



JEPHTHA ASHBY TAYLOR

1898–1970

Jeptha Ashby was born to William Hardin Ashby Jr. and Melissa Leavines Coleman, 11 December 1898 in Holden, Utah, on a little farm called “White Bush.” The house is still standing in 2009 and animals now find refuge there from the weather.

Jeptha was the fourth of ten children. Her father first married Martha Ann Stevens and they had one daughter named Estelle. His wife Martha Ann died. Then William married Melissa Leavines Coleman, and they

had nine children.

When Jeptha was a young girl, her hair was bright red. However, her daughter, Lora Dean, recalls that Jeptha’s hair was brown when she knew her. Jeptha met Amos Moroni Taylor at a fireside meeting. Amos knew right away she was the woman he wanted to marry. They were married in the Salt Lake LDS Temple, 2 July 1925.

Jeptha was a sweet lady with many friends. Years after her death, acquaintances would still tell her daughter, Lora Dean, how much they loved her mother. Jeptha was always available to help others. She spent her time canning all summer and helping clean or can for others. Even though she did all of these helpful things, she still found time to go to the canyon or go visit others. She organized and held the family Christmas parties and summer parties, mostly with her sisters and their families who lived near by.

Jeptha had a pleasant sense of humor that attracted friends. She was never angry. She was very active in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints but she did not enjoy teaching in the auxiliaries. She was a leader. She served as president of the Primary and also the Relief Society. She was always helping others. Her special talent was sewing. Because of that talent, her daughter, Lora Dean, said she felt like the best dressed girl in town. Jeptha was a good housekeeper, and she loved living in the home of Amos’s family at 1174 North Harrisville Road. She had a “green thumb,” and plants, she kept on the sunny closed in porch, thrived under her care. Jeptha loved her friends and family, and she always set a good example for them.

Jeptha was the mother of three children: Gerald Ashby Taylor, born 14 May 1929, died in 1975; Lora Dean born 16 January 1933, and LaRae born 8 August 1937, died in 1940 .

Jeptha lived to be 71 years old. She was healthy all her life and never complained of illness. However, September 1969, she needed surgery and was diagnosed with cancer of the ovaries and uterus. After six months, she died 10 March 1970.

SOURCE:

Galvez, Lora Dean. History of Jephtha Ashby Taylor. Unpublished manuscript. 2007.

Ashby, Estelle	Taylor, Amos Moroni
Ashby, Martha Ann Stevens	Taylor, Gerald Ashby
Ashby, William Hardin Jr.	Taylor, LaRae
Coleman, Melissa Leavines	Taylor, Lora Dean