FHC Film No. 025999. John Edward Farmer is the name on most Church records, John Edwin Farmer is also found.

2. Marriage Certificate in possession of Jeanne D. Cutler.

3. The THORTON was a 1422 ton ship, 191'x40'x29'. Built: 1854 by William H. Webb at New York City, N. Y.. A Mormon emigrant company that in a few months would encounter much hardship and tragedy sailed from Liverpool for America in the large square-rigged THORTON on 4 May 1856. Presiding over the 764 Saints on board was Elder James G. Willie. He was assisted by Elders Millen Atwood, Jacob Amanion and Moses Clough. This chartered vessel was commanded by her part-owner, Captain Charles Collins. After a forty-one-day passage the THORTON arrived at New York on 14 June. From there the Saints traveled by rail to Iowa City, and about five hundred of the emigrants organized a handcart company. However, their trek to Great Salt Lake City started late in the

season and was marked by suffering and disaster. Over sixty Saints died on the historic journey, and the remainder arrived in a pitiful condition.

The three-masted THORTON was built with three decks, a square stern, and a billethead. She was owned by William & Guion of New York City and in 1858 was listed in the Warren & Thayer Line. This ship traded in the Atlantic until she was lost at sea in 1869.

(Source: Sonne, Conway B., *Ships, Saints and Mariners*, University of Utah Press, 1987)

4. The name on her Birth Certificate was Elizabeth Eleanor Wright; she always went by the name of Elizabeth Ellen.