

AMOS MORONI TAYLOR 1893–1977



Amos Moroni Taylor was born to Levi James Taylor and Flora Genet Bingham on 16 October 1893, in the home his father built in Harrisville. Amos lived in the same house most all of his life (1174 North Harrisville Road). He was the tenth of twelve children born into the family. His father was living in polygamy and had two families. Levi James was also married to Josephine Bingham who was a sister to Flora.

In the late spring of 1906, Amos was riding a young horse, bringing the cows up from the pasture. The horse bolted into a barbed wire fence which cut through Amos's leg. A neighbor, John Dabb, came and sewed up the wound which took six stitches to close. On 30 December 1910, Amos had a mild form of small pox. Members of his family were all vaccinated, and their home was put under quarantine for a time.

In May 1915, he was set apart for a mission to the Southern States. While Amos was still serving his mission in Ohio, World War I was raging, and his name was drawn to go to war in Europe against Germany. He returned home from his mission 2 August 1917, and four days later he appeared before the board, was examined, and was passed under the draft orders to be a soldier. Amos's father needed him to work the farm, and he appealed to the District Board. Amos had a problem with his eyes, which gave him problems while he was on his mission. Because of his eyes, he was released from the Army and returned home 17 October 1917.

Amos met his future bride, Jephtha Ashby, at a fireside meeting, and he knew right away that he wanted to marry her. They were married in the Salt Lake Temple on 2 July 1925 by Apostle George Richards.

Soon after they were married on 29 October 1925, Amos was driving Jephtha and her father in the car when a tire on the car went flat. It was nearly dark as Amos got out of the car to fix the tire. He saw a car coming fast and called to Jephtha to turn on the lights, but the oncoming vehicle came so close it caught Amos's pants leg and swung him around, beating his head on the pavement before driving off. When Jephtha got to Amos he was unconscious and looked as if he were dead, and bones were protruding from his leg. She and her father were able to drive him to the hospital. When he gained consciousness, he did not even have a headache, but a year later, all of the hair on his entire body fell out. Doctors thought the hair loss was a result of the accident. He remained without hair the rest of his life.

The Taylor's first child was a son, Gerald Ashby Taylor, born 14 May 1929. He died in 1975, and was buried in Lovelock, Nevada, where he had lived for 25 years.

In addition to farming, Amos worked for the government, first at Hill Air Force Base as a boiler fireman, and then he transferred to Utah General Depot as a boiler fireman. During World War II, many people in Ogden felt the need to plant their own gardens and raise their own food. These were referred to as “victory gardens.” There were men with tractors who plowed for wages but their tractors were too large to get into tiny corners of city lots. Amos used a horse and a hand plow that could get into the corners. He was able to make good money doing this after his regular work and on Saturdays.

Amos and Jephtha lived in Ogden until the fall of 1931. On 25 August, 1931, Amos moved his family into the old part of his parent’s home where his brother Warren had been living (1174 North Harrisville Road). Two years later, with the help of his brother-in-law Ray Chugg, he repaired the walls which were made of adobes and replaced part of them with real brick. He also repaired the roof. After the death of Amos’s mother, Amos and Jephtha acquired the entire home where they spent the remainder of their lives. This later became the home of their daughter Lora Dean

Amos and Jephtha had two daughters, Lora Dean born 26 January 1933, and LaRae born 8 August 1937. LaRae died at age three in 1940.

Amos enjoyed geography. He could point to every little place on the world map and tell something about that area. He kept informed about world events. Lora Dean recalls that they had to “hush” when the news came on the radio because he did not want to miss a word. Their home was filled with laughter. It was mainly Amos who would get the children laughing so hard at the dinner table that they had to take turns leaving the room to compose themselves.

In September 1969, Jephtha had surgery and was found to have cancer. She died 10 March 1970. Seven years later on 4 July 1977, Amos died and was buried by her side in the Ogden City Cemetery.

SOURCE:

Galvez, Lora Dean. “History of Amos Moroni Taylor.” Unpublished manuscript. 2007.

Taylor, Levi James. *Journals of Levi James Taylor, 1973-1935.*

Ashby, Jephtha	Taylor, Alice
Bachman, Bishop E.	Taylor, Flora Genet Bingham
Bingham, Flora Genet	Taylor, Gerald Ashby
Bingham, Josephine	Taylor, Josephine Bingham
Chugg, Ray	Taylor, LaRae
Dabb, John	Taylor, Levi James Taylor
Richards, Apostle George	Taylor, Lora Dean
Roberts, B. H.	Taylor, Warren