



NEPHI GREEN TAYLOR

1901-1994

Nephi Green Taylor was the third son of William Heber and Melissie Thomas Taylor. He was born 8 April 1901, in Harrisville, Utah. Nephi's grandfather, Pleasant Green Taylor, asked to give Nephi his name and blessing. It is believed that Pleasant Green Taylor chose the name Nephi based upon a scripture found in the Book of Mormon, Helaman 5: 6-7. Pleasant Green hoped his name would bring to remembrance goodness, faith, and

especially the will to follow Christ exemplified by Nephi in the scriptures.

Nephi's brothers and sisters were: Alphonzo William (1894), Nellie Irene (1895), Beatrice (1897), William Heber (1899), Milton Bailey (1903), Gailord (1905), Clifford (1907), and Ronald Patrick (1909). They all grew to maturity with the exception of William Heber who died at the age of four months. On 8 April 1909, Nephi was baptized and confirmed a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, in Harrisville, by his Uncle Levi J. Taylor.

When Nephi was young, the ring finger on his left hand was accidentally cut off at the first knuckle in a push lawnmower. A horse doctor sewed it back on. The finger took, but the tendons permanently froze at a right angle. Nephi was 12 in 1913 when he had his appendix removed. He attended school in Harrisville and graduated from the eighth grade in 1915.

Nephi's father and mother taught their family to work hard. Nephi was 16 when he began his first job away from home in Idaho. He went with his father to work on the railroad. After returning home, Nephi began driving a team and wagon hauling bricks for the Harrisville Brick Yard. About this time, his father and Will Child organized a construction company called the Taylor & Child Construction Company, located on the northwest corner of 17th Street and Wall Avenue in Ogden, Utah. Nephi worked for them and ran many different types of machinery. He operated a ditcher that was used to dig trenches for sewers throughout Ogden. He also operated steam shovels, caterpillars, cement mixers, and snow plows. When an engineer named Roche joined the company, the owners change the name to the Union Construction Company, and they began taking on large contracts.

Nephi played on a Harrisville basketball team coached by Albert Garfield. In 1921, the team won the Farm Bureau Championship in the "B" Division of the league. Members of the team included: Alonzo Jensen, Clarence Guthrie, Jesse Mole, Nephi G. Taylor, Alma Harris, Donald Swensen, and Oscar H. Funk

Nephi became acquainted with Ada Bodel Jensen, and Ada had her heart set on marrying Nephi. She had a lot of competition, but she never gave up. They dated for two and one half years. They were married on 21 June 1922, in the Salt Lake Temple.

Their first home was a rented two- room adobe house with a lean-to on back [located at what is now 992 N Harrisville Road, the house has since been removed]. The house was small but cozy and comfortable. The walls were two feet thick which made it cool in the summer and warm in the winter. Ada made dainty curtains of dotted Swiss. Nephi and Ada painted and papered the walls throughout the house. They bought a round oak stove and always kept it shiny, and also purchased a brass bed and a dresser. Nephi's grandmother, Jane Taylor, gave them a round dining room table and they bought some dining chairs. The floors were linoleum. While living there, they bought their first new car, a Model T Ford. It cost \$540.00. Their living expenses were \$6.00 a month. Their electric bill was ninety cents a month, and they burned coal which was quite inexpensive.

Union Construction sent Nephi to a job in Lovelock, Nevada, to build road beds for the railroad. Both Nephi and Ada were homesick, so Nephi found work closer to home. He helped build the bridge over the Ogden River on Washington Boulevard, and dug trenches for sewer lines. He also went to Montpelier, Idaho, to work road construction.

In May 1924, Nephi's Grandmother, Jane Narcissus Shurtliff Taylor, passed away, and the family asked Nephi and Ada if they wanted to move into her home. It was more modern with hot and cold water. They relocated to the north end of the Pleasant Green Taylor House that was located the west side of the North Harrisville Road. The house had two apartments; they lived on the north, and Nephi's Aunt Sara Jane Marler Lake Taylor lived on the south. [The house was later removed but it was located behind the home that is presently 1225 North Harrisville Road]. Sara Jane was 90 years old and had fallen and broken her hip so her daughter, Millie, who was 70, lived with her. It was a privilege for Nephi and Ada to live next to these women and listen to first-hand accounts of early Harrisville history and pioneer stories.

Nephi and Ada's only son, Nephi Junior, was born in that home on 20 May 1926. Nephi's Aunt Laura Taylor helped care for the baby for six weeks following his premature birth.

In 1928, Nephi began building a gravel base road five miles outside of Salmon (Carmen, Idaho), to Gibbonsville, and then on to the Continental Divide. The road would take four years to complete. Ada was with him at the work site at first, but because she was pregnant, she went back to Harrisville to be closer to the doctor. A daughter, Beverly, was born premature 23 April 1929. Ada's father gave her a name and blessing, but the baby died hours later. Nephi drove home from Idaho for the funeral. This was a difficult time for Nephi and Ada. Ada had difficulty having children and had many miscarriages.

Before returning to Salmon, Idaho, Nephi dismantled two large steam shovels and loaded them on eight large trucks and oversaw transporting them 40 miles to the construction site. At the construction site, he reassembled the shovels exactly as they were before.

Road construction work had to be done during the summer months. Nephi and Ada did not want to be apart, so they packed their Model T with as many provisions as they could, and set out for Salmon, Idaho. The construction company had tents and stoves, and they knew they could get supplies in Salmon. The first year they stayed from August to December.

Two days before they left to come home that first year, Nephi, Ada, and Junior were in bed in their tent. It was about midnight when a mad bull charged and hit the corner of their tent. This startled Nephi who jumped up and peered out of the tent through a small hole. Ada was right behind him with Junior wrapped in her arms. There was a road bed 200-300 feet from the tent. The bull ran to the road bed and then turned and charged the tent over and over again, while bellowing. Their Model T was in front of the tent, so Nephi decided that when the bull raced back toward the road bed, he would get Ada and Junior into the car. They quickly dressed in warm clothes, and as the bull raced away from the tent, they ran to the car. After securing Ada and Junior in the car, Nephi ran around, jumped into the driver seat as the bull was charging. Nephi flashed on the car lights and the bull stopped, and then ran off. The family drove to a side hill and waited, before returning to the tent. Ada and Junior went back to sleep that night but Nephi sat up with his gun on his lap. The mad bull never returned, and they left for home the next day. Later, Nephi discovered that the shells he had in his gun were no good.

Although Ada was very homesick during the time they lived in the construction tent, she enjoyed the beauty of the Salmon River area, the long walks she took with Junior, and the time she spent reading good books. She and Junior also spent a lot of their time watching the road being built.

The next year Nephi's brother, Gailord (Gay), brought his new wife, Afton, to Idaho and they stayed next to Nephi and Ada. Gay and Afton did not return the next year, but his brother Ronald and wife, Ella Taylor, came. Nephi's mother, Melissie, and sister, Nellie, came and stayed for a while in a small house built on a trailer. His brother, Clifford (Cliff) Taylor, was the bookkeeper for the company. By the time the road was finished the whole Taylor family had been to Salmon with the exception of Beatrice, who had married and moved to Robertson, Wyoming.

When that job was completed their company began building a road south and west of Pocatello, Idaho. Nephi and Ada, Ronald and Ella, and Clifford were the only family members on the job. That fall, they received a contract to finish the road on the rim of Bryce Canyon in southern Utah. This was a nice place to live in tents. They visited other national parks while they were there: Cedar Breaks, Zion, and the Grand Canyon. One night at midnight, the family packed a lunch and hiked two miles to the bottom of Bryce Canyon. Clifford and Milton carried Junior on their shoulders. The sky was dark

blue, the moon full and yellow with red and orange hues. The beauty of it made an impression they never forgot.

The construction company completed the road around the rim of Bryce Canyon, except for a few miles that was awarded to another company. In 1933, the company secured another contract to build a road from Sevier to Cove Fort, which would connect Highway 89 and Highway 91. Junior was in school, so he and Ada came to the site after the school year ended in May. So much snow fell the night they arrived that Nephi had to shovel snow just so they could get out of the tent the next day. It continued to snow almost daily for a two weeks. Nephi's father, William Heber, was discouraged by the delay to start the work, but the family played cards, popped popcorn, and made candy. Nephi's brother, Clifford met Ada McDonald from Joseph, Utah, and they were soon married. When the road was completed, the family went home to Harrisville.

Nephi and Ada built a home of their own at 1265 N Harrisville Road. They moved in December 1, 1930.

Nephi dug foundations for the Federal Building on 25th and Adams, Ogden High School, and a school in North Ogden. Times were tough and construction jobs were slim, when Union Construction landed one last contract, constructing a one mile tunnel from Pine View Dam through Mt. Lewis and out on the west side in North Ogden. This tunnel, called the Highland Canal, was to carry water from Pine View Dam to Brigham City, Utah. They dug the tunnel from both ends and it connected within inches in the middle. This project took nearly a year. Following this project Union Construction dissolved. Nephi was Vice-President at the time.

Nephi began working for the Wheelwright Construction Company running steam and gas shovels and also draglines. He helped to construct Wall Avenue when the road was built through Harrisville. It was cold, 27 degrees below zero, when he worked on widening the road around Echo, Utah. He also worked for L.A. Young in Logan, Utah, building roads.

In 1939, Nephi went to work for Ora Bundy at the Ogden Arsenal and moved to Defense Depot Ogden (DDO) in 1941, where he worked until he retired in 1964. Because of his expertise in handling heavy equipment, Harry Castleman, Nephi's boss at DDO, sent him on a special assignment in 1955 to Lovelock, Nevada, to remove snow and open roads because the cattle and other animals were starving to death.

In the early 1950s, when the Harrisville Church was built, Nephi helped every night after work and on Saturdays. Once, Nephi and Ada had made plans to go fishing with friends at Flaming Gorge. Nephi delayed their trip because he would not leave until the cement around the church was finished. When his help was needed, Nephi even took time off work at DDO to work on the church.

Ada's sister, Melba Fisher, who lived in West Point, introduced Carma Patterson to Junior in May of 1949 at a baseball game held behind Wahlquist Junior High when

Harrisville was playing West Point. On December 25, 1949, Junior gave Carma a diamond. Six months later they were married in the Salt Lake Temple on June 21, 1950. Following their marriage, they held a wedding breakfast at the Hotel Temple Square, with a wedding reception at the West Point Church.

When Harrisville City began installing a sewer system, Nephi helped many neighbors install their connections to the main line. He made sure the widows had someone to install their sewer, and if not, he did it.

After Nephi retired from DDO, he purchased a travel trailer and took Ada to Arizona during the winter for the next 13 years. They wintered in Mesa for six years and Yuma for seven years. They both enjoyed it and made many friends.

Nephi had a fear of public speaking, but he served on the local scout council for many years. In 1958, Bishop Dean Parker asked him to be the financial clerk. He was hesitant, but he accepted and served seven years with both Bishop Leland Saunders, and Bishop Robert Jennings.

In June 1972, Ada and Nephi celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary at their home in Harrisville with the help of Junior and Carma and their family. Over 400 people came and visited them.

Nephi loved to hunt deer, ducks, geese and pheasants. He took Junior, his father, cousins, and nephews with him. They would camp and hunt for days. He also enjoyed fishing, but only when they were biting.

For 25 years on the 1st of July on the opening day of fishing, Nephi and Ada went with family and friends in campers and trailers to fish the Yellowstone River. Later, Nephi and Ada started going to Flaming George with Vernice and Farrell Adams, Gay and Afton Taylor, Mamie Jensen, Lena Maxfield, and Norma and Nephi Hutzley.

Nephi and Ada enjoyed traveling. They went to Canada, Mexico, California, New York, Chicago and Pasadena, California to see the Tournament of Roses Parade. They went to Michigan, Wisconsin, Tennessee, Washington D.C; and Ohio. In June 1979, Nephi and Ada flew to Washington to attend the golden wedding anniversary of his brother, Ronald and his wife, Ella. In 1984, Nephi and Ada celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary, and their 83rd birthdays by going to the Hawaiian Islands.

Nephi became very sick with a toxic thyroid and was operated on 16 August 1977, and doctors removed part of his thyroid. It was not malignant. He lost 61 pounds, but recovered, and could still out work most men. In February 1982, on his way to the barn, he fell and broke his wrist.

Birthdays, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and breakfast on Christmas morning were traditions which continued in their family even as their grandchildren grew. Nephi Green and Ada were blessed to have all of their family living close by. Junior and Carma lived about two blocks away on the same street, and grandson Kim and his wife Laurie and

their three children lived next door. They were proud of their family and were pleased that their descendants had testimonies of and actively participated in the LDS church.

Nephi was a tremendous man who lived up to the name he had been given. Beginning in the mid 1980s, he gradually began to lose his memory and identity. He was never really able to comprehend or remember that his only son, Nephi Junior, died 10 January 1990, of cancer. Ada's health rapidly declined after Junior died. She experienced several small strokes, and after a particularly debilitating stroke, she joined Nephi Green in a rest home about a month before she died on 21 November 1990. Four years later Nephi Green died 30 December 1994, in Ogden. He is buried in the Ogden Cemetery.

SOURCE:

Taylor, Ada. "Journal Entries of Ada Taylor." Compiled by Kim Nephi Taylor. Unpublished Manuscript. 2011.

Adams, Farrell	Taylor, Ada Bodel Jensen
Adams, Vernice	Taylor, Ada McDonald
Bundy, Ora	Taylor, Afton
Castleman, Harry	Taylor, Alphonzo William
Child, Will	Taylor, Beatrice
Fisher, Melba	Taylor, Beverly
Funk, Oscar H.	Taylor, Carma Patterson
Garfield, Albert	Taylor, Clifford
Guthrie, Clarence Guthrie	Taylor, Ella
Harris, Alma Harris	Taylor, Gailord
Hutzley, Nephi	Taylor, Jane Narcissus Shurtliff
Hutzley, Norma	Taylor, Laura
Jennings, Robert	Taylor, Levi J.
Jensen, Ada Bodel	Taylor, Melissie Thomas
Jensen, Alonzo Jensen	Taylor, Millie
Jensen, Lars	Taylor, Milton Bailey
Jensen, Mamie	Taylor, Nellie Irene
Maxfield, Lena	Taylor, Nephi Junior
McDonald, Ada	Taylor, Pleasant Green
Mole, Jesse Mole	Taylor, Ronald Patrick
Parker, Dean	Taylor, Sara Jane Marler Lake
Patterson, Carma	Taylor, William Heber
Roche, Mr.	Taylor, William Heber
Saunders, Leland,	Thomas, Melissie
Swensen, Donald	Union Construction Company

Taylor & Child Construction Company	
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