

Esther Elizabeth Stanford

Birthdate: 20 Feb 1845, Southwick, Sussex, England
Death: 15 Mar 1916, Cove, Cache, Utah
Parents: Thomas Stanford, Elizabeth Barnett
Pioneer: 17 Oct 1862, Henry W. Miller Wagon Train
Spouse: John Comish
Married: 22 Nov 1862, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah
Death of Spouse: 14 May 1922, Franklin, Idaho



Children:

John Alfred, 22 Nov 1863
Elizabeth Esther, 15 Nov 1865
Thomas William, 29 Aug 1867
Ruth Susannah, 15 Jun 1869
Karleen, 6 Apr 1871
Franklin, 7 Oct 1872
Joseph Francis, 12 Jan 1874
Ellen Frances, 29 Mar 1875
Nephi, 3 Mar 1878
Albert, 14 Aug 1879 (twin)
Alberta, 14 Aug 1879 (twin)
Jane, 9 Oct 1880
Pearl, 9 Dec 1884
Fay, 22 Sep 1887
Leo, 25 Mar 1889

Esther was five years old when her family joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Her family was persecuted because of their beliefs, so Esther was not allowed to attend school, but few were better at reading and writing.

Esther helped her father mend shoes in his shoe shop, especially those for the missionaries. The shoe store earned funds for their emigration.

Because Esther was so short, her parents walked on each side of her as they boarded the ship so authorities would not refuse her passage. The faith of the ship's passengers saved their ship many times during the voyage.

On arrival at Florence, Nebraska, most of their goods were sold so that her ill mother could ride. Esther and the rest of the family walked the entire way. Esther would gather buffalow chips and collect them in her apron, to burn as fuel for their nightly fires.

John Comish was also in the same company as Esther, and he began courting her to the dances, songs and prayer circles.

Upon entering the Valley, Esther's family headed north to Logan where they settled. Just a few weeks after settling in Logan, John Comish left Franklin, Idaho, and traveled to Logan where he stopped and picked up Elizabeth, and then continued to travel to the Salt Lake Endowment House. They were married by Wilford Woodruff.

Esther and John settled in Cove, Utah, and here Esther gave birth to fifteen children.

She was a hard worker; preparing fibers and making clothing. She also made soaps, dyes with which to color the cloth that she wove, and was a fine seamstress. She excelled in every kind of needlework.

Esther was also very hospitable, opening her home to those in need.

Esther passed away at age seventy-one.