

## **Jesse Williams Fox, Sr. & Eliza Gibbs**

The Pottawattamie County Marriage Index listed the marriage of Jesse Fox and Eliza Gibbs on June 2, 1849. Both were listed as living in Benson's Mill.

Jesse was born March 31, 1819 in Adams Center, Jefferson County, New York. He was the son of a farmer, Samuel John Fox, Sr. His mother was Lucy Williams. Jesse followed his father's occupation until he was eighteen. He then attended school and from 1838 until 1844 he either attended school or taught school.

Jesse went west to Nauvoo in the spring of 1844 where he became a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. He left Nauvoo for Iowa in the Spring of 1844. His brother, David, and his wife, Caroline, had both died in the fall of 1845. The couple left four children which traveled with Jesse. One daughter, Elvira, died in route.

Brigham Young called Jesse on a mission to the Eastern States. When he returned to Iowa, he located in the Big Pigeon area. There he met a former pupil from his earlier teaching activities—Eliza Jerusha Gibbs.

Eliza was born on May 8, 1830 at Benson, Rutland County, Vermont. Her parents were Aaron and Prudence Carter Gibbs. She was born after her father died. Her mother accepted the gospel in 1834 and followed the Saints to Kirtland, Ohio. Eliza's mother died in 1841 in Quincy, Adams County, Illinois. Eliza was only eleven years old. She probably went to Iowa with her brother-in-law, William F. Cahoon, and her sister, Nancy.

When Jesse and Eliza were married, Jesse was age thirty and Eliza was eighteen. The couple joined the Samuel Gully/Orson Spencer Company which left Kaneshville on May 28, 1849 with about 100 wagons. They arrived in the Salt Lake Valley between September 22 and 25, 1849.

Jesse and Eliza established their residence in the Sixteenth Ward of Salt Lake. In May of 1850, Jesse was asked to assist William M. Lemmon as surveyor for the Church. In 1851, he was asked to help settle Sanpete County. He started teaching school in Manti but left his family in Salt Lake City. All five of his children were born there.

On March 8, 1871, Jesse married another wife—Sarah Elizabeth Foss. Sarah and Jesse had one daughter—Charlotte Jeanette Fox.

Eliza passed away on June 26, 1889 in Salt Lake City. Jesse died at the home of his second wife in Bountiful, Utah on April 1, 1894. Both are buried in the Salt Lake City Cemetery in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County, Utah.