

Elizabeth Briggs-Title Pg.

# **Elizabeth Briggs**

**1799-1867**



Elizabeth Briggs was born the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 1799, in Walton Parish, near Chesterfield, Derbyshire, England. Her parents were John Briggs and Ann Bower.

After her marriage to Nicholas Welch, she worked as an agent for a Mr. Fisher of Nottingham, England, a manufacturer of fine laces. The lace was embroidered on fine bobbin net, in pieces about thirty yards in length and 3/4 yd. wide. It was shipped to China and used for ladies dresses. She also made beautiful black veils. She continued with this work until machines for making lace were introduced and installed, which was about the time she left England with her family to make their home in America.

One day in the fall of 1841, as she was returning to her home after having delivered some of her work in the city of Chesterfield, she noticed a large group of people congregated on the street corner, and being curious to know what was going on, she joined the crowd. A "little boy" she said, was standing on a box on the corner, preaching. She was not religiously inclined, and even though her husband was a preacher, she had never given serious thought to his work. On this occasion, however, she was interested, and stopped to hear what the young man was saying. He was a local Elder, representing the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, by the name of Alfred Cardon, of Stratford shire, England, who in spite of the fact that he looked very young, was about twenty-one years of age, although of small stature. (He later came to America, and resided in Willard, Box Elder County, Utah.)

What she heard impressed her deeply, and after the meeting was over she stepped up and shook hands with the boy and asked him who he was and where he was from. She asked many other questions regarding his teachings. She told him her name and where she lived, and invited him to come to her home as soon as possible to tell her more about the gospel.

Elizabeth was a small woman, with black hair and snappy black eyes. It was evening when she reached home, and the family, with the exception of her son, John, who was at work in Sheffield, were waiting for her to return from her work.

She entered the house, sat her basket on the table, and going up to her husband said, "Nick, I've heard the gospel." He looked up, rather surprised and said, "Oh, have you? That's funny for you."

She answered, emphasizing the fact by pointing her forefinger straight at him. "Say, I've heard the Gospel - - it's the only Gospel, and it's true and I know it, and I have invited a young Elder to visit us and tell us about it."

Elder Cardon did come to their home, and explained the truth to them, and the next week they were baptized.

In the spring of 1842 this family left their comfortable home in England, arriving in America, and located in Nauvoo, Illinois, the city of the Saints.

John had remained in England, since his work there was not completed. He was serving as apprentice for George Worstenholm & Sons, Sheffield, England, who operated a Cutlery Business. With this firm he was bound from the time he was fourteen years of age, until he became twenty-one.

Before the year was ended, this little mother and her daughter Ann (Crookston) were all that remained of the family in America. The father and the two young sons, William and George succumbed to the hardships and privations which they were forced to encounter.

In the company that came from the old country with the Welch family, was a family by the name of Miles. During the hardship and sickness that came to the Saints, the father and mother Miles both died, leaving two small children, Jane, four years old and her two year old brother, John. These children were taken into the Welch family and remained as member of the family from that time on. Jane grew to womanhood, married Charles Thomas and settled in Moroni, Utah. John lived until May 7, 1919, spending his entire life in the homes of the various members of the Welch family, since he never married. He lived with Elizabeth Briggs Welch, then her son, John Welch, Sr., then with John Welch, Jr., and lastly with Martha Jane Welch Dunn, at whose home in Logan, Utah, he passed away on the above date.

During the winter of 1846, Elizabeth Briggs Welch, in company with her son John, and his family, who had now joined them in Nauvoo, left for the west. They spent some time in Winter Quarters and in Missouri, and finally reached Salt Lake City in 1852.

While still in Nauvoo, and after the death of her husband, Nicholas, Elizabeth Briggs Welch married a man by the name of Madsen, who died a short time after the marriage.

After spending a couple of years in Salt Lake City, the Welch family moved to Centerville, and then north to Box Elder County, Utah. During the late years of her life, Elizabeth married an old gentleman by the name of Edmund Ellsworth, who also died soon after this marriage, and she was left for the third time, a widow. The remainder of her life was spent in a little home near that of her son John in Three Mile Creek, (now Perry) in Box Elder County, Utah.

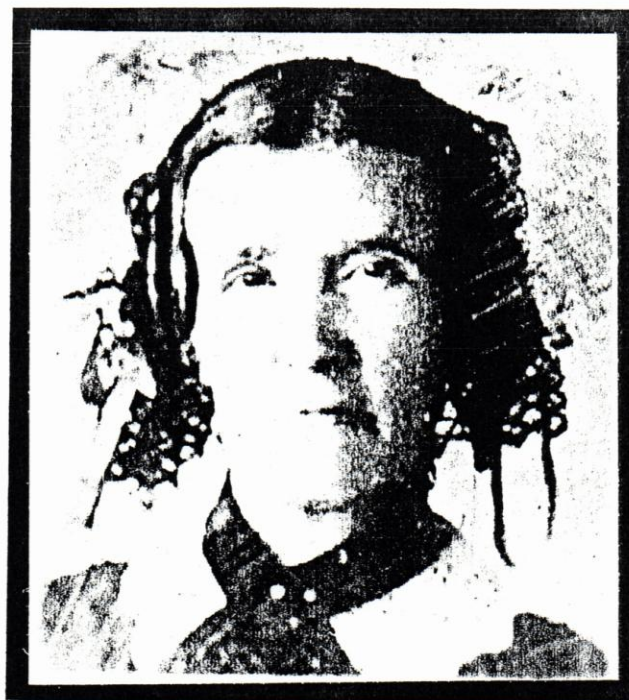
One evening after they had enjoyed themselves in the home of her son John, where he had been reading a sermon to the family, the old lady complained of not feeling well. John helped her to her own room, but in a very short time she had gone to her eternal home, the 7<sup>th</sup> day of January 1867, at the age of sixty-seven years.

Among the many descendants of this brave little mother are many successful men and women, including doctors, merchants, teachers, lawyers, patriotic men and women who have served our country in war and peace. Her descendants are leaders in many professions, and most important of all, they are leaders in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.



# Elizabeth Briggs Time line

| YEAR | EVENT   | Approximate AGE |
|------|---|-----------------|
| 1799 | Born in Walton Parish, near Chesterfield, Derbyshire, England.<br>22 Dec 1799   |                 |
| 1819 | Married - Nicholas Welch December of 1819   | 19              |
| 1820 | Son - Nathaniel born  | 20              |
| 1821 | Daughter - Sarah born 15 Oct 1821   | 21              |
| 1822 | Deaths of Nathaniel (22 Feb 1822) and Sarah<br>(July 1822)  | 22              |
| 1823 | Son - John born 6 Jan 1823  | 23              |
| 1825 | Daughter - Mary Ann born 15 Jun 1825  | 25              |
| 1826 | Daughter - Mary Ann died (15 Mar 1826)<br>Daughter- Ann born 18 Dec 1826  | 26              |
| 1830 | Son - William born  | 30              |
| 1837 | Son - George born 30 Aug 1837   | 37              |
| 1841 | Heard the gospel on a street corner in Chesterfield<br>Baptized 1 week later - - 5 Dec 1841   | 41              |
| 1842 | Sailed to America and settled in Nauvoo, Illinois<br>Deaths of sons George (Sep 1842) and William (Dec 1842)<br>Death of husband Nicholas Welch (25 Nov 1842) | 42              |
| 1852 | Crossed the Plains and settled in Salt Lake City, Utah  | 52              |
| 1867 | Died in Three Mile Creek (Perry) Box Elder, Utah<br>(7 Jan 1867)  | 67              |



Elizabeth Briggs Welch



Donna Crookston Jenkins  
Great, Great Granddaughter