



FLORA GENET BINGHAM TAYLOR 1854–1940

Bingham's Fort was the birthplace of Flora Genet Bingham, 16 May 1854. Bingham's Fort was in Weber County, Utah, and was named for Flora's grandfather, Erastus Bingham. The fort was an enclosure of homes surrounded by a substantial wall made of stone and dirt as a protection against hostile Indians in the early days. Her mother, Genet Gates and her father, Willard Bingham, came from pioneer families, firm in their

religious belief and earnest in their efforts to live clean, honest, straightforward lives.

Flora was born 16 May 1854, the oldest in a family of fifteen children, and she learned early in life to assume responsibility and perform tasks quickly and efficiently. She was baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints by Daniel Thomas, 16 May 1864, on her tenth birthday. When she was about eleven years old, the family moved to Huntsville. There she attended school in the winter time.

During the summers, the family moved about six to eight miles east of Huntsville where her father was in charge of a saw mill. He took sheep and cattle to the mountains for the summer. Flora helped cook for the mill workers, and she helped her mother make butter and cheese to sell. Flora's mother had learned the art of cheese making from her mother, Lydia Gates. They became well known all about the locality for the "spotted cheese" they produced. When they lived at the mill, they sometimes picnicked at homes of some neighbors. They would stay all day "wool picking."

The family used to dread the ride down the canyon to get provisions because sometimes the roads were bad and there were no bridges so they had to ford the streams. Occasionally the horses would balk in mid-stream and the women feared such difficulties. However, when the roads were not too rough, the women would knit as they rode down the canyon.

Although Flora loved the mountains, she was always glad when the leaves began to turn red in autumn, because she knew it would not be long until they would leave the saw mill and return to Huntsville. She often hoped they would not move to the mill again, but when the hillsides began to turn green with sweet mountain grass, they would gather up the herd of milk cows from farms around the valley and would head back to the mountains and the mill. One time the Weber River overflowed its banks, and the Bingham's lived on the Four Mile Creek near Slaterville for a while.

Flora began to spin and weave at a young age before she was tall enough to work with ease so she used a thick wooden plank to stand on. She loved to work and was glad to help produce the cloth for the family clothing. While her parents went for supplies, Flora often stayed home and cared for the children and spent time at the spinning wheel. When she was

older, she helped spin some of the yarn for their woolen blankets. She learned early to make her own clothes and to knit stockings. She described it this way: “We would get an old sheep pelt and clip off the wool, and wash it and pick it and card it and spin it into yarn. By the time we had knitted our stockings and washed them ready to wear, we knew we had a pair of stockings.”

They often made soup from home grown vegetables. “We didn’t tire of it;” she said, “we felt quite built up on soup.” Some mornings they went to a nearby stream to catch enough fish for their breakfast.

On 3 February 1873, she married Levi J. Taylor in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City. The ceremony was performed by Daniel H. Wells. Levi had been married previously to Nancy Jane Gates who died soon after giving birth to a baby daughter who also died. Flora was with Nancy during her infirmity and did everything possible for her comfort and welfare. Though they were about the same age, Flora was Nancy’s niece. Her generous help and kind interest won Levi’s sincere respect and later his love. Levi had built a substantial little home in Harrisville and furnished it before he was married to Nancy. He and Flora moved into this home at 1174 North Harrisville Road and lived there together for more than sixty years.

About two weeks after they were married, Levi was called to go on a colonizing mission to Arizona. He left on 31 March 1873, and was gone about four months.

On 30 November 1874, Levi accepted the principle of polygamy and was married to Flora’s younger sister, Josephine Bingham. Flora proved her staunch faith in the gospel by going through every trial it entailed in her quiet, cheerful uncomplaining manner.

In October 1882, Levi left to serve a mission to the Southern States, this time leaving Flora with little children to support and care for. She helped run the farm, managed her affairs wisely, and was able to support herself and the children from the products of the farm. She also did the milking, made butter to sell, and sold eggs to help with household expenses.

When Levi returned, she supported him in his decision to attend Weber Academy and further his education to become a teacher. In May 1887, Levi was sentenced to spend nine months in the state penitentiary for cohabitation, rather than disown a part of his family. In November 1912, Levi again left home in missionary service, this time to Nevada for six months. Flora was always willing to support him in his full duty in the service of God and mankind.

For forty-six years Flora and Josephine bore and reared their families through trials and triumphs in quiet humility and faithfulness. The children were trained in honest work and Christian virtues. For years Josephine was somewhat frail in health, and it was necessary for Flora to assume the responsibility of performing some of the heavier tasks, especially in Levi’s absence. On 11 July 1920, Josephine passed away.

Flora was the mother of twelve children: Jessie Levi (Dec 1886); Wilford Joseph (January 1892); Grace Lucinda (June 1893); Mary (stillborn September 1896); Ada May (January

1898); Alice Matty (November 1885); Julia Amanda (October 1887); Nancy Valate (July 1889); Esther Mary (December 1891); Amos Moroni (October 1893); Flora Belle (June 1896); Warren Lyman (January 1898).

Levi did a great deal of temple work in Salt Lake City during the last 15 years of his life. Flora always had his temple clothing ready and cheerfully attended to the home during his absence of several days each week. Levi passed away in December of 1935.

Flora died 13 August 1940.

SOURCE:

Family Records.

Hoggan, Lella M. "Biographical Sketch of Flora Genet Bingham." Unpublished manuscript.

Bingham, Erastus Bingham	Taylor, Grace Lucinda,
Bingham, Genet Gates	Taylor, Jessie Levi
Bingham, Josephine	Taylor, Josephine Bingham
Bingham, Willard Bingham	Taylor, Julia Amanda
Bingham's Fort	Taylor, Levi J.
Gates, Genet	Taylor, Mary (stillborn)
Gates, Lydia	Taylor, Nancy Jane Gates
Gates, Nancy Jane	Taylor, Nancy Valate
Taylor, Ada May	Taylor, Warren Lyman
Taylor, Alice Matty	Taylor, Wilford Joseph
Taylor, Amos Moroni	Thomas, Daniel
Taylor, Esther Mary	Wells, Daniel H.
Taylor, Flora Belle	